

**CITY OF PETALUMA**  
**RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

*Wednesday, October 17, 2001*

Petaluma Community Center  
320 North McDowell Blvd.

*7:00 p.m.*

***Commissioners Present:*** Cader-Thompson, Hagen, Mobley, McCoy, Ramirez, Tarr

***Commissioners Absent:*** Kates\*

***Staff Present:*** Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Ed Anchordoguy, Parks and Landscape Manager  
Don Phoenix, Recreation Supervisor  
Sara Stewart, Admin. Secretary, Parks and Recreation

***Chair\****

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 15, 2001**

Janice Cader-Thompson moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Bruce Hagen and unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**1) Eugenia Shribbs** – 2100 E. Washington Street – Introduced herself as the founder of the Petaluma Bowling Bowls Club and gave a background of the organization. The organization has obtained a non-profit status and club members are trying to obtain some funding to start building the facility within a couple of years.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1) Prioritization of Goals – Carr**

**Carr** – At the meeting of August 15, Commissioners developed a set of goals and asked staff to send them the list so they can set priorities from 1 to 20. Staff received 6 responses and developed a chart showing the priorities provided by each Commissioner.

Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Commission to ask staff to add the numbers provided across each row in order to identify the priorities.

**Carr** – Staff will have the information ready for the next meeting

1 **2) Proposal for an Aquatics Board – Discussion - Carr**

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3 **Carr** – At the August 15 meeting, the Commission discussed the formation of an aquatics board. Based  
4 on the discussion, members of the Aquatics community have submitted a proposal that is included in the  
5 Commission’s packet. If the Commission should decide to establish such an aquatics board, his  
6 suggestion is that the board be comprised of seven members represented as follows:

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- 8 • Parks and Recreation Director (or designated recreation supervisor in charge of aquatics)
- 9 • A liaison from the Parks and Recreation Commission
- 10 • A representative from the Petaluma Swim Club
- 11 • A representative from Master Swimming
- 12 • Three members at large.

13

14 The initial task would be to develop an Aquatics Master Plan, which will include a comprehensive and  
15 realistic financial plan. Other aquatics related tasks would be assigned by the Recreation, Music and  
16 Parks Commission.

17

18 Also included in the Commission’s packet, was an audit that staff received from PG&E. Staff has several  
19 questions regarding the accuracy of the audit. Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix will be contacting  
20 PG&E to clarify the information presented. Once the information is received, it can be provided to the  
21 Aquatics Board, if it is formed, or used by staff for budgeting purposes.

22

23 Andy Eber from the Aquatics Committee asked what is the rationality behind the suggestion that the  
24 board be limited to seven members.

25

26 **Carr** – Believes that seven members is a workable number, which works well for every City committee  
27 and commission.

28

29 Following discussion, it was the Commission’s consensus that the proposed aquatics board be comprised  
30 of 11 members.

31

32 **Ken McCoy** – Suggested that representatives from different groups with varied interests be chosen as  
33 members of the board, i.e., Petaluma Swim Club parents, Tomales Bay White Sharks, a swimmer under  
34 18, a swimmer over 65, and some interested people that would want to participate as members at large.  
35 He asked that the group make an attempt at the first meeting to select at least 10 of the 11 members.

36

37 **Janice Cader-Thompson** – Recommended that a candidate from the Santa Rosa Junior College be one of  
38 the board members.

39

40 **Carr** – Believes that Chair Bob Kates has volunteered to be a Commission’s liaison.

41

42 Bruce Hagen and Marja Tarr volunteered as alternates.

43

44 Janice Cader-Thompson moved that the Commission approve the formation of an Aquatics Advisory  
45 Board and ask the aquatics committee to develop a formal recommendation at their first meeting  
46 regarding proposed members, terms, people they will be serving, meeting dates, etc., and present it at the  
47 next Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Marja Tarr and unanimously approved.

48

49 **Carr** – Suggested that Don Phoenix meet with the aquatics group before the next Commission meeting.

