

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 20, 2004**

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

*7:00 p.m.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Hagen, Kinsella\*, Nau, Noriel Moynihan, Ramirez, Tarr

**Staff Present:** Carr, Anchordoguy, Stewart

**\*Chair**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Bryant Moynihan made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Marja Tarr.

**AYES: 5 ABSTEIN: 2**

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS –**

**Carr** - Ed Anchordoguy and he met with representatives of the Davidon Project. The area is located below Victoria, between Windsor Drive, and “D” Street. At a previous meeting, the Recreation Commission had requested that the area remain with the park designation per the General Plan, and there was only a very small park reflected in the plans. There are some restrictions that have been imposed by Fish and Wildlife and staff has asked for a report validation. Staff will be meeting with Community Development regarding the project and eventually will be presenting it back to the Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Update: Replacement fields for National Little League – Carr (Verbal)**
- Replacement Aquatics Facility – Carr (Verbal)**

**Carr** – Staff has been considering Petaluma Junior High School (PJHS) as one of the possible locations for the replacement of the National Little League fields. The City Council has requested that staff consider both locations on a parallel track.

Over the last two weeks, Carr and staff met with Pastor Zordel from the First Baptist Church, located on N. Webster Street about the possibility of using an access easement owned by PJHS as a two-way road to access the existing 33-vehicle parking lot and some adjacent land owned by the church. Staff discussed the possibility of the City expanding the parking lot and making it available for athletic field

1 users after field renovation. The little league and soccer schedules were also discussed. Pastor Zordel  
2 was in favor of staff's suggestions.  
3

4 Staff also met with Kenilworth School Principal Mr. Lehman, and Vice-Principal Mr. Hoppes, and  
5 discussed the possibility of utilizing the southern end of the area (closest to Western) for the placement  
6 of three little league fields (major, minor and mini) and mentioned the idea of the expanded parking  
7 lot. Mr. Lehman was very supportive of the idea and indicated that it could work for the benefit of the  
8 school district, as well as the community and little league. As the next step, school officials will be  
9 meeting with their PE staff and Asst. School Superintendent Mr. Bolman.  
10

11 The biggest concern raised by the school was the fact that little league would like to have two of the  
12 fields fenced. The City Manager and the Redevelopment Director are setting up a meeting with Mr.  
13 Bolman and Carr to discuss the possible school field renovation.  
14

15 Carr mentioned that it will be possible to accommodate the three fields at PJHS as requested by  
16 National Little League, with the exception of the 90' diamond. Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix,  
17 who typically schedules most of the fields, will be considering the resources available in the  
18 community, including Casa Grande, to ensure that the fields are utilized to their maximum. Carr  
19 discussed with staff the possibility of meeting with representatives of all the organizations and  
20 considering the existing resources available in the City and how could they best be used to meet  
21 everyone's needs.  
22

23 If McNear Park is an option, what is now the Varsity field, would probably be considered a major  
24 field, the softball field would be considered a minor field, and the mini field would be one of the areas  
25 by the Cavanagh Center. Staff's biggest concern is the impact to the neighborhood. Carr had asked  
26 staff to consider creating additional parking adjacent to the community garden.  
27

28 The renovation of either field will cost a substantial amount of money. At this time, the most  
29 important problem that needs to be resolved is the location, so that staff can start planning accordingly.  
30

31 **Bryant Moynihan** – Suggested that the 90' diamond be placed in the fairgrounds area.  
32

33 **Carr** – In discussion with Little League, their biggest concern is that the fairgrounds area may be a  
34 temporary location and since there is such a large investment in creating a field, they would like to get  
35 established in a permanent location.  
36

37 Carr commented that if either site works out, there would have to be meetings with the neighborhoods.  
38 In the case of PJHS, the school district has requested that the City explore the possibility of developing  
39 a track in addition to the turf. The idea is that it will help the school's PE programs and it would be an  
40 asset to the community. The field would be upgraded so that soccer can be played on the north end.  
41

42 John Kinsella opened the floor for public comment:  
43

44 **1) Rod Moore** – Chief sponsor of the Petaluma American Legion team - His suggestion is to leave  
45 McNear in place, continue with the Legion program, and let the Friends of McNear Park using private  
46 money, proceed with their program to restore the facility. Allow the senior league component of little  
47 leagues to use the field along with the Legion Program and have small children play at PJHS.  
48

1 **2) Troy Sanderson** – President of National Little League - The bottom line is that National is going to  
2 lose some fields. Members of the league have not had the opportunity to address some of the issues  
3 with Parks and Rec. staff, and they would like to explore some potential on both sites. The National  
4 Little League is getting concerned about timing and the fact that they are losing a 90’ diamond, no  
5 matter where they go. He asked for Commission’s for assistance to rebuild their baseball fields.  
6

