

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

**Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.**

7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Ferguson, Kinsella*, Tarr, Noriel, Harris

Commissioners Absent: Hagen, Ramirez

Staff Present: Carr, Anchordoguy, Stewart

Chair*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 18, 2005 and June 8, 2005

It was moved by Marja Tarr, seconded by Joe Noriel to approve the minutes as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin McDonnell – 311 Howard Street - PYSL – Thanked the Commission for all that they have done for the Petaluma citizens i.e. bike paths, Shollenberger expansion, etc. Presented concerns about the critical need for soccer fields. The lost fields at the Kenilworth site has created an increased use and maintenance requirement for other fields in town. It is important to have this considered in the EIR.

He is hoping that RESA and PYSL could work together in order to increase the soccer use at the RESA complex. In its original configuration the facility had some soccer space but not enough to satisfy the soccer needs.

Carr - The Commission envisions Redwood Empire Sportsplex (RESA) as taking care of the current and future athletic field needs. If for some reason Marty Hronec's plans should not happen, the 26-acre site would more than double the amount of existent community fields. The Commission had suggested waiting until fall to see what happens with the RESA project.

Carr commented that the City is restricted by the urban growth boundaries, the availability of flat land and financing. As far as park development fees, they cannot be used outside the City limits per City code. The athletic organizations are demanding more facilities and they re not aware of the limitations that this community is facing. An education process needs to take place.

Carr indicated that Marty Hronec has requested to appear before the Commission in July to present a new proposal for RESA. Kevin McDonnell mentioned that at that meeting, he also plans to present a proposal.

1 Carr – Introduced Kyle Janzen, a Recreation intern from Western Washington University who will be
2 working with Recreation Supervisors and Coordinators through August 26, 2005.

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4 Bruce Hagen and Elaine Ramirez will be attending the Commission meeting in July. At that time, Bruce
5 Hagen will be making a presentation about Lafferty Ranch.

6
7 **OLD BUSINESS**

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9 **1. Naming of the Gatti Park Site - Carr**

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11 Carr – For Commission’s consideration, he has included in the Commission packet, the City’s park
12 naming policy and an article from the Argus Courier dated October 20th written by columnist Don Bennett
13 regarding the process of naming parks.

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15 Staff has been considering names that would be representative of the area. Carr had conversations with
16 old time Petalumans and asked them about the distinguishing features of the property. They indicated that
17 the area was non-descript and did not have an interesting history. A staff member has indicated that one
18 of the interpretations of the word Petaluma is “Little Hills.” Carr and Lucy Kordum from the Petaluma
19 Historical Museum had conversations about the name.

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21 Carr mentioned that the Commission has an opportunity here to make a real impact in the community.
22 Staff would like to dedicate the park with a name and a sign. As far as the timeline, the park could be
23 ready the end of July or early August. His idea is to open up a portion of the park and keep the ball fields
24 closed to ensure that the fields are well-established. Carr opened the floor for any ideas the Commission
25 may have regarding names or park naming process.

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27 **Joe Noriel** - Commented that this community has a great amount of history. Parks are generally named
28 after proper names such as McNear, Wickersham, etc. or after streets. “Little Hills” is a popular
29 interpretation of Petaluma. He suggested naming the park “Leghorn(s)” He thinks that the poultry
30 industry is under represented in Petaluma. The egg basket history is definitely a significant part of
31 Petaluma.

32
33 **Mike Harris** – Suggested coming up with an over-reaching name for the park and finding names for
34 individual structures within the park.

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36 **John Kinsella** – Suggested naming the park “Sonoma Mountain Park”

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38 **Mark Ferguson** - Suggested opening up to the public for suggestions and creating a subcommittee to
39 discuss the ideas presented before Commission’s approval.

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41 Following discussion, Carr suggested going through a public process and developing a criteria. The
42 public could be approached via local newspapers and given a deadline to submit their applications. First,
43 there will be a semi-dedication of the park, and when the ball fields are ready a formal dedication will
44 take place with a park sign.

- 45
46 Park Naming Process Timeline:
47 . Public suggestions due in July
48 . Subcommittee report to the Commission in August
49 . Recommendation to the City Council for approval in September
50 . Formal park dedication in October.

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Ed Anchordoguy - If the Commission obtains a number of names, they may be able to use some of the suggestions to name other parks in the following subdivisions: Turnbridge, Rockridge, West Haven, Southgate and Riverview.

Following discussion, Carr indicated that he will be reviewing the process and criteria that staff used for naming Mannion Knolls. He suggested that the Commission review the set of rules in the next two weeks, send a response back to him, and then it will be sent out to the public through the press.

