

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC, AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.

7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: Tarr

Staff Present: Carr, Anchordoguy, Phoenix

*Chair**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved by Elaine Ramirez that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Joe Noriel, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Marge Hodapp – 1100 F Street – Represents the McNear Neighborhood Association. She will be attending the Commission meetings on a regular basis so that the neighbors can stay informed about current park issues. Several years ago, the association negotiated some ground rules with the Parks and Recreation Dept. which were approved by the City Council. She asked that the Commission refer to the ground rules when making decisions about the ball fields or other issues regarding McNear Park. It is her understanding that all the permit holders are supposed to comply with the rules when using the fields. She asked staff to provide her with copies of ongoing field use schedules so she can share the information with the association.

2) Voorhees Mount – 900 F Street – Complained about problems that occurred while the athletic fields were being renovated. He believes that the renovation has not yet been completed, since the backstop still needs to be erected. Across the street from his house there is a pile of debris, which makes the park look like a construction site. In the future, he would like to work with the Commissioner in charge of watching McNear, so he can provide him with information and complaints regarding the park.

3) Harry Clifford – 101 8th Street – Spoke about a long-term plan for park needs.

Carr – Indicated that a Park Master Plan was being developed in concert with the General Plan; the plan is in draft form. The Commission has been working with the General Plan effort and the different athletic organizations while considering the future community needs.

1 **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

2
3 **Carr** – Received some e-mails regarding the item tonight of the Petaluma Junior High, which he
4 distributed to the Commission.

5
6 **OLD BUSINESS**

7
8 **1) Proposal Regarding the Renovation of the Petaluma Junior High School Athletic Field and**
9 **Seasonal Use by National Little League/Receive Public Comment - Carr**

10
11 **John Kinsella** – Indicated that the Commission will be taking some kind of action on this item at the
12 next month’s meeting.

13
14 **Carr** – Outlined the proposed project at Petaluma Junior High School. Following presentation, he
15 opened the floor for public comment:

16
17 **1) Kevin McMorrow - 851 Western Ave** – Intersection of Webster and Western is a traffic problem;
18 security and parking on Western Avenue are concerns.

19
20 **2) Stan Shook -750 Bantam Way** – He is happy with the renovation proposal; concerned about
21 traffic on Bantam. The school field is currently in a dangerous situation: there are problems with
22 bleachers, exposed rusted piping, trash and litter on the field. The worst violators are families and
23 children playing on the fields and leaving debris behind. Recommends teaching kids how to clean up
24 the field. Another concern is parking especially along Western.

25
26 **3) Chris Irvin – 857 “G” Street** – Believes Little League is a private club; suggests little league does
27 not have boundaries. Rincon Valley handles 3,000 players at one location. Suggests smaller little
28 leaguers play in neighborhood fields and the bigger ones in larger fields. He asked what is going to
29 happen to the people that will be displaced at Petaluma Junior High School.

30
31 **4) Jim Scagliolia - 1030 Western Avenue** – Lives on the southeast corner of the site. Asked who will
32 maintain fields at the Petaluma Junior High School. Presented concerns about parking on Western
33 Avenue; problems with rodents because of garbage. He is not happy with this proposal.

34
35 **5) Brian Crawford – 18 Townview Lane** - Lives in the Kingsville subdivision. His wife and he are
36 not opposed to the City fixing up the fields. Regarding parking lot: Webster congestion; suggested
37 looking at traffic circulation. Asked if a Ceqa analysis will take place.

38
39 **4) Steve Pallas – 529 Western Avenue** – Does not think that this is a very good plan. Suggested
40 central location i.e. factory outlet site.

41
42 **5) David Rabbitt – 428 11th Street** - Ages of little leaguers 6-12 years old. Each team has 12 to 13
43 players. When all three games are going on during the season, there are 72-79 kids on the field at one
44 time. It is important that the small kids play in neighborhood parks and schools – Draw from
45 population base of 20,000 people per league.

46
47 **6) Holly Butler – 30 Townview Lane** – Concern: “renegade” soccer league - From the noise
48 standpoint, a shrill whistle will go off every five seconds, and neighbors had to call the police a few
49 times. Because the houses in the subdivision are small, people went to their backyards to escape from

1 noise. Concerns: adult soccer leagues using the field, people using the path behind homes, issues with
2 trash. Does not feel the project is appropriate for amount of space available. Outlet mall good
3 suggestion. If project goes through, want to talk about mitigations. Suggested not having soccer if the
4 project happens.

