

CITY OF FULLERTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
City Council Chamber
Monday, December 8, 2008
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Stanford led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawna Adam, Sueling Chen, Kathleen Dasney, Craig Russell, Kathleen Shanfield, Nancy Spencer and Scott Stanford

Absent: None

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Felz; Parks and Recreation Managers Grace Carroll Lowe, Hugo Curiel, Alice Loya, Dannielle Mauk, Judy Peterson; Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard; Events Specialist Ashley Glass; Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan; Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley; Civil Engineer Thuy Nguyen

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 - 3)

Vice Chair Dasney MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Stanford SECONDED the motion to approve the consent items as written.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Recommendation to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2008 Commission Meeting.

2. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2008

Recommendation to receive and file the Landscape Division November 2008 Monthly Report.

Vice-Chair Dasney asked Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan about the 24-inch box trees at City Hall referred to in his report, and he said they were along the pathway to City Hall in the back. When asked, he said a log bench was installed near the Juanita Cooke Trail and that his staff had made it from some trees that had been taken down. It was clarified that it was across from the Garden of Weedin', not in the trail. Commissioner Adam asked about a Laguna Lake log bench and was told that was Maintenance staff Clifford Jennings' work. Commissioner Adam replied that it was very nice.

Commissioner Adam said she was asked about plans for cleaning up the Euclid trail where it had eroded due to the rainstorms a few years ago. Landscape Superintendent Quinlivan said Engineering told Maintenance to close off the trail until further notice as the slope failure was in litigation. Director Felz confirmed the matter was a legal matter and potential litigation was involved.

Commissioner Spencer asked about the planned drought-resistant garden at City Hall and Landscape Superintendent Quinlivan said they would probably do a less-extensive version due to funding problems, saying that since Cal State Fullerton had one, people could get ideas for drought-resistant gardens there. Director Felz agreed there was a redesign happening but while the plan was still "alive," it would likely be a scaled-down version. Commissioner Spencer asked if the plan was like the Police Department garden, and Superintendent Quinlivan said "yes" and that it would have succulents and California native plants with a drip system. Commissioner Spencer said using cuttings would make it less expensive, and he said that was true although it was also the labor that was costly. Commissioner Spencer said Fullerton Beautiful could help, and he noted that Maintenance had also done the small garden at the train station; Commissioner Spencer said that was really nice.

3. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2008

Recommendation to receive and file the Building and Facilities Division November 2008 Monthly Report.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 4 – 11)

4. DISNEY GOALS REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Director Felz introduced the GOALS program, saying this youth gang diversion, recreational, hockey, tutoring and mentoring program has largely been operating in Anaheim for several years; however, it is branching out to neighboring communities including Topaz School where it is currently providing an on-campus program. He said the aid requested would be a total of \$10,000 for the next two fiscal years to transport Topaz students to the Disney Ice and GOALS facilities in Anaheim. While Topaz was part of the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District (PYLSD), he noted that Topaz is located in Fullerton and serves 98% Fullerton children so the City was planning on serving all children at the school through this program. He then introduced Dave Wilke, Executive Director of GOALS, to answer questions.

Vice Chair Dasney said she understood why Parks and Recreation was involved in the GOALS program, given that it had Garnet Center involvement, but she wondered whether

the Police Department or the Fullerton School District (FSD) could provide matching funds. Director Felz said Redevelopment would provide the funds, and that staff would speak with FSD if the program expanded to its schools. Vice Chair Dasney asked if FSD hadn't been involved in the GOALS program before, and what the status of that was.

Executive Director Wilke said he had been directing the GOALS program since 1994, noting that he also lives in Fullerton, and that his program, primarily in Anaheim, spends over \$1 million yearly serving poor children. He said they have been serving some outside areas, mostly through the PYLSD because that school district asked them to work with an after school program and also providing funding. He noted that while GOALS does provide hockey and sports programming, they also started a fitness program targeting obesity. All services are free, there are up to 40 to 50 field trips annually, and they want to get children out of their regular high-risk environment. He felt that \$5,000 was a low price to keep kids out of gangs and into places like the Anaheim Ice Arena.

Director Felz said, previously, the City had worked with the GOALS program, but there wasn't the infrastructure or programming elements to support it. Now, with Garnet Center and the City's relationship with Topaz Elementary, GOALS can work in Fullerton and would be a very efficient use of funds, hence, the staff's recommendation. Director Wilke agreed, stating that funds are leveraged about 20 to 1, and that GOALS would be able to serve about 100 children for free. He said that no one was forcing GOALS to serve Fullerton, he was doing so because of a good relationship with the Topaz principal who was leading the effort to address gang prevention needs at the PYLSD. He said while Disneyland supports GOALS for \$400,000, GOALS still needed more funding.

Commissioner Stanford asked how many kids would be participating from Topaz in a year and Director Wilke said 100 kids, or about 70 per week. Commissioner Stanford asked how GOALS would measure success and what kinds of studies would be undertaken to evaluate it. Director Wilke said it was a good question, but asked how one measures love in a family, and answered that one can recognize it internally but one can't necessarily measure it. He suggested the commissioners talk with children in the program and talk with people who have been associated with the program. He said GOALS has done surveys of subprograms including Pathways to Responsibility and GOALS Cadets in which 160 teens are involved in community programs, food banks, and graffiti cleanup instead of being in gangs or doing graffiti. When asked, he said they don't track kids after they leave the program at 19, but knows several kids who have succeeded academically and professionally, and that several GOALS alumni are now staff.

Commissioner Stanford asked about the funding, if this would be a recurring annual expenditure and how or if the City would involve the school district. Director Felz said the program was structured as a two-year grant, and that it would then have to be evaluated and a decision would need to be made on whether or not to continue it. Commissioner Stanford said, historically, once a program starts, it's difficult to stop it, and if there's no way to track something like this, it would be difficult to say whether the program was successful and the \$5,000 well spent although he agreed that \$5,000 was less expensive than incarcerating someone. Director Felz agreed tracking was important, although difficult at times, saying measurements include attitude, attendance, participation, sometimes grades or numbers of altercations, but tracking success is often based on anecdotal information.

