

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Petaluma Community Center  
320 North McDowell Blvd.

*7:00 p.m.*

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

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

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

***Chair\****

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Bruce Hagen moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by John Kinsella, unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Councilmember Bryant Moynihan – 102 Dawn Place – There is an opportunity to use the Petaluma community facilities fund to pay off the community center debt which will free up \$620,000 for other park uses, instead of the park fees budgeted for this year. Finance Director Bill Thomas has indicated that the suggestion looks promising.

With the additional capital from the debt service outset, Moynihan believes that there is an opportunity to proceed with the following projects:

- Gatti Park development, as recommended by this Commission.
- Westridge Park development, contingent upon having the neighborhood contribute with the operating costs.
- Boys and Girls Club pool rehabilitation.
- Petaluma Swim Center improvements.

He encouraged the Commission to make some recommendations to the City Council in October regarding Capital Improvement projects they would like included which would allow the City Council to take some action and, by the mid-year budget update, incorporate some of the Commission's recommendations.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1) Aquatic Advisory Committee Update (Oral Report) - Phoenix**

**Carr** – As a cost saving measure, the City planned to close the Petaluma Swim Center after Labor Day. Staff has continued with morning hours three days a week and weekends for lap swimmers, but

1 all other operations have been discontinued for the season. The added hours for lap swimming are  
2 scheduled to stop at the end of September.

3  
4 At their meeting of September 17, the City Council directed staff to keep the Swim Center open in the  
5 morning hours through the end of October and try to open it in the evening for lap swim until the end  
6 of October. Also, to consider opening the pool in March to meet the needs of the high schools as they  
7 prepare for the swimming season, and for the master swim program. They asked that staff work with  
8 the Aquatic Advisory Committee and develop a more aggressive schedule.

9  
10 Carr informed the City Council that the Aquatics Advisory Committee has not fulfilled its report as  
11 directed by the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission.

12  
13 The committee was charged with:

- 14 • Validating an energy audit that was completed on the Swim Center.
- 15 • Evaluating the aquatics budget.
- 16 • Developing a comprehensive and realistic year-round plan.
- 17 • Developing a job description and hiring timeline for the aquatics director.

18  
19 Carr recommended that the advisory committee do its work so staff can provide the City Council with  
20 an educated recommendation about potential year-round use. He informed the Commission that the  
21 boiler system and heater need replacement, and a co-generation system for the boiler is being  
22 considered.

23  
24 As the Commission is aware, approximately \$150,000 will be used from the Proposition 12 monies for  
25 the Senior Center expansion. With the first allocation, staff used about \$250,000 for the re-plastering  
26 of the pool and replacement of the chlorination system and there is about \$80,000 available to replace  
27 the broken central boiler at the pool. The cost of the solar heating system is between \$250,00 and  
28 \$300,000. One concern raised at the meeting was where would funding be coming from to keep the  
29 pool open. Carr indicated he will be asking the City Council for a mid-year budget adjustment in  
30 January.

31  
32 After a lengthy discussion about different concerns, Carr said that another part of the Aquatics Master  
33 Plan is the Boys and Girls Club. The City Council has giving the green light to continue working with  
34 Executive Director Alan Anspach to get the facility back in operation. It seems that the Boys and Girls  
35 Club organization is getting ready to start a campaign to repair the pool and upgrade the facility. Mr.  
36 Anspach informed Carr that when they closed the pool, it was a big impact to the community: they  
37 lost about 1,000 children to other communities and programs. Carr will be working with the Boys and  
38 Girls Club regarding a new Bricks and Mortar Grant Program through the County.

39  
40 **Elaine Ramirez** – As a cost savings measure, suggested lowering the temperature of the pool for lap  
41 swimming and asking the participants to wear thin skins.

42  
43 **Marja Tarr** – Asked about the number of master swimmers using the pool and the cost per month for  
44 that usage.

45  
46 **Carr** – During the summer months, there were approximately 23 master swimmers and 25 lap  
47 swimmers per day. The net cost is currently \$15,000 per month to accommodate the swimmers.

