

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

*Petaluma Community Center*  
*320 North McDowell Blvd*

*7:00 p.m.*

***Commissioners Present:*** Hagen, Kates\*, Kinsella, McCoy, Ramirez, Tarr.

***Commissioners Absen:*** Healy

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

***Chair\****

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 17, 2002**

Ken McCoy moved that the minutes be accepted as submitted, seconded by Bruce Hagen and unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1) **Bill Phillips** – Thanked the Commission and Jim Carr for their help and support regarding the Magnolia project. Following the Recreation Commission’s approval of the project, it was presented to the Planning Commission and received unanimous approval. The Magnolia Project Committee is hoping that sometime in the future, the Open Space District may start considering Supervisor Kerns repeated comments about obtaining a park for the south counties.

The Committee is seeking to obtain contributions from special organizations since the park will have a large nature area, a garden, and nature plant commitment. This is an area of grants that have not yet been pursued. The committee also will be pursuing grants from Starbucks Coffee which granted about \$50,000 to various agencies for different projects around Sonoma County. The committee will try to persuade the City Council to deny the builder’s application for building houses on the site.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1) **Proposal for Use of Proposition 40 Funding for Deferred Maintenance Projects in Parks (Carr)**

**Carr** – With the recently passed State Park Bond (Proposition 40), the City will be receiving \$250,000 in per-capita funds. The use of this money is unrestricted and can be used for any City projects. In addition, there will also be competitive grant monies that all agencies can apply for.

1  
2 Maintenance projects have been deferred over the years due to the long-term financial problems with the  
3 City of Petaluma’s General Fund. During the recent Capital improvement study involving outside  
4 consultants, staff brought forward a list of deferred maintenance projects. The list includes 28 projects in  
5 various parks, including restroom renovations, paving, irrigation, roof replacement, tennis courts  
6 resurfacing, drinking fountains, etc.

7  
8 Included in the Commission packet is a list of projects with funding recommendations developed by the  
9 Park Maintenance staff. Since the park development fees and City redevelopment funds cannot be used  
10 for maintenance, staff recommends taking care of existing park resources before they deteriorate to a  
11 point that they cannot be used. The overall list of projects developed by staff is large and exceeds  
12 \$532,000, but improvements to the more critical projects would make a difference for the public using  
13 City parks.

14  
15 Staff recommends that the Commission approve the work plan to use State Proposition 40 Per-Capita  
16 funds for existing deferred maintenance projects within the City’s parks. The Commission’s  
17 recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

18  
19 Carr reviewed the list of target projects and asked the Commission for project ideas and comments within  
20 the \$250,000 funding level.

21  
22 Following discussion, Bob Kates asked about the Gatti Project.

23  
24 **Carr** – Will be presenting the project back to the City Council within the next two months and requesting  
25 that they reconsider the Capital Improvement Budget in order to proceed with the Gatti Park design. He  
26 emphasized the need to build the park to meet the community needs on the east side of town. He will  
27 keep the Commission informed about the project.

28  
29 The Santa Rosa Junior College is willing to contribute some funding for the project since they will receive  
30 monies from their recently-approved State Bond Issue. Staff has identified the cost of building the park at  
31 \$1,150,000. The Cross Creek developer will contribute \$300,000-400,000 for field development.

32  
33 **Marja Tarr** - Suggested building restrooms at Wiseman Park. She also presented safety concerns about  
34 the rocks at Lucchesi field and asked if there are plans for paving the path surrounding the field and cost.

35  
36 **Ed Ancho doguy** – The groomer machine that will be donated by the manufacturer will be used as a  
37 vacuum cleaner as well as a groomer and will alleviate the rock problem at Lucchesi turf field.

38  
39 **Ken McCoy** – The listed costs to fix the drinking fountains at different parks seems high. He suggested  
40 that staff develop a standard design for the fountains and ask the public and organizations to adopt  
41 drinking fountains as projects. He volunteered to pursue the project. He believes that many people would  
42 be willing to work on fundraisers in order to build drinking fountains at different parks.

43  
44 **Robert Kates** - Presented concerns about the paths at Wiseman Park

45  
46 **Ed Ancho doguy** – Path repaving at Wickersham and La Tercera Parks are high priorities.

47  
48 **Bruce Hagen** – He is supportive of the concept. If all the Commissioners were to have a list of projects,  
49 they would be able to visit their own facilities, identify the needs in those facilities, and report back in the  
50 next couple of months. He will be developing a spreadsheet with a number of ratings such as safety,

1 legal, prevention, leverage, and cost that can be used as a tool for evaluating projects and keeping track of  
2 costs. He will be e-mailing the spreadsheet to Carr so that staff can update the list.