Commissioner Shanfield asked why kids are being bussed to Anaheim when there are programs in Fullerton, and Director Wilke said there was no ice rink and no roller rink in Fullerton. Director Felz said transportation was difficult for the City to manage with its smaller vans, but having the larger numbers and transportation that GOALS has makes it more cost-effective. Moreover, he said, getting the kids exposed to other kids and other environments was very important because the negative environments that many of the children in Fullerton and Placentia find themselves in are the root causes of very negative behaviors.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about the relationship with Disney and Director Wilke said GOALS is still funded mainly by the Walt Disney Company although GOALS has always been an independent non-profit. He noted there is a Disney company representative on the seven-member board. When Commissioner Shanfield asked if GOALS applies for any Disney grants, Director Wilke said they haven't but they have recently received an anti-obesity grant from Orange County Community Foundation as well as other grants.

Director Wilke said while acting locally is good, it's also good to expand and help others. He described how two kids from feuding neighborhoods won a championship together and no longer saw each other as different. In answer to Commissioner Shanfield's question, he said that his program is always trying to find support from different entities, but it's not easy, and foundations will often not fund this type of program. He said while the program would cost the City \$5,000, it actually costs \$12,000 for transportation and provides \$100,000 in services, and links children whose families can't even afford Little League fees to multi-million dollar facilities for free.

Commissioner Chen thanked Director Wilke for coming to the meeting and for his services, said GOALS was new to her, and asked how many and who were served. He said 1500 were served with 70% from Anaheim, some from Placentia and a small percentage from Topaz/Fullerton. He clarified that GOALS needed transportation funds in order to assist the Topaz students next year, and that he expects funding from YLPSD. When asked, he said other funding comes from federal, Eisner foundation, Walt Disney, private donors occasionally, and in-kind donations. He said GOALS is a non-profit 501(c)3. He also said these 100 students would receive about 40 round trips each year.

Commissioner Chen, acknowledging that GOALS has access to the ice rink, asked if there were other programs, including City programs, that could provide gang prevention services or if GOALS is the only one. Director Felz said this is only one part of the gang prevention services the Parks and Recreation Department wants to provide, and is a very cost-effective and unique way to reach 100 kids. He also pointed out that Parks and Recreation is operating at near-capacity at the Independence pool, and that GOALS would not be an abandonment of other City programs. Director Wilke said they are also developing, with the City of Anaheim, a multi-million dollar facility called Dreamscape incorporating such sports as tennis and field hockey, lacrosse, indoor soccer – all for free.

Commissioner Chen asked about insurance and liability with transportation, and Director Wilke said GOALS provides the insurance at \$25,000 per year. In 14 years, he said they have never filed an insurance claim – a perfect risk management record including in ice hockey, which is considered a high risk sport. He said GOALS will provide a certificate of insurance.

Commissioner Adam asked about transportation on a weekly basis, and Director Wilke said they were actually transporting two times per week. Commissioner Adam asked how many hours the program was including transportation and was told roller hockey was three hours and that ice hockey was longer with suiting up and down – probably four hours. He added there was a mandatory GOALS class at the school weekly for an hour with sports-oriented math and science. Commissioner Adam asked about who foots the bill for playing hockey and tournaments, and Director Wilke said kids can stay from when they are 6 up to 19 years old, so GOALS foots the bill. He explained the kids play other teams that are matched, and that some kids are good enough to play at elite level teams through scholarships.

Commissioner Adam asked, if the City continues to pursue this funding at Topaz, if other school sites would have an opportunity to participate. Director Felz said there would be nothing to stop schools from applying, but Disney GOALS had criteria for serving low-income students and neighborhoods. He explained this wasn't the usual municipal funding model and goes beyond city borders and barriers.

Commissioner Adam also asked if there would be any data kept so the expenditure would be justified, and Director Felz said yes, although it would be more raw data on attendance. Director Wilke said the kids could come and tell the commissioners about their experience after a year, or they could come and observe or participate with the kids. He said GOALS has served 20,000 children over 14 years and is the largest diversity program for hockey in the world.

Commissioner Stanford said there were many programs for at-risk youth at schools. He asked if there were some kind of policy or standard for providing such services at different schools including knowing when it was appropriate for the police to step in on gang prevention efforts, or if the City was fragmented in its approach. Director Felz said efforts were probably somewhat fragmented although the City has made a lot of progress and the efforts do have some structure. He noted that while the Police had some asset seizure monies, they were generally more about enforcement rather than prevention, although they were understanding and supporting these kinds of efforts through community centers and schools. He said there is also a match of resources to the particular school, and said the Garnet area doesn't have a lot of on-site resources.

Commissioner Stanford asked Commissioner Adam about Title I program funding as she was a teacher, and she said those funds won't pay for transportation and can only be used at the schools, so Title I could not be used for the GOALS' off-site program. She was not confident GOALS would be able to get money from the PLYSD as many school funds were frozen; however, Director Wilke said he had received a personal promise on the funding. He said if GOALS can get transportation funding from another source next year, he will return it to the City.

Director Wilke said focusing strategically on low-income kids is an overlooked national issue. He said they need leaders like the commissioners to get other groups together to build partnerships to address these issues. He added that they don't want to take from Parks and Recreation only, that it is actually a small department and agreed that others should be stepping up, and that he would be happy to work with anyone. Director Wilke emphasized that his program is applying for other funding also and if this comes through, he won't be asking for more money. Commissioner Spencer confirmed with Director Felz

that the requested \$5,000 funding would be coming from Redevelopment funds, not from Parks and Recreation.

Chair Russell asked how long staff had known about the GOALS request for funding and when the program started at Topaz, and Director Felz said they'd known about the request about six weeks and that the program had been in place this year. Chair Russell said he felt fragmentation was a serious problem, and that the program should not have already started before asking the City for funding. He was concerned about the City getting left with the bill, similar to the Cal State Fullerton grant at Richman.