Marja Tarr – Suggested that the presentation of the proposal to the Commission take place after the July meeting. After reviewing the applications, the Commission could decide at the August meeting, and make a recommendation to the City Council shortly after that.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS -

1. Mike Harris -

a. Putnam Plaza - There is a restaurant at the Plaza that will be offering jazz music on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer - The idea is to encourage more use and discourage disruptive activity.

2. Mark Ferguson -

a. Adobe Creek – He along with some neighbors, would like to present a proposal to the Recreation Commission and Bicycle Committee regarding the opening up of the area so that there is formal access for a bicycle trail. Suggested placing this item on a future agenda.

3. Marja Tarr -

a. Wiseman Park – There is standing water at the South end of the North field and at the North end of the South field. Noticed that the fields are buckling up and asked if they can be rolled in order to make them flatter - The sod is in bad condition.

Ed Anchordoguy – Staff will be taking care of the problems by next week.

b. Casa del Oro - Field is fine, tennis courts look clean, some flats are still missing from the fence. She is concerned that there is a gate open on the left side of Adobe Creek.

Mark Ferguson – Over the last six months, this is the second time that somebody has cut the locks. He will be calling the Sonoma Water Agency to take care of the problem.

c. McNear Park – There is graffiti on back and inside the grand stand and on the Millenium Arch. The Cavanagh community garden looks wonderful.

d. Swim Center - A great number of children were taking swimming lessons and having a great time.

e. Gatti Park - Commented on the height of the backstops and tennis courts surface.

4. John Kinsella -

a. Oak Hill Park – Looks very attractive - There is graffiti on the cement by the playground and the glass is missing from the bulletin board.

b. Sunrise Park – Needs to be mowed.

c. Cavanagh Garden – Looks great - It showed very good on the Garden Tour.

d. Arts Council - Is interested in being a Recreation Commission liaison to the Arts Council.

Carr – This item will be discussed at the next meeting when new Commissioners are appointed.

5. Joe Noriel -

a. Shollenberger Park – Asked about the parking lot expansion.

Carr – There are plans to do some additional paving next to the retaining wall in order to expand the parking lot.

- 1 **b. Lucchesi Park** – Suggested installing dispensers for dog waste at the North end of the park.
2 . **Disc Golf** – Very popular activity.
3 **Carr** – Staff would like to build a disc golf facility on a larger site.

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

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7 **1) Petaluma Junior High School** - The City Council approved the site designation for National Little
8 League relocation. Carr commented that staff will obtain a written proposal from the firm handling
9 Regency’s EIR to handle the Petaluma Junior High School from beginning to end, i.e. public process,
10 environmental work, and design.

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12 **2) Gatti Park Project** – The project is proceeding.

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14 **3) Senior Center** – The project is finished - There was a dedication on May 26, 2005.

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16 **4) Petaluma Marina** – Dredging will start after July 1, 2005.

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18 **5) Water Department** – The City Manager wants the Water Department staff to move out of City Hall
19 and into their new building on North McDowell near the Senior Center. The Water Department is
20 proposing to expand the seniors’ parking lot to accommodate their staff; consequently, the two proposed
21 bocce ball courts will be relocated to the front of the Senior Center. Carr will be meeting with the Senior
22 Advisory Committee to make them aware of the situation and obtain their approval.

23
24 **6) Putnam Park** – Artist Nuala Creed submitted a grant to do some mosaic work at the base of the
25 gazebo going into the park and inside the park area. Ms Creed works with a school that deals with the
26 developmentally disabled children.

27
28 **7) Petaluma Community Center** – Last Sunday night, the community center was broken into and some
29 computers and a lap top were stolen.

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31 **8) Shollenberger Park** – On June 14, there was a pre-bid meeting on site for the fishing pier -The
32 meeting was well represented. This is part of the original agreement with the County of Sonoma. The
33 project will range approximately between \$80,000 to \$90,000. Additional park fees will probably have to
34 be used for the project. \$95,000 have been budgeted for the project, but part of the money is going to be
35 used for the parking lot expansion.

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37 **9) Lucchesi Park** – At a previous meeting, Joe Noriel had mentioned some drug use and illegal activities
38 at the park - the police has been made aware of that issue. Carr is a member of a South County Task
39 Force who is considering alcohol binging, use and abuse, especially by young people. Staff is considering
40 alcohol policies for the Petaluma Community Center. Staff also will be considering the possibility of
41 having licensed caterers only serve alcohol at the events.

42
43 **10) Graffiti** – Lately, staff has seen an influx of graffiti in the community and some of it is gang related.
44 Ed Cerar is instrumental as far as removing graffiti from many of the sound walls. Currently, there are
45 two sound walls that have been tagged; Traditions Subdivision and East Washington Street.

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47 **ADJOURNMENT**

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49 Mike Harris moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:32 p.m., Marja Tarr seconded, unanimously
50 approved.

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