3  
4 **John Kinsella** – Asked Carr if by next month, staff can have a price tag for projects on the list that have  
5 no prices.

6  
7 **Carr** – Will have the missing prices for the listed projects, as well as a cost estimate for the Wiseman  
8 restrooms as suggested by Marja Tarr. Carr asked that Commissioners call staff if they identify a project  
9 or have additional ideas about the existing ones. In the meantime he will be working with Bruce Hagen on  
10 the evaluation list. Carr will present this item back next month.

11  
12 **2) Park Master Plan Process and Schedule; Proposed Participation by the Youth Commission**

13  
14 **Carr** – Referring to the article from a recent issue of the California Parks and Recreation Society’s  
15 publication on Developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Carr said that the article is a good  
16 resource for the Commission’s efforts in developing a Park Master Plan for the City.

17  
18 At a recent Youth Commission meeting, the idea of developing a Youth Master Plan was discussed,  
19 especially in light of the current General Plan update. At the meeting, Carr mentioned the Recreation  
20 Commission’s efforts to develop a Park Master Plan and made the suggestion that both Commissions  
21 work together on their efforts since, ultimately, they will be speaking to the entire Petaluma community.

22  
23 Carr suggested that there be a joint meeting of both commissions and possibly a barbecue at the Teen  
24 Center either in August or September. This would give both commissions an opportunity to become  
25 acquainted and discuss the joint effort possibility.

26  
27 Following discussion, it was the Commission’s consensus to have a joint meeting and barbecue on  
28 September 24, 2002 at 6 p.m. at the Teen Center.

29  
30 **Carr** – Regarding the Park Master Plan, Carr will start collecting information and preparing full packets  
31 based on the outline included in the Commission’s packet. By next meeting, he will have all the  
32 information together in order to proceed with the project.

33  
34 **John Kinsella** – In order to stay on course, suggested that the Park Master Plan subcommittee meet  
35 before the next regular Commission’s meeting and review the materials Carr will be providing.

36  
37 The Park Master Plan subcommittee meeting comprised of John Kinsella, Elaine Ramirez, Bruce Hagen,  
38 Carr, and Ed Anchordoguy will be meeting on July 16 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Petaluma Community  
39 Center.

40  
41 **NEW BUSINESS**

42  
43 **1) Pool Signage Update – (Carr)**

44  
45 **Carr** – Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix had a banner (2’ x 9’) made at Kinko’s that announces the  
46 opening of the Petaluma Swim Center and the phone number.

47  
48 Carr mentioned that the Aquatics Subcommittee is planning to change their meeting schedule to the third  
49 Wednesday of every month. Carr asked Don Phoenix to remind them that the Recreation Commission

1 meeting meets at the same time, which will make it difficult for Marja Tarr and Don Phoenix to attend the  
2 subcommittee meetings.

3  
4 **Marja Tarr** – She has already e-mailed the subcommittee chair to let him know about the conflicting  
5 schedule. Since she attends the meetings, she will be happy to answer any questions.

6  
7 **2) Proposed Joint Meeting with the Youth Commission (Carr-Verbal)**

8  
9 Already discussed.

10  
11 **3) Preliminary Review of a Proposed Project Adjacent to Gatti Park**

12  
13 **Carr** – Presented an aerial photograph of the area with the proposed project superimposed and indicated  
14 that the developer is proposing to build 54 townhouses and 52 residential units.

15  
16 As pointed out in the project statement, 4.39 acres of urban separator will be dedicated to the City; and  
17 there is a 70’ setback from Capri Creek, which is along the southern boundary of the park site. There is  
18 an opportunity to have access from Sonoma Mountain Parkway to the urban separator along Capri Creek.

19  
20 The proposed emergency vehicle access (between Capri Creek and the park site) has always been  
21 considered as a possible entrance to a parking lot on the Sonoma Mountain Parkway side of the future  
22 park. The Sonoma Mountain Parkway entrance into the G&G shopping center was designed with this in  
23 mind, thus offering off-road parking away from the neighborhoods.

24  
25 The Bicycle Committee has reviewed the project and has made recommendations.