Director Felz responded by pointing out that the funding is actually for the following year, not this year, and that the Placentia Yorba Linda School District was trying GOALS on a trial basis. He said the PYLSD approached the City recently for funding for the next two years. He said the City has made it clear that the funding is on a yearly basis. Director Felz also noted that the GOALS program is not a major initiative for the school, and that they do have a coordinated approach to after school programs with the school district and organizations. However, the City was supporting the GOALS program because it was a needed recreational resource for the east side that worked for a lot of reasons.

Commissioner Chen asked, in the event of an accident during the transportation of students, if the City would be liable. Director Felz said there was no definite answer, although it would be the same for any other programs like the Boys and Girls Club. Parents sign releases, and insurance is available to pay for any damages, but anyone can sue any entity; however, this program would be consistent with any other programs the City operates.

Commissioner Chen asked about the roller rink that was at the Hunt Branch Library, saying it was now closed down, and Chair Russell noted another nearby rink that closed down. Manager Peterson replied that the City's roller hockey program became less popular, particularly that type of hockey league which was also expensive to operate. She said it just ended due to a lack of interest whereas GOALS has a program supported by a much larger organization. Director Wilke said the Hunt Branch facility was not really adequate, and agreed roller hockey was not as popular as it was a decade ago, and hockey is an expensive sport, but that GOALS was looking at other alternatives such as indoor soccer and tennis.

Chair Russell asked for clarification on the funding, and Director Felz said the request would be specifically for the City for \$5,000 per year for the next two fiscal years. Chair Russell asked what Placentia Yorba Linda School District had committed to, and Director Felz said it is making verbal commitments but the Parks and Recreation request is not contingent on PYLSD's funding. He confirmed with Chair Russell the Commission could make PLYSD funding a contingency for City funding if it so wished. Director Felz confirmed with Commissioner Stanford that the Fullerton funding could be contingent upon receiving an additional \$5,000 from PYLSD to operate a \$10,000 program. If PYLSD didn't provide the other \$5,000, the program and Fullerton's participation would have to be reviewed.

Commissioner Stanford MADE A MOTION to approve the \$5,000 funding for the GOALS program at Topaz, contingent upon the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's approval of funding for the same program, and Commissioner Adam SECONDED the motion.

Chair Russell called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously. Director Wilke thanked the Commission for its support. Chair Russell confirmed with Director Felz that if the PYLUSD did not approve their portion of the funding, this item would come back to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

5. PUENTE STREET BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATH

Director Felz introduced the Puente Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Path, saying this was the first time the Parks and Recreation Commission had been asked to review this item. He said Class I bikeways are considered part of the transportation element and, hence, are normally under the purview of the Traffic and Circulation Commission and Engineering Department. However, due to the recreation elements involved with the Puente Street pathway, the Parks and Recreation Department was asked by Council to get involved and to provide an opportunity for a public hearing.

Director Felz outlined the hearing process which involved an overview of the project which Civil Engineer Thuy Nguyen would be making, followed by commissioner questions and comments, and then public comments. The Parks and Recreation Commission would then make a recommendation to City Council. He also noted the information and list of phone calls and e-mails already received from the public that would be available upon request.

Director Felz said the Puente Street path was actually already approved as part of the City's General Plan 12 or 14 years ago, adding that this was not the first time the Commission had been asked to review a project that had already been approved due to the length of time between the approval and project funding as well as new information or concerns that might also impact the project. He said this situation was similar, though not as large in scale, as the Gilman Park project where there was a large development that occurred near Gilman after the project had been approved.

City Civil Engineer Thuy Nguyen provided a Power Point presentation, giving reasons for bicycling including the ideal local weather, bikeways that can provide access to other recreational areas such as parks, schools and shops, and for day-to-day commuting. He said Brea has about 35,000 residents and about 55 cyclists commuting or .3% of the population, while Fullerton, at 135,000 residents, has 673 bike commuters or 1.2%. He noted the health benefits of cycling, and said it was an alternate mode of transportation to reduce congestion and smog, and combat high gas prices.

However, Engineer Nguyen said a commitment was needed to conserve resources. He provided definitions of bikeways and trails: Class I (off-street path for only bicyclists and pedestrians with vehicular cross traffic minimized), Class II (restricted right-of-way for use by cyclists only, but with parking and pedestrian and auto cross flows allowed) and Class III (on-street marked bicycle lanes), and separate Recreational Trails, similar to Class I but allowing other users including equestrians.

Engineer Nguyen provided an overview of the General Plan proposed Puente Street Class I paved concrete bike path which would connect the Rollings Hills and Puente Street Class II bike path in Fullerton to a future Class II bike route on Puente Street and future Class I Brea Canyon Channel Trail in Brea. He said the path would be an essential link to provide a north-south connection for cyclists to use instead of busy Harbor Boulevard. He noted amenities to be included were a prefabricated bridge to cross the Brea Creek Channel, landscaping and irrigation.

Through his Power Point presentation, Engineer Nguyen also showed conceptual plans and photos where the project would be built as well as photos of proposed plantings for the slopes. He said the Brea end of the trail would help connect to entities such as Brea Mall, Brea Trail, Craig Regional Park, Carbon Canyon Regional Park, and Chino Hills State Park. On the Fullerton side, the path would connect to Hillcrest Park, Fullerton Sports Complex, Craig Regional Park, the College of Optometry, Arboretum, Cal State Fullerton and the Western College of Law.

Engineer Nguyen described the funding for the project: Brea Dam Fund at \$123,000; Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities Program at \$348,000; and California Transportation Development Account at \$295,750 for a total of \$766,750. He also provided a schedule for the project, saying the design plan and specification should be completed by the end of 2008, construction award by March 2009, project completion by June 2009. He completed his presentation by saying there would be little environmental impact from the project: no closing of streets, minimal noise, no pile driving with only minor slope grading, and dust control per AQMD requirements.

Chair Russell explained the Commission meeting process to the audience, saying Commission would ask its questions first, then ask members of the public to speak for three minutes each, but he would also "play it by ear." He noted that Commission only makes a recommendation to City Council, but that the speakers' comments would be viewed by Council. He commented that he couldn't understand why this item shouldn't come to the Parks and Recreation Commission as it deals with trails, the Brea Dam Fund and a recreational activity. Director Felz said the e-mails received and phone call records would also be forwarded to Council.

