



**ANNOTATED  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Council Chambers  
200 H Street  
Antioch, CA 94509**

**Thursday  
January 24, 2013  
7:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

***Absent: Immekus  
Robertson arrived at 7:08 pm***

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Residents are given the opportunity to address the Commission on Park and Recreation issues not on the regular agenda.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings of May 24, 2012 and October 25, 2012.

***Minutes: May 24, 2012 – APPROVED  
Oct. 25, 2012 - APPROVED***

**VI. BUSINESS**

MINUTES

1. Verbal presentation from staff providing updates on physical parks and recreation programming.

2. Two year goal setting by the commission for 2013 and 2014.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)**

1. Staff

2. Commission Communication

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT (7:59 pm)**

Antioch City Hall  
Regular Meeting  
May 24, 2012

**CITY OF ANTIOCH  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Chairperson Immekus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2012.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Present: Commissioners Bonwell, Davis and Chairperson Immekus

Absent: Commissioner Flores and Robertson

Staff Present: Ryan Graham, Deputy Director of Community Development  
-Recreation

Mike Bechtholdt, Superintendent Parks

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** (April 26, 2012)

On motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Bonwell, the Parks and Recreation Commission members present unanimously approved the minutes of April 26, 2012 as written.

**BUSINESS**

- A. Continue to accept public input and develop a recommendation to the City Council regarding the future of the Fulton Shipyard boat ramp.**

Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham introduced the item and recommended the Parks and Recreation Commission receive public input. He noted no additional information was requested for this meeting from staff by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Sheila White, Antioch resident reported Mr. Boccio was unable to attend the meeting as he was getting ready to leave for the holiday weekend. She noted he had taken the Commission's advice and talked with the Friends of Animal Services who informed him, as a non-profit, they hosted fundraisers to assist the City in keeping the Shelter open. She noted the Citizens for the Preservation of River Access (CPRA) wished to do the same for the boat ramp; however, they

were not interested in forming a non-profit. She reported the CPRA had decided to table the park project at this time.

Chairperson Immekus requested the speaker timer be stopped to allow Ms. White the opportunity to complete her comments.

Ms. White stated the CPRA would be willing to maintain and operate the boat ramp and charge for use on a yearly basis with daily users directed to the new boat ramp.

Chairperson Immekus stated the project would require a significantly higher level of organization. He noted the intent of encouraging the CPRA to seek information from the Friends of Animal Services and Friends of the Library was to give them a sense of how they organized and worked with the City on projects that were of common interests. He reported he had provided contact information for the leadership at the Antioch Youth Sports Complex and had personally contacted them to request they contact Mr. Phillips and provide him with copies of documentation they had used to form their organization. He noted the purpose was to inform the CPRA of the paperwork and structure necessary to form an organization that could be considered for the type of program they were interested in organizing.

Ms. White responded she was not interested in forming a non-profit due to the fact she was too busy with her business.

Chairperson Immekus stated he understood Ms. White's concerns; however, he noted a structured organization would be necessary to get insurance documents and the permits required to do business with the City. He reiterated the purpose of directing the CPRA to groups currently operating with the City was to determine what was needed to proceed with their efforts.

Commissioner Bonwell agreed that contact with those groups would provide information on the structure needed to progress toward an organization. He expressed concern the volunteer group had only two members in attendance this evening.

Ms. White clarified she had forgotten the date of the meeting and the City's calendar had not posted the meeting information at the beginning of the month. She noted she had called the City Clerk who stated she had no information for a May meeting and therefore she had not informed other CPRA members of this evening's meeting. She reported there was still interest; however, she could not be involved in a non-profit. She commented the duck hunters were supportive of their efforts and the Fulton Shipyard caretakers had expressed interest. She stated she feels citizens need to be able to control what would go on in the area, which they are unable to do without the City's support.

In response to Rick Robinson, Chairperson Immekus clarified the CPRA would not need to form a non-profit; however, some type of organizational structure would be necessary.

Rick Robison, Antioch resident questioned the CPRA could not partner with the City to take control of the facility.

