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<p><u>CITY OF PETALUMA</u> <u>RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION</u> <u>MINUTES</u></p>
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REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, November 20, 2002

*Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.
Conference Room No. 2*

7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Hagen, Healy, Kinsella, McCoy*, Ramirez, Tarr

Commissioners Absent: Kates

Staff Present Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ed Anchoroguy, Parks and Landscape Manager
Pamela Tuft, General Plan Administrator
Sara Stewart, Admin. Secty., Parks and Recreation

Chair*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 16, 2002

It was moved by Marja Tarr that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by John Kinsella, with the following vote: **AYES: 5 ABSTAIN: 1 ABSENT: 1**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Cathy Wells – Cindy Lane – Regarding the Oak Hill dog park situation, the neighbors appreciate the new hours the City Council approved last year; however, they ask the Commission to consider changing the hours on weekends in the winter time from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2) Trish Kinsella – 532 Howard Street – Takes her dog to the dog run area most weekdays after work when is getting dark - Would like to use the park more hours on weekends because it is not used.

3) Susan Martin – 314 Keller Street – Regarding the same issue, she asked the Commission to consider removing the weekend restrictions for dogs off leash during the standard time and reinstating the current schedule during daylight savings time.

Carr - In order to consider the change, the item would have to go back to the Commission for a recommendation and presented to the City Council for approval through a resolution.

Michael Healy and Ken McCoy asked staff to place the item on next month's agenda.

John Kinsella – The speakers tonight are only a small fraction of the neighbors who are in favor of removing the weekend restrictions for dogs off leash. He lives right across the street from Oak Hill park and on weekends, he does not see any activity in the park. It is a shame that the park is not being used as thoroughly as it could be. He supports placing the item on the next month's agenda.

1
2 **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – NONE**

3
4 **OLD BUSINESS**

5
6 **1) Park Master Plan Process Status Report (Verbal) – Carr/Hagen**

7
8 **Carr** – At the last Commission meeting, he mentioned that he will be working with Joe DeVito on the
9 preparation of informational videos that will be shown on public access and the government channel.
10 The week of December 2, he will be scheduling a meeting with Commission Chair Ken McCoy and
11 Youth Commission co-Chair Dave King to do a filming sequence for the park master plan process.

12
13 On November 25 at 2 p.m., Joe DeVito will be taping Carr at the Community Center in preparation to
14 discuss the master-plan process as a whole and the upcoming meetings in January. At 3:30 p.m. Joe
15 DeVito will be interviewing two or three Teen Council representatives at the Teen Center, and they
16 will be expressing their viewpoints about different issues.

17
18 A questionnaire in English and Spanish will be sent to the community with the water bills on the latter
19 part of November and through December. Staff has mailed 18,500 copies of the survey to Arizona, the
20 origination site, and they will be sent to the Petaluma community throughout six cycles. At the
21 quadrant meetings in January, there will be an opportunity for the community to provide input
22 regarding the direction they would like to see this department go in the foreseeable future.

23
24 Joe DeVito is taking a number of videos, which he will edit before developing a finalized version, so
25 that staff and the Commission can show it to the community when they make presentations. Joe
26 DeVito will also develop other videos to be shown on public access and the government channel,
27 which will be running the latter part of December and through January. The videos will be publicizing
28 the park master plan process and advertising the dates of the community meetings listed on the flyer.

29
30 All the information received from the community and Youth Commission will be sent to Pamela Tuft
31 to be incorporated into the general plan. Carr will be sending out a news release next week to publicize
32 the surveys and the dates of the January meetings.

33
34 **2) Community Garden at McNear Park – (Verbal) - Kinsella**

35
36 **John Kinsella** – The City has approved the development of a community garden in the unused quarter-
37 acre plot between the Cavanagh Center and McNear Park.

38
39 On November 12, 46 people attended an open community forum at the Cavanagh Center to talk about
40 the community garden. The meeting was simultaneously translated in Spanish. As it turned out, a
41 number of people that attended the meeting did not speak English, so they were able to have the
42 meeting accessible to everyone. A number of great ideas were presented by the public. People were
43 not as interested in having their own plots as they were about gardening with people in the community.

44
45 On December 3 at 7 p.m. there will be a follow up meeting at the Cavanagh Center to work on garden
46 organization, design determination, and plot allocation. Meanwhile, Cottage Garden Nursery of
47 Petaluma has donated two truck loads of plants, and a contractor has volunteered to do the grading of
48 the soil for free. The project will start late January or early February. Irrigation plans are to tap into
49 the City's water and then reimburse the City at a cost of \$30 to \$50 a plot to help cover the cost.

