

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

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

7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: Noriel

Staff Present: Carr, Anchordoguy, Stewart

**Chair*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *November 17, 2004*

Bruce Hagen moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Marja Tarr

AYES: 3 ABSTEIN: 2 ABSENT: 1

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Molly Schmies and Pam Perkins – 911 Garfield Drive – Both are tennis players and have some concerns regarding the use schedule for the tennis courts at Gatti Park. Ms. Pam Perkins asked if the SRJC will be contributing some funds to develop the tennis courts and inquired about their use schedule for the public courts.

Carr – The SRJC will be contributing \$253,000 to construct the tennis courts. They will be using the tennis courts and the athletic fields on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for school activities. The courts will be open for public use at all other times. The SRJC will be submitting a class schedule to staff each semester.

Pam Perkins - Commented that for the most part, tennis is played in the mornings and she believes that the tennis courts should be used by the public in the mornings and not exclusively by College students.

Molly Schmies – As a tennis player, she feels that the City does not meet her needs. She commented about different parks where tennis courts were supposed to be developed and the project was not realized. She also presented concerns about the condition of the Lucchesi Park tennis courts due to lack of maintenance.

Carr – Explained the reasons why tennis courts were not developed at Prince and Wiseman Parks and indicated that the Lucchesi Park tennis courts have just been resurfaced.

1 **Marja Tarr** – As a former tennis player, she understands some of the concerns presented. She
2 requested that staff ask the SRJC staff if for the first year, they could combine their classes from 8 a.m.
3 to 11 a.m. and free up the courts for public use after 11 a.m. She believes that it is going to take
4 sometime for the SRJC to obtain the required sign ups for tennis classes in Petaluma because this
5 would be the first time they are being offered.

6
7 **Carr** – Will be discussing Marja Tarr’s suggestion with the SRJC staff and asking them to submit a
8 class schedule and final agreement. The schedule of tennis classes will always be posted on the Gatti
9 Park tennis bulletin board.

10
11 As part of the reciprocal agreement with the SRJC, students will be using the tennis courts for classes
12 and the City will be using some of the school facilities for community activities.

13
14 **Pam Perkins** – Indicated that she has \$5,000 available from a USTA grant that comes up every year.
15 They offer up to \$10,000 for maintenance, which could be used for court maintenance or to fix the
16 bathrooms at Lucchesi. She volunteered to help with the paperwork to obtain the grant.

17
18 **2) Bill Phillips - 824 Blossom Court** - Re: Mannion Knolls Park, he understands that 8.38 acres of
19 the Magnolia site were designated for the park area. Since he was involved with the project for four
20 years, he knows that seniors and school students would use the exercise facility and the open trails that
21 will be developed on the site. He asked about the status of the project.

22
23 **Carr** – The developer of the Magnolia site will be building the park as per conditions of approval. The
24 Recreation Commission will conduct the public meeting which will take place in the latter part of
25 February. Landscape Architect Steve Arago will be the project architect. Carr will be inviting the
26 neighborhood (500’ radius) to attend the public meeting.

27
28 **OLD BUSINESS**

29
30 **1. Status Report regarding Replacement of Athletic Fields and Set a Public Meeting to Discuss**
31 **Fields for National Little League - Carr**

32
33 **Carr** – As mentioned at the last meeting, staff submitted 3 grants to the State. One was for McNear
34 Park renovation and the other two were for the Petaluma Junior High School (PJHS) renovation. The
35 State has contacted Carr and requested that staff supply them with environmental documentation.

36
37 Carr informed the State that the City would have to have public meetings to find out where the
38 National Little League will be relocating before he could send the required documents. Carr’s
39 recommendation is to schedule a public meeting in early February at the Cavanagh Center. Carr will be
40 preparing a staff report based on the information on the grant and recommending that McNear Park be
41 considered as the future home of National Little League.