5
6 **7) Gerald Hinten- 828Western Avenue** – Parking lot will increase drainage into properties at
7 Southeast corner - Believes that developers should pay for renovation.

8
9 **8) Joy Mettler - 19 Townview Lane** - Understands traffic concerns; not opposed to an alternative
10 site.

11
12 **9) Sandra Shand – 617 North Webster** – Presented a petition with 92 signatures. She indicated that:

- 13 · Neighbors strongly object to the proposal to transform the Junior High School into a 9-month per
- 14 year sports center.
- 15 · The proposal will drastically alter the residential neighborhood which is now relatively quiet after
- 16 school, on weekends and in the summer.
- 17 · There is concern that it will replace the current use of the field.
- 18 · Unsafe traffic congestion.
- 19 · Parking problems.
- 20 · Increased trash and noise on the field.
- 21 · Problems with drainage (culvert, ditch needs to be continually cleaned)
- 22 · Needs an appropriate site.

23
24 Ms. Shand believes that the proposed parking area will be creating a major drainage problem, so she
25 will be asking for an environmental report. The proposal will have a mayor detrimental impact on the
26 neighborhood’s quality of life. She is afraid that property values may be affected - Will be delivering
27 the proposal to City Hall tomorrow.

28
29 **10) Carol Harvey – 22 Townview Lane** - She wonders if there is a way to split up fields in three
30 different locations: McNear, Wilson, and Petaluma Junior High School, so that traffic impact is only
31 on a small area.

32
33 **11) Bob Raines – 907 Sonoma Ave** – He is the superintendent principal at Wilmar School. Concern
34 as resident: drainage. Wilson School raised about \$24,000 for field renovation. There is parking for
35 about 70 cars. The School board is willing to work (i.e. alternative fences).

36
37 **12) Mr. Harris** – Suggested a traffic and parking analysis on Western Street by next month, before
38 the Commission makes a recommendation to the City Council.

39
40 **John Kinsella** - Asked people to encourage neighbors to write or e-mail their input by next month. He
41 opened the floor for Commissioners comments:

42
43 **Bruce Hagen** – Suggested considering alternative pavement materials for the parking area, i.e. crushed
44 rock. Suggested signs posted at the site for next Commission meeting.

45
46 **Elaine Ramirez** – Thanked the neighbors for attending the meeting and providing input. She was not
47 aware about the water issues - She knows that there are some active springs in the ground. She invited
48 neighbors to continue in the process.

49

1 **John Kinsella** – Next month, the Commission will be considering a proposal and will be voting on it.
2 If a proposal is approved, a recommendation will be sent to the City Council. If the City Council
3 approves the proposal, there will be a public meeting to discuss the proposal design.
4

5 **Carr** – Next meeting is on April 20th at the Petaluma Community Center at 7 p.m. Staff will be
6 sending notices to the neighbors.
7

8 **NEW BUSINESS**
9

10 **1. Discussion Regarding Purchase of Parcel “C” of the Factory Outlet and use for Athletic**
11 **Fields – Kinsella/Hagen**
12

13 **Bruce Hagen** – The factory outlet (Chelsea) property is one of the alternate sites for little league as
14 well as other youth sports that are being displaced due to the sale of the Kenilworth site. Parcel “C” is
15 located on the north side of the property, and parcel “B” is on the south side. The Commission
16 entertains the thought of having one or both of those parcels as replacement areas for athletic fields.
17 Representatives of the Chelsea property and the City Manager will be negotiating the sale of parcel
18 “C” to the City for youth sports.
19

20 Staff has already started to make assessments on parcel “C” regarding feasibility, and considering how
21 to deal with flooding and drainage problems, field alignment, parking ingress and egress, etc.
22

23 The other part of the equation is to consider the use of the Chelsea property or other sites in the vicinity
24 to meet the needs of the community over the next 20 years. Parcel “B” has been suggested as an
25 option for expansion of playing fields for soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, rugby, as well as an
26 extension of the riparian area along the creek for parks and recreation, i.e. picnicking, kite flying,
27 frisbee and so on. The City Council voted 4 to 2 to ask Chelsea representatives to come back with a
28 proposal for parcel “B.”
29