1
2 Carr spoke in favor of the developing a community garden in the above-mentioned location since the
3 area has been a problem for staff regarding vandalism and illegal access to some of the adjoining
4 homes. In the Westridge area, vandalism was completely eliminated when a community garden was
5 developed. He thinks that the community garden will be a positive program that will help that corner
6 of McNear park. Civil Engineer John Fitzgerald has inspected the area and has found no drainage
7 problems.

8
9 **John Kinsella** – There are 75 people on a Yahoo user group that will get updates on the latest
10 information regarding the community gardens. He encouraged Commissioners to join.

11
12 **NEW BUSINESS**

13
14 **1) General Plan; Existing Conditions, Opportunities and Challenges Report – Pamela Tuft**

15
16 **Carr** – Introduced General Plan Administrator Pamela Tuft and her assistant, Scott Duiven. The
17 Commissioners have received copies of the Existing Conditions, Opportunities and Challenges Report
18 (ECOC), which is very extensive. Pamela Tuft is meeting with the various appointed commissions and
19 committees to explain what this document holds, the meaning of it, and future direction.

20
21 **Pamela Tuft** – Gave a presentation of the ECOC report and asked for Commission’s comments.

22
23 She referred to a packet distributed prior to the meeting from the Petaluma Arts Council. The packet will be
24 incorporated as an addendum into the ECOC report that was presented tonight to the Commission because
25 it is applicable to the Commission’s area of authority and interest.

26
27 Alison Marks from the Petaluma Arts Council referred to the Arts as an Industry Report distributed to the
28 Commission. She asked that the Commission consider extending the name of the Recreation, Music and
29 Parks Commission to include cultural arts as a segment of this commission. As an alternative, she asked
30 that the Commission consider in the future creating a separate arts commission.

31
32 **Ken McCoy** – Would like to increase the amount of art programs existent in Petaluma.

33
34 There was lengthy discussion about the way lands were counted toward ratios (i.e. park acreage per 1000
35 people), areas that are considered open space or vacant land, public/private recreational facilities, facilities
36 that fall into public/private partnerships and community resources available for public use.

37
38 **Mike Healy** – At the general level, he sees the following is important:

- 39 • That the community be given an opportunity to prioritize additional aspects or components of the parks
40 system, as opposed to just having a wish list without a great deal of direction
41 • Increments of the park system defined, that would be more readily achievable from cost and
42 operating viewpoints
43 • Additional types of resources the community would like
44 • Acreage issue broken down into components and discussion about the level and amount of facilities that
45 are needed, i.e. community garden, arts forms, a performing arts center, playing fields, basketball courts,
46 golf courses, lawn bowls, passive recreation, neighborhood and community parks.
47 • Keep pressure on the County to come up with another regional park for the south county with more active
48 recreational venues.
49 • Senior activities and facilities
50 • Privately-owned land, which the City has some control over, i.e. Rooster Run Golf Course

- 1 • Put Cinnabar under City’s control, although it is outside the City limits and is not City-owned, but
2 nevertheless, is a very important cultural resource in the community
- 3 • Maintain the heavily used school fields as part of the inventory for the community

4
5 **Ken McCoy** – Asked that the Petaluma Library be included in the report as a community asset.

6
7 **Pamela Tuft** – In regards to the Grange Avenue property, the City Council approved the purchase of the
8 7.7 acre parcel (3 parcels) between Grange and Corona Road. The City just received notification that full
9 funding (\$980,000) was obtained from a grant to purchase the property. At present, the property is being
10 appraised. After everything is complete, and the funds are received, staff will make a presentation to the
11 Commission and will work with Jim Carr on implementing the river plan through that corridor.

12
13 **John Kinsella** – Requested that the community gardens and dog parks be reflected in the general plan.

14
15 **Ken McCoy** – Requested that the following be addressed:

16
17 • Setting standards regarding donations of private lands to the City for specific uses. There may be a way
18 for the City to be in the reverse role of what is happening with the Rooster Run golf course and RESA,
19 where the City would lease private land under particular agreements to develop parks or recreational
20 facilities.

21
22 • Private/public partnerships – If the City has land, perhaps a private entity can develop it commercially,
23 i.e. a BMX park in Petaluma. In order for the City to continue having facilities and amenities, it is
24 necessary to consider these partnerships and turn over the control of the property for the benefit of the
25 community. In those types of scenarios, the City would also relinquish the cost of having to maintain the
26 facilities.

27
28 **Elaine Ramirez** – Suggested that a Cultural/Performing Arts Center be included in the general plan.

29
30 **Bruce Hagen** – Suggested having a rim trail around Petaluma that hooks into the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
31 He wants to make sure that the plan identifies potential opportunities and inventories the land around the
32 City boundaries.

