

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, November 17, 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, Tarr

Commissioners Absent: Ramirez

Staff Present: Carr, Anchordoguy, Stewart

**Chair*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Page 6– Line 14, under Commissioners Reports – Correct his name: It should be Joe Noriel. Marja Tarr moved that the Commission approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Karen Nau, unanimously approved.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status Report: Program to replace Athletic Fields – Carr (Verbal)

Carr – The two sites being considered to replace the athletic fields at Kenilworth are: Petaluma Junior High School (PJHS) and McNear Park. Staff has submitted three grants to the State Parks under the 2002 Resources Bond Act Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program Grants.

The first grant submitted is to grade an existing swampy area at PJHS, provide drainage and develop 3 little league fields. City staff met with the Principal, Vice-Principal and Asst. School Superintendent and obtained their approval to submit the grant for the project.

Staff also met with Pastor Zordel from the First Baptist Church, located on No. Webster Street about the possibility of using an access easement owned by PJHS as two-way road to access the existing parking lot owned by the church. The project includes expansion of the existing parking lot. Staff's estimate to develop the project is 1.8 million dollars. Since the grant submitted is matching, it will cost the City approximately \$ 933,000.

The second grant submitted is for McNear Park. The proposal is to remove the backstop on the 90' baseball diamond and move the diamond back close to the grand stand. A major league field will have fencing around it, a minor field will also be developed, and the existing softball field will be the mini

1 field. The proposal includes development of a parking lot near the community garden to allow double-
2 loaded, perpendicular parking. In addition, some grading will be done and new irrigation. The total
3 amount for the project is 1 million dollars. \$500,000 will be granted by the State and \$500,000 will be
4 the City match.

5
6 The third grant submitted would be to do the lower half of PJHS only, clean up the baseball field, and
7 develop a softball field so it will have the same template as it exists at McNear Park.

8
9 Under this scenario, Asst. School Superintendent Steve Bolman indicated that he would meet half of
10 the City's match for any work that was done at PJHS. The match would be \$210,000 School District
11 and \$210,000 City and the balance would be provided by the State.

12
13 Carr mentioned that staff will be meeting with American Legion tomorrow, and eventually will hold
14 public meetings with the neighbors at McNear Park and PJHS. After obtaining public input the
15 Commission will be able to make a decision as to which location would be best for use by the National
16 Little League.

17
18 In regards to the time frame, Regency has requested that National Little League be off the fields by
19 September 2005. The City hopes to have the fields ready and operational by Spring 2006 when
20 National Little League needs to play ball. As soon as the site is identified, staff plans to hire an
21 architect in order to obtain some conceptual drawings.

22
23 As far as the grants, staff won't hear anything from the State until the Summer of 2005 and the money
24 will be available immediately. Within the current Capital Improvement budget, \$850,000 has been
25 identified for the Kenilworth replacement program as developer's contribution.

26
27 Bryant Moynihan indicated that he met with Brian Sobel, a member of the Fair Board, and discussed
28 the possibility of developing a 90' field at the fairgrounds site. Fair Board members asked Mr.
29 Moynihan to have a request submitted to the fair for consideration. Carr indicated that he will follow
30 up with a letter to Tawney Tesconi.

31
32 **2. Status Report: Public meetings to replace Aquatics Facility – Kinsella, Tarr, Carr**

33
34 **Carr** – Four public meetings were held. The first meeting was on Nov. 8, and it was for user groups
35 (swim teams exercise and competitive swimmers). The consultants mentioned that five possible
36 locations have been identified to replace the aquatics facility:

- 37 1. DSL (across from Petaluma Valley Hospital)
38 2. RESA
39 3. Lucchesi Park (a portion of the lake)
40 4. Lucchesi Park (in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club)
41 5. Casa Grande

42
43 Carr discussed other suggestions.

44
45 **John Kinsella** - On Nov. 9, he attended a workshop for City employees and a number of pool uses
46 and ideas were considered.

47
48 **Marja Tarr** - Attended two workshops – The first one was with the master swimmers. For the most
49 part, people seemed to agree on the concept of renovating the Boys and Girls Club indoor pool. The

1 idea was to extend it out further, so it becomes a larger facility that will serve the indoor needs of the
2 community. The outdoor pool would be a 50-meter pool which would also be located in Lucchesi Park
3 and be constructed where the lake is. There were a number of reasons why many people felt that
4 Lucchesi was a great location. The strong negative was the concern about increased amount of traffic.
5 People thought that the RESA site was too far out and they wanted to have something more in the hub.

6
7 At the second meeting, some retired citizens of Petaluma expressed desire to have the swim center
8 relocated to the outskirts of town. They felt that there will be less traffic, more parking, and the
9 location would provide another space to draw people outside the core of the City. The meetings were
10 very well handled.

11
12 Carr indicated that on Nov. 16, staff met with the Boys and Girls Club staff and board members. City
13 staff suggested renovating the B&G Club facility and extending it out into Lucchesi Park. B&G Club
14 board members are having a goal setting session the weekend of Nov. 20 and the topic of the pool will
15 be discussed.