7 **3) Lucille Harrison** – Asst. Administrator of Jr. League - Her concern is that many times children age  
8 13 and up are forgotten. There is no requirement of the league having to play within their boundaries.  
9 She would like Casa Grande to allow National Little League to use their field.  
10

11 **4) Don Armstrong** – Suggested building a 90’ diamond at the new Junior High School or at Valley  
12 Vista Elementary school.  
13

14 **Carr** – The athletic fields of the new Junior High are going on City property (Urban Separator) and is  
15 only 300’ wide, which is not large enough for the fields. As far as Valley Vista, the site was ruled out  
16 because the fields could not be clustered together.  
17

18 **5) Don DeYoung** – Has been on the board of directors of Petaluma National for 10 years. Would like  
19 to see the park at McNear. Presented concerns about traffic on Webster Street.  
20

21 **6) Mike Baddeley** – Suggested developing a sports complex on the McNear Park Peninsula or  
22 somewhere on the west side of town.  
23

24 **Carr** – The City owns about 10% of the Peninsula. Twenty six acres are owned by the McNear Trust,  
25 and 3-1/2 acres would be deeded to the City sometime in the future. The problem with that location is  
26 access. Carr presented concerns about different locations on the west side of town. Carr asked Mr.  
27 Baddeley to let staff know if he finds a location on the west side of town.  
28

29 **7) David Rabbit** – Member of the Board of the Petaluma National Little League - Supports using  
30 McNear Park for little league so that children can ride their bikes to the park.  
31

32 Following discussion, Carr indicated that in the near future the following steps will be taken:  
33

- 34 1) City staff will be having a joint meeting with the School District staff to try to obtain the  
35 approval regarding City use of the PJHS.
- 36 2) Staff will be meeting with various organizations to lay out the fields.
- 37 3) Staff will be presenting the Commission with a recommendation for approval.
- 38 4) Commission’s recommendation will be referred to the City Manager or presented to the City  
39 Council before proceeding. Carr will be discussing this step with the City Manager.  
40

41 Troy Sanderson asked staff about the possibility of attending the joint meeting between the City and  
42 the School District.  
43

44 **8) Dawn Montoya** – Presented concerns about timing.

45 **Carr** – Staff’s goal is to have a recommendation by the next Commission meeting.  
46

47 **9) Mark Nizibian** – Presented concerns regarding displacement of Petaluma Pop Warner Football and  
48 asked the Commission to address those concerns. There are about 200 kids that are going to be  
49 displaced and they won’t have a place to practice.

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**Marja Tarr** – Suggested that staff check on Casa Grande’s availability

**10) Rick Duarte** – Commented that fields at Casa Grande are not underutilized – The high school uses them extensively for their programs, which includes freshman, JB, and Varsity. They are also used by Valley, National, and American little leagues and adult baseball.

**Bruce Hagen** – Questioned the possibility of completing the field relocation in 10 months. Suggested that the City negotiate with Regency to hold onto National Little League fields longer. Staff needs to consider the impact of the entire sale of Kenilworth.

**Bryant Moynihan** – Suggested meeting with the fairboard to consider possible solutions.

**Update: Replacement Aquatic Facility –**

**Carr** – A few weeks ago, Don Phoenix and he met with aquatic consultants NTDSTICHLER and on October 18, staff and Commissioner Elaine Ramirez met with consultants a second time. The consultants brought with them their design, programming, and financial teams. Staff gave them ideas about potential locations for a new pool and discussed a timeline to hold public meetings. The entire swim community and general public will be invited to a series of fact finding informational meetings, so the consultants can get an idea of what people are looking for regarding aquatics. Carr felt that the meetings were very productive.

The City Manager has asked staff to obtain from the consultants an estimate cost to replace the pool. Carr indicated that he asked the consultants for costs on various options and the cost ranges between 8 million to replace the existing pool, up to 18 million for a two-pool enclosed facility.

**Elaine Ramirez** – The workshop will be primarily for swimmers that use the pool on ongoing basis and the general public. The first set of workshops will be conducted over two days and tentatively will be held on November 9 and 10. After the workshops, the consultants will be meeting with City staff. Elaine distributed a tentative workshop schedule.

The consultants talked about finding some sponsorship for the shortfalls if revenue cannot support the pool needs 100 percent. In addition, the consultants discussed a number of amenities for the new pool and costs.

**Carr** – Staff estimates that it will take about three years before the new pool is constructed. The City Manager is negotiating with Regency at this time and will consider all available options.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Petaluma Arts Council Proposed Public Art Ordinance and Promotion of the Arts within the Petaluma community. Slide show presentation – Alison Marks**

**Alison Marks** – At a previous meeting, the Arts Council made a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the inclusion of an arts and culture component in the Petaluma General Plan. As a follow up from that meeting, the Arts Council developed the Arts and Culture Guidelines which the Commission adopted and suggested that it be included in the Parks and Recreation portion of the General Plan.

