

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 20, 2002

*Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.*

8:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Hagen, Healy, Kates*, McCoy, Ramirez, Tarr

Staff Present:

Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ed Anchordoguy, Parks and Landscape Manager
Don Phoenix, Recreation Supervisor
Sara Stewart, Admin. Secty. Parks and Recreation

***Chair**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *January 16, 2002*

Bruce Hagen – Page 5 – Line 21- Questions whether the Commission actually had the opportunity to review the Rockridge Pointe Subdivision Project, at least the version that went to the Planning Commission.

Page 5 – Line 39 – He made the request that in the future, new subdivisions be presented to this Commission for review so they can consider the possibilities of park development. It was the consensus of the Commission to agree that this will be the policy going forward.

A.J. Levis (12 Parkside Terrace) – Page 2 Line 39 – Correct: Spoke “*about*” the issue instead of “*against*”.

Page 5 – Line 5 – Correct: “*Expressed concern*” instead of “*Complained*”....

Ken Mc Coy moved that the Commission accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Bruce Hagen, unanimously approved.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Letter address to Jim Carr and the Commission from Peter and Theresa Mahoney requesting that the hours at Oak Hill Park remain as they exist throughout the entire year.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) **John Kinsella** – 532 Howard Street – Distributed a strategic plan for the development of a community garden and outlined his plans. The Petaluma Community Garden project is planned to start as a central main garden and then add satellite gardens throughout the City. The critical short-term goals of the project include securing a commitment for 2 acres of land, identifying funding sources, and creating a non-profit organization. He asked the Commission for input and said that he will speaking to the City Council so they can suggest some ways to accelerate the process of obtaining some land.

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Carr – Suggested the possibility of developing a garden on the McNear Peninsula.

2) A.J. Levis – 12 Parkside Terrace – Asked that the Commission consider the number of users that visit the parks, frequency of use, and who they are trying to serve.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Prioritization of Goals – Carr

Carr - Reviewed the list of goals developed and prioritized by the Commission and discussed budgetary problems that prevent proceeding with some of the projects.

Commissioners discussed a number of possibilities in order to increase the amount of funding in the City’s park system.

At the next meeting, Carr will provide the Commission with a staff report, goal updates, and some suggestions, so they can make a recommendation to the City Council.

2) Commissioners Park/Facilities Watch Program – Carr

1) Bruce Hagen: Country Club Open Space, Keller Street Garage, Putnam Plaza, Wickersham, Westridge Knolls, Westridge Open Space South.

2) Robert Kates: Arroyo, Prince (split with Ken McCoy), Rocky Dog Park, Wiseman.

3) Ken McCoy: Bond, Carter Field (Kenilworth site), Glenbrook, Lucchesi Park, Meadow View, Prince (split with Robert Kates), Skate Park, Sunset, Sunrise, Walnut.

4) Mike Healy: Eagle, Grant Hill Plaza, McDowell, Senior Citizens Center.

5) Elaine Ramirez: Cherry Valley, Kenilworth Park, La Tercera, Miwok, McDowell Meadows, Petaluma Marina, Oak Hill, Shollenberger, Swim Center.

6) Marja Tarr: Casa del Oro, Cavanagh Recreation Center, McNear, Petaluma Community Center, Petaluma Historical Museum, Polly Klaas Performing Arts Center.

3) McNear Playground Status Report (Verbal) – Anchordoguy

Ed Anchordoguy – The project is progressing and will be completed on February 22, 2002. Due to the wetness of the ground, the Rotary archway and the plaque will be installed in about two months.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Magnolia Place – Proposed Park – Carr

Carr – Gave a background history of the proposed project. The site is identified in the current General Plan, primarily to preserve the “prominent” grove of eucalyptus trees, which were on the site. The General Plan specified: “the City should acquire a scenic easement or purchase it for park.” Since the trees have been removed, plans to develop the site have been in process.

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2 A developer is proposing to develop a 47-lot subdivision on 24 acres which will include a 8.28-acre park.
3 Additionally, the developer is proposing to establish a maintenance annuity fund of \$100,000 to help
4 maintain the park.
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6 The City Council received a petition from the neighbors and other City residents opposing any type of
7 development on the property, with the thought of the entire site be used as a park.
8

9 The Recreation Commission has been involved in the “Magnolia” site since the property has been
10 considered for development. On June 20, 2001, the Commission discussed the Magnolia site and
11 recommended to the City Council to reject the current development proposal of 47 units. Their
12 preference was for the entire site to become a park, and the City to find a source of funding.
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14 Discussions with the Open Space District have not been fruitful. The proposed site is a very low priority
15 for the District, in the scheme of their other priorities. The City does not have the funds to purchase the
16 site, and in light of the current decline of park development fees, and other obligations/priorities, the
17 proposed project provides a good opportunity to add another park to the system. Staff recommends
18 approving the project as proposed, with a maintenance annuity of \$100,000.
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20 The question before the Commission, is if they want to accept the project as it is being proposed, or make
21 recommendations that will be forwarded to the Community Development Department.
22

23 Bob Kates opened the floor for public comments:
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25 Bill Phillips, a member of the Committee for Magnolia Park, introduced candidate for County Supervisor
26 Mr. Ray Peterson.
27

28 Mr. Peterson said that he is a long term resident of Gossage Avenue and is very knowledgeable about the
29 Magnolia property. He commented that the total area that the developer wants to donate for a park is an
30 undevelopable swamp and presented a number of concerns if the City approved the subdivision project.
31 He spoke in favor of having the entire site dedicated as a park.
32