48

1 **Marja Tarr** – It bothers her that the City has to spend that amount of money for so few swimmers.  
2 She does not think that an aquatics director can be hired until the committee provides additional  
3 information about costs.  
4

5 **Ken McCoy** – Suggested that the person hired to be the aquatics director work on commission basis.  
6

7 **Carr** – Will be working with the advisory committee to consider a way to recover costs. The hiring of  
8 the aquatics director is going to be the City Council’s decision. In order to start the program, the  
9 current pool director may have to end up working as the aquatics director with additional  
10 responsibilities.  
11

12 Regarding physical changes to the pool area, staff is considering moving the fence out from the snack  
13 bar area to the end of the pool dressing area in order to create a larger space for future water play and  
14 concessions. In order to accommodate the early pool opening, staff is considering as an option,  
15 proceeding with the remodeling project, installing porta-johns and chaining them to the fence.  
16

17 Carr is unsure if the pool can open in March. All depends on the City Council providing the needed  
18 funds and public health allowing the installation of porta-johns for the temporary use of the swim  
19 center.  
20

## 21 **2) Capital Improvement Program List of Projects (Update) - Carr** 22

23 **Carr** – Gave an update of the list of Capital Improvement Projects included in the Commission’s  
24 packet and suggested moving forward with the Gatti project. At the present time, the Traditions  
25 Subdivision adjacent to Sonoma Mountain Parkway is being constructed, including a park. Staff is  
26 working on an agreement with the developer so that they will be reimbursed for the land and park  
27 development.  
28

29 Currently staff is working on the Senior Center expansion and the Polly Hannah Center project.  
30 Councilmember Bryant Moynihan suggested that the Commission make a recommendation to the City  
31 Council to start the Gatti park design. Mr. Moynihan is also suggesting proceeding with the Westridge  
32 project, but staff’s concern is maintenance and operation costs.  
33

34 Carr mentioned that the Gatti park design will cost about \$100,000. Carr estimates that the park  
35 project will cost about 1.1 million dollars depending on the park features. Cross Creek developer  
36 Doyle Heaton will be building a little league and a softball field at his cost, only after the City installs  
37 the grading and drainage per the agreement with the developer. Staff from the Santa Rosa Junior  
38 College has expressed interest in participating with the City in the Gatti project and wants to meet with  
39 City staff.  
40

41 Marja Tarr made a motion that the Commission recommend to the City Council to fund and proceed  
42 with the design of Gatti park and start construction as soon as feasible. The motion was seconded by  
43 John Kinsella, unanimously approved.  
44

## 45 **3) Park Master Plan Process Sub-Committee Reports** 46

47 **Bruce Hagen** – The subcommittee met to discuss strategies regarding the park master-plan process.  
48 Teen Commissioners Dave King and Bill Hartman also attended the meeting.  
49

1 The plan is to develop and send a 3-question survey included with City water bills to the Petaluma  
2 community. The quadrant meetings will be publicized in a number of different ways.

3  
4 In addition, Bruce Hagen suggested developing two additional surveys: A two-page survey and a  
5 second one targeted to interest groups. The long survey could be available at the quadrant meetings  
6 and included in the recreation brochure which will be distributed to Petaluma residents in December.  
7 The subcommittee has discussed the idea of placing the questionnaire on the web site. He asked Carr  
8 to provide him with information regarding the water-billing cycles.

9  
10 **Elaine Ramirez** – Questioned the reason for having a survey targeted to interest groups. She believes  
11 the other two types of surveys will be appropriate. Volunteered to help in the survey committee.

12  
13 **John Kinsella** – Distributed a revised agenda for the road shows and outlined the presentation process.  
14 He estimates that the presentations will take about half an hour.

15  
16 There was discussion regarding survey and video contents, methods of distribution, and time for the  
17 presentations.

18  
19 **Marja Tarr** – At the present time, some members of the subcommittee are in the process of collecting  
20 updated data so that they know which organizations are receptive to Commissioners presentations.

21  
22 **Bruce Hagen** – Suggested that Carr ask the City Council about the deadline to put the Park Master  
23 Plan on the ballot for March 2004.

24  
25 It was the Commission's consensus to focus at this time in developing the contents of the surveys and  
26 video. The quadrant meetings will start the middle of January and the road show meetings will run  
27 concurrently.

