

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

*Wednesday May 18, 2005*

Petaluma Community Center  
320 North McDowell Blvd.

*7:00 P.M.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

*Commissioners Present:* Ferguson, Hagen, Kinsella\*, Noriel,

Ramirez, Tarr

*Staff Present:* Carr, Anchordoguy, Phoenix

*Chair\**

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

It was moved by Marja Tarr, seconded by Mark Ferguson that the minutes be approved as submitted

**AYES: 6, ABSENT 1**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**1) Marge Hodapp** – 1100 F Street represents the McNear Park Neighborhood Association. Expressed concern regarding the enforcement of City Park Policies “City Wide.” Suggested a forum to enforce policies with consequences for those groups and individuals that choose to disregard park rules.

**2) Harry Clifford** – 101 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Spoke on behalf of lacrosse. There are currently four teams in Petaluma at present. Local teams attended a lacrosse tournament in the south bay involving a total of 58 teams.

**PETITONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. River View Park (Cobblestone Homes) – Carr**

Carr gave a background regarding the River View Project, mentioning that during the review process, a playground was required in the new subdivision. The developer has been working with staff regarding the design of a playground and the Commission was now being asked to provide comment with the proposed design. Carr introduced the developer Frank Denny, who gave an overview of the proposed playground that he is proposing to build. Mr. Denny reviewed the playground and mentioned that he was also installing a continuous irrigation system in the street to sidewalk planting panel and planting trees that he would maintain for a period of three years. Mr. Denny would also maintain the

1 park for a period of three years. As part of the process, he would make it clear to the adjacent church in  
2 writing that they would then be responsible for maintaining the trees.  
3 Following review of the playground and comments made by Commissioners, Mr. Denny agreed that a  
4 three tiered drinking fountain, trash cans and a bike rack would be added. Also, there would be a right  
5 of way path leading to the adjacent Lomas project.

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7 **MOTION MADE: Elaine Ramirez, SECONDED by Marja Tarr**

8 To approve the River View Playground as presented, with the addition of a three tiered drinking  
9 fountain, trash cans and a bike rack. Additionally, the developer is to maintain the park for a period of  
10 three years, as well as adjacent street trees which he will plant. After the maintenance period the  
11 adjacent church would be responsible to maintain the street trees from that point on. The Church will  
12 be notified of this condition in writing.

13 **AYES: 6 NOES: 0**

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15 **2. Mannion Knoll Park Presentation – Carr, Steve Arago**

16 Steve Arago of CSW/Stuber-Stroeh presented a conceptual design of the proposed Mannion Knoll  
17 Park based on prior input received from the community and the Commission. Some of the features that  
18 Mr. Arago pointed out include 6' trails throughout the project, all meeting ADA requirements; tot lot  
19 approximately 60' by 100', including benches and a drinking fountain; possibility of a board walk  
20 across the designated wetlands to complete the perimeter path system. Mr. Arago also recommended  
21 that the Tree Committee review the tree planting plan. In response to a public suggestion of planting  
22 ornamental trees with native species, Mr. Arago felt this was not a good idea.

23  
24 **Public Comment:**

25 **Scott Waterman, 1212 Kathleen Way** asked if the trails were bicycle friendly. Mr. Arago responded  
26 in the affirmative. Mr. Waterman then asked if the climbing wall can be vandalized, and if so, who  
27 would be responsible for maintaining it. Carr replied that it would be a City responsibility.

28 Mr. Waterman suggested going to service organizations regarding securing park benches, with  
29 dedication plaques used to commemorate donations.

30 **Bill Phillips, 824 Blossom Court** complimented Mr. Arago's design and Mr. Eric Keller of the  
31 O'Brien Group for taking an interest in the community.

32 **Marge Hodapp** 1100 "F" Street inquired if the park would be developed for public use and would  
33 parking be available? The answer was yes to both questions.

34 **Eric Keller** of the O'Brien Group (Developer of the project) suggested that the climbing wall be  
35 located closer to Magnolia Street or near the top of the knoll for better vandalism control.

36 Mr. Keller mentioned that the developer will be replacing 150 trees and be subject to \$178,000 in park  
37 development fees. Any park features beyond that amount would require additional park fees from the  
38 City. As a condition of the project, the developer will be constructing a concrete path to gain access to  
39 the detention basin. Also, a long term maintenance agreement is part of the project.

40 **Scott Waterman** suggested evergreen trees to reduce maintenance impacts for the Parks and  
41 Recreation Department. He also commended Bill Phillips for his tenacity in pursuing the park project.

42 **Ed Anchordoguy** suggested trash cans be located as close to the road as possible for ease of  
43 maintenance.