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1 **3) McNear Park Baseball Uses Update – Carr**

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3 **Carr** – Included in the Commission’s packet were two letters from Angela Dowd regarding the use of the  
4 baseball field at McNear Park, and two memos from Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix that gave  
5 background and historical perspective regarding baseball at McNear Park.

6

7 **Don Phoenix** – Gave a background of the uses of McNear Park by different groups and said that the park  
8 is well-utilized. In regards to the use of McNear Park baseball field by the American Legion Program, he  
9 said that this is a high school age program and there are no older players.

10

11 In a memo, he had addressed Ms. Dowd’s concerns regarding the unauthorized use of the field by a  
12 Hispanic baseball group. There are a number of Hispanic baseball teams in Petaluma that utilize Prince  
13 Park for their games. All full-size baseball fields in Petaluma, including Prince Park, Casa Grande, and  
14 Kenilworth are used regularly during the spring and summer seasons.

15

16 American Legion is considering improvements for safety at McNear Park. With the advent of the  
17 aluminum baseball bats, which causes the balls to travel further than with the wooden bats, sometimes  
18 there is concern at McNear Park. American Legion is planning to present a proposal to staff and the  
19 Commission regarding field improvements. They will be working with staff and the neighbors.

20

21 **Ken McCoy** – The neighborhood is concerned about errant balls leaving the field. He suggested that staff  
22 address the issue of keeping the balls inside the field, whether it would be by moving the homeplate back,  
23 or additional fencing or netting on the right field side of the park.

24

25 **Janice Cader-Thompson** – Suggested that the City Risk Manager be updated about this particular issue.  
26 She presented concerns about the aesthetics of the park in regards to the proposed netting in different  
27 areas of the park.

28

29 There was a discussion regarding the height of the fence, netting, homeplate relocation, the use of  
30 aluminum versus wooden bats, safety issues and costs.

31

32 **Carr** – The first concern is protection of the neighbors and participants, and the second is that McNear is  
33 one of the two public ballfields available within the City.

34

35 Ken McCoy opened the floor for public comment:

36

37 **Angela Dowd** – 912 “F” Street – Since she lives across the street of the baseball diamond, she is  
38 concerned about the idea of moving the backstop back and balls leaving the park. If McNear Park is a  
39 community park, it should be available for different types of sports, not just baseball. She asked if an  
40 environmental impact engineer was going to review plans.

41

42 In regards to the improvements of McNear, she is concerned that people are changing the aesthetics of the  
43 park by placing the netting and having the focus on baseball. The change should include other uses.

44

45 **Don Phoenix** – Soccer is not excluded from using the field, and sometimes PYSL uses it for tournaments.  
46 Baseball understands that in soccer season, baseball comes in second place; so they use the field in  
47 conjunction with soccer or not at all.

48

49 **Bruce Hagen** – The use has to continue to be controlled by scheduling and the violation of field use has  
50 to be reported by neighbors and/or citizens to the police. He thinks that there are many factors that have

1 to be taken into consideration before moving the homeplate and changing the fence. The Commission  
2 would not be making any decisions on this tonight.

3  
4 **Carr** – From the direction received by the Commission, staff will be considering the following issues:

- 5 • Raising the fence 4-6’
- 6 • Moving homeplate and bases
- 7 • Changing the backstop/netting
- 8 • Considering aluminum versus wooden bats
- 9 • Advising the Risk Manager of the situation

10  
11 Staff will discuss the fence and homeplate issues with the American Legion, will research the wooden vs.  
12 aluminum bat alternatives, and will report back to the Commission. A neighborhood meeting will be  
13 scheduled before presenting this item back to the Commission.

14  
15 **Ken McCoy** - Suggested that the neighbors call the police if they see an organized group using the field  
16 without a permit.

#### 17 18 **4) McNear Park Playground Rotary Monument - Carr**

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20 **Carr** – Park Maintenance staff has removed the old playground equipment, wall, drinking fountain, and  
21 benches from the playground and has stockpiled sand for the small play area. Ed Anchordoguy has been  
22 receiving playground equipment and storing it in the corp. yard. The renovation project will be starting  
23 next week.