Commissioner Stanford commented on how two streets would be linked up with the proposed project, and asked how many Fullerton residents would benefit versus others. He asked if this was considered recreational or as a vital link to facilitate greater movement between the two streets. Director Felz said it would serve a number of purposes including those Commissioner Stanford had mentioned.

Commissioner Stanford asked if the proposed trail would provide greater access for bicyclists who won't have to go around or if it would just add a new dimension for the riders, if it would create traffic issues for nearby residents, and if studies had been done. Director Felz said the Commission would hear from the neighbors, and that the trail was currently locked and closed on the Fullerton or south side of Puente Street although there is a gap in the north or Brea end so hikers and walkers can utilize the trail and cut across the golf course to trails leading to the Brea Dam recreational area. He said a Union Pacific right-of-way nearby is also utilized as an unofficial trail.

Commissioner Stanford asked if the lack of access is forcing bicyclists to go around, and Director Felz replied that he wasn't aware of any data gathered, but said Commission would probably hear from neighbors who have to take a circuitous route when cycling and use busy streets like Harbor or Brea Boulevard, and that the proposed project would provide the link needed to more easily access that part of Fullerton.

Commissioner Stanford said he had concerns about the proposed project encouraging cyclists to cross busy streets, and that those neighborhoods would be impacted with the bicycle traffic. He said he had concerns about cyclists similar to those on Euclid, but Director Felz said this was not a mid-block crossing as at Euclid, so it wouldn't be the same. When Commissioner Stanford also voiced concern that cyclists might pick up speed on Hermosa and then turn onto Puente as another cyclist is heading south, but Director Felz said this was a different type of bicycle traffic, would not be part of the Fullerton Loop and not as attractive to mountain bikers; rather it would be more the commuters, students, children – a more benign crossing than the crossing at Euclid.

Chair Russell asked for the map to be placed on the screen and received clarification on which city (Brea or Fullerton) some of the homes near the trail were in.

Commissioner Adam asked, as she lives four blocks from the trail, about drainage there since she noticed some drainage issues and an eroded area. Civil Engineer Nguyen said the trail connector would be a paved concrete path with drainage on one side due to the regular 1% sloping, and the eroded area would be covered with concrete. Commissioner Adam had concerns about slope erosion and maintenance, and Engineer Nguyen said Fullerton would be responsible for the maintenance. Director Felz said the project would not create a new situation and that any water collected would drain into the runoff system already in place. If there were a slope failure, it would have to be reviewed and responsibility assigned on an individual basis.

Commissioner Spencer asked why there was concrete on a Class I pathway, and Engineer Nguyen and Director Felz said Class I pathways call for a paved path, and Engineer Nguyen said the path will be for multiple use including mountain and regular street bikes, the latter which has thinner tires which require paved paths.

Commissioner Adam asked how cars would be prevented from entering, and was told there would be bollards on both ends. When asked, Engineer Nguyen said there would be a 6 feet width maximum opening between the bollards. Regarding skateboarders, he said there would be a texturing or "grooving" of the concrete that would discourage skateboarders and skaters. He also confirmed for Commissioner Shanfield that the fences at the ends would be taken down and replaced with gates. Hours of this trail would be from sun up to sun down.

Commissioner Shanfield asked to clarify why the proposed project needed reapproval, and Director Felz said a lot of time had passed since the General Plan had been approved, plus people had come to Council to speak and Council wanted to ensure everyone had a chance to speak their piece. Commissioner Spencer asked why so much time had gone by, and Director Felz said it was probably a lack of funding and agreed it may have been a low priority.

Vice Chair Dasney said she hadn't looked at all the e-mails sent in, but she noticed that some people were saying that the money should be spent to fix pot holes when, in fact, money from the identified funding sources can't be spent on those types of expenditures. Director Felz said that was largely true with federal and transportation funding, and with Brea Dam funds, and that was money that must be spent on the Brea Dam which would be voted by Commission. He said the Brea Dam funds were the City's portion of the match in funding.

Chair Russell asked why the City had to match the funds, and Engineer Nguyen confirmed it was a grant requirement; Chair Russell said he didn't care for the match requirements. He also confirmed that about \$123,000 of City money would be spent with the remainder of the \$766,750 from other sources. Chair Russell asked why Brea wasn't providing money, and Director Felz said it was a City project although it was confirmed that the project would also be located in Brea.

Chair Russell said while the project is in Fullerton's General Plan and he really liked the idea, Brea would, of course, "love it" because they didn't have to pay. Engineer Nguyen said staff did make requests to Brea to help pay for it, but it wouldn't. Commissioner Spencer asked where the funding from Brea Dam money comes from, and Director Felz said it is mostly golf course fees. Commissioner Adam asked whether golf balls would create a safety hazard, and if any measures would be taken. Director Felz said no as the golf balls were pretty far away, although there was probably some risk as was the case with other trails.

Chair Russell asked if Brea's golf course had funds that go into a fund like the Brea Dam. Manager Alice Loya said Brea's course is on private land, and confirmed that part of the proposed project would be on Army Corps property and part of it wouldn't be, with the Brea Dam funding match to be used for the Army Corps portion of the property.

Vice Chair Dasney asked about Class I bikeways, and if there were painted lines to separate users, but was told users would intermingle; however, the path would be 12 feet wide. Vice Chair Dasney asked if the Beechwood / Adventure Park property was within the Brea Dam control area, but Manager Loya said it was just outside, hence, Brea Dam funds probably couldn't be used.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if the proposed path would have to be paved, and Engineer Nguyen said it should be paved to control erosion, and Director Felz said Class I should be a hard surface as this was for commuters and regular cyclists, not for mountain bikers.

Chair Russell then opened the meeting for public comment, but also confirmed that the path could not cross the nearby bridge as it was the Brea Golf Course's bridge.

