

City of Santa Rosa
Board of Community Services Special Meeting
Minutes – January 23, 2008

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chairperson Lawson at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

2. Roll Call
Present: Martell, Schwinn, Bañuelos, Regalia, Lawson, Costa, Richardson, Brown
Absent: None

3. Public Appearances – None.

4. Approval of Minutes
Regalia made a motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2007, which was seconded by Martell. Vote was unanimous.

Martell made a motion to approve the minutes of December 13, 2007 with an amendment to note that (1) the public appearance section followed the consultant presentations to allow a citizen to speak who arrived 3 minutes late; and (2) the inclusion of the creek location mentioned by Mr. DeWitt in the public appearances portion of the meeting. Motion was seconded by Bañuelos. The vote was unanimous.

4. Approval of Agenda
Schwinn made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Costa. Vote was unanimous.

5. Scheduled Items
Richardson introduced Nancy Kaiser and Joan Chaplick of Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. An agenda was distributed which noted the key elements to be discussed at today's meeting. It is hoped the board will give final direction concerning any missing information, priorities, and preferences in regard to projects, programs and operations.

Lawson noted that comments from the public would be entertained following the conclusion of MIG's presentation and after the Board had received a response to their questions.

Kaiser reviewed the public comments received at the special meeting held on December 13, 2007.

Schwinn clarified that though the term "pocket parks" is being removed from the General Plan Amendment recommendation, in actuality, greater amounts of park space will be created in closer proximity to residents.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Kaiser reviewed all elements of the strategic action plan draft overview. Lawson requested that a section in the financial analysis concerning operations be included. Brown asked that maintenance issues regarding tasks that are done seasonally versus annually be added to the plan. Schwinn noted the need to adequately address the definition of children versus youth versus teens. She also noted the word 'children' was not visible and that seniors need to be adequately represented.

Kaiser noted that she will check with Muni Financial to ensure that a segment on operations in regard to sustainability and levels of service in the maintenance and operations chapter will be incorporated. She will share her findings with the Board.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Lawson invited comments from the public which was met with no response.

Kaiser reviewed the Capital Projects table and discussed collection of park development fees, how they can be used and the need to tie revenue in with projects. Regalia requested clarification of the distribution of fees. Richardson noted that one third can go to renovation in a particular zone, one third can be designated to new development in a particular zone and one third can be used city wide. Alternative funding sources are needed to provide sustainability and protect the current investments. The Board was asked to prioritize their three top preferences in the Capital Item Projects listed in the table.

Lawson noted the report needs to recognize that the new development fee source is currently flat and may remain so and emphasized the need for an alternate funding source. Brown requested that projects in close proximity to each other, but in different quadrants, be noted in the report.

The public was invited to ask questions following the prioritization process by the Board. Projects which Board members felt were of highest priority included a Southwest Community Center, completion of A Place To Play, construction of a pool and turf improvements at Southwest Community Park, Courthouse Square Park, completion of a Senior Center wing at the Finley Community Center, DeTurk Roundbarn, Church of One Tree, deferred maintenance/funding of park renovations and playground equipment upgrades. These results will be analyzed and compared with those received in tonight's public meeting and recommendations will be made in the final version of the plan. Long and short term funding sources and financing mechanisms from new development, city structure, grant funding, partnerships and citizen participation will also be included.

Brown noted the need to incorporate the passion expressed by many participants to insure facilities are first class and that projects are completed. There is a need to come up with a balanced plan, to protect what we have and to look at the reality and feasibility of funding and revenue sources. Schwinn commented on the need to reconcile projects without funding versus those with available financing and the necessity to educate the public concerning funding opportunities for various projects.

Next steps include linking all chapters of the strategic plan and will include maps, barriers, financial analysis, General Plan amendment recommendations and an appendix with all the public involvement strategies. MIG will send the draft plan to staff on Monday, February 25. There will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on Wed, March 5th and the plan will be presented to Council on Tuesday, March 18th. Board and public comments on the information presented tonight need to be submitted to staff by noon on Monday, February 4th and will be compiled and forwarded to MIG.

6.2 Committee Appointments

Bañuelos will serve on the Art in Public Places committee rather than the Merit Award committee. Lawson will replace Regalia on the Play Equipment committee. A representative will be selected by Council appointment to serve on the Human Services committee. Schwinn will consider serving on the Waterways committee. All other assignments remain unchanged.

6.3 Weather Impacts

Richardson commended the staff for excellent customer service in fielding a large amount of tree calls during the recent inclement weather and noted there were a large number of large trees down in many City parks.

7. Chairperson’s and Board Members’ Reports

7.1 February/March Meeting Dates

There will be no Board meeting in February. There will be a joint study session with the Planning Commission on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30pm at the Finley Community Center. Board members unable to attend the study session should forward their comments to staff so they can be shared with the rest of the Board. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Wed, March 26th at 4pm at the Finley Community Center.

7.2 Committee Reports

Board members gave reports on the Waterways, Church of One Tree, A Place To Play, Merit Awards, Play Equipment, and Senior Center committee meetings as well as the Mayor’s Luncheon.

7.3 Other Reports

Richardson noted that Council continues to look at a series of budget cuts due to the downturn of the economy and funding from the General Fund. An additional \$3 million in cuts are needed, some of which will impact our department, and are expected to take effect on July 1st. The need for our Business and Strategic Action plan is critical as is the need to be proactive in finding funding sources for operations, maintenance and facilities.

Brown requested that staff forward council agenda information concerning the budget hearing as soon as it is available.

8. Future Agenda Items

Board requested that staff invite Ernesto Olivares, Gang Prevention and Intervention Services Manager to give an update at a future meeting concerning Measure O programs.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

A study session of the Board of Community Services and Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 4pm at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa, California.

Craig Lawson, Board Chair

Yvonne Earle, Recording Secretary