

City of Hawthorne
Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commission
Minutes of February 5, 2008

LET THE RECORD SHOW PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2 THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED ON THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BULLETIN BOARD AT 9:00 AM THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008.

The Parks & Recreation – Fine Arts Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Morton @ 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers of Hawthorne City Hall.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Balboa, Bowie, Jeppesen, Hughes, McGregor, Monteiro, and Chairman Morton.

The Flag was led by Commissioner Hughes

Commissioner Jeppesen motioned to approve the minutes for December 4, 2007.
Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion.

Vote: all ayes

Written Communications:

- A. Assistant Director Hardison briefly highlighted the City Council Minutes for November 13, 27; December 11, 2007, January 8, 2008.
- B. The Commissioners reviewed the Memorial Center and Sports Center Calendars.
- C. The Commissioners also reviewed the Maintenance Report for December 2007.

Parks & Recreation Foundation Report – The Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for March 31, 2008 at La Canada Flintridge Country Club. If anyone is interested in playing in this tournament please contact any member of the Foundation.

Oral Communications – **Proposed Park 126th St. & Grevillea Ave.**

Mary Franklin, 5351 Wiseburn Ave., - She would like to see a wellness park for elderly people, a museum to honor the history of Hawthorne, Music in the park. But definitely no multiple dwelling units. The park could be leased out for other activities and events. The City should not sell the land.

Guy Hocker, 5242 W. 138th St., - This is a golden opportunity to build a park. The park should only have trees and grass at this time, later the city can decide the specifics.

Gordon Mego, Hawthorne Resident - Loves green open space. Echo suggestions from other residents. Gordon would love to see the city build a new City Hall. Make a museum out of the old City Hall. He would like to see a clock tower in the middle of the park. Maybe build a new library. These ideas would make a great Civic Center.

Henry Thorman, 13212 S. Isis Ave., - City Park would be great. It would also be great to see families having picnics and BBQ's. Looking at Condo's is just like looking at graffiti.

Richard Huhn, 13232 S. Isis Ave., - He envisions the property becoming a park and the old detectives bureau becoming a museum. The Hawthorne Library could have their reading programs outside in the park. The park wouldn't be big enough for a soccer or baseball field, but it would be a nice place for City employees to come out and have lunch.

Juan Ortiz – Hawthorne resident, - Constantly here this city doesn't have enough open space. Everyone in the city realizes we need more open space so will we have the chance we should take advantage of this opportunity and build a park.

Phillip Jones, 11549 Tarron Ave., - We need to be careful not to over spend. Also keep in mind the state is having a lot of financial problems that could soon affect the city. We could get a lot of money for that property.

Jeff Davidson, 5525 W. 134th Place, - It would be great to see buildings torn down to add more open space to Hawthorne.

John Shaffer, 13927 Eucalyptus Ave., - He would like to see more open space.

Daniel Mills, 11859 Cedar Ave., - He lives on the north end of Hawthorne and there are no parks in his neighborhood that he could walk to. Daniel feels that is the perfect location for a park. It is the center of the City. He would like to see tree and grass. City employees could have lunch. He definitely would like to see houses on that property.

David Waggoner, 5535 W. 132nd St., - Holly Glen Park use to be bigger and the land was sold to build house. We need another park they could plant native plants because they are easier to maintain. He would like to see more parks.

Jerry Nibel, 12125 Menlo Ave., - It is a wonderful idea to build a park. That property was a fuel station before it was a police station and before they do any they would need to take that into consideration.

Sean Walsh, Hawthorne Resident, - People don't come to Hawthorne there aren't many stores or restaurants. We should make the property a dog park and attached a pet store adjacent to the park. The pet store could be pay rent to the city and also pay to maintain the park. We really don't need any more houses in Hawthorne so lets make it a destination.

Cindy Parsons, 5428 W. 140th St. – She thanked the commission for following through with this idea and taking it to the City Council because we really do need more parks in the city. She supports the idea of just tree and grass. That would be a perfect place for a Farmers Market; it is also the perfect place for a Museum. Another idea is to build a teen center. Lets give the teen somewhere to go and something positive to do.

Chairman Morton ended oral communications and announced that a report will be compiled with all info from the speakers and will then be presented to the City Council.

Commissioner Monteiro thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He is a big fan of Parks but currently there isn't enough money to maintain the existing parks so that is something to think about. The State of California is having financial problems and that could affect a lot of cities. He feels we should save the space for the future and a teen center, Dog Park, Farmers Market and Museum are all be great ideas. Lets just wait until there is more money available.

Commissioner Monteiro also said someone asked him “why are the restrooms closed so early”.

Assistant Director Hardison replied, the Recreation Department only lock the restrooms in the summer months. Currently the restrooms are being locked by public works and he assumes they are locking them because of the graffiti and vandalism issues they were having.

Commissioner Hughes thanked everyone for coming out to speak. He would like to see a Museum. That is definitely something to think about.

Commissioner Jeppesen said she would like to see a park.

Commissioner Balboa thanked everyone for coming out. Everyone had really good ideas but the funding is going to be the big hurdle.

Commissioner Bowie had mixed emotions on this issue. He would love to see a new park built on that property but he would also like to see all of the current city parks being kept up to par.

Assistant Directors Report:

- A. Construction on pool renovation is underway. The rain hasn't been a big issue. Hoping they will stick to the schedule and have the pool up and running by June 2008.
- B. Youth Basketball League is going well. We are running three divisions with approximately 120 kids. The program will run for eight weeks. There first game is February 9, 2008. Everyone seems to be really excited.

- C. Bunny Breakfast will take place on March 15, 2008 from 9am - 11am. Registration will be at the Memorial Center starting February 11, 2008.
- D. We hired an Assistant Recreation Supervisor to replace Darlene Shima. Her name is Brenda Williams and she is responsible for the Pool, Senior Center and the Community Gardens and some special events. Also we hired a part time Recreation Specialist Launelia Thomas and she is responsible for Youth & Adult Sports, Sports Center Rentals and Special Events.
- E. The City of Inglewood, which manages the Senior Nutrition Program in our Senior Center, is requesting Hawthorne to supplement cost for daily lunches. The cost will be approximately \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year.
- F. The Hawthorne Senior Center was given an Award from LA County for the outstanding operation of their nutrition site.

Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Monteiro thanked everyone for coming out to speak. Also congratulations for the Award for the Senior Center.

Commissioner McGregor thanked everyone for coming out to speak.

Commissioner Hughes thanked everyone for coming to speak and he wishes more people would come out.

Commissioner Jeppesen thanked everyone for coming out to speak.

Commissioner Balboa thanked everyone for coming out to speak and she reminded everyone that we have a meeting every month and they are always welcome to come to the meetings.

Chairman Morton thanked everyone for coming. He also said this is only the first step, and we will keep everyone posted. He will be contacting all of the commissioners regarding an additional February meeting.

This meeting was adjourned by Chairman Morton @ 7:10 PM. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 4, 2008 @ 6:00 PM at the City Council Chambers of Hawthorne City Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Kywana Bowie