28  
29 **Ken McCoy** – Will be redoing the dates for the quadrant meetings. McNear School is on the  
30 southwest quadrant, Valley Vista on the northwest, and Lucchesi on both of the east side quadrants.

31  
32 **Carr** – Will be e-mailing the water bill information to Bruce Hagen and placing this item on the next  
33 month's agenda.

### 34 35 **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 36 37 **1) Proposal to establish the accordion as the official instrument of Petaluma - Carr**

38  
39 Mr. Tom Cordoni made a presentation and requested that the Commission recommend to the City  
40 Council to designate the accordion as the official instrument of Petaluma. Upon Carr's request earlier,  
41 the City Clerk had researched her records to see if there has ever been a designated official musical  
42 instrument and she was unable to find any such designation.

43  
44 There was discussion regarding concerns about other groups that may want to designate an official  
45 instrument of Petaluma.

46  
47 **Bruce Hagen** – Suggested that the Commission consider having the accordion as "an" official  
48 instrument of Petaluma instead of "the" official instrument so that other instruments can have an  
49 opportunity to be an official instrument.

1  
2 **Carr** – Suggested that any group wishing to have an official instrument of Petaluma demonstrate the  
3 historical use of the instrument within Petaluma, such as part of the community’s heritage, which  
4 would encourage groups’ participation within the community.  
5

6 **Bruce Hagen** – Will be working with members of the Accordion Club in order to come up with a  
7 definition of what an official instrument is to the City of Petaluma. He will be presenting this item to  
8 the Commission at the October meeting.  
9

10 **2) Proposed Hansen House Relocation to City Property - Carr**  
11

12 **Carr** – Staff has been approached by Cobblestone Homes, Inc., regarding the possible relocation of the  
13 Hansen House located at 718 McDowell Blvd. to an adjacent parcel owned by the City of Petaluma on  
14 the corner of McDowell Blvd. and Sunrise Parkway. The Hansen Home has some historical value and  
15 Heritage Homes and the Danish community would like to save the home.  
16

17 Two months ago, this Commission had a brief discussion about the issue, and a suggestion was made  
18 that if the relocation took place, the structure may be used as headquarters for youth sports  
19 organizations.  
20

21 Cobblestone is offering to relocate the home and two palm trees, construct a new foundation for the  
22 home, and return the structure to its original single-story condition. The developers have indicated that  
23 any utility hookups would come from local non-profit organizations.  
24

25 Paragraph 7 of the attached draft relocation agreement specifies that the City would be responsible for  
26 all utilities, which could be an expensive proposition. Other concerns involve any restrictions to the  
27 use of the relocated building by the historical groups, any environmental and/or design concerns raised  
28 by the Site Plan and Architectural Review Committee.  
29

30 There was discussion about usage restrictions, structural integrity, parking, and access from Sunrise  
31 Parkway.  
32

33 **Carr** - Suggested that the Commission accept staff’s recommendation.  
34

35 Bruce Hagen moved that the Commission recommend to the Community Development Department  
36 and the City Council that the Hansen House be relocated to City property as proposed, at no expense to  
37 the City; that all environmental and design clearances as specified by the City’s Community  
38 Development Department be satisfactorily addressed; that the relocated structure have no restrictions  
39 regarding its use; and that the City own the structure free and clear. The motion was seconded by Ken  
40 McCoy, unanimously approved.  
41

42 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**  
43

44 **1) Bruce Hagen** – No report about his parks.

45 **a) Southgate Subdivision Project** – On September 25, Basin Street Properties has scheduled a  
46 meeting at 1310 Redwood Way in the Redwood Business Park. The Bicycle Committee will be  
47 attending the meeting and providing input about the project. There is an opportunity to talk about  
48 parks, biking, and transportation through and around the area. He invited the Commission to attend.  
49

1 **2) Marja Tarr** – Received a letter of concern from the Petaluma Tennis Association. They sent an e-  
2 mail to Jim Carr asking him that some items be repaired before the tennis tournament season that  
3 started in September.  
4

5 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Indicated that all items requested have been completed. He would encourage the  
6 Tennis Association to keep the lines of communications open. Staff is going to make sure that the  
7 courts are cleaner for the tournament season; and if they have any problems, they can give him a call.  
8

9 **3) Elaine Ramirez** – Visited her parks.

