# City of Calistoga COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION

Chairperson: Vice – Chair:

Members:

Karen Chang Chris Henderson Sandra "Sue" Harper

Bev More Indira Lopez Eleno Nunez



# MINUTES COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING Monday, December 15, 2008

### A) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chang on December 15, 2008, at 5:35 p.m., at the Calistoga Community Center. Commissioners present included Commissioners More, Harper, and Lopez, and Jonathan Mills, Interim Secretary to the Community Resources Commission. Absent was Vice-Chair Henderson.

#### **B) PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

# C) ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Chairperson Chang noted a typo on the Agenda and requested a change to Item H, Adjournment. The next scheduled meeting date should read Wednesday, January 21, 2008.

Commissioner Harper motioned to approve the Agenda with the change noted above, Commissioner Lopez seconded and the motion carried.

# D) OATH OF OFFICE

1) The Administrative Secretary will administer the Oath of Office to the newly elected Commissioner, Eleno Nunez, who will then assume his seat.

Newly appointed Commissioner Nunez was not present. Oath will be administered at the January 21, 2009 meeting.

# **E) CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following items listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and are approved by a single motion. The Chairperson or any member of the Commission or of the public may request that any item listed under the Consent Calendar be removed and action taken separately. In the event that an item is

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35 36 removed from the Consent Calendar, it shall be considered in its numerical order.

2) Minutes of the regular Community Resources Commission Meeting on November 19, 2008. RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Minutes.

Chairperson Chang requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2008 meeting. Commissioner More moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Lopez seconded. The motion carried.

#### F) GENERAL GOVERNMENT

3) Climate Protection Action Plan Update, Erik Lundquist.

Jonathan Mills explained to the Commission that Erik Lundquist, Associate Planner for the City, has been asked to take the lead for the City on green initiatives and provide a brief update to the CRC on the Climate Action Plan currently being conducted by the City.

Erik provided a presentation from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and a description of their background. He noted that with the adoption of Resolution 2007-122 and 2007-123, the Mayor and City Council authorized the City to join efforts with the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA) to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

He attended a workshop recently through NCTPA on Clear Air and Climate Protection (CACP) Software. This is a software tool for local governments to accurately calculate greenhouse gas emissions, track progress and support global comparative analysis. With the passing of AB32, municipal jurisdictions are required to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020. He explained that the only effective way to track this is through PG&E records, using 2005 as a base year and subtracting from there. He noted that the Public Works staff have reviewed the City's municipal services and have obtained kilowatt usage for electricity and natural gas consumption and we are working on establishing the data. We have data from PG&E, Caltrans and Upper Valley Disposal. He explained that energy consumption comes mostly from residential and transportation, not only locally, but also regionally. When looking at the community scale, they are also looking at small things such as contractor equipment, lawn equipment, etc. We will need to determine which processes work well with our community and make reasonable actions such as solar alternatives, leaf blower bans, etc. The Bicycle Transportation Plan also produces a framework, targets and processes to establish realistic actions to achieve targets and monitor. He noted that in this scope of work, inventory is the hardest information to gather. We do have a good handle on resources and this program will allow us to narrow down our focus and give us more detailed information on how we can cut the most in the shortest amount of time. Creating plans and

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 policies should be fairly straight forward and we hope to present those for CRC review as soon as the information is gathered, possibly by early 2009.

There was discussion about whether public hearings or information programs would be held as community participation will be instrumental to the success of this plan. Charlene Gallina felt that the CRC should hold public meetings to seek community involvement. There was more discussion about possible ways to get the community involved such as promoting the initiatives on Earth Day in April, Rotary and Chamber of Commerce participation, asking the local newspapers to attend meetings and write articles about what the City is doing to meet State and Federal laws. Also, getting schools and churches involved and possibly creating curriculum materials and activities for children. There was discussion about the Rotary's program that helps make the members more aware on an individual basis and the possibility of airing informational programs on our public access channel. Chairperson Chang asked the Commissioners to work on ideas to achieve community involvement.

There was discussion about traffic and street lights. Jonathan reported that Public Works has changed all of the lights in the downtown area to more energy efficient bulbs.

The CRC thanked Erik for his presentation and for working with ICLEI and NCTPA. Jonathan noted that he is working on finding out if Steve Kokotas from NCTPA is available to attend the next meeting to keep the CRC involved and updated on progress.

