

Woodland City Council Minutes
Council Chambers
300 First Street
Woodland, California

September 26, 2000

CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION

Vice Mayor David Flory called the Special Session of the City Council of the City of Woodland to order at 7:03 p.m. Council Member Dote arrived at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Flory invited all in attendance to join him in the pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Borchard, Dote, Flory, Monroe, Peart

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Richard Kirkwood, Phillip Marler, Marie Bryan,
Gary Wegener, Henry Agonia, Bruce Pollard,
Sherri Martin, Sue Vannucci

City Manager Kirkwood stated the purpose of this Study Session is to provide the Council with the opportunity to receive in-depth information regarding the Work Plans for the various Boards and Commissions who advise the Council on specific issues relating to their area of study.

RECEIVE ANNUAL WORK PLAN OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Chairperson of the Commission, Carol Souza-Cole and members, Dave Mata, Tanya McKay and Nate Peterson were present. The Commission has identified eleven areas of study for this year.

The Storz Field development is slightly behind schedule. The facility would contain 2 adult soccer fields, several youth fields, a restroom/concession building and a parking area. There are some concerns regarding the detention pond and providing drainage to insure the maximum use of the facility.

The Regional Park site is under consideration for soccer field. As Quantum has assumed the responsibility for Dubach Park, there is less need for baseball use at the Regional Park. This facility could provide 3 or more adult soccer fields and 7 youth fields. The Commission is awaiting the Phase II Environmental report, which was due for receipt in July 2000.

Study is underway regarding the usage of the National Guard Armory as a Teen Center. The lease expired in August. Council should have information from the Commission in November on this project.

One of the projects, which are complete, is the replacement of playground equipment at Christiansen Park.

The Commission is working with the Woodland Joint Unified School District on a Joint Use Agreement for facilities but strongly urge that no cash transactions take place between the agencies be specified as a part of this agreement.

Commission Member Mata stated that the Dubach/Quantum Sports facility presently has two fields in use with the remaining expected to be available next year.

The Yolano Soccer Field had expansion problems this past year. Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Henry Agonia is looking at other options. He did secure the field at Lee Junior High School. Yolano South requires a great deal of renovation to be playable. The Commission has a concern regarding funding improvements to property that does not belong to the City.

The Spring Lake Specific Plan issues have not been addressed directly, but the Commission has been keeping informed on the Plan as it moves through the various stages.

Little League and Cal Ripken Concession Agreements have been approved and are awaiting signatures.

The Woodland Recreation Foundation has held their second meeting. The volume of work involved in their various projects is tremendous. They are planning two fundraisers and could not move forward without the expertise of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, Henry Agonia.

One of the items on their Work Plan is communications. The Commission feels the Council Study Sessions is a great format for interaction between the Council and the Boards and Commissions as they do receive feedback.

Other items of interest as presented by Nate Peterson, were the renaming of two facilities, the Friends of Freeman Park and the Charles Brooks Community Swim Center.

Council Member Peart stated the report was very well done and especially identifying the funding required. The Aeromodelers are uncertain about their future with the changes taking place at the Regional Park. He suggested working with them so that they are not conflicting with the soccer program. He also thought that originally this park was to be designated more of an adult park. There are Boys' and Girls' Clubs looking at utilization of the Armory facility and directed them to work with staff. He would like to work with the Foundation regarding pursuing funding.

Vice Mayor Flory said that at the Storz facility, there are some problems with parking and drainage. Carol Souza-Cole said the price tag on these issues is very high. That was one of the reasons the issue had been pushed aside. She had received input from a community member who had suggested phasing the facility development. This could include some soccer fields, portable restrooms, a gravel parking lot and no concessions. This could be accomplished with a funding in the low \$100,000. She also stated that a proposal of having the lot as a park-and-ride was considered. The lot could then be funded by outside funds. Council Member Peart mentioned the Fire Department is considering the parking lot funding as well. Council Member Dote mentioned there is a great deal of State money available for this type of project.

Vice Major Flory asked about the specific values for each of the facilities which would be included in the Joint Use Agreement with the School District. Ms. Souza-Cole stated that each facility would have an associated value.

Vice Mayor Flory's next question concerned the Spring Lake/Turn of the Century Plan. The plan indicates there will be several 8 acre parks and stated he does not feel these parks are large enough. What is the Commission's opinion? Ms. Souza-Cole stated these were small neighborhood parks, typically at 10 acres, with the additional acreage from the smaller identified parks to be placed in the Town Center park for activities which would encompass larger groups. Vice Mayor Flory urged the Commission to monitor this Plan closely.

Council Member Dote mentioned the Storz facility may have some Burrowing Owl habitat at the edges of the facility and she asked the Commission to check on this possibility.