42
43 The proposed use at McNear involves reconfiguring the large baseball diamond into a smaller major
44 league field; replacing the backstop nearest the Cavanagh pool with a new backstop and field located
45 further inside the park (minor league teams); and using the existing softball field for mini league
46 games. A parking lot adjacent to the Cavanagh pool and community garden is also being proposed.

47

1 The Community Development Department is hiring an environmental consultant who will do the full
2 EIR for the Kenilworth site. One of the components of the EIR is whether an alternative has been
3 developed for replacement of the athletic fields.
4

5 Carr recommended scheduling a public meeting in February at the Cavanagh Center. He will be
6 sending notices to the neighborhood and including a staff report.
7

8 Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Commission to schedule a meeting on
9 February 8th at 7 p.m. at the Cavanagh Center.
10

11 **Bruce Hagen** – Presented concerns about the impact on the McNear neighborhood if the National
12 Little League were to relocate at McNear Park. He recommended using Parcels B and C of the Corona
13 Reach property to develop the athletic fields and asked staff to include this item on the next
14 Commission’s agenda.
15

16 Following discussion, Bruce Hagen moved that the Commission form a sub-committee to explore the
17 possibilities of developing playing fields on parcels B and C of the Chelsea’s property and adjacent
18 lands and bring findings back to the February Commission meeting. Elaine Ramirez, seconded the
19 motion, unanimously approved.
20

21 Bruce Hagen, John Kinsella and Don Phoenix volunteered as sub-committee members.
22

23 Little League representatives, who were in attendance, commented that at the meeting on February 8th
24 there will be a number of issues and concerns that need to be addressed as far as finding a permanent
25 home for the league.
26

27 **2. Update regarding Consultant Study to Replace the Petaluma Swim Center - Carr** 28

29 **Carr** – On January 25, pool consultants NTDSTICHLER will give a progress report regarding their
30 findings to date. They will be discussing alternative realistic locations for the pool, which are Lucchesi
31 Park or the existing Kenilworth site location. They will also be providing ideas about costs, potential
32 uses, programs, etc.
33

34 At a prior public meeting, a suggestion was made to extend the Boys and Girls Club pool into the park,
35 build a therapeutic pool, and renovate the existing pool to make it more adaptable for a variety of uses.
36

37 Carr commented that there are still a number of questions that need to be answered involving financing
38 and a location. If the pool is going to be relocated at Lucchesi Park, there would be concerns that
39 would have to be addressed such as parking, access, proximity to residential streets, etc. On two
40 occasions, the Kenilworth developer Regency has indicated that they are not going to be funding the 8
41 million dollars that it cost to relocate the pool. Currently, the City Manager and City Council are
42 involved in negotiations.
43

44 Carr indicated that staff is concerned about time. NTDSTICHLER consultants have indicated that it is
45 a 3-year process to relocate the pool; a year to determine the aquatic needs and develop the conceptual
46 design, a year to design and engineer the facility and a year to build it.
47
48
49

1 **NEW BUSINESS**

2
3 **1) McNear Peninsula: Proposal to Create a Combination Agriculture and Maritime Museum -**

4
5 **Carr** – A few months ago, David Yearsley, the Petaluma Riverkeeper, approached staff and proposed
6 developing a combination Agricultural and Maritime Museum utilizing the Petaluma livery stable
7 which has been moved to the McNear Peninsula. The President of the Museum Association Susan
8 Villa and David Yearsley have been exploring the idea of developing a museum at the McNear
9 peninsula that will present the history of the Petaluma area.

10
11 Staff believes that this would be an excellent way to use the livery stable to further educate the public
12 about the history of Petaluma. The recommendation is to develop a sub-committee that could consider
13 developing a master plan for the use of the livery stable area and bring the plan back to the
14 Commission for consideration. As a follow up, the Commission can either make a recommendation to
15 the City Council if required, and/or authorize the next steps. Carr commented that he always
16 envisioned an interpretative aspect to the Peninsula.