26  
27 **Bruce Hagen** – The proposal shows vehicular access encircling the entire section. From the site plan,  
28 none of the homes driveways exit onto “Road D” along the creek. The committee’s recommendation is as  
29 follows:

- 30  
31 • No road along the Capri Creek boundary, or only minimal paving for emergency vehicle access  
32 (blocked by removable bollards, preferably a non-asphalt/concrete surface, quarry fines on compacted  
33 road base).
- 34 • A substantial setback from “Road D” to the creek and a Class I path along the entire  
35 project perimeter of the creek.
- 36 • Three bridges, one each at Cassella Court, Yorkshire, and the urban separator path.
- 37 • Obvious and easy bike/pedestrian access along Gatti Park to access G&G market.
- 38 • “Road D” renamed “Capri Creek Greenway.”
- 39 • No direct glare into cyclist/pedestrian eyes, including security lighting.

40  
41 Carr indicated that the Gatti project design is on hold for the next 4 to 6 weeks. If the Council approves  
42 the project, developer Doyle Heaton may be able to start developing the athletic fields by next spring.  
43 Since this a community park, a series of public meetings will be advertised and held at the Petaluma  
44 Community Center.

45  
46 **Ken McCoy** – Once the City Council approves the park design, he suggested having meetings with the  
47 Junior College staff in order to get an idea about the college’s plans.

48

1 Carr – In response to Commissioners questions regarding the development of the Gatti site, Carr  
2 suggested that the Commission support this high priority project.

3  
4 The idea of presenting the subdivision item is to find out if the Commission concurs with the idea of  
5 having public access to the urban separator and with the Bicycle’s Committee’s recommendation.

6  
7 It was the Commission’s consensus to concur with the Bicycle Committee’s recommendation.

## 8 9 COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

### 10 11 1) John Kinsella –

12 a) **Grant Park** – The lawn looks good. Under the play structure, there are a number of high weeds  
13 coming out of the sandbox. The water faucet shoots about 4 feet high.

14 b) **Sunset Park** - One of the barbecues is broken.

15 c) **Sunrise Park** – The park needs mowing.

16 d) **Oak Hill Park** – Next Saturday morning is volunteer day and a group of neighbors are going to be  
17 cleaning the labyrinth area.

18 e) **McNear Peninsula** – Spoke to Pamela Tuft who said that the City is being offered a purchase option  
19 to buy the land through the McNear Family Trust.

20 Carr – The price tag is under two million dollars. City staff is trying to get a match for purchase and  
21 development. He had not heard if an offer has been made.

22  
23 John Kinsella informed the Commission that there is a great amount of interest in developing a  
24 community garden at the McNear Peninsula. He attended an art and garden festival and obtained about  
25 75 signatures in one afternoon from people that were interested in participating. He encouraged the  
26 Commission to visit the McNear Peninsula site. Following discussion, it was the Commission’s  
27 consensus to meet at the site on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. before the Commission meeting.

28 Carr – Will be making the necessary arrangements so the Commission can tour the site.

### 29 30 2) Marja Tarr – No report

### 31 32 3) Ken McCoy –

33 a) **Prince Park** – Asked for the date when the fencing around areas that are being repaired is going to be  
34 taken down.

35 **Ed Anchordoguy** – It may be in a couple of weeks when staff knows the grass is ready.

36 b) **RESA Project** – Inquired about the project.

37 Carr – Was approved by SPARC. Carr has asked Marty Hronec to provide him with the names of the 5  
38 investors and their backgrounds so he can give the information to the City Manager. Once the City  
39 Council subcommittee reviews the financial information, and after the Manager signs the agreement, the  
40 project will be ready to proceed.

41 c) **Sonoma Mountain School** – The soccer league is investing between \$10,000 to \$12,000 to renovate  
42 the field because of the heavy use and they hope that it will be ready this coming fall.

43 d) **Walnut Park** – Asked about the status of the playground project.

44 Carr – The project is on hold.

45 e) **Lucchesi Park** – Asked staff if currently there are any plans at Lucchesi field for the dirt area between  
46 the parking lot and the field. He is going to ask the soccer league to suggest how the area can be  
47 improved. One of the considerations could be a clean up day, where the rocks and garbage could be  
48 picked up.

49 • What is the status of completion of the reseeded area?