10 **a) Shollenberger** – Noticed that a camper trailer has been parked for a couple of days at the far end of  
11 the parking lot.

12 **b) Swim Center** – Detected some graffiti on the front wall of the facility (woman’s restroom side of  
13 the bathhouse).

14 **c) La Tercera Park** – A company was digging a well at the park - water was gushing out everywhere.  
15 A worker indicated that the well is producing 500 gallons of water per minute.  
16

17 **4) John Kinsella** –

18 **a) Grant Park** – There is still the issue of weeds in the sandbox.

19 **b) Oak Hill** – Looks good - mulch needs to be spread.

20 **c) Community Garden Proposal**

21 Mr. Kinsella distributed a proposal and suggested converting the unused open space between the  
22 Cavanagh Center and McNear Park into a community garden. The total area is approximately 170’ x  
23 65’. A garden designer would like to get involved in the project and has done a prototype design of  
24 what the space could look like. He distributed pictures of the area and the Westridge community  
25 garden.  
26

27 There could be approximately 30 plots each measuring between 15’ x 20’ and an outdoor classroom  
28 could be placed underneath the trees. Gardening classes could take place throughout the spring and  
29 summer months. A budget is included in the proposal. He is planning to pursue donations to fund the  
30 project. He believes that the community garden will be a great benefit to the community.  
31

32 He encouraged the Commission to approve the proposal. If the project were to be approved, the  
33 neighbors and the 75 people who signed the interest list will have to be notified.  
34

35 **Carr** – His biggest concern is grading and drainage. He also needs to know where the funds will be  
36 coming from.  
37

38 It was the Commission’s consensus to proceed with the proposal.  
39

40 **5) Ken McCoy** –

41 **a) Prince Park** – Too dry

42 **b) Wiseman Park** – Too wet. There is a sprinkler problem at the south field of the park.

43 **c) Lucchesi** – Still waiting for the grooming machine. As per agreement, the people who re-striped  
44 the field are obligated to re-stripe it again.

45 **Ed Anchordoguy** – He hired a company to re-stripe the field and they will do it as soon as they can  
46 schedule it. Regarding the grooming machine, Field Turf was supposed to send it, but so far, he has  
47 only received the operating manuals - not the machine.  
48  
49

1 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – *Jim Carr, Parks and Recreation Director*

2

3 **1) Dredging of the River/Marina** – The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife is trying to remove a  
4 portion of the disposal site adjacent to Shollenberger as habitat for the salt water harvest mouse. City  
5 staff are negotiating with the Wildlife service and the Army Corps of Engineers.

6

7 **2) Capital Improvement Projects** – At their meeting of September 17, the City Council approved the  
8 list of maintenance projects that the Commission recommended to be funded with Proposition-40  
9 funds.

10

11 **3) Park Master Plan** – The joint meeting of the Recreation Commission, Youth Commission, and  
12 Teen Council to discuss the park master plan will take place at the Teen Center on June 24 at 7 p.m.

13

14 **4) Cavanagh Center** – Reported two incidents of break-ins and vandalism in the facility. Staff is  
15 considering installing motion detectors for security purposes.

16

17 **5) Graffiti Removal Program** – Ed Cerar who has done a remarkable job in Petaluma removing  
18 graffiti is setting up a volunteer program to remove graffiti in Novato.

19

20 **6) Partnership for Youth** – There is a competitive grant available in the Petaluma area for \$193,000  
21 to be used for construction purposes only. Today there was a meeting about the grant; and it was  
22 attended by Waugh School District, Old Adobe School District, Boys and Girls Club, Salvation Army,  
23 and the soccer organization. Letters of intent/commitment need to be submitted by October. One of  
24 the options that staff had discussed with the City Council is to work with the Boys and Girls Club to  
25 obtain some money to reopen the Lucchesi Clubhouse pool.

26

27 **ADJOURNMENT**

28

29 The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

30