17
18 **David Yearsley** – Outlined his proposal and indicated that in his letter included in the Commission’s
19 packet he mentioned that the original idea includes several related components:

- 20 1. Create a permanent exhibit of art and artifacts that relate to Petaluma’s maritime commercial
21 history and waterborne cultural heritage.
22 2. Establish a small boat center that would use traditional craft to teach historic skills including the
23 building and repair of traditional boats, small boat handling, backwater navigation, and sporting
24 heritage lore.
25 3. Include an environmental component that would inform people about the unique nature of tidal
26 sloughs and marshes; accenting Petaluma’s position as a gateway to and protector of our
27 watershed’s wetlands.

28
29 Mr. Yearsley indicated that he is very excited about the project and asked the Commission for support.

30
31 Commissioners spoke in favor of the project and commented that the river needs to be promoted.

32
33 Following discussion, David Yearsley indicated that there funds available for maritime projects and he
34 will be researching those grants. Another funding source is a cultural Heritage grant. He suggested
35 setting a non-profit organization under HC2.

36
37 **John Kinsella** – Staff has recommended that the Commission form a steering committee.

38
39 **Carr** – Suggested including Associate Planner Scott Duivan as a member of the subcommittee. Carr
40 would like him to be involved in this project since he is working with Pamela Tuft in implementing the
41 river plan and the parks masterplan, and also one staff member from Parks and Recreation.

42
43 Marja Tarr volunteered to be a sub-committee member and John Kinsella as alternate.

44
45 Marja Tarr moved that the Commission establish a steering committee comprised of David Yearsley,
46 Petaluma Riverkeeper, Susan Villa, Petaluma Museum Association President; Katherine Rinehart,
47 Historian; Andy Roger, Board of So.County Regional Parks Foundation; one member of the
48 Recreation, Music and Parks Commission; and one or two staff members appointed by the Director of
49 Parks and Recreation. The motion was seconded by Mike Harris, unanimously approved.

1
2 **Carr** – Will be notifying the members of the steering committee

3
4 **Elaine Ramirez** – Suggested a field trip to the McNear Peninsula and a river tour. The date will be set
5 at the February Commission’s meeting.

6
7 **Marja Tarr** - Asked that this item be included in the next agenda.

8
9 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

10
11 **1) Bruce Hagen** -

12 **a. Cavanagh Community Garden** – Requested:

13 · Some type of barrier along the edge of the garden to prevent the Bermuda grass from growing into
14 the garden.

15 **Carr** - Indicated that a parking lot may be constructed in that area, and at that time, staff will take care
16 of that concern.

17 · There is a need to have more road base on the driveway - He asked if the City has a source of
18 recycled road base.

19 **Ed Anchordoguy** – The City uses it, but currently, there is none available.

20 · The gate going into the community garden is leaning against an electric meter, and staff needs to
21 repair the gate..

22 **John Kinsella** – Spoke in favor of removing the gate.

23
24 **2. Elaine Ramirez** -

25 No comments on her parks.

26 · Asked if there was a dog park on Industrial Avenue.

27 **Carr** – Indicated that there is no dog park at that location.

28
29 **3. Mike Harris** - No report

30
31 **4. Marja Tarr** -

32 **a. Lucchesi Soccer Field** – It looks fine

33 **b. Lucchesi Tennis Courts** – Received complaints about the resurfacing of the tennis courts. Marja
34 Tarr visited the courts in December, prior to the rains, and found out that the resurfacing job was not
35 sufficient. There are divots and cracks all over the courts and she is wondering if something has
36 occurred after the courts were resurfaced.

