

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC, AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Petaluma Campus, Santa Rosa Junior College (Library)
680 Sonoma Mountain Parkway
Petaluma, Ca 94954

Wednesday, July 16, 2003
7:00 P.M

Chair* McCoy

CALL TO ORDER:

- A. Present:** Members McCoy*, Tarr, Hagen, Kinsella, Nau, and Moynihan
Absent: Ramirez
Staff: Carr, Anchordoguy, Frank
City Council Members: Torliatt, Harris
City Manager: Bierman

B. Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Correction to Minutes of June 18, 2003: Page 3, line 6: **California State Coastal Conservancy to be changed to "Nature Conservancy"**
M/S/P Tarr / Moynihan to accept the minutes as corrected

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynn Cominsky, When the Gatti Nursery property is developed, recommend that the Urban Separator Path be continued.

Jerry Vance of United Flyers of Sonoma County, recommended the development of a Disc Golf Course, starting at the Gatti Park site and continuing down the Urban Separator. Chair McCoy suggested that Mr. Vance attend the August 20, 2003 Recreation, Music and Parks Commission meeting.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Two letters were received regarding the Gatti Park Public Meeting and were read publicly at that time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Gatti Park Site-Community Input

To accommodate the public who were in attendance for the Gatti Park site public meeting, Chair McCoy turned the meeting over to Director Carr. Carr gave a brief history of the Gatti Park site and the planning process to be followed. Commissioner Moynihan gave a brief history of the process to clear funding in order to move the park project forward. Carr then accepted public comment.

Public comments received:

- Would like to view the park as a “showplace”
- Include berms – located along the street side for sound & safety
- Time limits for daytime usage
- *Concern* about loitering
- *Concern* – Dogs in the park
- Need clean restrooms
- Aesthetics of park important
- Include redwood trees
- Good trees (no sycamores – messy)
- *Concern* – about losing open area with so many special interest activities
- Gazebo or similar structure for music programs (SRJC)
- Re-channel creek to give it wandering lines
- Access to creek
- High canopy trees above picnic areas for shade
- Picnic area near G&G shopping plaza to attract people to take their food into the park to enjoy
- Barbecue area
- *Concern* about BBQ’s – where the smoke blows (into neighborhoods)
- Drink Fountains – need separate for dogs and people
- Parking for regional draws (ball fields) oriented along Sonoma Mountain Parkway (concern about traffic)
- *Concern* - Parking
- *Concern* – parking on Casella Dr. (Capri Apartments)
- Significant playground area for all ages – themed, shaded, fenced
- Intense use and playground focused away from Sonoma Mountain Parkway
- Playground should be in close proximity to fields
- Playground: separation of toddler and older children’s structures, provide variety of activities
- Consider creating fenced area around playground
- Other playgrounds to look at: Pioneer Park (Novato), Super Park (Sebastopol)
- *Concern* about location of playfields, if there are lights close to Capri Apartments
- Lighted basketball courts
- *Concern* – location of playing fields on the property
- *Concern* – playing fields will bring noise and traffic
- *Concern* – will there be lights?
- *Concern* – availability of open space and picnic areas
- Youth baseball/softball – could also be multi-use for soccer
- *Concern* – difficulty sharing multi use fields
- Bocce Ball courts
- Tennis courts – four courts, agreement with SRJC to share usage
- Disc Golf – can use multi-use space, would be a youth recreation course, and would tie into other neighboring recreation areas
- Continuous pathway around the 7 acres

- Walking paths should be curving meandering
- Walking paths to continue through to new Junior High School

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resolution to support proposed Mitsui trail connector towards Jack London State Park from Lafferty Ranch.

Commissioner Hagen introduced a resolution that would encourage the City Council to pursue with the County of Sonoma and the State of California, an Over the Mountain Trail on Sonoma Mountain. Sonoma Mountain property owner Bonnie Mitsui had recently offered to give the State of California an easement across her mountain top property, which could connect Petaluma to Jack London State Park, on the condition that the State opens Lafferty Ranch as a public park.

Following discussion about the language of the proposed resolution, Mr. Hagen made a motion for approval of the recommended resolution. The motion died for lack of a second.

Following further discussion and changes made to the proposed resolution, a motion was made by Moynihan and seconded by Tarr to recommend to the City Council the revised resolution. The motion carried on a 5-1 vote, with Mr. Hagen dissenting.

