



**CITY OF CORNING  
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
794 THIRD STREET**

**A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:32 p.m.**

**B. ROLL CALL:**

**Chairperson:** Shannon Boles  
**Commissioners:** Loretta Price  
Larry Johnson  
Kyle Lauderdale  
Allen Turner

All Commissioners were present. Chairperson Boles introduced new Commissioner Allen Turner who was appointed to the Recreation Commission by the City Council at the April 14, 2009 City Council Meeting.

**C. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None.**

**D. REGULAR AGENDA:**

**1. Waive the Reading and Approve the Minutes of the April 7, 2009 Recreation Commission meeting with any necessary corrections.**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the Minutes of the April 7, 2009 Recreation Commission Meeting as written. Commissioner Lauderdale seconded the motion. **Ayes: Boles, Price, Johnson, Lauderdale and Turner. Opposed: None. Absent/Abstain: None. Motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.**

**2. Discussion of Summer Activity Guide.**

Recreation Supervisor Kimberly Beck updated the Recreation Commission on the progress of the 2009 Summer Activity Guide. Beck informed the Commission that the Guide is nearly complete and has twice as many activities compared to last summer. The guide is scheduled to be dispersed the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Beck stated that the department is working on tying-up loose ends such as finding a Yoga Instructor, confirming a facility for piano lessons, creating a fitness or biggest looser class, soccer camps, and trying to hold a women's softball tournament. Kyle Lauderdale volunteered contact information for the Chico Rooks who hold soccer camps for the youth. Ms. Beck will follow-up on obtaining this information with Commissioner Lauderdale via email.

**3. Discussion of Skateboard Park Project.**

City Manager Stephen Kimbrough led the discussion regarding the Corning Skateboard Park Project. He stated that the City is still looking at potential sites for the Park and has met with Landscape Architects from Land Image of Chico to discuss a design. Mr. Kimbrough informed the Commission that the City is still looking for Community support. Commissioner Boles asked what locations are being considered for the Park. Mr. Kimbrough responded stating that there are two sites that have been discussed, one is located by Clark Park and is owned by John Eller, and the other is the property owned by New Life Assembly Church off of Solano Street. He stated that there has been some resistance to the later site because it is believed that the location of the Skateboard Park might affect the commercial property that is located right next to it. John Stoufer is working on alternative property profiles for the project.

A member of the Community suggested the property owned by Mr. Eller across from the football field. Mr. Kimbrough noted that that property backs up to residential housing. This individual also

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suggested property located on Hall and South Avenue. Mr. Kimbrough stated that property is located in the County, not the City.

Local teacher Gary May addressed the Commission expressing that he believes the Park would be a great idea, stating that currently the skateboarders are destroying property. He then turned to the kids at the meeting and told them to get involved with the project and not to destroy property. Another member of the audience stated that she currently takes her son to Chico or Red Bluff to skateboard. She said the kids are just trying to get some good exercise. She thanked the City and said she appreciates what they are doing.

Mr. Kimbrough told the Commission that Volunteers have always made good things happen in our town. To have continuity, Mr. Kimbrough stated that we are looking for a group of adults to assist with the project. This group could assist with donations, and help reduce Park construction cost through volunteering to assist with construction such as concrete and grading work. Mr. Kimbrough also spoke about Stage Skateparks. He reiterated that the City is hoping some adults will take the leadership role in this project.

City Councilor John Leach spoke about the core group of adults that are in favor of the Skateboard Park Project. He said the next setp is to have a meeting with the core group of adults to see where they're at and how involved they want to be. He stated that he would like to see that group start moving forward.

Audience member Mrs. Brooks stated that she wants to be involved and on the Board. Janette Turner, a local businesswoman stated that the owner of the building where her business is located has asked her to put up a sign saying "No Skateboarding". She said the skateboarders have no place to go and offered her time as well.

Mayor Gary Strack stated that the he is looking at how many people are going to use the Skateboard Park verses the cost of the Park. He said it is looking like it's going to cost about a half million dollars to construct. He offered alternatives such as working with TRAX to bus the kids to Red Bluff. He stated that he was all for the project at first, but it has slowed down a lot because the cost currently outweighs the community support. Mayor Strack updated the Community on the Rodger's Theatre Committee stating that they are also vying for the Park Bond money for their project.

Mr. Kimbrough stated that the City is hoping that the skateboarders can form a support group similar to that of the Little League and Youth Soccer. He said that is what we need to make this happen.

Corning High School Teacher David Tinker stated that there is a website and a group, IASC, that is a statewide professional group that might be able to help in some way. He stated that there are a lot of kids that love to skateboard and these kids need something to do. Mr. Tinker said that skateboarders are a different group and they don't have the strong parent support such as that of the Youth Soccer League. He stated that he doesn't have the time to help, but if a group were to be formed he would support it.

Mr. Tinker stated that the property across from the Transportation Center building would be a great location for the Skateboard Park. Recreation Supervisor Kimberly Beck mentioned a possible issue with underground fuel tanks. Mr. Kimbrough added that the tanks might have leaked and polluted the soil, but no one knows for sure. Mr. Tinker shared information about the soccer fields at the High School stating that no one touched them for years because they thought the fields had been polluted by diesel. He stated that he strongly believes that skateboarding is a good tool for the students and he has had the opportunity to see it first hand throughout his 20 years of teaching.

Mayor Strack said the property across from the Transportation Center has been discussed for over 15 years. There has been a lot of talk about who would take liability for the tanks. He said it's an ideal piece of property. The Mayor stated he is all for trying to do something, however he stated that we need to start with a group.

A skater from the audience spoke stating that he used to live in Orland and skaters from there have to travel to skate. He stated his believe that so many kids would benefit from having a skatepark in Corning.

Mr. Kimbrough told the Commission that skateboarders don't sue, they may hurt themselves, but they go home to their parents. As long as we post rules and follow the architect's design, it doesn't increase our insurance. He said there are a lot of good things about skateboarding and a Skateboard Park.

**E. ITEMS PLACED ON THE AGENDA FROM THE FLOOR:** None.

**F. ADJOURNMENT! 8:06 p.m.**

The Corning Recreation Commission serves as an advisory body to the Corning City Council on Public Parks and Recreation issues including park use, master planning, acquisition and development, beautification, improvement and maintenance of City Parks. The Commission provides a public forum for the proposal and discussion of public recreation services that benefit the Community. Ideally the Commission would encourage community volunteers and youth/adult volunteer sports groups to work together in the planning for current and future facility and program needs.

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**Kimberly Beck, Recreation Supervisor**