Chairperson Immekus responded it would not be feasible due to the fact there would be a liability issue and the City had previously indicated they did not want the responsibility of keeping the facility open.

Mr. Robinson questioned how one individual could have signed the facility over to the City in 2004. He stated he feels the City only wanted to close the facility and drive users to the new boat ramp to generate revenue. He noted the State had indicated it would not be necessary to close the old boat ramp.

Chairperson Immekus reiterated the Feasibility Study in 2004 had anticipated closure of the old boat ramp.

Rick Robison reported Council had indicated in the past that they were not going to close the Fulton Shipyard boat ramp and stated he feels there was a need for two boat ramp facilities in Antioch. He noted direction to form a non-profit had been stressful and the CPRA was willing to operate and maintain the facility. He stated he felt sending this item to the Commission had been a delay tactic by the Council for the election season. He noted the CPRA would give the City the funds generated from advertising in the area. He further noted if the recommendation from the Commission was to close the facility, a majority of CPRA members would be willing to attend the Council meeting to advocate keeping it open.

Chairperson Immekus suggested the Mr. Robinson address his concerns with the Council, who had effectively wanted the boat ramp closed.

Mr. Robinson stated Mayor Davis and Councilmember Rocha had indicated they wanted to keep the boat ramp open. He questioned why it would be necessary for them to form an organization and stated he feels this issue had become political.

Commissioner Davis stated he had sat in all three of the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings when this issue had been discussed and he feels the Commission was fair and encouraging throughout the process. He reported they had asked for a plan to be formulated so the Commission could examine it in detail and interact with parties interested in keeping the boat ramp open. He stated he does not feel the Commission had been presented with a plan that addresses all the significant issues and until that plan was in hand, there is no

project to send forward to the Council. He noted if at a future date there was a plan that had validity and workability, they would be willing to consider it.

Commissioner Bonwell stated the Commission had attempted to assist the CPRA and provide direction with how they could move forward to form a business entity. He noted the Commission had no personal opinion on the disposition of the boat ramp.

Ms. White clarified their goal was to be the caretakers of the boat ramp so the City would not need to be financially responsible for operation and maintenance and their request was for the City to install the gate. She further noted she had spoken with Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham and City Engineer Bernal who indicated they did not have to form a non-profit. She questioned how they should proceed if the boat ramp were to remain open.

Chairperson Immekus clarified the intent of the Commission was to refer the CPRA to other organizations to determine how they interacted with the City and what structure would be necessary. He reiterated the Council had planned on the facility closing, and at the request of the volunteers, sent the issue to the Commission with a mandate to determine if there was a way for an independent group to take over operations and maintenance of the area.

Ms. White stated for personal reasons she would like the boat ramp to remain open.

Chairperson Immekus commented the Feasibility Study indicated the expectation would be that there would be a fee for launching at the new ramp and the old ramp would be closed. He stated the CPRA had good framework and now they needed to create an organization to manage the facility, obtain the proper permits and address the finances.

Ms. White indicated her focus is on keeping her business open and if the boat ramp were closed, she feels it would become a forgotten area. She reported she had received bad publicity with the discussion of criminal activity in the area.

Chairperson Immekus stated from a business standpoint, the restaurant is a point of destination. He stated he was sorry to hear Ms. White had received negative publicity.

Commissioner Bonwell stated he feels after three meetings on this issue, it is time to make a recommendation to the City Council. In the absence of a plan addressing the significant issues, he made a motion to recommend the City Council proceed with the closure of the boat ramp. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis. Following discussion the motion was withdrawn by Commissioner Bonwell and Commissioner Davis.

Chairperson Immekus made a motion to advise the City Council that the Parks and Recreation Commission was not prepared at this time to recommend that the boat ramp remain open, and given the information at hand if the interested parties could provide significant organizational support necessary to meet City standards, they would gladly reopen a review of their request, at later date.

Commissioner Davis seconded the previous motion for discussion.

Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham reminded the Commission that the boat ramp had not been closed and the authority of the Parks and Recreation Commission was a recommendation back to the City Council on that issue.

Following discussion, Chairperson Immekus and Commissioner Davis withdrew the previous motion and second. The Commission agreed if the CPRA provided a business plan in the future, to meet the necessary requirements, they would be open to reviewing that information, provided it was so directed by the City Council.

On motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Bonwell, the Parks and Recreation Commission members present unanimously recommended to the City Council that the Fulton Shipyard boat ramp be closed.

Chairperson Immekus stated he feels there were people in the CPRA that had the time and opportunity to form an organization to move forward with their efforts. He clarified the Commission does not have any feeling one way or the other on the disposition of the facility. He encouraged the interested parties to move forward and recruit more people to form a structure the City could work with to run the facility on a privatized basis. On behalf of the Commission, he wished them good luck.

Following discussion, the Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to hear item C as the next agenda item.

### **C. CIP 5 Year Plan**

Ahmed Abu-Aly, Associate Engineer, Capital Improvements Division presented the staff report dated May 17, 2012, recommending the Parks and Recreation Commission receive the Draft 2012-2017 Five Year Capital Improvement Program.

Following discussion, Commissioner Davis suggested a notice be placed at the boat ramp when a date is determined for the implementation of the launch fee. He stated in the future when funding becomes available he suggests the CIP address improvements for the Chichibu Park playground.

#### **D. Parks Update – Verbal Report**

Park Superintendent Bechtholdt gave a brief overhead presentation of the Parks Update including recycled water projects, the results of the insurance company's park assessment inspections, the Arbor Day event in Antioch Community Park and vandalism.

In response to Chairperson Immekus, Park Superintendent Bechtholdt stated there may be park in lieu fees left to fund the replacement of the Mira Vista Park play structure. He also noted the school has expressed interest in trying to raise funds for a replacement structure.

Following discussion, the Park and Recreation Commission agreed to work with the school and residents to raise funds for a replacement play structure in Mira Vista Park.

Commissioner Davis suggested using guidelines set for the City Park improvements.

Park Superintendent Bechtholdt reported Julie Haas-Wajdowicz was the staff person involved in the park structure replacement. He also noted the City was looking at a variety of vendors for replacement of the structure.

Once replacement costs are established, Chairperson Immekus and Commissioner Davis agreed to work with staff and the school to fundraise for the replacement of the play structure.

Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham announced the Waterpark would open on May 26, 2012 and noted WW money was allocated to the Waterpark for needed repairs. He reported the Skate Park had been vandalized and volunteers had painted over the graffiti. He announced Mello Roos funds were being utilized at the Community Center to enhance classes. He reported the Jr. Giant's registration was very successful and he would inform the Commission when opening day is scheduled. He recognized the Police Activities League (PAL) program for funding the Jr. Giants program. He noted the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting would include an update on programming at the Prewett Park Community Center, Water Park and Senior Center.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS** (Announcements and Correspondence)

Commission Bonwell reported on his attendance at the grand opening of the Great Mine Visitors Center at the Black Diamond Mines.

Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham announced the City had advertised to fill terms on the Parks and Recreation Commission. He



noted the filing deadline for applications is June 7, 2012, at 5:00 P.M. and reminded any sitting Commissioners whose terms are expiring who are interested, would need to re-apply.

Following discussion, the Parks and Recreation Commission agreed the next Commission meeting would be held on July 19, 2012.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, stand adjourned at 8:35 p.m. until July 19 at Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kitty Eiden

Antioch City Hall  
Regular Meeting  
October 25, 2012

**CITY OF ANITOC  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Immekus called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. on Thursday October 25, 2012.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Immekus led and Commission and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Thibeaux, Davis, McClelland and Chairperson Immekus

Absent: Commissioners Robertson and Flores

Staff: Ryan Graham, Deputy Director of Community Development  
Mike Bechtholdt, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Kitty Eiden, Minutes Clerk

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (May 24, 2012)**

Due to the lack of a quorum of members who attended the May 24, 2012 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission continued the minutes to a future meeting.

