



**CITY OF RED BLUFF
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION MINUTES**



Date of Meeting: September 13, 2022
Time of Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Place of meeting: Red Bluff Council Chambers & (Zoom)
555 Washington Street
Red Bluff, California

Commissioners Present: Patricia Phillips
Vici Miranda
Jennifer Torres
Mia Gleason
Matt Stinson

Councilmembers Present: Daniele Eyestone (Zoom)
Citizens Present: Rick Barron
Staff Present: Tom Westbrook, City Manager and Community Development
Director
Kyle Sanders Red Bluff City Chief of Police
Karen Shaffer, Community Center/Recreation Supervisor

Chair Torres called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Torres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:

Chair Torres asked if anyone had any special interest in any of the issues on the agenda: None.

C. CITIZENS COMMENT: Rick Barron, Civil War Days organizer, addressed the commissioners about the relocation of the homeless to the Samuel Ayers Dog Island Park. Civil War Day's started in 2005. Barron stated that his group had always had great working relationship with the City Parks and Rec. Maintenance Department. He thanked Mike Skelton for working hard to make sure their event ran smoothly. Every year up to 900 local 8th graders attend the event. Barron doesn't see how relocating the homeless to the park will be compatible to the public. If this does move forward, he says they will need to look for another location.

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Barron stated that Councilmember Daniele Eyestone called him the next day after City Council voted to designate the park for relocating the homeless. Eyestone also stated that this decision could be rescinded at any time.

D. CURRENT BUSINESS

1. **Approval of Minutes:** August 9, 2022, MSC Miranda/Stinson 5-0.

E. Old Business:

1. **Community Garden:** - Commissioner Miranda – No update.
2. **Splash Park:** Commissioner Miranda reported that the city was awarded \$3,000,000.00 grant for River Park improvements.
City Manager Westbrook stated that the city has received the letter from the state stating that the city has been awarded \$3,000,000 to improve the River Park. We are waiting for a letter of contract agreement from the state. Once we get the letter, it will need to be approved by City Council. After the contract agreement letter is approved, we can go out to bid.
Chairperson Torres asked if we could award the contracts to local contractors.
Westbrook stated that we are bound by the State of California law to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.
3. **Dog Park Update:** Commissioner Phillips announced that the Dog Park received \$3,000 from Tehama Together's general fund. They now have approximately \$5,500. These funds will be used for the potable water, irrigation, concrete curb, and the grassy slope. They plan on applying for the McConnell Animal Endowment Foundation Grant. This grant will be \$2,500 to be used for the ADA pathways and \$700 for \$25 dog food vouchers for Veterans. She asked everyone to distribute flyers announcing their next meeting.
4. **Commissioner's Report to the City Council:**
 - September 20, 2022 – Gleason
 - October 18, 2022 - Torres

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. **Homeless Camp Update:** Chief of Police Kyle Sanders gave a little history of how and why the homeless situation has evolved to where we are today. He started with the city 26 years ago and there was a homeless population here. In 2011 the State passed AB109 which led to fewer incarcerated. Ten years later Proposition 47 passed and diminished the accountability for criminal behaviors even more. In 2018, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that we cannot criminalize homelessness if you do not have a sheltered bed for them. It's the Law of the Land until the Supreme Court rules otherwise.

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Last Tuesday City Council voted to take an action to start the process of moving the homeless to one area, Samuel Ayer Dog Island Park.

Torres asked why the issue wasn't brought up to the Commissioners. She indicated that we have been dealing with this issue for a long time.

Westbrook stated that it was a timing issue. The Council had asked for the relocation of homeless to be put on their next agenda. There wasn't a Commissioners meeting in between these two City Council meetings. He is fully aware that this would be an issue that would be brought to the Commissioners if there would have been a timely meeting.

Councilperson Eyestone stated that she was shocked that this was an action item at the last meeting. She was hoping that there would be more time for public opinion before taking action.

Chief Sanders stated that staff will start asking the homeless to relocate to Dog Island at the beginning of October. Community Service Officer Nigel Mist has a good rapport with many of the homeless in the parks. He has been very successful in getting their cooperation and mitigating issues.

Westbrook stated that the permit is ready to be issued for the Navigation Center. The county will now create their bid package and then solicit for contractors. There will be 61 beds.

Commissioner Miranda asked if there was any collaboration with the county as far as looking for alternative locations. She feels it's unfair that the city is bearing the responsibility and cost associated with all of this. How are we going to pay for this, out of the parks budget? She would like to see us try to force the county to take a more active role in this instead of the city dealing with all of it. Many parks have been donated to the city. Has there been any research done on Dog Island to see if there are any conditions placed on the city when it was donated? The family took the Rio Street Park back because it wasn't being maintained as a playground.

Commissioner Phillips stated there are many people who come to disc golf from out of the area. It's not just Red Bluff residents. She suggested the empty lot south of the Skate Park.

2. **Parks and Recreation:** Shaffer reported that volleyball started yesterday. There are 5 Co-ed teams. They play Monday nights and Women's has 4 teams and they will play Wednesday nights at the Red Bluff High School.
No one signed up a team to play Fall softball. Registration will open in April for Spring softball.
3. **Brown Act:** Westbrook announced that everyone has been invited to participate in the Brown Act training Sept 26th, 5:30 at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

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G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Phillips thanked Chief Kyle for coming. She also thanked Rick Barron for coming and hopes he can stay at Dog Island.
- Barron also thanked Chief Sanders for all he has done for the reenactors in the past.
- Commissioner Torres asked if we are going to continue to take park reservations at Dog Island? We should stop taking reservations until this is all figured out.
- Commissioner Miranda thinks that since City Council made this decision the Commissioners should give council a list of our concerns like who's paying for the increase population at Dog Island.? What budget is this coming out of? Are we going to allow events and take reservations?
- Commissioner Torres asked that we put this on our agenda next month.
- Commissioner Torres reported that Spooktacular Oct 22 10-2 at River Park. Christmas Festival Dec. 17th at Community Center, it will be a drive-through event.
- Commissioner Gleason reported that she is involved with Women Supporting Women, and they have a new cart for feminine supplies and now needs to be advertised more. Torres asked her to bring bras to LIFT.
- Commissioner Stinson reported that over 100 Vista students tried out for sports this season. Twenty-four girls are playing volleyball. Eleven kids signed up for cross country, 20 kids are playing soccer. Stinson hopes to add more sports at Vista in the future. Also looking forward hosting a volleyball camp for the younger girls this summer.

Chair Torres adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.

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