24  
25 In past years, the Rotary Club built the tennis courts at McNear Park and currently they have dedicated  
26 \$60,000 for playground renovation. The whole effort is to commemorate the 29 original founders of the  
27 club. Club members had contacted Carr about coordinating the design and installation of a dedication  
28 monument. He suggested they call architect Ken Berman since he has been involved with the planning of  
29 the playground renovation.

30  
31 **Ken Berman** – Included in the Commission’s packet, was a site plan, floor plan, and elevations for the  
32 Millenium Arch proposed for installation at McNear Park. He introduced project designer Nicolas Van  
33 Krijdt.

34  
35 **Nicolas Van Krijdt** – Presented a model of the proposed Millenium Arch and gave an overview of the  
36 project. He indicated that the steel archway will be 20’ high, will be black, and have an epoxy finish.

37  
38 He described that the arch is sort of a fun, monumental gateway, that will serve as an anchor to the park  
39 and will be visible from all angles. The purpose is to attract children to the play areas behind it.  
40 Also included in the project is the installation of (2) 30”x 48” bronze plaques and a 4’ medallion on the  
41 ground.

42  
43 The medallion will have the Rotary Club symbol and an inscription about the fact that it is a millennium  
44 project for the Club. One of the bronze plaques will have historical Rotary information alluding to the  
45 founding members. The second plaque will be more directly related to the park.

46  
47 **Ken McCoy** – Presented liability and vandalism concerns and requested that a drinking fountain be  
48 incorporated in the site areas. He also spoke in favor of the installation of an enclosed bulletin board in  
49 the back of the arch to draw people to the center of the park. Permits for the park, and other informational  
50 issues could be placed there. He suggested that a bulletin board be incorporated in the design.

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**Carr** – A new drinking fountain will be replacing the existing drinking fountain

**Ken Berman** – Indicated that the Millenium Arch project will be installed after the playground is completed.

Janice Cader-Thompson made a motion that the Commission accept the Millenium Arch project as presented, seconded by James Mobley, and unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1) Petaluma River Walk Presentation – Steve Arago**

City Director of Economic Development and Redevelopment, Paul Marangella, indicated that the purpose of the presentation is to inform the Commission about plans for the implementation of the Petaluma River Access and Enhancement Plan. This year, the City Council has provided redevelopment funding to begin the final design and engineering for several segments of the Enhancement Plan.

In order to obtain suggestions as to the redevelopment of Water Street, a public meeting has been scheduled for November 7, 2001 at 205 Kentucky Street. Invitations will be sent to downtown merchants, business and property owners, committees, commissions, and people who are interested in downtown redevelopment.

Some of the topics for consideration include:

- Reconfiguration of Water Street to provide an attractive promenade along the river
- Parking
- Lighting
- Construction of a promenade around the turning basin
- Enhancement of visual corridors leading to the area
- Extension of the pedestrian/bicycle pathway along the Petaluma River to Lynch Creek
- A railroad trestle on Water Street

Mr. Marangella indicated that according to the 5-year implementation plan approved by the Petaluma Development Commission, the entire downtown area, the whole promenade around the turning basin, and the linkage to Lynch Creek will be completed in the next 3 to 5 years.

Landscape architect Steve Arago, of CSW Stuber/Stroeh, the firm designing the project, gave an overview of the River Access Plan and presented Implementation Plans for Project Areas 1 to 4.

Mr. Arago indicated that presentations are being made to commissions and committees and they hope to obtain community participation at the workshop on November 7<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, they will be reporting a number of issues and providing a series of options. Based on the community input, design development drawings will be developed.

Mr. Marangella asked the Commission for participation and involvement in the project.

**Steve Arago** – Will be coming back to the Commission to make a presentation of the finalized development plans.

1 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

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3 1) **Elaine Ramirez** – All her parks look fine

4 a) **Oak Hill Park** – Clean up date was on Saturday, September 8, 2001.