37 **Carr** – Due to budget considerations, the City chose resurfacing the courts. Carr explained that the
38 City had three options regarding the courts: Resurface at \$6,400 pr court; do an asphalt overlay at
39 \$25,000 per court; do a total reconstruction at \$50,000-60,000 per court. Staff was aware that the
40 original cracks would reappear due to the wet weather and the movement of the adobe soil. Although
41 the cracks are showing, they still provide a smooth surface for play and there would be no water
42 penetration into the courts. Cosmetically they look bad, but the materials are performing as specified
43 per the manufacturer’s specifications. If during the winter time the courts start flaking, the contractor
44 will touch up the needed areas. Staff believes that the divots at the Lucchesi courts are caused by in-
45 line hockey as reflected by the black marks on the courts.

46
47 **Marja Tarr** –Would like to take hockey and soccer off the courts.

48
49 **Carr** – A staff goal is to provide alternative locations for in-line hockey.

- 1 **5. John Kinsella -**
2 **a. Sunrise Park** – Looks fine - The walkway pavement is very rough. He asked if the walkway was
3 going to be moved closer to the creek.
4 **b. Sunset Park** – The wooden encasement for the utility hookup is falling apart and needs to be
5 replaced.
6 **c. Oak Hill Park** –
7 · There is some graffiti by the playground area.
8 · There is a need to organize a group of volunteers to spread the oak chips.
9 **d. Community Garden at Cavanagh** – Last night, there was a kick off mandatory meeting attended
10 by about 60 people. The meeting was translated in Spanish. People provided great ideas about the
11 garden. There is great enthusiasm to do the mural on the wall in collaboration with the Boys and Girls
12 Club. All the plots have been taken.
13 Signs Design will do the welcoming signs with a composting explanation in English and Spanish.
14 This year, the community garden is scheduled to be included in the Petaluma garden tour.
15

16 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*

- 17 **1. Senior Center** – The project is proceeding - completion is scheduled at the end of February.
18 **2. Gatti Park** – The rain has slowed down the project. As soon as the rain stops, the contractor will
19 start installing above ground improvements.
20 **3. Playground at Walnut Park** – Has been installed and it looks very attractive. Rotary will be
21 funding the project.
22 **4. Budget Process** – The budget process will be starting soon - Carr would like to find out first, what
23 is going to happen with the pool and athletic field relocation.
24 **5. Arroyo Park** – The process to replace the playgrounds at Arroyo and McDowell Meadows will
25 start soon. Staff will be sending out a request for proposal to secure an architect.
26 **6. Willow Glen Park** – Carr will be sending out a request for proposal for the design of the Willow
27 Glen Park, which is slated for this year.
28 **7. Point Reyes Birds Observatory** – Will be moving to the vicinity of Shollenberger Park per David
29 Keller’s e-mail. This should be a big plus for the marsh area, which the City Council just purchased.
30 Trails are planned to be developed.
31 **8. Lacrosse** – Informed the Commission that Don Phoenix and Marja Tarr met with a representative
32 who is trying to start Lacrosse in the area. After the meeting, it seemed that Casa Grande would be the
33 ideal location for the game. On January 11th staff received e-mails from the Lacrosse team
34 representatives indicating that they are ready to start playing at Prince and Lucchesi Parks. Staff was
35 surprised about their assumption, since there are existing uses on both parks and they are at capacity.
36 As an option, staff suggested that they consider Wiseman Park and it seems that they are considering
37 using the park next year. Staff is trying to educate them that soccer, baseball, and softball are large in
38 this community and they use the fields to capacity. The Commission may be hearing about this in the
39 future.
40 **9. Shollenberger Park Docents** – Referred to Bob Dwyer’s report included in the Commission’s
41 packet regarding Shollenberger Park docents. Carr commented that he was very impressed with the
42 work they do, the number of tours with the schools, and the way they help maintain the park. They
43 received some money through a grant and purchased four tables from the probation camp to be used
44 for outdoor education - They are an excellent resource.
45

46 **ADJOURNMENT** –

47
48 Bruce Hagen moved, seconded by Marja Tarr and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at
49 9:30 p.m.