

City of Pacific Grove  
Traffic Safety Commission  
**Rip Van Winkle Community Park Open Space  
Minutes of February 20, 2009 Meeting**

Present: Leinen, Terry, Akeman, Travaille, March, Flesher & Cowan  
Staff: Cmdr Nyunt, Celia P. Martinez, David Laredo & Malcolm Knisely  
Others: Council member Garcia, Bruce Obbink & Mildred Miller  
Absent: None

1. **The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Terry at 4:05 pm.**

2. **Oral Communications:**

3. **Minutes of meeting held February 13, 2009**

**MOTION was made by Henry Leinen and seconded by Thom Akeman to approve the minutes as written except to include revisions to the motion to accept nominations and to include consideration to protect the environment when looking at alternative parking solutions. MOTION passed unanimously**

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Findings and Legal Terms of Open Space

Celia explained that the Rip Van Winkle area is open space. There are guidelines in regards to how everything is done and the CEQA process is to be followed where all changes are proposed and as was done with the recent improvements by Public Works at the Open space.

B. Findings of Terms of Deed(s)

Some of the items discussed:

Any changes proposed at the Open Space require the approval of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. Technically all parking at the Park adjacent to Congress Avenue is illegal; this includes the existing parking arrangement. The edge of pavement is the boundary of the open space. The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has a 3<sup>rd</sup> party interest in any decisions regarding development of the site including removing trees.

Depending on any recommended improvements to the existing parking configuration the necessary environmental documents will be required to be submitted for approval to the proper agencies. In addition, the City will have to petition the original grantor, Del Monte Properties and their successors and MPRPD.

C. Parking Alternatives

Several in attendance thought the current parking situation was not safe to motorists and pedestrians. A discussion regarding the aspects of the Forest was held in regards to making improvements. The Forest was described as a living entity. Some thought the parking spaces should be lengthened. One option was described as moving the boulders on the south side of the fire lane gate and repositioning the fire lane access.

It was suggested that we talk to the School District in regards to park users being allowed to park in the Forest Grove School's parking lot in the off hours. Another suggestion was that all parking on Congress be eliminated.

Another suggestion was that park user's park their vehicles on the south side of Congress Avenue immediately west of Forest Grove School. They could exit their vehicles and walk in the area between the trees and the fences bordering the private property to the crosswalk across Congress and have access to the entrance to the Rip Van Winkle Park Open Space. Many students are observed walking to and from the school every day in this location. The ground is also compacted from people walking in the area. Another suggestion was to create a wider DG parallel parking area where there is currently parallel parking and create a walking path to the kiosk on the passenger side of the space.

It was felt by those in attendance that a site visit should be scheduled next, so all Committee members can see the various options and conditions at the park site and along Congress Avenue.

**MOTION was made by Mark Travaille and seconded by Henry Leinen that a site visit be scheduled for Friday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at the Rip Van Winkle Open Space site. MOTION passed Unanimously**

**5. Meeting ended at 5:15 pm.**

The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission's Sub Committee regarding Rip Van Winkle Open Space will be on Friday, February 27, 2009, 4:00 PM at the Rip Van Winkle Open Space site on Congress Avenue.

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Malcolm Knisely  
Staff Person

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John Nyunt  
Commander