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6 **Carr** – Received a report from John Kinsella, a neighbor at Oak Hill Park, about counter-productive  
7 activities at the park directed at people exercising their dogs. He suggested that neighbors call the police  
8 when they see such negative activity.

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10 **Ed Anchoroguy** – Asked Ms. Ramirez to keep staff informed about clean up dates.

11  
12 2) **James Mobley** – No report

13  
14 3) **Janice Cader-Thompson** – No report.

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16 a) **Dog Waste-Bag Dispensers** - Reported that Indian Valley College in Novato has well-designed  
17 dispensers and suggested that staff consider them for the different parks.

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19 4) **Bruce Hagen** –

20  
21 a) **Kenilworth Site** – Attended a meeting regarding the “Hub” at Kenilworth where he talked about the  
22 importance of accommodating or relocating the sports facilities. He is unclear about the role of this  
23 Commission.

24  
25 He would like to ask the school board to treat this Commission as if the site were City land, and to consult  
26 with them and present their preliminary plans. He is suggesting that they have a Commission’s  
27 representative as part of the planning process, so the interests of the City are represented all the way  
28 through. A meeting has been scheduled on October 18th at the Kenilworth site.

29  
30 b) **Lafferty EIR** – On October 16, the City Council unanimously certified the Environmental Impact  
31 Report (EIR). The City has placed an application with the Open Space District to sell development rights.

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33 5) **Marja Tarr** – No problems with her parks.

34  
35 6) **Ken McCoy** –

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37 a) **Lucchesi Garbage Cans** – Staff did a great job of spreading garbage cans around Lucchesi field.  
38 Unfortunately, on Sunday, October 14, the garbage cans on both sides and the center of the field were  
39 overflowing even when the fields were not used. He asked staff to relocate two or three garbage cans in  
40 the heavily used areas.

41  
42 b) **Signs at Lucchesi** – Asked staff about status.

43  
44 **Ed Anchoroguy** – Signs in English and Spanish displaying the rules are being manufactured and should  
45 be ready in about two weeks.

46  
47 c) **Wiseman Park** – The center of the south field is dry and has multiple cracks.

1 **d) Prince Park** – There is no divider, except for the small berm, that separates the parking lot at Prince  
2 Park from the new subdivision. He presented concerns about vandalism or future problems and asked  
3 staff if they are considering continuing the fence.  
4

5 **Carr** – The idea has always been to have the area open. There was a situation where someone drove over  
6 the berm at the north end and the developer planted some trees to block that area.  
7

8 **e) Wiseman Park** - Received a complaint from a resident about the lack of restrooms at Wiseman. He  
9 talked about the need for restrooms due to the heavy use of the fields and asked staff to address this issue  
10 prior to the next soccer season.  
11

12 **Carr** – Staff is considering the placement of a restroom at the north end of the soccer field and is  
13 checking costs. Staff is hoping to present the information to the Commission within the next two months.  
14

15 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*  
16

17 **1) Shollenberger Park** – Staff, Jeff Peters from Questa Engineering he expansion, and Coastal  
18 Conservancy staff visited the area. Next Spring, the CCC will be developing a trail from Adobe Creek to  
19 the Marina, including the Van DeMark Marsh area, which is adjacent to the new hotel. There is some  
20 money available in the budget to include this area as part of the trail.  
21

22 **2) Petaluma Swim Center** – Staff will be draining about ¾ of the swimming pool and will be doing  
23 some work on the expansion joints. After October 28<sup>th</sup> staff will be closing the pool for the season.  
24

25 **3) Gatti Park Request for Proposal (RFP)** – There is a person that is helping staff develop the RFP and  
26 Carr is hoping to send it out in the next 4 to 6 weeks. Commission involvement will be needed to select  
27 the architect.  
28

29 **4) Lucchesi Senior Center Renovation** – The design is 99 percent completed. The facility is being  
30 renovated and expanded about 20’ to the west. Delays in renovation have been caused by continuous  
31 changes to the design.  
32