Full text of the resolution revised and approved, is as follows:

Adopted Resolution of Petaluma Recreation, Music and Parks Commission July 16, 2003

Whereas a trail over the top of Sonoma Mountain connecting Petaluma to Jack London State Park was given the highest priority of all new trails by attendees of countywide public workshops for the Draft Sonoma County Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP); and

Whereas scientific opinion surveys conducted on behalf of the County for the ORP show the public's highest priorities for outdoor recreation are hiking and nature study within parks and natural open space, findings which coincide with statewide surveys also cited in the Draft ORP; and

Whereas, in a public opinion survey and community workshops sponsored by this Commission during the past year, Petaluma residents put high priority on the creation of more walking and hiking opportunities,; and

Whereas UGB prompted City-centered development and the growth of the high-technology industry in the South County, among other factors, will continue to increase the demand for accessible open space in the hills surrounding urban areas; and

Whereas the City of Petaluma has since 1959 owned the Lafferty Ranch property, 270 acres of land on Sonoma Mountain, the dominant landform in the South County, which offers the perennial Adobe Creek, deep canyons, oak-bay woodlands, broad rolling meadows, and panoramic vistas of the Petaluma Valley, the Bay Area, the North Coast, and the Pacific Ocean, and which has been a designated park site in the City's General Plan since 1962, and

Whereas the Petaluma City Council in 1996 enacted by unanimous vote Ordinance 2022, which sets the goal of creating a wilderness park on Lafferty consistent with the best management practices for public open space parks in the Bay Area; and

Whereas Sonoma Mountain property owner Bonnie Mitsui has recently offered to give the State of California an easement across her mountaintop property which would, with the cooperation of adjacent property owners, connect Petaluma to Jack London Park in an “Over the Mountain Trail”, on the condition that the State opens Lafferty as a public park; and

Whereas the State Parks Department places a high priority on acquisition of trail linkages between parks, both for recreation and wildlife corridors; and

Whereas connecting the two parks would allow the public to hike from Sonoma or Petaluma valleys across the top of Sonoma Mountain, opening a spectacular landscape for visual enjoyment, including oak and bay savanna, grassland, and the headwaters of three perennial streams; and

Whereas the panorama of the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco, the whole Bay east to Carquinez, the Maycamas, Mts. Hood, St. Helena and Konocti can all viewed from the Mitsui ranch, and the creation of an Over the Mountain Trail would allow Sonoma Mountain to join her Bay Area sister peaks-- Burdell, Tamalpais, San Bruno, Mission Peak, and Diablo-- in a Bay Area ring of mountaintops with public access, and

Be It Therefore Resolved that the Petaluma Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission urges the Petaluma City Council to 1) enact a Resolution supporting the creation of the Over the Mountain Trail 2) encourage the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to support this Over the Mountain Trail, and 3) begin a dialogue with the appropriate State and County agencies and elected officials toward that end.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

- John Kinsella** Bulletin board in Oak Hill Park will eventually need plastic cover; hold off for now. Community Garden is going well.
- Karen Nau** Mentioned letter to editor regarding the Petaluma Swim Center hours in the Spring. Carr mentioned that the pool does not start regular weekday hours until after school is out for the summer.
A Baby Grand Piano has been donated to the Petaluma Museum
The new garden behind the Petaluma Museum has been a huge success and will be the site for a number of upcoming community events.
The Skate Park looked OK
- Bryant Moynihan** Grant Park looks OK as does the Westridge Open Space
- Bruce Hagen** Putnam Plaza looked OK
- Marja Tarr** Casa del Oro has a new hole in the turf close to Sartori Drive.
McNear drinking fountain and fencing has been fixed; the turf looks yellow in spots. Mr. Anchordoguy mentioned that due to the hot weather, the irrigation coverage is stressed.
There appears to be mounds (ripples) in the synthetic turf at Lucchesi Park.
Possibly rolling the turf may remove the mounds.
In response to a question about when the bulletin boards would be installed, Mr. Anchordoguy indicated within 2 weeks.
The Polly Hannah Klaas fundraiser will be on August 9, 2003, at the Petaluma

Community Center.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Shollenberger Park trail expansion project will continue with the next month. The Calif. Conservation Corps will be installing the final bridge, repairing the boardwalk and installing signs. As part of a separate project, arrangements are being made to install the long awaited fishing pier.

The Petaluma Senior Center project is continuing. Architects and structural engineers are investigating the existing structure and plans as they prepare engineering documents for bidding purposes.

The Petaluma Marina Dredging Project is on hold while staff waits for the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Staff is calling on a weekly basis. Concern is raised due to the fishing window, which may preclude any work beyond October.

The McNear Peninsula project is continuing under the supervision of General Plan Director Pamela Tuft and Associate Planner Scott Duiven.

As part of a downtown redevelopment project, the historical carriage house located next to Fire Station Number One will be relocated to McNear Peninsula. This could be a nice classroom and museum space for future activities. Basin Properties will move the structure at no expense to the City. The Commission will review any and all plans for the future McNear Peninsula Park Project.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/P Hagen / Kinsella to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 PM