30 **John Kinsella** – Requested that the engineers assess the fields for drainage and flooding. He would
31 like to understand the type of impact passive use would have; like hiking trails or access to the riparian
32 corridor, and economic consequences to use the space. It seems that it would provide 8-10 acres of
33 land for passive use. The Commission has been working on the parks master plan for the last 4 years,
34 and a great deal of data has been collected regarding the needs of the community. At the next meeting,
35 he would like to discuss what the needs of the community are going to be over the next 20 years in
36 terms of sports fields, and how parcels B or C of the Chelsea property or any other opportunities
37 dovetail into that.
38

39 **Carr** – If Parcel “C” comes on line, it will provide an opened turf area, and that will take care of the
40 needs of National Little League. Carr reminded the Commission that there is also the RESA site (26
41 acres) on East Washington Street. At the site, there is enough room for a couple of soccer fields, a
42 softball field, a 90’ diamond, motor cross, etc. He believes that the Commission could make a
43 recommendation to the City Council in order to take care of the community needs.
44

45 **Elaine Ramirez** – Asked if there is a deadline to include supplemental parks and recreation reports
46 into the general plan.
47

1 **Carr** – The park master plan is part of the general plan and should be completed in the next three to
2 four months. Also the youth master plan will be included, and the arts program as part of the park
3 master plan.
4

5 **2. Preliminary Capital Improvement Program for 2005-2006 - Carr**

6

7 **Carr** – Referred to a preliminary list of projects included in the Commission’s packet. The
8 Community Development Department is currently developing estimates for future residential
9 development projects (source for Park Development fees). Once he obtains the complete information,
10 he will be presenting it to the Commission.
11

12 Carr also referred to the attached 5-Yr. Capital Improvement Program, and indicated that he anticipates
13 continuing with the existing projects that have guaranteed source of funds. Staff is suggesting to
14 proceed with the following projects in 2005-2006:

15 Playground replacements required by law (ADA):

- 16 · Walnut Park - Has been completed
- 17 · Arroyo and McDowell Meadows - May be completed before the end of the fiscal year
- 18 · Grant, Miwok and Del Oro – Will be done next year.
- 19
- 20 · Turtle Creek - Staff hopes to hire an architect in the next four to six weeks to start doing a design, and
21 meeting with the neighbors. The project is pending on available funding to build the park next year.
- 22 · Aquatic Center and Skate Park replacement – These are the only two projects identified as developer
23 funded - There is no City funds for the projects at the present time.
- 24

25 Carr informed the Commission that about 20 years ago, the trees at Walnut Park were damaged due to
26 excessive pruning. Arborist Ed Anchordoguy has conducted investigations on the trees and found a
27 number of them are hollow inside. So far, two of the trees have been removed and 14 more trees will
28 be removed before the farmers market starts in May. In the long run, there is a need to replace a good
29 portion of the trees at Walnut Park (all the walnut trees) which will be a major impact to the
30 community and the park.
31

32 As the Commission will recall Rotary replaced the McNear Park playground. Originally, they wanted
33 to plant trees for the original 29 founders of the Rotary Club. Carr suggested to them that they plant
34 those trees at Walnut Park. Rotary just finished the playground renovation at Walnut.
35

36 Depending upon the funding levels, Carr is suggesting that that the Commission consider spending
37 monies on the renovation of Walnut Park, which is in the center of town.
38

39 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Spoke about the problems with the trees at Walnut Park and indicated that he will
40 be including with the next packet a memo which describes the whole situation and a map of trees that
41 are going to be removed.
42

43 **3. Commission Assignments**

44

45 Item will be revisited next month.
46
47
48
49

1 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

2
3 **1) Mike Harris** – No report regarding parks - In respect to Parcel “B” of the Chelsea Property from an
4 earlier question, the City Council does not have a timetable yet.

5 **a) Cultural Art Ordinance** – Representatives of the Cultural Arts Council will be presenting the
6 revised ordinance to the City Council next Monday night. The Council received an official letter from
7 the Chamber of Commerce endorsing the ordinance with a couple minor changes.
8

9 **2) Joe Noriel** - Parks are looking good.

10 **a) Lucchesi Park** – Referred to the art work on the structure at entry way to the Lynch Creek trail.
11 He will be speaking to the art community to find out if anyone will be interested in improving the art
12 work.