William Vandenburg, 816 E. Hermosa – A Fullerton resident, who lives right next to the proposed trail on left. Provided a short history saying 20 years ago the neighborhood successfully organized to prevent a possible roadway for autos. Apparently, the bike path was put in the General Plan without anyone noticing it until 2006, when they noticed that a pathway had been proposed. A review of 2003 City documents showed that there was a risk due to a steep (17.7%) grade which could become a high speed downhill and half pipe for skaters and bikers. There was use by kids and others at the golf course

bridge who throw their bikes over the fence and “carry on.” Requested a gravel or earth pathway so there wouldn’t be any high speed use – people could just push their bikes through. Didn’t think the gate closures would work.

Richard Haagsma, 3151 Puente Street – Resides near the trail on the southwest side of Puente near Rosarita. Said he received something official November 24, 2008 for the first time even though he’s been a resident happily for 11 years, and enjoys the wildlife that traverses the area. He said studies had been waived on environmental impact even though this path would cross a wildlife sanctuary, was concerned about safety, and believed golf balls were a hazard. Said the Bike Committee Chair had never looked at the area they voted on, that a certain section of the trail was a dangerous place to bike, that Rosarita Drive was a blind area, and the proposed path was “a bad idea.”

Mark Harpenau, 660 Briarwood - Said he will back his truck back over where the pathway is proposed. Thinks it will be dangerous; and that currently it’s peaceful. Believes it will just cause chaos with bicyclists zooming down the trail. Said there will be no separation between his property and the trail.

Michelle Moreno, 660 Briarwood – Wife of Mr Harpenau. Said there are golf balls in their swimming pool. She said there are other ways to cross, can take train tracks to the golf course. She said she was concerned about the loss of privacy, that there were already too many trespassers. Didn’t want a paved road and, if not stoppable, asked for landscaping, fence, noise reduction measures.

Nan Carter, 3301 Puente – Lives across from the previous speakers. She said she does get golf balls, and wondered if state funding would actually come through. Expressed concern regarding safety and security, as she had lived there 40 years, and witnessed many parties and golf course snack shack vandalism in that area. She was concerned with the police response, that no one would lock and unlock gates and asked who would pay for this. She reemphasized her concerns regarding cyclists speeding and funding.

Susan Daggett, 3101 Puente Street – Has lived near Ruiz Street and Beechwood School since the early 70’s. Didn’t think a bike path was a good idea, thought there was an existing bridge that could be used instead. Concerned about crime and security as it was a quiet area. Said the most dangerous part was the steep grade, said she slipped twice, wondered what would happen with cyclists, and who would pay for the injuries. Said she wanted to stand up for the wildlife, too.

Todd Ferguson, 724 E. Hermosa Drive – Is a bike rider, aware of the 27 miles of existing bike trails, felt adding only 670 feet for \$750,000 was exorbitant, and would rather give the \$5,000 to the GOALS program speaker. He said they saved a red-tailed hawk, many other animals, and suggested using the other bridge instead. Was curious why Brea said no three times to helping pay for the project, felt the environmental impact report should have been done, and was also concerned for security, especially if it was paved as it would increase bike speeds. Said he initially supported the project when he read the letter, but then saw the pink letter (with the “cons” listed by a resident on the back) and agreed with that. Felt the current path was functioning as it should as a bike and pedestrian trail.

Bernie Overland, 1716 Mimosa Place – Doesn't live nearby, but said with the difficult economic situation, it seemed a lot of money for very little use. He learned the funding was from the golf course, and said one could use the money to improve the golf course and get more funds.

Rick Alvarez, 719 Pueblo Place – 23-year resident, and loves the area where he lives. Received pink flyer, said he's a road bicyclist and rides 100 miles weekly, but said the bikeway is dangerous by the golf course, and uses an alternate route. Said he was opposed to the project because there were better things on which to spend \$750,000.

Vince Buck, Fullerton resident – Said perhaps the money to be spent could be considered a job creation program. Said he was part of the Bicycle Users Sub-Committee (BUSC) and helped create the bike plan. Felt it was a critical link for commuting and recreation, and although it may be short and expensive, it links a lot of things together. He said, as an experienced cyclist, he rides Harbor and Bastanchury but is not comfortable there. Said the proposed project would provide a safe route, felt south and north of Bastanchury was quite safe with access to shops, the college, and safer than going through the City of Brea, although he agreed there may be some safety questions that should be answered.

Mr. Buck re-emphasized the proposed path was a critical link, and was one of the highest goals of the BUSC. He addressed concerns regarding the steep slope, agreed it was somewhat steep but not unsafe, not as steep as his driveway, and wondered about the injury rate on steeper places, especially as the pathway would be concrete rather than gravel. He said golf balls may be dangerous, but not as dangerous as autos, and didn't believe wildlife would be disrupted, saying wildlife are "urban survivors" and are in his yard as well. Also said there were no statistics that crime would increase near bikeways and, in fact, the opposite was true, but agreed a stop sign might be helpful at Rosarita Drive for northbound bicycles and westbound cars. He felt the concerns expressed shouldn't be that problematic, and the grade could be addressed. He answered a question on the water flow at the Brea Creek being problematic, saying it wasn't a concern as it was fenced in that area and didn't seem very fast.

Commissioner Adam asked why the path project stopped and then started again. Mr. Buck said it was always and solely the lack of money as far as he knew, and there was never opposition from Brea.

Joel Maas, 171 Hillcrest Lane – Spoke on behalf of Davis Barber of the BUSC. Commented on the concern that crime might increase on bike paths, saying the Trails to Rails Conservancy did a 20-year study that showed bike paths don't cause an increase in crime, but rather a decrease, most likely because the foot and bike traffic prevents crime. He said a person is 20,000 times more likely to be an assault victim of crime off a path than on a path. He cited an *Orange County Register* newspaper article that said trails are the number one amenity for people choosing homes. Regarding property damage, with the proposed path, no one would have to jump the existing fences, thus reducing the likelihood of trespassing and property damage besides the "witnesses" who use the trails acting as a crime deterrent. Although there are golf balls, he said he had heard of no one actually being hit, and that one has more of a chance of getting hit on Harbor Boulevard by a car. He noted that the two golf courses are huge barriers that block access between Brea and Fullerton, and that this project would make cycling safer as it would reduce the

need to use busy streets. Said he wants his two young children to use bikes as a mode of transportation.