16 17 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

18 19 **1) Bruce Hagen -**

20 **a. Petaluma Green Lane Organization** – Tonight was their first meeting and 18 people attended.
21 HC2 accepted them as one of their CAPS group. The main project of the organization is to develop
22 map kiosks. The first one was installed at the Washington Creek Village Subdivision. The High
23 School woodshop class is working on the second one. The cost is about \$300 a piece. In order to raise
24 funds, the group will be establishing an e-mail list and will try to do what they can to help the City
25 maintain the new trails and bike paths. Mr. Hagen encouraged Ed Anchordoguy to attend one of the
26 meetings. He distributed a map of bike paths throughout the City.

27 28 **2) Karen Nau -**

29 **a. Rocky Dog Park** – The holes on the fence behind the creek are enabling dogs to escape to
30 Shollenberger Park and chase the wild birds.

31 32 **3) Bryant Moynihan -**

33 **a. Rocky Dog Park** – Looks good.

- 34 • All of his other parks look fine.

35 **b. Dog Park at Industrial Avenue** – Noticed that the composite gravel parking lot needs some
36 repairs and that there is a homeless encampment near the site. With a fence around it, the site could act
37 as a small dog park. Suggested that the site be included as one of the facilities for Commissioners to
38 watch.

39 40 **4) Joe Noriel -**

41 **a.** All of his parks look good.

42 **b. Lucchesi Park** – Some of the trees that the Tree Advisory Committee planted around the soccer
43 area are leaning back and need some straightening up.

44 **c. The Tree Advisory Committee** – Is currently working on a Tree Ordinance.

45 46 **5) John Kinsella -**

47 **a. Cavanagh Community Garden** – Looks good after the clean up.

1 **b. Oak Hill Park** – Looks good - Staff has done a great job pruning the oak trees in the lower area,
2 and on the ornamental grasses in the upper area. There has been continued spray painting on some of
3 the park signs and cemented area. Weeds are getting out of hand near the playground.
4

5 **6) Marja Tarr -**

6 **a. Tennis Court Resurfacing** - Received positive comments about the tennis courts.

7 **b. Lucchesi Park** – Look fine.

8 **c. McNear Park** – Looks fine.

9 **d. Bond** – Looks fine.
10

11 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

12
13 **a. Gatti Park** - The project is ahead of schedule. Bart Ito, Project Manager from Gretchen McCann's
14 office is doing a great job overseeing the project. Carr believes that the project will be a nice addition
15 to the parks system.
16

17 **b. Senior Center** - The renovation project is proceeding. The roof is being installed and all the rooms
18 are being enlarged. The project may be completed by the end of January.

19 • Don Streeper has been hired as the new Senior Recreation Coordinator. He has about 30 years of
20 experience with Parks and Recreation. .
21

22 **c. Petaluma Blvd. South** – Complimented Commissioner Bruce Hagen for Petaluma Blvd. South
23 across from McNear Avenue. The walking surface area has been constructed and now is safer for
24 pedestrians.
25

26 **d. Playground Equipment at Walnut Park** – Staff has been removing the old playground equipment
27 at the park and the new equipment will be installed on November 22. Rotary will be paying for the
28 project.
29

30 **e. Youth Commission** - Tonight there is a special meeting held at the PCC. Diane Foster from
31 Routes for Youth has been invited to discuss the possibility of bringing Teen Court to Petaluma. Teen
32 Court is an excellent program that has been running for about 12 years in Santa Rosa.
33

34 **f. Graffiti** – Staff has taken some action regarding graffiti and is setting up a system of fines
35 according to the number of offenses. The Police Dept. has a strong graffiti removal ordinance that will
36 be presented to the City Council and the intent is to try to stop gang graffiti. On Nov. 20, an Eagle
37 Scout and a group of scouts will be cleaning up graffiti behind Al Stack's place on Hopper Avenue.
38 The police will be on site. Another area that needs graffiti removal is the Skate Park. Carr mentioned
39 to the police that once there is a new skate park, graffiti will not be allowed.
40

41 **g. Park Naming** – Carr asked the Commission to start thinking about suggestions to name the parks at
42 the following sites:

43 • McNear Peninsula

44 • Gatti Park

45 • Traditions Subdivision

46 • Turnbridge Subdivision

47 • Willow Glen Subdivision

48 • Rockridge Subdivision

1
2 Carr suggested forming a subcommittee to start the process. Joe Noriel, Marja Tarr, John Kinsella and
3 Karen Nau volunteered to be subcommittee members.
4

5 **ADJOURNMENT** -

6
7 It was moved by Karen Nau, seconded by Bryant Moynihan and unanimously approved to adjourn the
8 meeting at 8:45 p.m.
9

10 Carr thanked Bryant Moynihan for his contributions to the Parks and Recreation Department.

11
12 After the meeting, there was a small reception for new City Council elect Karen Nau.
13