

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

*Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.*

7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation
Sara Stewart, Admin. Secretary, Parks and Recreation

****Chair***

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *February 20, 2002*

Michael Healy moved, seconded by John Kinsella, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1) Goals Update – Carr

Carr – Gave an update of the goals developed and prioritized by the Commission.

Goal No. 1) 3-Yr-Plan for Park Funding (Bond, Petaluma Parks and Recreation Association, Park Master Plan) Target: 2004 – When the general plan was being developed, staff hoped to obtain input from the community as to direction they wished this department to take, the amenities they would like to see, and ideas about funding. Unfortunately, he does not see this happening during the general plan process.

In order to develop a park master plan, he suggested the Commissioners review at a future meeting, a copy of the master plan developed by the City of Windsor and other cities and the park standards from the City of Tracy. Through a park master plan process, the Commission can consider what kind of facilities they anticipate the City is going to need and their location. The previous trend has been sport facilities, but he has seen a number of people interested in other areas as well, including transportation (i.e. bike and pedestrian paths), the development of marsh areas, the river plan, etc. He encouraged the Commission to consider starting a park planning process.

Bruce Hagen - The park master plan is going to be the foundation for people that want to pass a bond measure and/or start a non-profit organization. He suggested developing the master plan by May 2003, in order to launch a bond measure campaign for the general election in 2004.

1 **Bob Kates** - Suggested that the Commission have a discussion about this item on separate meetings apart
2 from the regular Commission meetings.

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4 Following discussion, Carr suggested forming a subcommittee to review the material he has available and
5 discuss different strategies.

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7 Bruce Hagen, John Kinsella, and Elaine Ramirez volunteered as members of the subcommittee and
8 scheduled a meeting on April 3, 2002 from 8 to 10 a.m.

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10 **Bruce Hagen** – At the next Commission meeting, the subcommittee will be providing a recommendation
11 regarding the planning process - meeting dates and times, frequency of the meetings, and a general
12 outline. He suggested that the subcommittee meet an average of two hours a month for the next six
13 months.

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15 **2) Commissioners Park Facilities Watch Program - Carr**

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17 **1) Bruce Hagen** – Country Club Open Space, Putnam Plaza, Wickersham, Westridge Knolls, Westridge
18 Open Space.

19 **2) Mike Healy** – Eagle, McDowell, Penry Park, Senior Citizens Center.

20 **3) Robert Kates** – Arroyo, Prince (split with Ken McCoy), Rocky Dog Park, Wiseman.

21 **4) John Kinsella** – Grant, McNear Peninsula, Oak Hill, Sunrise, Sunset.

22 **5) Ken McCoy** – Bond, Carter Field (Kenilworth site), Glenbrook, Lucchesi Park, Meadow View, Prince
23 (split with Robert Kates), Skate Park, Walnut.

24 **6) Elaine Ramirez** – Cherry Valley, Kenilworth Park, La Tercera, Miwok, McDowell Meadows,
25 Petaluma Marina, Oak Hill, Shollenberger, Swim Center.

26 **7) Marja Tarr** – Casa del Oro, Cavanagh Recreation Center, McNear, Petaluma Historical Museum,
27 Polly Klaas Performing Arts Center.

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29 **3) Community Wall at the Petaluma Community Center Update – (Verbal) – Carr**

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31 **Carr** – At the last Commission meeting, he spoke about the possibility of setting aside a wall at the
32 Petaluma Community Center to acknowledge citizens who have received an honor from the community.
33 He spoke to Onita Pelligrini from the Chamber of Commerce and Jay Stewart from HC2 since both
34 organizations have a community recognition awards program, and both are in favor of the idea.

35
36 Carr presented some suggestions regarding the displays and asked the Commission for input.

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38 Commissioners suggested having some perpetual, small plaques (2” x 3”) with the person’s name and the
39 reason for the recognition, and a temporary display which gives details for the recognition. The
40 Commission agreed that the Petaluma Community Center is in a central location and is heavily used.

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42 **4) Exercise Hours for Dogs in Parks – Subcommittee Report – Ramirez/Carr (Verbal)**

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44 **Elaine Ramirez** – On March 15, she met with Jim Carr, Ed Anchordoguy and Sheri Cardo and they
45 revised the off-leash hours in the park areas. She reviewed the list included in the Commission’s packet
46 and indicated that the hours are consistent in almost all parks with the exception of Oak Hill Park which
47 has its own special hours. She asked for Commissioners’ input.

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Commissioners discussed the hours mentioned in the proposal and winter hours at Oak Hill and Prince Parks.

Carr – Staff has targeted three potential locations in the City that are possibilities for future dog exercise area: the Grange property, the detention ponds located on the northeast sector of town, behind AFC and the freeway, and the south end of the approach zone of the airport, off of Casa Grande Road. Tomorrow he will be meeting with Airport Manager Mike Glose to discuss ideas about the site. He presented different alternatives and indicated that the 56-acre site is owned by the City and a portion of it is part of the urban separator. He will be pursuing the airport and detention ponds on the east side of town and will be reporting back to the Commission.

