



## **Staff Report**

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### DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING OPTIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION VACANCIES

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

#### **Summary**

There are two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and staff is seeking direction from the City Council regarding the filling of those positions.

#### **Background and Discussion**

Commissioner Jonathan Gervais was recently appointed as the new Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Belmont, and was therefore required to resign his position on the Commission. Subsequently, the City Council received an additional resignation of Commissioner Dianthe Harris, which leaves two vacancies.

Commissioner Gervais was reappointed in March to a new two-year seat on the Commission (which expires in 2010), and Commissioner Harris is in the second year of her first term, which expires in March of 2009. It should be noted that Commissioners Gervais and Harris were the appointee and alternate to the Green Advisory Committee (GAC). The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed this issue at its July meeting, and decided to wait until new commissioners are on board to revisit appointing a new representative (and alternate) to the GAC.

Listed below are pros and cons for the various options to consider regarding these vacancies:

- Option 1. Do nothing and leave the positions vacant until the next round of commission vacancies (January/February 2009).  
*Pro: No further action is required by the City Council.*  
*Con: Potential for quorum issues, especially with two vacancies.*
- Option 2. Consider appointment of one or more of the candidates not appointed/reappointed during the most recent round of interviews held in February. Four of the five non-appointees have indicated an interest in being considered for one of the vacant positions.  
*Pro: Eliminates the need to recruit, and Council would have already interviewed the*

*applicants under consideration.*

*Con: Council may deem a pool of four candidates to be insufficient, especially since two of the four come from the same household.*

- Option 3. Open the application process for 30 or 60 days (or some other period of time) and direct staff to solicit applicants.

*Pro: Soliciting additional applicants may result in a larger pool from which to consider.*

*Con: Reopening the application process will take additional time, and the Council would have to convene another round of interviews. Additional time spent would also result in the Commission having more than one meeting with less than a full slate of commissioners.*

### **General Plan/Vision Statement**

No impact.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Little, if any. Even if Council wishes to recruit applicants, staff could utilize non-cost options (such as press releases, notification through neighborhood associations, and the reader board at Twin Pines Park) and eliminate the purchase of display ads, which historically do not result in many applications.

### **Public Contact**

This item was posted on the agenda.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends Option 2. Should Council move forward with this option, staff would include copies of applications, minutes from the previous interviews, as well as copies of the audio CD's containing the interviews in order to refresh memories of previous interviews. Council may wish to discuss and reach consensus regarding the number of candidates that will constitute an appropriate pool from which to choose. Balloting could occur at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, which would only leave the Commission's August meeting with less than a full slate of commissioners.

Respectfully submitted,

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