33 **5) Polly Klass Performing Arts Center** –CSW Stuber/Stroeh has donated \$50,500 worth of free  
34 structural engineering work for the renovation project. They are inspecting the structural integrity of the  
35 building and their findings are not positive. The conceptual improvements for the building are almost  
36 finished. Aloysha Klebe and Pauline Hammel, who use the theater for performances, have been working  
37 with staff on the technical aspects of the project.  
38

39 **6) Bricks and Mortar (Miwok and La Tercera)** – Was informed by the School District’s architect that  
40 the superintendent and business manager have left the district.  
41

42 **7) Redwood Empire Sports Associates (RESA)** – The project will be presented back to the City  
43 Council in November. Staff is finalizing a number of details.  
44

45 **8) Petaluma River Authority** – Carr is working with the Chamber of Commerce on the development of  
46 a River Authority. A group of community members are interested in the beautification of the river,  
47 providing scheduled dredging to keep the river open for commercial and recreational use. The proposed  
48 River Authority will compliment the goals of the Marsh Enhancement Plan of the Petaluma River.  
49

- 1 **9) City Cost Analysis Study** – A Financial Consultant is conducting a cost analysis study with City  
2 Departments. Recently, he and Ed Anchordoguy had 4-hour interviews as part of the process.  
3
- 4 **10) Graffiti Removal Program** – There is a cadre of about 75 volunteers who during their walks  
5 through their neighborhoods clean up graffiti. Staff provides graffiti removal supplies, and local  
6 companies donate the paint. The volunteers have been doing this for three years and are doing a great job.  
7
- 8 **11) Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Arroyo and Walnut Park Playgrounds** – Will be sent out at the  
9 same time as the Gatti Park RFP.  
10
- 11 **12) Skate Park** – At the entry way of the park, vandals destroyed the posts that were installed to prevent  
12 bicycles from entering the park. Ed Anchordoguy met with a concrete person so he can install the same  
13 size bollards that exist at the entry way of Lucchesi Park. Carr reported other vandalism incidents. He  
14 does not believe that the problems are caused by the skaters.  
15
- 16 **13) General Plan** – He encouraged the Commission to attend the meetings.  
17
- 18 **14) Youth Commission and Teen Council** – They co-sponsored a conference on the 40-developmental  
19 assets, which was attended by about 200 adults and youth. Other sponsors included: HC2, the Petaluma  
20 School District, and other community groups. The Commission will be hearing more about this in the  
21 future.  
22

23 **Ed Anchordoguy – *Parks and Landscape Manager***  
24

- 25 **1) Lucchesi Park Irrigation** – The project is underway and will be completed in about 2 months.  
26 Irrigation is being installed on the mounds surrounding the multi-use field and adjoining Little League  
27 fields.  
28
- 29 **2) Bulletin Boards** – Staff received two bulletin boards; one will be placed at Rocky Dog Park, and the  
30 other at Oak Hill. The installation will take place in the next two to three weeks.  
31
- 32 **3) Tree and Bench Policy** – Distributed a copy of the policy and a prototype of a dog exercise area sign.  
33 He said that all the signs will have the same format but that there are about 8 different signs, depending  
34 on the park.  
35
- 36 **4) Senior Center Parking Lot** – The parking lot, landscaping, trees, and irrigation around the Senior  
37 Center have been completed.  
38
- 39 **5) St. Vincent's Plaza** - The crew is now redoing the irrigation of St. Vincent's Plaza, which is the small  
40 area in front of the church. The church will be in charge of the maintenance.  
41
- 42 **6) Landscape Assessment Districts** - Carr and he met with the Finance Director and they are  
43 considering turning the maintenance of some of the landscape assessment districts back to the citizens.  
44

45 **ADJOURNMENT** –  
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47 At 10 p.m. it was the general consensus of the Commission to adjourn the meeting until November 28,  
48 2001 (one week beyond the regular meeting).  
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