Will Breitbart, 235 Wilshire Boulevard – Said it sounded like some of the previous speakers were saying trails were for deviant mountain bikers, but that actually this would help connect the community to education, recreation and jobs, noting the Disney GOALS speaker had emphasized the importance of transportation for creating opportunity. Believed reducing the “carbon footprint” would do more to benefit wildlife than restricting bicycle bridge access across the stream.

Denny Bean, 1529 Yermo Place – Fullerton homeowner since 1979 and lives on the Fullerton Loop near Grissom Park, and applied recently to the Ad Hoc Trail Committee, said that his resume experience qualified him to speak. He said looking at the barrier, he would think the homeowners would enjoy being able to reconnect and walk more freely. Said he rides along the Bastanchury sidewalk, through the cemetery, etc., and said bikeways are important, and that they aren’t “subplots to a horror movie” as seemingly suggested by some previous speakers, noting the abundance of bikeways throughout the community.

He described many bikeways, said Class I bikeways are hard surfaces which modern bikes require. Regarding the steepness of the proposed bike trail, he said many underpasses are just as steep in the Santa Ana River trail, and that other streets are steeper without incidents reported, although one can alter the grade. Regarding burglary, the gate is already open, and one doesn’t hear about burglaries, so the situation won’t change. Preventing skateboarders has been addressed by City engineers who have already recommended deterrent measures. Also noted that if the trail was that much of an issue, the City could just build an-already approved street through there instead. He asked if the commissioners had visited, was told yes. He opined that there was still wildlife aplenty – and that they can access the area through other means. He also asked why the homeowners buy property next to a golf course and have a swimming pool where swimmers could also be struck by golf balls, if they are so concerned about safety.

Bill Boehnmke, Jr., 16771 Hay Drive, Chino Hills - Bikes in Fullerton and empathized with residents, but asked the Commission to vote for the proposal as it would help the greater population, and reduce traffic. He thought the residents didn’t understand the difference between commuting and mountain biking and suggested those residents concerned with preserving wildlife should then support those who are trying to preserve Coyote Hills.

Matthew Leslie, 716 W. Wilshire Ave. - Asked what’s protecting the wildlife from golf balls, and thought such concerns should be addressed to the golf course. Said he welcomes bike riders, and wanted to add his voice to support the project. Said there would be many more bike commuters if safe paths were provided and that there needed to be a paved route for the bikes, i.e., a Class I bikeway. Said a steeper grade would generally just require a little more braking and that a cyclist would speed at his own risk. He also noted benefits such as bringing others to the community and an increase in home values, a healthier population and fewer cars on the street.

Gene Hiegl, 1410 Harmony Lane – Chair of BUSC. Said the grade could be reduced per the City engineers, noting many paths as well as paved streets in other areas where grades are almost as or more steeper than the proposed project. He said this section of

Puente is part of a planned extensive bike route. Also responded to the previously voiced concern regarding water in the creek that kids might go down into; saying Fullerton Creek Road at State College and Yorba Linda Boulevard is just like this and it's never been deemed dangerous. He said the wildlife do fine in the city and his backyard and, in fact, are growing, not endangered.

Chair Russell brought the proposed bike trail issue back to the Commission. He asked why an environmental impact report was not being done or needed. Director Felz said this project had gone through a process in the General Plan and approved as a "negative declaration" which has a minimal level of review required, and could have been challenged at that point but wasn't. Engineer Nguyen agreed, and quoted the project's CEQA and NEPA categorical exemptions.

Chair Russell asked about state and federal funding, if the money is in the City's hands already and what it had to be used for. Director Felz said the pools of money are project-specific and approved allocations, and that this funding had not been frozen and was not transferable. If someone wanted to use the funds for a different project, they would have to reapply for funding. Chair Russell asked if the money is guaranteed before ground is broken, and Director Felz said while there was nothing that was 100% guaranteed, the City did have guaranteed contracts, up-front funding could be requested, and it could be confirmed that the funding was available.

Chair Russell asked what the City does for residents who buy a home when nothing was nearby, and they weren't notified that a path would be put in, exposing their yards. Director Felz said, generally, homebuyers are expected to do research to know what the plans in the area are and that, in this case, there was reference to a planned roadway in the General Plan since 1980. Where there are new plans, the City may provide some mitigation to assist homeowners.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if this funding or the project were not approved, would the City would consider removing the fences to provide for other alternatives, and Director Felz said probably not due to the erosion, but the Commission could propose something if they so wished; however, staff is proposing this project as described for its recommendation.

Commissioner Spencer asked about the funding from the Brea Dam and why it doesn't go back into the golf course, and Director Felz said the City receive fees from the golf course because the Course is using the property and that the City had recently provided \$212,000 to pay for netting and the Golf Course had also made about \$3 million in the last five years on improvements.

Chair Russell asked why Fullerton was fully paying for and maintaining the proposed project when it appeared to also benefit Brea, and why there was no reciprocal agreement with Brea. Director Felz said he didn't have the history, but Brea refuses to participate financially although it approved the project where it impacted Brea; nonetheless, the Fullerton residents had requested the project through the General Plan. Chair Russell asked if Brea had extensive trails, and was told "yes." Chair Russell thought there should be more "arm twisting" and said he was concerned that Fullerton was always paying for everything when others should be taking responsibility also, e.g., Disney GOALS. There

was a discussion and clarification about where the project would be located in both Brea and Fullerton.

Commissioner Shanfield said this was a process approved "diligently" through the General Plan, people had obtained grants for the project, and that nothing had changed except traffic had increased elsewhere. Therefore, she felt obligated to approve something that had already been approved.

Commissioner Adam said she would have appreciated a link like this when her children were growing up to utilize Golden Hill Little League and the Sports Complex, and to have a safe way to get there. She said parents wouldn't allow their children to use the busy streets of Harbor and Bastanchury, and that it made sense to be able to link the north and south sides of Fullerton. She said transportation for children was an issue, as the GOALS speaker said, and this project would provide many lower-income children benefit with more access to City amenities. She said the project was a lot of money, and agreed with Chair Russell that they should twist Brea's arm as Brea was benefiting without having to support the project.