**6. BUSINESS**

**RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT AND PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE FULTON SHIPYARD BOAT RAMP**

Chairperson Immekus questioned if newly seated Commissioners McClelland and Thibeaux, received the agenda packets, reviewed the information and were prepared to consider this matter.

Commissioner McClelland responded he had received the information and was prepared to consider the item. Commissioner Thibeaux responded he had not received an email or agenda packet for this evenings meeting.

Following discussion, the Commission agreed to recess to allow staff and Chairperson Immekus to confer and determine how to proceed.

Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham stated he would verify Commissioner Thibeaux's email address to affirm it was correct.

Chairperson Immekus called a recess at 7:08 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 7:25 P.M. with all Commissioners present with exception of Commissioners Robertson and Flores who were absent.

Commissioner Thibeaux stated he had reviewed all the information during the recess and would be able to consider and vote, regarding the matter.

Chairperson Immekus gave the following history of the Fulton Shipyard boat ramp item. In August 2004 the City of Antioch was awarded a grant for the construction of the new boat ramp, which was recently completed. Maintenance costs were to be obtained by charging a fee for use and the City Council fully anticipated closure of the old ramp to assure usage and related fee collection, at the new ramp. Fulton Shipyard boat ramp is located in an older mixed use business area and for the most part unsecure and in need of repair. In early 2012, City Council sent the issue of the long term disposition of the Fulton Shipyard boat ramp to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and a recommendation. Council at that time decided to keep the boat ramp open until their subsequent review of that recommendation.

The Parks and Recreation Commission heard public comments on the matter in February, April and May 2012. Shelia White and Jim Boccio were two speakers strongly favoring keeping the ramp open and both had business interest in the area. Other residents, without business interest, spoke in favor of keeping the boat ramp open and expressed interest in forming a group to manage the operation and maintenance of the facility. Multiple Commissioners offered ideas and resources regarding how to form a non-profit type organization that would meet the City's requirements. Speakers agreed to work on a plan and return to the Commission. They subsequently returned to the Commission indicating they had recruited several volunteers, however, major concerns were not addressed and no organizational progress had been made. The Commission explained in detail what the City would require to keep the ramp open. Some Commissioners provided names and contact information of organizations that had working relationships with the City. The Commission requested staff provide the following data for the Commission to review: Police Department calls for service in comparison with similar Antioch park facilities, Grant funding opportunities and Tidelands Fund Information. The main takeaway of those reports was that crime

was 2-3 times higher than similar locations, grant funding opportunities were being reviewed and the Tidelands Fund balance was approximately \$107,000.00. Staff recommended the funds remain in reserve status for unforeseen emergency use. The Chair indicated the Council was waiting for a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission and some valid business plan would need to be presented to the Commission or the Commission would make a recommendation based on the data at hand. Sheila White indicated she was not interested in forming an organization and it did not appear that there would be interest from any of the other volunteers. The Commission recommended to the City Council that the Fulton Shipyard boat ramp be closed on a 3/0 vote, however with two Commission seats unfilled and two Commissioners not in attendance the three votes did not constitute a quorum and the vote on the motion was invalid.

In response to Chairperson Immekus, the Commission indicated they understood the issues and the financial ramifications associated with keeping the boat ramp open.

Deputy Director of Public Works Bechtholdt reported the outstanding issues to be considered in making a recommendation to the City Council were as follows:

1. Should a non-profit organization be required to operate and maintain the Ramp and adjacent parking area?
2. If a non-profit organization is not required to operate and maintain the Ramp, what should be structure, if any, to operate and maintain this area?
3. Should a fence and gate be installed across the entrance to the facility and if so, what should be the hours of operation and responsibility for opening and closing?
4. Should an annual fee be charged to users of the facility administered by the Antioch Marina staff in a method similar to the system being used by the Antioch Marina Boat Launch?
5. Should the Ramp remain open or closed to the public?