John Kinsella – Suggested that the Commission consider reinstating the hours at Oak Hill Park from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. all week long. Because he lives in the park area, he is aware that the majority of neighbors are in favor of having the lower section of the park opened for dogs off leash.

Sheri Cardo – Spoke in favor of restoring the hours at Oak Hill Park and suggested that the Commission revisit this issue in the late summer or early fall.

There was discussion regarding possible sites to exercise dogs off leash on the west and east side of town.

Carr – The City Council has asked staff to consider the parcel at Windsor Drive near Helen Putnam Park. Staff is working on a site plan for the area. Since this item has not been presented to the public, it will be placed on the next meeting’s agenda, so that the Commission can make a formal recommendation to the City Council.

Carr, along with Sheri Cardo and Animal Services, will be developing an educational component to the dog hours in parks, which will include educating the public regarding proper etiquette when walking their dogs, cleaning up after their dogs, and training possibilities. Sheri Cardo has been working with staff and will be developing additional materials. Staff will present this information to the Commission at the next meeting.

5) Parks Capital Improvement Program – Carr

Carr – With the goal of prioritizing and developing a realistic schedule to complete proposed capital projects, City departments have been working with a consultant at the request of the City Manager.

On March 11th, the City Council reviewed the Parks and Recreation project list and made the following initial comments: land bank the Grange property until a later date, proceed with the Gatti project, and suggested that the Willow Glen park be added to the list. Carr commented that the list as it exists may be unrealistic regarding completion by the end of the fiscal year.

Carr referred to the charts distributed to the Commission. The projects with priorities 1 through 3 have funding or certain requirements, such as the money has to be sent by specific period of time; the project has a high priority, or is currently in progress. The projects under category 4 are not funded or they have no completed plans or specifications, and it is a matter of time before they can be ready for construction.

Carr reviewed the list of projects and asked the Commission to discuss priorities and make a recommendation to assist the City Council in the process. He recommended that the Grange Property be moved to the Category 3 list (land bank for future development).

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Following discussion, Bruce Hagen moved that the Commission recommends that the City Council approve the list of projects as presented by Carr, seconded by Ken McCoy and unanimously approved. Projects recommended are as follows: Shollenberger Park Trail Expansion, RESA Utilities Extension, Playground Update/Renovation, Polly Hannah Klaas Performing Arts Center, Cavanagh Recreation Center, McNear Peninsula, Traditions Park Site, Gatti Park Design, Lucchesi park Senior Center Renovation.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Factory Outlet – Environmental Impact Report - Hagen

Bruce Hagen – The reason that this item is on this agenda is that the project has a parks and recreation potential. He has been addressing a number of projects through his participation on the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). Last weekend Matt Connelly and BAC members visited the site and saw a couple of recreational opportunities, some of which are addressed in the EIR and proposal. He would like the Commission to hear about the constraints and considerations of the developer regarding the project.

Carr – Enclosed in the Commission’s packet is the Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report. The report is based on an application filed by the Chelsea Property Group to amend the previously City-approved Planned Community District (PCD) Master Plan Program to expand the existing Petaluma Village Market Place onto adjoining lands to the north and south.

Director of Community Development Mike Moore gave a background history of the project and outlined the development process. He informed the Commission that they would have an opportunity through the EIR process to comment on anything they may think is appropriate to the Commission’s purview. They will also have an opportunity to comment on the revisions or make modifications related to the PCD master plan, which has not yet been presented to the Planning Commission. If the plan were to be approved in the future and Chelsea decides they want to submit a developmental proposal, the Commission would have the opportunity at that time to review the proposal and make comments.

Bob Kates – Asked if the Commission can comment on something related to parks.

Mike Moore – The Commission can make suggestions and they could be included in the master plan. He can invite Matt Connelly to speak with the Commission and then incorporate into the master plan whatever comments they make relative to recreational possibilities of the site.

Bruce Hagen – Suggested that the Commission, along with staff and Matt Connelly, tour the site. He commented that the project is adjacent to the most beautiful natural area inside the City limits.

Bob Kates – Given the information, he agrees that the appropriate time to provide input on the recreational component would be prior to the master-plan development.

Mike Moore – Will be working with Carr to ensure that the item is presented to the Commission at a future meeting and that there is enough time to send those comments forward. The EIR review process may take about two months, and there should be plenty of time to be able to comment on the PCD changes. He will also be providing Carr with Matt Connelly’s phone number so the Commission can arrange a field trip to the property.

1 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

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3 1) **Maria Tarr** -

4 a) **Swim Center Sub-Committee** - No Report

5 b) **Tennis Courts** – Presented concerns about the poor condition of the tennis courts at Casa del Oro,
6 McNear and Lucchesi Parks. She asked that staff consider investing some funds to repair the courts.