33
34 **Pamela Tuft** – Asked for continuous input from the Commission. She will be providing the Commission
35 with summary reports from the workshop they participated in.

36
37 **Ken McCoy** – Thanked Pamela for keeping the Commission informed and involved in the process.

38 **COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

39 **1) Bruce Hagen –**

40
41 **a) Wickersham Path** – Presented concerns about potential hazards due to the bad condition of the
42 path, and asked when is it going to be repaired.

43 **Ed Anchoroguy** – It will repaved with the Proposition 40 funds.

44 **Carr** – At the next Commission meeting, he will present a timetable regarding the Prop. 40 funding.

45
46
47 **b) Putnam Plaza** – Detected a small amount of graffiti on the concrete wall close to the skateboard
48 shop.

49 **c) Westridge Open Space** – No problems – In the future, the pavement is going to need some work.

- 1 **d) Robbers Cave Rock** – The property is located in Westridge Open Space. A group of interested
2 people is trying to negotiate with the owner to dedicate part of the property to the City as part of the
3 Westridge Open Space. The Bicycle Advisory Committee has an interest in that property as part of the
4 pedestrian access and the trail around town.
5
6 He encouraged the Commission to visit the site and place this item at the next month’s agenda. He
7 would like the Commission to recommend that the owner work with the neighbors and citizens of
8 Petaluma by making this donation to the City. He believes that the site will be a great addition to the
9 open space and trail system.
10
11 **e) Lafferty Ranch** – Asked staff about the possibility of placing a sign on the gate that reads:
12 “Lafferty Ranch” and something that specifically clarifies that is accessible only by City’s permission.
13 **Carr** – He is reticent to do anything on this matter unless he runs it by the City Council. A sign may
14 encourage additional trespassing.
15 **Mike Healy** – Recommended that Carr speak with Rich Rudnansky in order to obtain some feedback.
16 He thinks that a sign could be placed back from the fence line saying: “Lafferty Ranch City of
17 Petaluma, Proposed Park Site” - “Access by Permission of City of Petaluma Only.”
18
19 **f) Lynch Creek Bike Trail** - Last Sunday, he rode the trail from Prince Park to McKinley School and
20 noticed that the concrete path is cracking.
21
22 **2) Elaine Ramirez** –
23 **a) Marina** – Presented concerns about potential fatalities because the new entrance to the Marina
24 business park leads directly to the boat launch at the river; which is especially dangerous if people are
25 not familiar with the area and/or drive in after dusk. She would recommend some sort of barricade in
26 the evening in front of the boat launch or placing a visible stop sign.
27
28 **Mike Healy** - Recommended that Carr speak to Traffic Engineer Bill Allen regarding the concerns.
29
30 **3) Mike Healy** –
31 **a) Penry Park** – Praised the park maintenance staff for the fast response and excellent job in cleaning
32 up the park after the last storm.
33
34 **4) Marja Tarr** –
35 **a) Bricks and Mortar** - Asked Carr if he had talked to Mike Kerns about the use of the Bricks and
36 Mortar grant monies.
37 **Carr** –Will be sending a letter to Mike Kerns in a couple of weeks asking if about \$50,000 from the
38 original grant to be used to replace the heaters and renovate the solar system at the pool. The Boys and
39 Girls Club originally qualified for an \$83,000 grant, the City then bought the building. Unfortunately,
40 the funds cannot be used for design and engineering. Building rehab will cost in excess of \$600,000.
41
42 **5) John Kinsella** –
43 **a) Oak Hill Park** – Thanked the Commission for their willingness to consider at the next meeting the
44 weekend hours at the dog park. There was a clean-up day at the park and most park users participated.
45 Ed Anchoroguy had 20 yards of mulch delivered and the neighbors spread it underneath the oak trees.
46 There is some graffiti on the tot lot.
47 **b) Sunrise Park** – Looks good.
48 **c) Sunset Park** – One of the barbecues is missing.
49 **d) McNear Peninsula** – Looks good.