In response to the Commission, Deputy Director of Public Works Bechtholdt stated items #1-4 would need to be answered if the Commission were recommending the Ramp remain open to the public. He stated if the recommendation would be to close the boat ramp, the facility would be secured with a fence and gate and the City/Water Treatment Plant would be responsible for maintenance.

Commissioner Thibeaux questioned if security cameras could be installed at the boat ramp to monitor the area and to eliminate the costs of staffing.

Deputy Director of Community Development Graham reported the City does not have the capacity for a camera project at this location and noted cameras are not an effected deterrent of crime. He noted other areas of concern were costs of

maintenance and operations as well as the high number of calls for service at the boat ramp.

Chairperson Immekus reiterated statistics indicated crime at the boat ramp was 2-3 times higher than other similar locations.

In response to Commissioner Thibeaux, Chairperson Immekus explained the Commission had provided guidance and urged the interested parties to develop financial and organizational plans, which they had failed to present to the Commission.

Commissioner Davis added that there had been no public input on the matter this evening. He noted the Commission had given much encouragement and advice and had waited for a viable plan that would meet the city's requirements, which had not occurred.

Commissioner Thibeaux expressed concern for the viability of the businesses in the area should the boat ramp be closed.

Chairperson Immekus clarified it was the Commission's responsibility to consider all the residents of Antioch. He also noted the old boat ramp competing with the new boat ramp, was not financially feasible.

Commissioner Davis reported the owner of the business in the area had indicated at the last Commission meeting she could not be involved in a non-profit and the interested parties had not formed an organization that would meet the city's requirements.

Chairperson Immekus stated that taking into account the guidelines, rules and regulations; he feels there is no substantiation to recommend to the City Council that they should keep the boat ramp open.

On motion by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Chairperson Immekus the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended to the City Council that the Fulton Shipyard Boat Ramp be closed to the public. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Immekus, Davis, McClelland  
Noes: Thibeaux  
Absent: Flores and Robertson

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS (Announcements and Correspondence)**

Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham reported new name plates and voting board had been ordered. He stated the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting would be scheduled for January 24, 2012. He

noted possible agenda items would include a parks update and the scheduling of the annual tour of recreation facilities and programming.

Deputy Director of Public Works Bechtholdt reported the insurance deductible for the City Park vandalism was \$25,000 and Wayne Steffen is working on volunteer efforts for fundraising. He noted the damage cost estimate was approximately \$175,000. He announced there were two people in custody for the arson.

Chairperson Immekus noted regardless of the vandalism, the park continues to be well utilized.

Commissioner Thibeaux expressed concern for the lack of a grassy area at the City's dog park.

Deputy Director of Public Works Bechtholdt explained the dog park was designed by the developer. He noted grass would be an ongoing maintenance cost and due to the city's financial constraints, there are no future plans for additional dog park facilities. He further noted currently their highest priority was determining how to replace the play structure at Mira Vista Park.

Commissioner McClelland suggested trash bag receptacles be placed at parks to address pet waste issues.

Commissioner Davis stated if the City Council closes the boat ramp, he suggests the public be informed of the closure, in advance.

Following discussion, Deputy Director of Community Development Graham stated it would be his goal to have Parks and Recreation meetings scheduled for every other month, with the ability to schedule urgent issues whenever necessary. He welcomed Commissioners Thibeaux and McClelland to the Commission.

Chairperson Immekus discussed the importance of park inspections and stated he would assign parks to Commissioners and provide that list with report guidelines, at the next meeting. He noted health and safety items in need of immediate attention, should be brought to the attention of the Public Works Department at 779-6950. He welcomed Commissioners Thibeaux and McClelland to the Commission.

With the consensus of the Commission, Deputy Director of Community Development/Recreation Graham stated he would proceed with reseating two Youth Commission members. He noted he would be putting together a calendar of meetings for January and if there were any requests for agenda items from the Commission, they could be submitted at that time. He provided the roster to the

Commission and requested they verify contact information and provide any additional information necessary.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, stand adjourned at 8:17 p.m. until January 24, 2012 at Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kitty Eiden