RECEIVE ANNUAL WORK PLAN OF THE TREE COMMISSION

Tree Commission Chairperson John Murphy, Public Works Director Gary Wegener and Management Analyst Sherri Martin presented information regarding the Tree Commission plans and activities for this year. Mr. Murphy outlined the background, vision and mission as charged by the Council to the Commission. The Commission has planned ten action items for this year. Some of the items may not be entirely feasible this year, or at all. These items have an objective, product(s) timeline and identify required resources. Mr. Murphy spoke on the ten action items and responded to questions from the Council Members.

The first item the Commission would like to address is that of a monthly Tree Commission newspaper column. The staff time will vary depending upon who is writing the article in a given month. The articles would be published prior to the Tree Commission meeting to raise awareness and may have items such as receipt of a rebate for those who properly plant an approved tree in their yard.

Item two encompasses planting of nineteen trees in the downtown corridor. The proposed area is on Main Street between Third and Sixth Streets, but has been held back due to a proposal to realign the street in that area. There is also a power cable in the planting area which needs to be moved. The planting of 8 trees will also be done on Fourth Street between Main and Court Streets during the next month. Council Member Monroe would like to see this happen very soon to draw people into the downtown corridor. The cost for planting will be approximately \$15,000 with an annual cost of \$6,000 to maintain. Some of the funding may be from the Redevelopment Agency funds. They will attempt to solicit a Volunteer Tree Corps so the annual cost for upkeep would drop to \$3,000. Mr. Murphy asked for guidance from the Council on this issue.

The next items addresses Code Enforcement of tree planting. This is primarily for businesses that have planted trees as required, but have failed to properly maintain them. It also includes those trees which have died and have not been replaced. The Commission has been working the Community Development Director Steve Harris regarding stepping up the enforcement on this issue.

"Fill in the gaps" identifies those residential areas where trees should possibly be planted. Many homeowners have planted other things, i.e. roses, rather than trees in these "parking strip" areas in front of their homes. The Commission is working cooperatively with homeowners to plant approved trees in these areas in an effort to increase the shaded streets and homes where possible. We cannot force a homeowner to plant trees, only urge them by providing the tree and asking them to maintain by watering as needed.

The Arbor Day Celebration was held last year and seems to be well received. The Commission plans to continue this recognition this year.

The Commission plans to apply for a "Tree City USA" designation. They will bring this item to the Council for consideration at a subsequent meeting. There is no budget impact and must be reapplied for annually. It could have some benefit to the City in acquiring grants for urban forestry, improve the City image as a high quality place to live and locate a business, increase public awareness of trees and promote community pride. The four requirements of the application process have been or will be met with the adoption of this Work Plan.

Another issue which the Commission felt was important was to have a location where citizens could view all of the trees available for planting in the City as part of our program. There is a guide in place that identifies locations where mature trees on the planting list can be viewed. Everman Park currently has all of these trees as well.

Item 8 is the Urban Forestry Master Plan. This is presently a "plan to plan". We can look at plans from other Cities and see how they have proceeded. Once the Commission has reviewed other plans, they will return to the Council requesting input.

The Volunteer Tree Corps will be explored. This involves organizing a group to work on various projects the Commission identifies.

The last issue is that of recognizing businesses in the City who positively promote planting and maintenance of trees. There will be an annual "reward" for those businesses.

Vice Mayor Flory said he is proud of the Commission and feels they have some very ambitious projects ahead of them. He requested they return to the Council in six months with an update on the progress.

Council Member Dote asked if our Volunteer Policy would cover these Volunteers and City Manager Kirkwood stated they would be covered under the Workers' Compensation program. She would like to see the costs identified on the Volunteer program. She also asked the Commission to consider a plaque identifying the heritage trees and have them included as a part of the Stroll program. Council Member Dote asked that the Commission look at Oak trees and report to the Council on what we may do to prevent the over-watering which is causing the rot on some of these trees.

Council Member Monroe said that an educational/fact sheet for the homeowners might help them understand what they can do to protect the trees from harm. He said there is a definition in the City Code on heritage and landmark trees which the Council

and Tree Commission can so designate. There seems to be no follow-up on protection of these trees except in a new development where they are required to have a tree plan. He has forwarded a message to Ms. Cohen from the Historical Preservation Commission to pursue this.

Council Member Peart commended Mr. Murphy for his excellent report. He agreed that education is a key issue for the preservation of our trees. He asked Public Works Director Wegener to expand upon the issue of the cabling creating a concern for the Main Street planting. Mr. Wegener stated this is a cable to the street lighting and it must be moved or the cable can separate with the tree roots forcing through. As we will need to replace circuits, we should also replace the conduit.

Vice Mayor Flory said he wanted the Commission to look at adding electrical wiring to the trees so they could be lit at some point. Mr. Wegener said we could get power from the streetlights.

Council Member Monroe said these issues are simple to plan, relatively low cost and have a positive effect on the City.

Council Member Dote asked if the Council needed to adopt this Plan and Mr. Murphy said in delivering the Plan to Council and receiving their input, it gives the Commission direction.

Council Member Monroe left the meeting at 8:21 p.m. and returned at 8:23 p.m.

