



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: November 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Parks & Recreation Commission and Commission on Aging
Joint Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2007

Report in Brief

The Parks & Recreation Commission and Commission on Aging's joint meeting minutes of August 27, 2007 are attached for the Council's review. No action necessary, this is informational only.

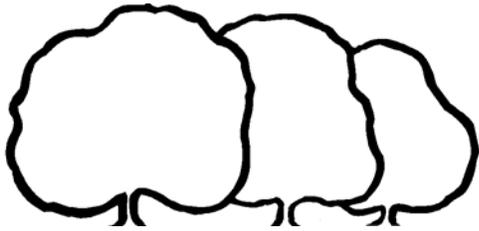
Recommendation for Action

No action required, informational report only.

Prepared by: Daniel W. Gentry
Parks & Recreation Director

Mark G. Deven
City Manager

Attachment



City of Woodland

Parks & Recreation Commission and Commission on Aging

Joint Commission Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 6:05 p.m. at Woodland Community & Senior Center, 2001 East Street, Woodland by Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) Chairperson Peterson.

PRC Commissioners Present:	Barajas, Dennie, McKay, Peterson, Slaven, Murphy
COA Commissioners Present:	Cooper, Griffin, Overholt, Wright, Talkington
PRC Absent:	Van Muyden
Staff:	Gentry, Ahlgren, Puccetti, Reinhart, Rice

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. NEW BUSINESS: ACTION ITEM

Community & Senior Center Internet Policy (Item 1)

Dallas Tringali, Parks & Recreation Department's Recreation Coordinator, gave a presentation on the proposed policy for the Community & Senior Center Internet Usage which will also be implemented by the Senior Computer Club and the Youth Center.

Tringali demonstrated the exposure and capabilities of the My Space.Com website, as well as discussing other social networks available online. Due to the policy of My Space.Com allowing youth aged 14 and up being able to create a public profile, the City's policy has been geared to their age requirements for social networking which is ages 14 and over.

The Internet policy includes two levels of access:

- 1) Level 1 Access: 13 years or younger; or older youth without parental consent for the higher access level; wireless users at the Center would have access as this same level.
- 2) Level 2 Access: 14 years or older with parental consent and other conditions being met as outlined in the Internet Use Policy; Senior Computer Club would be designated at this level.

In order to qualify for Level 2 Access, youth and their parents would be required to attend the internet safety training course; complete the Youth Center's Computer Use Agreement form; designate their MySpace.Com profile as private which will be confirmed by staff; add the Youth Center's My Space account to the user's personal friends list; comply with random profile checks while at the Youth Center; and understand that "groups, forums, and chat" functions will be disabled MySpace.Com.

COA Commissioner Overholt questioned whether YouTube will be allowed? Tringali responded that YouTube is a pretty bad site, with a variety of distasteful videos so he would prefer them not using YouTube.

COA Commissioner Talkington asked about the filtering system that allows certain websites to be blocked and questioned how it works. Tringali noted that the Center has a filter in the computer room that prevents the designated websites from being accessed by the computers in the Youth Center.

PR Commissioner Murphy reviewed the issue of making kids set their profiles to private, since they can easily change them back to a public profile easily. Tringali responded that we're hoping the kids will keep their profiles set to private after being educated about the inherent danger. We also hope that their parents will monitor them as well after they are educated about the risks of the internet.

PR Commissioner Dennie asked for clarification about the policy and the requirement that their kids set their profiles to private. Tringali responded it will be a mandatory requirement with will be a disciplinary action taken if do not conform. With the first offense, they will receive a verbal warning, the next time they be disciplined. The disciplinary action process will be defined so they will know what to expect.

PR Commissioners Slaven and Dennie asked how much discussion on this policy has there been with the teens. Tringali said they are aware of the proposal and the response was that the new policy is not that big of a deal.

PR Commissioner Murphy asked how this policy is different than the library or other public spaces. Tringali responded that the junior high schools have a computer use agreement very similar to what we have in place, and that the high school does not allow free email sites or My Space.Com to be accessed from their computers. The library has a policy in place, however due to their policy there is no filter system in place and access is completely open. Tringali noted that in keeping with the Youth Center's recreation component, we want to keep things tasteful on our computers.

Discussion ensued about the current placement of the Youth Center computers and how the new policy will designate the restricted computers as being those that face the mural wall (not normally viewable by staff), and the unrestricted computers will be face the door which is viewable by staff so they can monitor them. The space for these computers is small and was designed in order to fit the six computers there.

COA Commissioner Cooper stated that he is very impressed with the information provided, educational component, and the proposed contracts between parents and students.

PR Commissioner Peterson said he had previously been concerned about privacy issues with requirement that users must add the Spot to their friends listing. However, since learning that the Spot is also a private site, he is less concerned. He added that the educational component will be helpful in protecting the users.

PR Commissioner Barajas asked if adults, accessing the wireless internet at the Center, would be required to add the Spot to their Myspace profile. Commissioner Peterson responded that no because adults will not be able to access My Space. Com using the wireless internet in the building. Wireless access falls within Level 1 which blocks MySpace.Com and other social networks.

Parks & Recreation Director Gentry noted that if a youth profile is monitored and something inappropriate is found, they will be asked to remove it. If they do not change it, then we will remove them from the Spot's friends list and their Level 2 Access will be reduced to Level 1.

Discussion ensued about the Youth Center Advisory Team and how they might participate at the Youth Center. Tringali noted that it wasn't a formal group so it basically fell apart when school got out.

Jamie Puccetti, a Woodland resident, provided public input on the topic. She noted that she is an avid MySpace.Com user and detailed the variety of different ways that you can access other people's profiles even if their page is set to private. Adults can easily get in touch with youth because of the way kids think. In order to appear popular and cool, kids are more than willing to someone to their friends listing which then provides personal access to the kid. If they are educated on internet safety, sign a contract, and then break the rules their discipline should be more than a slap on the wrist that is currently being proposed. Tringali said that we all make mistakes and he wants to use these instances as

training moments with the kids and give them a chance at first. He agreed that the kids, who add a lot of friends, just add as many people as possible for the sheer numbers of friends it creates for them.

Director Gentry said that if a user broke the rules, they could easily be moved back to a Level I user. Tringali responded that yes that is true and we see these same kids everyday so we are aware of what's going on. We can revoke or reduce their access rights on their user card if they break the rules.

PR Commissioner Dennie said the Cybersavy Teens Brochure is a very good document and it stresses the issue that Jamie Puccetti has brought up. We know that when we were young, that we all felt the need to be cool. This mechanism of training, with the parent also being educated will be most beneficial. Dennie said she had concerns about the policy but knows that there will be bugs during trial period that will need worked out. She also noted that the parents do have the ability to opt out and exercise the right to not to allow their child to use the computers, or to the limit their usage to Level 1 access.

PR Commissioner McKay agreed with Jamie Puccetti's point that the punishment for misuse of the computer was insufficient and there needs to be a severe disciplinary action taken that is clearly outlined in advance, with specific consequences. Tringali responded that prior to applying the disciplinary matrix he would first want to try to do teaching moment first; like a slap on the wrist. McKay stated that this type of offense is serious and the repercussions of breaking the computer use agreement need to be dealt with better. If we make the issue serious enough to require the parent and child attend an education class, then we need to establish a "No Tolerance" policy right from the beginning.

Commissioner McKay moved to recommend to the City Council the approval of the proposed Community & Senior Center Internet policy; PR Commissioner Dennie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous: 11-0. Motion carried.

IV. ADJOURN: meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Puccetti
Administrative Secretary