1 **Ed Anchoadoguy** – Staff is waiting for the reseeded area to get to a certain point of germination so it can  
2 be mowed and then the contractor can begin their 90-day maintenance.  
3  
4 Regarding areas for dog use, Ken McCoy asked that the Grange property be included on the next month’s  
5 agenda.  
6  
7 **4) Bruce Hagen** –  
8 **a) Wickersham, Putnam and Westridge Open Space** – No change .  
9 **b) Lafferty** – The situation has changed for the worst. The Board of Supervisors rejected the City’s  
10 application. Supervisor Kerns encouraged the City to come back with a matching grant application.  
11  
12 The Friends of Lafferty Park have suggested the possibility of offering to give the property to the state so  
13 that Lafferty will be part of the state park chain that includes the Vallejo Adobe, Jack London, etc. There  
14 are a number of reasons why it should be a state park, including getting Petaluma out of the rural  
15 management business outside the City limits, provided the City’s Park Management Plan is followed.  
16 Anything that individuals can do to put pressure on the supervisors would be a good thing.  
17  
18 **c) Bike Paths** - He is interested on the idea of the Petaluma Rim Trail. He would like to see a route that  
19 encircles the entire City, where people can hike and bike segments of it or the entire trail. The Bicycle  
20 Committee has been thinking about this more frequently.  
21  
22 Patricia Tuttle-Brown and Bruce Hagen appealed for RESA to include several elements that were rejected  
23 by the Planning Commission and the City Council. One was a Class I bike path that runs along the south  
24 side of East Washington.  
25  
26 **5) Elaine Ramirez** –  
27 • Supervisor’s Meeting - Attended the Supervisor’s meeting and was very disappointed with the vote.  
28 **a)** All her parks look very attractive.  
29 **b) Miwok, La Tercera, Cherry Valley and McDowell** – Visited these parks, which are adjacent to  
30 schools, and it was evident that the park grounds are by far superior than the school grounds. If the City  
31 pursues a bond measure, she would like staff to ask the school district if they want to participate in that  
32 bond measure so the City could maintain the school grounds.  
33 **c) Miwok** – There is uplifted concrete underneath the looped cable fence next to the sidewalk. There is  
34 some graffiti on the back fence wall.  
35 **d) La Tercera** – Looks great.  
36 **e) Swim Center** – Visited the Swim Center, which was being heavily used, introduced herself to staff,  
37 and gave them a card so they can contact her if they have any concerns or questions about the center. She  
38 noticed that the staff is trying to sell summer passes because they think the prices are going to increase  
39 after July 1<sup>st</sup>.  
40 **Carr** – Councilmember Healy made a recommendation that there will be no increase on public swim  
41 prices.  
42 **f) McDowell** – Is a great park - adults and children were using it until late in the evening.  
43 **g) Kenilworth** – Looks great.  
44 **i) Marina** – Since the Sheraton opened, she noticed that the parking lot is getting heavy use. On the  
45 weekends, there are a number of boat shows in the parking lot and increased littering on the maintenance  
46 road behind the office after the boat shows. She requested that staff ask the promoters of the boat show to  
47 clean up after themselves.  
48 **j) Cherry Valley** – Asked staff if the picnic tables are going to be painted since they are very  
49 deteriorated.  
50 **Ed Anchoadoguy** – Will be checking the picnic tables.

1 j) **Shollenberger** – Looks great.

2  
3 6) **Robert Kates** –

4  
5 All of his parks look good.

6  
7 **DIRECTOR’S REPORTS** – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*

8  
9 **1) Cobblestone Project** - Presented an aerial map of the Cobblestone Project. There is a developer that  
10 plans to develop the entire area. On the site, there is a historical two-story house built in 1903 that  
11 Heritage Homes would like to save. The developer is willing to relocate it onto the City-owned property  
12 adjacent to the site and build a foundation. Carr asked the Commission to consider his suggestion to use  
13 the house as the main headquarters for sports organizations. He has asked for copies of historical studies  
14 and any other information available, which he should receive by next week.

15  
16 Commissioners expressed interest about Carr’s suggestion.

17  
18 **2) Operating Budget** – Is a balanced budget. The City Manager is trying to obtain funds to hire 1-2  
19 more police officers. As far as the City’s operations, they are in good shape as long as there are no  
20 changes.

21  
22 **2) Shollenberger Trail Expansion** – The project has been difficult, but it is progressing. The Civilian  
23 Conservation Corp (CCC) has been very slow. Staff is thankful for Jeff Peters, a Petaluma resident from  
24 Questa Engineering for his efforts. The project was supposed to be finished by the end of this month, but  
25 it will probably be finished by the end of July. Once the project is finished, it will be a nice addition to  
26 the marsh trail system.

27  
28 **3) The Hub** – Would like to receive more information about it and have the Commission provide input.

29  
30 **4) McNear Park Dedication** – It will take place on June 20 at 11:30 a.m. The project is an excellent  
31 example of partnership between a neighborhood, businesses, a service club, and the City. He would like  
32 to see more of these type of projects. The playground is heavily used.

33  
34 **ADJOURNMENT**

35  
36 Bruce Hagen moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20, seconded by Ken McCoy, unanimously  
37 approved.

38