

**MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL /
PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Shoals called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Ramona Garden Park Center, 993 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach, California.

FLAG SALUTE The flag salute was led by Mayor Shoals.

ROLL CALL

City Council: Council Members Jeff Lee, Barbara Nicolls, Debbie Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem Mariam Shah, and Mayor John Shoals were present.

Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission: Commissioners Cynthia Price, Maalaea Quirk, Vice Chair James Cooper, and Chair Jan Ojerholm were present. Commissioner Walt French was absent.

City Staff: City Manager Matthew Bronson, City Attorney David Hale, City Clerk Donna McMahon, Parks & Recreation Program Director Kathy Petker, and Associate Engineer Mamerto Estepa were also present.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor opened the floor to any member of the public for comment on any items listed on the agenda.

- A. Robert Crump, Grover Beach resident in the vicinity of Golden West Park, commented on the condition of park fencing and the visually inconsistent fencing at the park and the surrounding properties. He described fencing that he had installed to separate his property from the park and requested that, given the proposed improvements, the City consider compensating him for his fence. He also described root intrusion from a park tree that had lifted portions of his concrete patio and requested the City replace the tree with a shrub or bush. He then expressed support for proposed improvements at Golden West Park.

WORKSHOP

1. Discussion of Mutual Items of Interest with Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission.

Mayor Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. City Manager Bronson provided introductory remarks and introduced City staff.

Golden West Park Improvements

Parks and Recreation Program Director Petker briefly described the existing conditions and amenities at Golden West Park and outlined proposed improvements based on feedback received from the public, Commission, and the Council at previous workshops and meetings.

Displaying a diagram of Golden West Park, Associate Engineer Estepa described key design elements for park improvements involving concrete, landscaping, park amenities, and fencing.

Parks and Recreation Program Director Petker concluded this portion of the staff presentation by outlining the estimated costs for repairs and improvements at the park.

Council and Commission discussion ensued, with staff responding to questions regarding the proposed improvements and potential project alternatives.

Mayor Shoals invited public comments on this matter.

The following individuals residing near Golden West Park spoke on the proposed park improvements:

- Pam Oberkamp, Grover Beach resident; and
- Robert Crump, Grover Beach resident.

There were no further public comments received at this time.

Further Council and Commission discussion was held regarding proposed materials, costs, and the estimated time frame for project completion.

Action: Upon consensus of the City Council, the following direction was provided to staff for proposed improvements at Golden West Park: narrow the existing walkways, provide picnic tables, add seating, expand the scope of improvements to include the walkways from Anita Avenue and Janet Avenue, and replace the tree located in the central plaza area.

Additionally, the Council requested that staff provide the Council with project costs by category, investigate whether volunteer or community groups might be interested in partnering with the City on park improvement projects, for staff to develop alternatives that might lead to opportunities for completing smaller initial project improvements at Golden West Park, and to schedule Council consideration of a final design proposal for the park.

Recess: Upon consensus of the City Council, the meeting recessed at 7:34 p.m.

Reconvene: At 7:40 p.m., the meeting reconvened with all Council Members and Commissioners present, except for Commissioner French who was absent from this meeting.

Ramona Garden Park Improvements

City Manager Bronson provided introductory remarks. Parks and Recreation Program Director Petker described the existing conditions and amenities at Ramona Garden Park. She also noted that grant funds and donations had been received for the installation of play equipment or other amenities designed for children. Additionally, the proposed improvements were based on comments received from school surveys, public workshops, and previous City Council and Commission meetings. She then noted accessibility features incorporated into the proposed design that resulted in additional project costs.

Associate Engineer Estepa displayed a map that illustrated the areas proposed for improvements at Ramona Garden Park.

Council and Commission discussion ensued, with staff responding to questions regarding the proposed improvements, project costs, a broader range of maintenance needs at Ramona Garden Park and the Ramona Garden Park Center, increasing park usage, the deteriorating condition of a large Monterey Cypress tree located at the park, and prioritizing the park's overall maintenance and facility needs in addition to the proposed improvements.

Action: Upon consensus of the City Council, the following direction was provided regarding overall improvements at Ramona Garden Park and at the Ramona Garden Park Center in priority order:

- *Building Maintenance* - address deferred maintenance at Ramona Garden Park Center;
- *Modernization* - modernize the facilities at the Ramona Garden Park Center;
- *Playground Equipment* - install playground equipment; and
- *Other Improvements* - analyze a broader improvement plan that encompasses Ramona Garden Park, the Exploration Station, and the potential creation of a cul-de-sac at North 9th Street.

Commission Roles and Responsibilities

Parks and Recreation Program Director Petker provided a brief overview of the Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission.

Council and Commission discussion ensued regarding the advisory role of the Commission, special events, and suggestions for providing the Council with periodic written and verbal updates on Commission activities and issues/topics discussed as well as recommendations on programs, policies and/or projects for action or implementation. Additional discussion was held on increasing the City's volunteer base to assist with special events and beautification efforts, expanding opportunities for Commissioner training, assigning a Council liaison to attend Commission meetings, and the valuable input from and efforts provided by the Commission towards improving the quality of life for residents and visitors through parks and recreation programs and activities.

City Manager Bronson announced upcoming City Council meetings and workshops that would provide further opportunities for Commissioners and members of the public to provide input on the City's proposed budget, goals, and work program for the next fiscal year.

CITY COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Shah announced that Fairgrove Elementary School was seeking volunteer readers to participate in the upcoming "Read Across America" event in celebration of the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, also known as "Dr. Seuss".

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Shoals adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

/s/ JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:
/s/ DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK
(Approved at CC Mtg 05/01/2017)