13 **Carr** – Explained that there are two structures, one is at the entry way of the Lynch Creek trail and the
14 other one is near the little league fields. The tiles were made by the school children at Bernard
15 Eldridge School.
16

17 **3) Bruce Hagen** -

18 **a) Wickersham** – The park looks good, but the pavement needs to be repaired.

19 **b) Westridge Open Space** – Some years ago as a school project, his son and other students planted
20 some trees in a triangular plot of land located in the Westridge Open Space. The trees died within 6
21 months and nothing was done about it. Since the area needs improvement, one of his neighbors is
22 interested in planting some trees.

23 **c) Community Garden** – Participants are doing a espalier fruit tree fence. Commented that he was
24 disappointed with Yarbbirds because they were rude and non-responsive to the community needs. On
25 the other hand, Home Depot donated materials and went out of their way to ensure that gardeners had
26 what they needed for the espalier fence.
27

28 **3) John Kinsella** -

29 **a) Community Garden at Cavanagh** – Participants are doing a great amount of work to get the
30 garden prepared for the Garden Tour. They are bringing in soil, planting roses, and redesigning part of
31 it. At the board meeting of March 21, they will be talking about the gate and other improvements they
32 want to do along the fence line.

33 **b) Oak Hill Park** – Looks pretty good - The weeds are out and the foxtails are about 1’ high. He does
34 not know when is the right time to do the mowing. Neighbors have not been able to spread the mulch.

35 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Staff will do the mowing when it dries up.

36 **c) Tennis** – At the last meeting, Loretta Conway from the US Tennis Association spoke and indicated
37 that there might be some funds available to do some work in the City courts. He asked if staff had
38 pursued the offer.

39 **Carr** – He contacted Ms. Conway last year - At the time, there were \$5,000 in allocations. Since the
40 City tennis courts had just been resurfaced, he was considering the possibility of pursuing those funds
41 to resurface some of the school courts.
42

43 **4) Elaine Ramirez** -

44 **a) Marina** – Last weekend, the Hawaiian paddlers had their big event at the Marina. Many people do
45 not realize how much the Marina is being utilized by kayakers and paddlers now that the weather is
46 changing - She is supporting kayaking as a recreational activity for Petaluma. She attended a business
47 luncheon at the Sheraton and was very pleased to hear that some of the employees enjoy very much
48 Shollenberger park and the walking path.

1 **b) Park Master Plan** - Last month, Elaine Ramirez met with with Marja Tarr and Terry Clifford, the
2 gentleman who spoke earlier, for about 2-1/2 hrs. Mr. Clifford would like to insert a document into the
3 Park Master Plan as part of the General Plan. In order to do that, he would like to meet with
4 representatives of all the sports organizations to talk about fields, multi-use, growth patterns, etc. Ms
5 Ramirez will have Mr. Clifford call Don Phoenix so they can set up a meeting.

6
7 **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS - Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation**

8
9 **a) Gatti Park** – Restroom is in place and the playground is about 60% complete. Today, some work
10 is being done on the ball fields. The project is proceeding.

11
12 **b) Senior Center** – Is about 95% complete. Fantastic renovation work. Senior Recreation
13 Coordinator Don Streeper will be moving into the facility at the end of March. A dedication is being
14 planned the latter part of April - The Commission will be invited.

15
16 **c) Marina** – The dredging project will start on July 1. The contractor will be moving the equipment
17 in by next week.

18
19 **d) Shollenberger** – Last weekend, the docents and the public conducted a clean up of the park,
20 working in concert with Ed Anchordoguy and his staff. They picked up debris from the end of the trail
21 by the Sheraton as well as from the main parking lot area. Ed Anchordoguy has been talking with staff
22 at Public Works regarding the possibility of expanding the parking lot at Shollenberger. There is
23 enough room to expand the parking lot and double the amount of parking spaces. This would be a
24 good addition to the park.

25
26 **f) Park Mowing** – Ed Anchordoguy's staff is trying to get the lawns mowed even though some areas
27 are very wet. Fields are heavily being used by little league. At Wiseman Park, Lacrosse used the field
28 and caused major damage on the turf. Little league, girls softball, and soccer, know not use the fields
29 when it rains until Ed Anchordoguy indicates they are available to use.

30
31 **ADJOURNMENT**

32
33 At 9:30 p.m. Mike Harris moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Elaine Ramirez,
34 unanimously accepted.

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2