1  
2 Last year, the Arts Council made a presentation to the City Council regarding the creation of a public  
3 arts program in Petaluma. Last February, the Arts Council appeared before the City Council and  
4 discussed why public art is so important to Petaluma and what it adds to the community. Council  
5 members and the City Manager were in favor of the idea of an arts program. She distributed a flyer  
6 entitled “Why Public Art?”  
7

8 Karen Peterson made a slide presentation regarding public art, installations, and projects from a  
9 number of cities that have a public arts program.  
10

11 Alison Marks commented that there is a great opportunity for Petaluma to be able to create an arts  
12 program that will contribute to Petaluma’s identity and livability, as well as boosting the economy  
13 through tourism.  
14

15 Planning Director Mike More has been working with the Arts Council on a proposed Public Arts  
16 Ordinance. The ordinance will be completed in the near future and it will be designed to provide a  
17 funding source for public art within the Petaluma community.  
18

19 Once the ordinance is approved, it will require that redevelopment and commercial projects spend a  
20 certain amount of money on the public art program. In order to administer the program, the Arts  
21 Council is trying to initiate a public arts committee or commission so they can develop a structure and  
22 procedure.  
23

24 In previous conversations, the Arts Council and the Recreation Commission discussed the possibility  
25 of changing the name of the Recreation, Music, and Parks Commission to Parks, Recreation, and  
26 Cultural Arts Commission so that there is some City structure that deals with cultural arts and public  
27 arts programs.  
28

29 The Arts Council will be presenting the City Council with a proposal and tonight they are asking for  
30 Commission’s support.  
31

32 Following a lengthy discussion, Marja Tarr moved that the Commission endorses and supports the  
33 concept of an ordinance for public art and encourages the creation of a separate entity in order to  
34 administer the program, with the possibility of a representative from the Recreation, Music, and Parks  
35 Commission sit on the committee. The motion was seconded by Elaine Ramirez, unanimously  
36 approved.  
37

38 Alison Marks indicated that the ordinance is almost completed and in order to get some feedback, she  
39 will be e-mailing it to all the Commissioners. She thanked the Commission for their support.  
40

## 41 **2. Bike Path/Pedestrian Path Standards and Construction Management** 42 **Presentation - Hagen** 43

44 **Bruce Hagen** – Reported on the installation of the first map kiosk on the Washington Creek Village  
45 Subdivision. There has been discussion about the idea of a non-profit group that will raise funds to  
46 support trails for hiking, walking, and help with maintenance costs. In order to start raising money to  
47 pay for the signs, a proposal will be presented to HC2 and other organizations. The project is  
48 proceeding.  
49

1 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

2  
3 **1) Bruce Hagen -**

4 • **Cavanagh Community Garden** – Requested a 1-foot wide barrier against the fence to prevent the  
5 Bermuda grass from the park to come through the fence and invade the garden.

6 • **Sidewalk** - Asked about the possibility of building an asphalt sidewalk between COTS and South  
7 City Market so people can walk safely in that area.

8 **Carr** – Will send a memo to public facilities.  
9

10 **2) Karen Nau -**

11 **a) Arroyo Park** – Received complaints from the neighbors that the playground has not been started.

12 **Carr** – The playground is in this year’s budget.  
13

14 **3) John Noriel** – All of his parks look good.  
15

16 **4) John Kinsella -**

17 **a. Cavanagh Community Garden** – Showed pictures of the community garden. The road base that  
18 was installed worked out well. The garden looks good.

19 **b. Oak Hill Park** – The park looks good. There was so much mulch from the trimming of the oak  
20 trees that was left in the park, that neighbors had to organize a team to help spread it out.

21 • Consistently, there is a great amount of debris left in the park after parties. He asked if there is a  
22 precedent of people paying a deposit and only getting reimbursed if the space is left clean.  
23

24 **Carr** – People only pay a deposit in the group picnic areas where they have to reserve them in  
25 advance. All of the other areas are on a first come, first serve basis.  
26

27 **5) Marja Tarr -**

28 **a.** All of her parks look fine.

29 **b.** Reminded the Commission about the proposed Toley Lake Regional Park meeting on Thursday  
30 evening from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. A buffet dinner will be provided and Commissioners need to RSVP if  
31 they wish to attend. She commented that it might be an opportunity to listen to what the proposed uses  
32 might be.  
33

34 **6) Elaine Ramirez -**

35 **a.** Was not able to visit her parks.

36 **b. Marina** – Looks fine.

37 **c. Aquatics Committee** – She is sending committee members e-mails regularly to make them feel that  
38 they are being included in the process regarding the pool relocation and their input is very much  
39 desired by this Commission and the City.  
40

41 **ADJOURNMENT** –

42  
43 Bruce Hagen moved, seconded by Marja Tarr, unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10  
44 p.m.  
45  
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48