33 **Bill Phillips** – 824 Blossom Court – Referred to the materials and petitions he distributed to the
34 Commission and thanked neighbors present for their commitment. He indicated that his goal is to make
35 the site a nature and exercise park and presented his plans.
36

37 He reported that he had made a presentation at the senior center using the site model he developed and
38 discussing all the facilities he envisions at the park. The Senior Advisory Board and Senior Coordinator
39 Trina Ramirez were pleased with the plans and they all signed the petition.
40

41 Following presentation, he proposed that the Commission vote in favor of obtaining the whole park.
42

43 Seven neighbors of the site spoke against the proposed development project - Most of them presented
44 concerns about the lack of parks in the west side of town and asked the Commission to help them protect
45 the area.
46

47 **Carr** – Discussed City’s budgetary difficulties. If the City wants to obtain a park as a part of the
48 subdivision, there are no funds available to either buy the entire site or a portion, using park development
49 or Open Space District funds. The development appears to provide an opportunity for the City to acquire
50 a park in the northwestern quadrant of the City at no cost. In evaluating the proposed park versus the

1 park suggested by Mr. Phillips, the primary difference is an entry road and parking lot. Carr suggested
2 that to gain an 8+ acre park, without the road and parking lot versus no park, appears to benefit the
3 community.

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5 Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the subject.

6
7 **Mike Healy** – Spoke in support of staff’s recommendation. He believes that this is an opportunity to
8 obtain a park that the community can use at no cost to the City.

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10 Bruce Hagen moved that the Commission repeat the motion they made in June 2001. The Commission
11 recommends to the City Council:

12 a) To reject the current development proposal of 47 units. The preference is for the entire site to become
13 a park, and the City to find a source of funding.

14 b) To encourage the City to urge the Open Space District and County Supervisor Mike Kerns to develop
15 funding to acquire the site.

16 Bob Kates seconded the motion, with the following vote: **AYES: 5 NOES: 1**

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18 **2) Review and Discussion of the 5-Year Capital Improvement Project - Carr**

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20 **Carr** – Referred to the staff report included in the Commission packet. He reviewed the Parks and
21 Recreation Park Development Projects list with priority ratings 1 through 3 and said that staff
22 recommends proceeding with them. The projects under this category, have allocated funding, are council
23 driven, and some of them are currently in progress. He spoke in favor of starting the Gatti park design
24 project in the near future.

25
26 **Mike Healy** – Suggested removing the Grange Park Site from the list.

27
28 **Carr** – Gave an update of priority rating 4 projects. In regards to Cavanagh Center, listed under this
29 category, he spoke about the need to find funding sources to develop a master plan for the facility and
30 proceed with the needed renovation work.

31
32 **3) Community Wall at the Petaluma Community Center - Carr**

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34 **Carr** – Members of the Ron Walters Tribute Committee are proposing that the Parks and Recreation
35 Department set aside a wall within the Petaluma Community Center to honor local citizens who have
36 made their “mark” in the community.

37
38 Staff recommends establishing a sub-committee to develop a criteria as to how a plaque is placed on the
39 wall (i.e. Good Egg Award, City Council Resolution, etc). Carr asked for Commission’s input so that a
40 recommendation could be sent to the City Council for approval.

41
42 Following discussion, Commissioners suggested that staff consider:

- 43 • Design guidelines
44 • Amount of plaques or photos per year
45 • Process for obtaining approval
46 • Diversity
47 • Time allowed for displays

48
49 **Carr** – Will be presenting a proposal for Commission’s approval at the next meeting.

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2 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**
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4 **1) Bruce Hagen –**

5 a) Two nights ago, he made a presentation to the Sebastopol City Council in order to obtain support for
6 the City’s application to the Open Space District regarding Lafferty Ranch and obtained unanimous vote.
7 He will continue contacting cities, not as a Commissioner, but as a private citizen.

8 b) **Bicycle Committee** – Members of the committee are considering a formal dedication of the Lynch
9 Creek bike trail. In May, telecom valley companies, and some other local businesses are planning a “bike
10 to work week” event. A resolution will be presented to the City Council for approval.

11
12 **2) Marja Tarr –** No report about her parks.

13 a) **Lucchesi Park** – Thanked staff for the attractive landscape work done on the berms surrounding the
14 synthetic turf field at Lucchesi Park.

15
16 **3) Mike Healy –** No report

17
18 **4) Ken McCoy –**

19 a) **Lucchesi Park** – The landscaping project looks very attractive.

20 b) **Shollenberger** – Participated on the clean up project at Shollenberger Park.

21
22 **Carr** – The Rotary Club’s Interact Club conducted a clean up day at Shollenberger Park. Club members
23 will be installing interpretative markers which will coordinate with a map of the park, identifying points
24 of interest.

25
26 **5) Elaine Ramirez –**

27 a) **Oak Hill Park** –The community participated in clean up days on January 26, February 2, and
28 February 9.

29 b) **Shollenberger Park** – Looks great.

30 c) **Petaluma Marina** – Looks good.

31 d) **Cherry Valley Park** – Looks attractive

32 e) **Tree Advisory Committee** – Members are producing a new brochure which will be ready next year.

33
34 **6) Bob Kates –**

35 a) **Prince Park** – Looks attractive.

36 b) **Wiseman Park** – Looks attractive.

37
38 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation***

39
40 a) **Shollenberger Trail Expansion** - The project is on schedule. Staff will be using the same type of
41 Kevlar bridge that Golden Gate Recreation area uses. The bridge and trails will be installed by the
42 Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC).

43
44 **ADJOURNMENT**

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46 Bruce Hagen moved, seconded by Marja Tarr and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 11
47 p.m.

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