Vice Chair Dasney said she came to tonight's meeting thinking she could go either way, and although she initially thought this was "big bucks for a small trail," she would vote for the trail project as she now realized this was a big picture linkage as noted by Engineer Nguyen's presentation. She didn't think Brea citizens benefited more than Fullerton residents, and agreed with Commissioner Shanfield's desire to follow the General Plan. Also, the money questions were answered, and although she agreed with Chair Russell's admonition to ensure the money was really there, she couldn't see a solid reason to go against a project that already had General Plan approval; thus, would vote in favor of it.

Commissioner Spencer said she also supported the project since the trail project had been in the General Plan a long time and funding was available. While she could sympathize with the residents, she said she lives by a trail, too, and hasn't had problems for 50 years. Said she would vote for this, too.

Chair Russell asked if there was a Brea Dam budget allocation for the project and Manager Loya said this was approved by Council through the Engineering Transportation and Circulation budget a couple of years ago.

Commissioner Chen said she was having difficulty with the proposed project, as she was sympathizing with the residents and their concerns about their homes and building a bridge when there was already another bridge there. She said the City wants to make transportation easier, but asked if there was a way for the Commission to consider other alternatives, and if a vehicle throughway should also be considered. Commissioner Chen said she didn't see a bicycle path for the area, rather because there are streets on both ends, asked if a vehicle through way should be proposed instead.

Director Felz said the proposal is only for a Class I bikeway. He said there was no consideration of a vehicle throughway because of a previous change in the mid-90's General Plan review process which took the possibility of vehicular traffic off the table. He said it would take a significant public effort to change the Class I bikeway to a vehicular route. He also confirmed with Commissioner Chen that the current funding was

specifically for bike traffic routes, not for vehicular traffic, and that there could not be any significant deviations in tonight's proposed bikeway project.

Commissioner Stanford said he was still concerned about the grade and safety for the pedestrians, and while he understood the need to build a link, he was very concerned about cyclists speeding. He asked what could be done to increase safety, and Director Felz said the primary solution was the width of the trail, and if there were problems, staff could address them as they did for the Nora Kuttner Trail; however, the proposed trail could not be split-use as it was for the Nora Kuttner Trail.

Commissioner Chen asked if there was a speed limit, Director Felz said there was not an established speed limit, but that the new trail advisory committee would be addressing that issue, and that speed was a common concern within any communities with trails. However, he also noted that enforceability would be another issue.

Commissioner Stanford asked about the planned grooves to discourage skateboarders, expressing concern that thin bicycle tires might get caught, but he was told the grooves would be perpendicular and, therefore, not a hazard to cyclists.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Russell called for the vote. Commissioner Shanfield MADE A MOTION to accept the proposed Puente Trail project, AMENDED with the proviso suggested by Commissioner Chen, that the funding is in hand or confirmed before ground is broken for the project, and Vice Chair Dasney SECONDED the motion and amendment.

Commissioner Adam asked if one would have to have 100% funding in hand prior to breaking ground, and Director Felz explained that the funding is never given prior to the work being completed, but staff would ensure that the funding from the State was confirmed which was the City's normal policy and procedure.

Commissioner Chen asked about any signage that might assist the nearby residents, and Director Felz said a stop sign was suggested at Puente and Rosarita, which was a possibility.

Chair Russell said he wanted to state for the record he had no issue with the bike way, and was swayed to it by the linkages it provides, however, he was very bothered by a neighboring city, Brea, benefiting without contributing "a dime," and that Fullerton residents would now be accessing downtown Brea. He noted Tri-City Park where three cities benefit and contribute. He said he would vote for the project but with the caveat that his concern be noted, and said perhaps there would be some other programming that won't happen at the Brea Dam because of the \$120,000 spent on the project and because the City of Brea didn't contribute. He then called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

6. DOG LITTER BAGS

Director Felz provided an overview of the dog litter bag program at Fullerton's parks, saying \$34,000 had been spent in 2-1/2 years instead of the \$5,000 annually that was expected. He said people are clearly often taking more than their share of litter bags, although a sign asking to take only one has worked somewhat, and staff is now seeking direction from Commission on how to proceed with the program. He asked that the Commission, if interested in this issue, review it as part of the budget process and make a recommendation from the options provided by staff, including continuing the program at current levels of use at \$10,000 annually; reducing the program and dispensers to the most frequented sites and Pooch Park for \$6,400; continued the program and seek private sponsorship at \$3,400 annually; or continue the program only at Pooch Park for \$3,400 annually. He noted that, like the Disney GOALS program, this program was being reviewed well before the budget to enable the Commission to understand the details and make recommendations on newer items.

Vice Chair Dasney said there was no option to discontinue, i.e., an Option E. She said she wanted to keep the dispensers but asked that the program be temporarily suspended with a request for donations of bags for the dispensers.

Commissioner Shanfield said Dog Park committee members said they believe they can get sponsors with advertising, are willing and confident to ask for donations, want to remain cost-effective and don't want to burden the City. Commissioner Adam asked if it wasn't a given that dog owners should bring their own bag, that this was a lot of money for something the owners should be and know they should be doing. Director Felz agreed, saying the bags were meant to be a convenience for someone who forgot to bring his/her bag, but there was also an issue of public health.

Commissioner Stanford said it was ironic that the Commission was discussing spending \$34,000 on dog bags when it also spent an hour discussing whether to spend \$5,000 to transport kids. He agreed with Commissioner Adam that dog litter bags were a dog owner's responsibility and not a good use of City money. Vice Chair Dasney said it was more about dealing with the reality of walking the trails and having a lot of dog waste without the dispensers. There was a discussion and agreement that there were dispensers on both parks and trails. Director Felz said staff's position was as Vice Chair Dasney stated, that without the dispensers, there would be more dog waste, particularly on trails. Chair Russell suggested that the dispensers be left empty and see what happens, suggesting that dog owners would start bringing their own bags. Director Felz said staff could return with a budget that reflects how Commission is leaning and provide dispensers only at Pooch Park.