44 **Commissioners** applauded Mr. Arago's design and made the following suggests: place the rock wall  
45 at the top of the knoll; more benches; boardwalk across the wetlands to enable a loop trail around the  
46 park; bike racks at both entrances (top and bottom) to the park; wetlands delineated with fencing and  
47 signage.

48 **Bill Phillips** suggested that a land owner to the north may be willing to allow passage across his land  
49 for continuation of the bike path towards Petaluma Blvd., if the City would provide a water hookup.

1 **Scott Waterman** volunteered to solicit services clubs for park bench donations.

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3 The Commission agreed to hold a special meeting on June 8, 2005, to review a revised conceptual plan  
4 by Mr. Arago, based on comments made by the Commission and the public. The meeting will be held  
5 at the Petaluma Community Center at 7 PM.

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7 **3. Lomas Development Review – Steve Arago, Carr**

8 Mr. Arago presented the latest plan for the Lomas Subdivision. Commissioners expressed approval of  
9 the Lomas project as presented by Mr. Arago. Following discussion about public access which will be  
10 allowed to the small pocket parks but not to the proposed swimming pool, the following action was  
11 taken:

12 **MOTION MADE: Marja Tarr, SECONDED by: Elaine Ramirez**

13 Encourage the Developer of the Lomas Project to allow public the same access to the swimming pool  
14 as is recommended for the four pocket parks.

15 **AYES 6 NOES 0**

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18 **NEW BUSINESS**

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20 **1. Future Community Athletic Field Needs - Tarr**

21 Commissioners discussed the public process of working with local sports organizations regarding  
22 current and future needs. The suggestion was made to educate the sports organizations regarding such  
23 limiting factors as City Limits and the Urban Growth Boundary, land availability and the types of  
24 fields needed. It was mentioned that Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix meets with most sports  
25 organizations each January regarding field usage. This may be a good forum to start the discussion.  
26 Mr. Harry Clifford suggested charging a user fee similar to that of City's in Marin County.  
27 Commissioners agreed to discuss this item further in the future.

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30 **2. Park Naming for the McNear Peninsula - Carr**

31 Following Commissioner discussion regarding the staff report and recommendation, the following  
32 action was taken:

33 **MOTION MADE: Bruce Hagen; SECONDED by: Marja Tarr**

34 To name the McNear Peninsula park site "Steamer Landing Park, and encourage staff and the City to  
35 work with residents Joe Mauro and Chip McAuley to create a fitting memorial for Bill Soberanes in  
36 the downtown area of the City.

37 **AYES: 6; NOES 0**

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39 **3. Commission Assignments**

40 **(This item was deferred to another meeting.)**

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43 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

44 Bruce Hagen: Today the pedestrian / bicycle bridge and East Washington Bike Trail were dedicated.  
45 Suggested that a "no parking" sign is needed at the community garden at McNear Park.

46

47 Marja Tarr: Casa Del Oro and McNear tennis court surfaces are showing some repeat cracking. The  
48 playground equipment needs to be replaced at Del Oro Park.

1 Carr mentioned that the Tennis Resurfacing Contractor will be doing repairs over the next few weeks  
2 under the supervision of Don Phoenix. The playground will be replaced as part of the CIP program.  
3  
4 Mark Ferguson: There is a broken wooden bollard at Del Oro Park. Mark and another neighbor gave a  
5 presentation regarding the proposed improvements along Adobe Creek. The Sonoma County Water  
6 Agency is currently constructing a maintenance road along Adobe Creek, using a quarry fines surface.  
7  
8 Joe Noriel: Suggested removing the Lynch Creek trail gazebo's in Lucchesi Park. He has seen quite a  
9 bit of illegal activity at these congregating points.  
10 The Tree Committee met at Walnut Park to review the removal of dangerous trees. The committee will  
11 be working with staff to develop a replanting plan. Suggested an article in the Argus Courier regarding  
12 the memorials at Walnut Park regarding fallen veterans.  
13  
14 John Kinsella: Oakhill Park looks good, but there is some graffiti on the tot area concrete. The McNear  
15 Park Community Garden is on the upcoming Garden Tour. The Garden is really looking great.  
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17 Elaine Ramirez: mentioned that due to business conflicts, she will not be able to reapply for another  
18 term on the Commission. Commissioners and staff expressed their regret at losing a Commissioner of  
19 the caliber of Elaine.

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21 **ADJOURNMENT**

22 **MOTION MADE: Marja Tarr; SECONDED by Elaine Ramirez**

23 To adjourn the meeting

24 **AYES 6; NOES 0**

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