- 1 e) **Cavanagh Center** – Offered the students that participate in the Cavanagh Center, a space in the
2 community garden.
3
- 4 **6) Ken McCoy** –
5 a) **Lucchesi Field** –
6 1) Complained that the area between the parking lot and the field is muddy and it causes a mess on
7 the field; 2) Asked if the lines have been repainted.
8 **Ed Anchordoguy** – 1) Staff will be paving the area; 2) A firm has started re-stripping the field last
9 Monday.
10
- 11 b) Ken McCoy reported that after a game last weekend, Sonoma State University had started to leave
12 heavy debris and bottles on the field; but he saw them and asked them to clean up the field. After the
13 clean up, they walked away leaving behind a case of white and orange spray paint. He will be giving
14 staff the paint.
15 c) Asked that the field lights at Lucchesi be reset to start at 4:30 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.
16 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Due to the power outage, the clock went off. Staff will be resetting the lights.
17
- 18 d) Reported that there is a bolster laying underneath a bench on the east side of the field.
19 e) **Downtown Fire** – The Petaluma Fire Department did a great job containing the fire downtown. He
20 was impressed with the amount of collaboration Petaluma received from 8 to 10 fire departments from
21 different cities.
22 f) **Traditions Subdivision** – He asked staff if there was sufficient room in the development for an
23 under-age 10 soccer field at the site. He was concerned that part of the field had been taken away due
24 to the catch basin.
25 **Carr** – The catch basin reflected is not in the park. There is only one that has been approved and is
26 adjacent to the creek.
27 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Will check with the developer to confirm that there was enough room for the field.
28
- 29 g) Asked if the areas for trees between the streets and sidewalks are the responsibility of the City or
30 the homeowners. During the last storm, half of a tree came down in front of his home, and he would
31 like to know if he has to take care of it.
32 **Ed Anchordoguy** – City codes indicate that the resident adjacent to the right away is responsible for
33 the maintenance of it, including trees. In 99.9 percent of the cases, that is the homeowner's
34 responsibility. He recommended that Ken obtain a removal permit from Community Development
35 Department to remove the tree. He will also be responsible for replacing it.
36

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

- 39 **1) Shollenberger Park Trail** – About 98% completed. The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) has
40 been slow in completing the project and staff has used a private contractor to finish the project. A
41 portion of the property is currently included in negotiations with State Lands and an agreement will be
42 set by the middle of December. The Coastal Conservancy is pleased with the project. The path is
43 located along the river and is a nice walk from Shollenberger Park.
44
- 45 **2) Fishing Pier at Shollenberger** – A fishing pier was supposed to be built at Shollenberger. Staff
46 had hired a contractor; and at the last minute, State Lands said that the project was under their
47 jurisdiction and they want to review the project. Consequently, staff will have to wait until June before
48 doing any work.
49

1 The Sheraton Hotel, as part of an agreement with the City Council, is supposed to do \$25,000 worth of
2 improvements for a five-year period to the marsh area adjacent to the hotel, including putting in some
3 trails. The first project will be an entry arbor and the trail head by the hotel. The Coastal Conservancy
4 will be posting a sign giving them credit for funding the project.
5

6 **3) Dredging of the River** – The river is being dredged by the Army Corps of Engineers. Carr is
7 trying to obtain an additional contract to also dredge the marina. Currently, staff is negotiating with
8 the dredging contractors and working on specifications with Winzler and Kelly Engineering.
9

10 **4) Polly Hannah Klaas** – Staff had a meeting with the architect and the structural engineer and they
11 both indicated that the structural component of the facility is a hazard - the foundation is non-existent.
12 The project cost increased from \$700,000 to \$1.5 million dollars. They are trying to reduce the cost to
13 about a million dollars, primarily making the facility structurally sound.
14

15 Leadership Petaluma is planning to raise about \$260,000; to-date, \$135,000 has been raised, and they
16 are still continuing their fundraising efforts. Staff met with Leadership Petaluma last week, and they
17 spoke about the use of some of the raised funds to hire a fundraising consultant who deals with
18 performing arts, in order to raise additional monies for the project. The design has been completed and
19 the project will move forward as soon as additional funding is obtained.
20

21 **5) McNear Peninsula** – The City has received a grant to develop the first phase of the project. The
22 project will include a trail that will be developed along the turning basin area into the McNear
23 Peninsula properties, and some fence work. The City is trying to find a funding source to purchase the
24 center area, which is owned by the McNear Trust. The property cost is higher than the amount the
25 Open Space District is willing to pay, so the project is on hold for now.
26

27 **6) Lucchesi Soccer Field** - The City Council accepted the Lucchesi soccer field improvements. The
28 project looks very attractive and the field is heavily used.
29

30 **7) Boys and Girls Club Pool** – Boys and Girls Club staff is trying to get the pool open, which will be
31 a great benefit to the community.
32

33 **8) Teens** – Teen Coordinator Donnie Frank and some members of the Teen Council attended a
34 Healthy Communities–Healthy Youth conference in Minneapolis. The conference was on the 40
35 developmental assets. At the conference, the young people attended a number of workshops and
36 discussion groups about youth employment. They will be sharing the information obtained with the
37 community, the rest of the Teen Council, and the Youth Commission. The expenses were paid by a
38 grant from the Hospital Foundation.
39

40 **ADJOURNMENT**

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42 Bruce Hagen moved, seconded by Marja Tarr, unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10
43 p.m.
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