7 c) **Polly Klaas** – Detected graffiti on the back of the sign at the facility.

8 d) **Cavanagh Recreation Center** – No report.

9 e) **McNear Park** – The new playground looks good.

10 f) **Historical Museum** – No report

11 g) **Casa del Oro** – Turf area looks adequate.

12 i) Asked about the condition of Casa Grande Outfields.

13
14 **Ken McCoy** – The pot holes have already been fixed.

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16 2) **John Kinsella** -

17 a) **McNear Peninsula** – Mr. Kinsella has been approached by a company in town who is very excited
18 about the community-garden project and is considering donating a sizable amount of funds to get it
19 started. They would like to know by May if that the project is going to proceed. He encouraged the
20 Commission to tour the peninsula.

21
22 **Carr** – The City needs to purchase the property and develop a master plan. John Kinsella is introducing a
23 new element for the peninsula; through the master plan process the public has an opportunity to hear
24 about any proposal and see the peninsula.

25
26 b) **Oak Hill Park** – The Plexiglas on the new bulletin board needs replacing. The bulletin board is used
27 by a number of neighbors and is a good forum for interaction and communication.

28
29 3) **Michael Healy** -

30 a) **Eagle Park** – It was deserted.

31 b) **McDowell Park** – Underutilized – Presented concerns about the soccer- field location.

32 c) **Shollenberger** – He is looking forward to the trail expansion.

33 d) **Penry Park** – The new signs have been placed in the middle of the park, and people are not
34 complying with the dogs off-leash rules because they don't notice them. He suggested that the signs be
35 relocated to the perimeter area and entrance to the park.

36
37 4) **Ken McCoy** –

38 a) **Bond Park** – Looks attractive.

39 b) **Prince Park** – Looks attractive.

40 c) **Walnut** – Looks attractive.

41 d) **Sunrise** – Looks good.

42 e) **Lucchesi Field** – Has not heard from Ed Anchordoguy regarding the sweeping machine to level the
43 Lucchesi synthetic field. Since the soccer season is ready to start, the soccer organization is willing to pay
44 for the cost.

45 d) **Signage at Lucchesi** - The City received a small check for the signage at Lucchesi. The reason it was
46 so small was because the signs had to be replaced multiple times due to vandalism.

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48 5) **Bruce Hagen** – No Report

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50 6) **Bob Kates** -

- 1 a) **Arroyo** – No report
- 2 b) **Prince Park** – Looks attractive.
- 3 c) **Rocky Dog Park** – Looks attractive – Grass is starting to grow.
- 4 d) **Wiseman Park** – Looks good – Noticed that a post is broken.
- 5 e) **Soccer Teams (Lucchesi Field)** – The Sonoma County Alliance soccer team is going to be a
- 6 combination of Rohnert Park and Petaluma players. He is wondering if there would be any charges for
- 7 the use of Lucchesi field since the league is not solely a Petaluma team.

8
9 **Carr** - Non-residents pay for the use of fields.

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11 **Marja Tarr** – In order to discuss the use fees for the team, she asked Jim Carr, Don Phoenix and Ken

12 McCoy to schedule a meeting in the near future.

13
14 **Bob Kates** – Presented his point of view about the use fee policy. He is concerned about the consistency

15 of the policy, and wants to make sure that there is enough money to maintain the field. He may have to

16 recuse himself when this issue is discussed.

17
18 **Carr** – As a follow up from the meeting, he will be presenting some suggestions for Commission’s

19 consideration.

20
21 **7) Elaine Ramirez** -

- 22 a) All of her parks look good.
- 23 b) **Tree Advisory Committee (TAC)** – There is a map at the Chamber of Commerce that has La Tercera
- 24 and another park missing from it. She will be obtaining the map and ensuring that all the City parks are
- 25 included.

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

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29 a) **McNear Playground** – The project is finished, and it was presented to the City Council for

30 acceptance.

31
32 b) **Lucchesi Field** – The landscaping on the mounds surrounding the fields is almost finished.

33
34 c) **Shollenberger Trail Expansion** – The project will be starting on April 1 – The Civilian Conservation

35 Corp (CCC) will be helping with the project.

36
37 d) **Graffiti Removal Program** – Ed Cerar was nominated by the City to receive the service award from

38 the Parks and Recreation Society District I, for his efforts of the “Petalumans Eradicating Graffiti.” Mr.

39 Cerar attended the banquet with one other long-term volunteer to receive the award.

40
41 e) **City’s Operating Budget** – For the last two weeks, staff has been working with the City Manager on

42 the budget. The City is short of funds and the City Manager is trying to recover 2 million dollars;

43 consequently, the department budgets are being trimmed, and there is a hiring freeze in the City. A

44 revenue study was commissioned by the City Manager and the City Council, and it will be presented to

45 the City Council shortly.

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47 **ADJOURNMENT**

48 Ken McCoy moved, seconded by Bruce Hagen, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10

49 p.m.

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