RECEIVE ANNUAL WORK PLAN FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD

Bud Goding, Chairperson, Member Sandra Briggs and Library Services Director Marie Bryan presented the Plan to the Council. Mr. Goding stated there are three main items under consideration for the Board this coming year. The first item is that of Measure N passage. This Measure would modify Measure A which was passed by the voters in 1979. At present, there appears to be no opposition to approval of the Measure which would allow branch libraries, while maintaining the Library at Court and First as the Main Library. The Board plans a letter writing campaign as their means of providing information regarding the issue.

Another primary issue before the Board is that of revising the Library Director's evaluation to meet that of the recently Council approved Pay for Performance Program.

The final issue is that of the unfinished 2,000 square feet in the Southwest corner of the Library off of the Courtyard. The Board will be developing a plan and soliciting grant money to complete this area. The Friends of the Library is a 501-C-3 and they need an audit to meet the requirements to apply for the grant. The plan is to convert this area into a reading room and a homework center.

It was announced that Library Board Member Sandra Briggs will be leaving the Board in December and will be sorely missed. We will need to begin recruitment for her position as soon as possible.

One of the minor projects of the Board will be the shelving in the mechanical room. Volunteers will handle the project. Ms. Briggs said this past year has been an exciting one with the Gates Grant and the additional terminals made available for public use. There is also a Spanish language terminal. The homework center in the unimproved space will divert some of the traffic from the upstairs area to this area. The Sunday hours have been working well but we have a problem with adequate staff. Other events on the horizon are "Murder in the Library", which was a well-received event last year, and "Murder of the Loaded Librarian" the first Friday in February.

Council Member Peart asked how many people utilized the Library on a given day. Library Director Marie Bryan she provides an annual report with specific figures, but she estimated approximately 600 people per day. Sundays have been producing 300 to 400 visitors per day on the average. The Library now possesses 8 terminals with 3 online catalogs and a few InfoTrak, which is an online database. We also have two data processing units. The Humanities Program is also underway. There are some video conferences, one held with Michael Cunningham last week. This conference was held in Los Angeles, Chico and Woodland, with Woodland having the most attendance. The third annual "Day of the Dead" will be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 31st. The "Traditions and Transition Agriculture Program" will be held in Davis on October 13th.

Randy Nordmark, a Library patron, stated he has been very happy with the Programs sponsored at the Library.

The Council recessed temporarily for a break at 8:38 and reconvened at 8:43.

RECEIVE ANNUAL WORK PLAN OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Bruce Jacks, Chairperson of the Traffic Safety Commission and Bruce Pollard, Acting Senior Civil Engineer for the City, presented the Traffic Safety Commission Plan.

One of the issues the Commission is reviewing the downtown general plan circulation element.

The issue of major concern is that of the accident review map. The primary accident location in the City is that at County Road 102 and Hays Lane. Last year there were twenty-three accidents at this location. The Commission is working on a cooperative agreement with the State for a traffic signal at the site. The construction would not begin until after the off ramp construction is complete. The second most frequent location is that of East Street and Oak Avenue. The East Street Specific Plan calls for a stop light at Cross Street and a median at this location. A pedestrian vs. bike accident review will be coming up soon.

The downtown parking will be the focus for this coming year. We will also be reviewing traffic calming methods and traffic speeds. The request for traffic calming on Oak Avenue between College and Second was not found to be warranted. Ashley Avenue, El Dorado Drive and Coloma Way are areas where traffic calming has been proposed.

Council Member Peart noted he has seen a great deal of speeding around town as of late. We cannot have stop signs at every corner to help with the slowing of traffic.

Traffic calming can be accomplished by several methods: speed bumps, undulations, bulb outs (narrowing of the road by pushing out the sidewalks similar to Court and Second in front of the District Attorney's Office), stop signs, dots, raised areas, etc.

Council Member Flory asked if the Commission reacts to specific situations or prefers to be proactive types of programs by looking at areas where proposed development along major traffic arteries. These developments could have cars backing out onto the streets. Mr. Pollard said that the Planning Commission usually directs their attention at this issue.

The Commission had signs placed along the roadways near the railroad tracks directing that vehicles not park on the tracks. The Police Department has been citing those motorists who have violated.

Council Member Dote said someone asked about the culdesac off of Matmor Road where that people are going into because it is not marked as "Not a Through Street". She would like the Commission to look into this and place on their next meeting.

JOINT TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

This meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum from the Traffic Safety Commission.

City Manager Kirkwood thanked the Commission Members and the Council for their interaction and open lines of communication. The primary objectives were well stated in the six-month/annual plans. The Council will be providing him with further input as these issues are discussed at the November 18, 2000 planning retreat. He reminded Council Members and Commissioners that we must keep the costs for all of these plans in mind. There are, at times, unanticipated costs as well.

Council Member Peart thanked the City Manager for his foresight in bringing this process to the Council last year.

ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting/study session of the Council was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Sue Vannucci, City Clerk