Commissioner Chen said she would like to see sponsorship for the dog litter bag program and added that if the City hadn't put dispensers out, owners would have been more responsible, but now they're expecting it. She said it might be better to get sponsorship, and didn't believe owners would clean up after themselves. Vice Chair Dasney said that dog litter had always been a problem which was why the program was started in the first place. There was general concern expressed that if there were no dispensers, the parks and trails would get dirty.

Director Felz said a compromise might be a combination of sponsors and volunteer bag donations, noting that, regardless of the decision, there would be complaints and the

commissioners agreed. Commissioner Shanfield asked if sponsorship/advertising would be allowed at parks, and Director Felz said the City does allow sponsorship, e.g., Museum, FAST and the ball fields, and that if the sponsorship is inward-facing and directed toward the facility users as opposed to those on the street, sponsorship was possible. Commissioner Shanfield said people on the trails monitor others but Vice Chair Dasney said there are other owners who are completely ignorant, probably on purpose, and that since the leash laws weren't enforced, the dog litter laws wouldn't be either.

Commissioner Spencer asked how bad the dog litter situation was, and Manager Loya said there were a few parks that "were bad," and Emery Park was the worst, but most were not that bad. Commissioner Chen asked who would pick up after the dogs, if the program was discontinued and was told Maintenance would do so. She wondered if the maintenance costs would be increased.

Director Felz said staff would bring back this issue back, now that they had received Commission input.

7. OVERVIEW OF FIRST NIGHT

Events Specialist Ashley Glass gave a Power Point presentation of the planned activities for First Night, scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 31 from 7 p.m. until midnight. She provided a list of venues and entertainers, and noted that the galleries and museum would also be open for free. Other activities with nominal fees were face painting, balloon art, trains, and a new activity of ice skating as the hot air balloon was expensive and difficult. She also noted the food vendors including a couple of new ones plus the downtown restaurants would be open. Kids Lane would have inflatables, and the fireworks show was planned at midnight.

Programs would be available next week which the commissioners would be receiving. Commissioner Chen asked about the budget, and Cultural Arts and Events Manager Dannielle Mauk said it's \$50,000 with about \$22,000 from sponsors, and Specialist Glass said she's received good responses from the local businesses. She agreed with Vice Chair Dasney that residents could make donations through the water bill. Manager Mauk noted that the funding was coming through downtown redevelopment monies.

Chair Russell asked if \$5 was too nominal for the ice skating and might create shortages and get people who come later upset. There was a discussion about this, and Manager Mauk said since it was the first year, staff wanted to make it as accessible as possible for the public. She said there would be reserved tickets sold, with some tickets kept for those waiting in line. Manager Mauk said there were always some disappointed children each year, especially with the balloon ride.

8. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Director Felz reported on the following items.

- Fall Adopt-A-Park Memorandums of Understanding Approved
- Fullerton Aquatic Sports Team Agreement Approved
- KaBOOM! Playground Grant Application for Truslow Park Approved – This was a preliminary approval and, if funded, would be similar to the playground equipment grant Kiwanis obtained for Kiwanis Youth Park.

- Gilbert Community Center Dedication
- Independence Park/Swim Complex CIP Change of Project Scope
- County Grants for Park Projects – This funding is in place, and was part of the last group of funds approved by the County.
- Train Museum Proposal – Was not approved by Council so the Transportation Center plans would be developed without a train museum.

Director Felz said that at the end of the December 2nd Council meeting, Council Member Jones asked that an item about the Commission approval process be brought back for review at the second Council meeting in January. Director Felz said he wasn't sure what the outcome would be, but would keep the Commission updated as events occurred, and asked that commissioners continue to serve until further notice.

Vice Chair Dasney asked for confirmation that there was nothing currently in place where a council member could just reappoint a commission member without the member having to reapply, asking why there wasn't an element in the process so that current commissioners wouldn't have to go through the entire process. Director Felz said this was something Council members could do, and Commissioner Shanfield said when she served on the City's Applicant Review Committee, those that were currently serving were given top priority, and could be directly appointed without going through the interview process although they do would have to reapply.

Chair Russell said the Commission needed to prepare for the next year if four Commission members' terms were ready to expire, but it was difficult if the process was changing. Director Felz said the City Manager brought this concern up, and the Council agreed. When asked which four commissioners' terms were up, Chair Russell and commissioners Shanfield, Stanford and Spencer were identified. Director Felz assured the commissioners he would keep them informed.

9. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Department Budget Status - Director Felz said the budget was being developed with "across-the-board cuts" planned in increments of 2%, 4%, up to 8 – 10% with the first 2% to be handled fairly easily with unallocated departmental savings; any more cuts would be more difficult.
- Upcoming Council Agenda Items:
 - The Lions Field improvement project would be on the December 16 Council agenda, with an extensive package including all commissioner comments to be included in the agenda letter. The commissioners were invited to attend, were told the project was estimated at \$12 million, and that the debate would be centered on artificial vs. natural turf. The numbers had changed again as more details were available, with \$100,000 more for the artificial turf after 12 years. The figures had changed the most due to a new option for a synthetic infield which both user groups now want.

Vice Chair Dasney asked about the lead and heat issues, and Director Felz said the lead is essentially a non-issue as the current product is essentially lead-free, acknowledging Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel and Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard's research. Regarding the heat issue, Director

Felz said it was a given that artificial turf is hotter than natural turf, but the user groups still opted for synthetic, knowing about the heat. He noted there was also chemical content in natural turf due to the maintenance of turf with chemicals. The major benefit of artificial turf was a 35% increase in capacity and playability, and the equivalent would be the building of another sports park. He said the agenda letter would contain both pros and cons.

Vice Chair Dasney asked if Chair Russell would be asked to speak at Council as in the past, assuming the major players would be there, too. Director Felz said he would not be surprised if Chair Russell were asked to speak, that the user groups would be represented, and would support synthetic turf as they play on it all the time at other venues and can speak to the heat issue.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No commissioner comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Felz, Secretary

JF:pf