#### 4) Rent Stabilization Ordinance discussion, Erik Lundquist.

Erik Lundquist gave a presentation on the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) that was adopted in 2007 establishing the current version of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance. Mr. Lundquist stated the purpose of the RSO is, in part, intended to; 1) prevent excessive and unreasonable mobile home park space rent increases, 2) rectify the disparity of bargaining power that exists between mobile home park homeowners and mobile home park owners, 3) provide mobile home park owners with a rate of annual space rent increase that reflects the impact of inflation and/or increases in their expenses, and 4) provide a process for insuring mobile home park owners a fair, just, and reasonable rate of return on their parks in cases where the annual space rent increase provided by this chapter proves insufficient.

The RSO outlines a process by which the Mobile Home Park Owner may increase space rents. Each year, on the anniversary date of the Park, a permissible rent increase is allowed provided the rent increase is the lesser of either 6% of the base rent or 100% of the CPI. Otherwise, the Park Owner may not increase rents within a twelve month period unless otherwise determined by an arbitrator or as provided for elsewhere in the RSO.

Rent increases occur if park owners can show that net income is being affected and can request 100-300% of the CPI. This would trigger a meeting to present their case to affected owners and would go to mediation. If the issue is not resolved by mediation, it then goes to arbitration. If the requested increase amount is over 300% of the CPI it would go directly to arbitration. Arbitration is a court-like hearing where a judge hears testimony from both sides, which are recorded and documented, and is required to make a decision within 15 days. In addition, park owners must supply records and show net operating income, expenses and must be able to define costs. The costs for arbitration are paid by fees collected by the park owner and home owner. The Ordinance allows for \$20 per space per year to administer the RSO. While arbitration is not anticipated often, the costs can be high and would be shared by homeowners and park owners, which creates an incentive to work out the issues instead of going to arbitration.

Mr. Lundquist further explained vacancy control and the rules on when rent can be increased, which is only through lawful vacancy, i.e., eviction or criminal charges. Otherwise it is not a lawful vacancy. If a mobile home is physically moved, the park owner can raise the rent but noted that it is very costly to move the units and does not happen often. He said that in some cases, park owners will pass through to the home owners costs associated with capital improvements

Commissioner More asked how long term leases are affected. Erik said that Chateau Calistoga is in the process of reviewing the 5 and 10 year lease agreements. Commissioner Harper pointed out that most mobile home residents are low income and could become homeless if rents are increased.

#### F) CRC SECRETARY UPDATES

Community Pool ProjectLogvy Recreation Facilities

Jonathan Mills reported that we have received the grant from the Vintners Association through the Calistoga Community Pool Project for lifeguard training and are moving forward with recruiting efforts. The program allows for hiring 15 primarily bilingual students who will attend a six week swimming class in Calistoga and will then go to Santa Rosa to take the lifeguard certification course. The six week course is designed to assess the student's swimming levels and physical ability as the lifeguard certification course is very challenging. Julio Ambriz will assist with the instruction. The majority of the fees involved in the lifeguard certification will be paid by the grant. All participants in the program will sign a student lifeguard training agreement and agree to work for the City for at least one season. Chairperson Chang questioned the completion date and schedule. Jonathan reported that the target date for the opening of the pool is Mother's Day weekend.

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Commissioner More reported that there has not been an update on the Logvy Recreation facilities for 2 to 3 months. No regular meetings have been held. She believes that Pam Kinzie is finalizing the plans for the building but does not think they have been submitted yet.

## G) COMMISSIONERS OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairperson Chang asked the Commissioners for ideas on how to reach out to the community for a green Calistoga. She spoke to the Commission about possible ways to promote this initiative during Earth Day celebrations in April. She discussed the possibility of showing movies or presentations for educational purposes and getting the Rotary involved to do a presentation.

There was discussion about getting the local schools and teachers more involved and finding out what practices they currently use. Commissioner Lopez will check with the Principal, but believes they only recycle paper. She will report on what they are doing and find out who is in charge of the recycling policies at the school level.

Chairperson Chang asked the Commission to come up with ideas and that this matter is placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

There was a question about the term dates for the CRC. It is noted on the roster that at expiration, subsequent terms shall be for 2 years. Staff will confirm this and report at the January meeting.

#### H) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Community Resources Commission was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting of the Commission on Wednesday, January 21, 2008, at the Calistoga Community Center, 1307 Washington Street, at 5:30 p.m.

Jonathan Mills, Police Chief Interim Secretary, Community Resources Commission

Approved by: Karen Chang, Chairperson