

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC, AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Petaluma Community Center

7:05 p.m.

320 North McDowell Blvd.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Baddeley, Ferguson, Kinsella*, Noriel, Yearsley

Commissioners Absent: Tarr, Harris

Staff Present: Carr, Anchordoguy, Stewart

Chair*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 22, 2005

It was moved by John Kinsella and Mark Ferguson, seconded by Joe Noriel, unanimously accepted to approve the minutes as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Former Commissioner Elaine Ramirez -

a. Gatti Park - Reported that although Gatti Park has not yet been opened for public use, she visited the site and noticed that three teenage boys were vandalizing some of the structures and riding mini-motorcycles around the park. Since they did not pay any attention when they were asked to leave, she called the police, but was not pleased with their response.

Carr – In order to complete the project as scheduled, North Bay Construction staff will be working on weekends and keeping an eye on the site.

b. Petaluma Marina – It was very exciting to see 40 to 50 kayaks and canoes on the Petaluma river last week. She would like to see a launching site being built when the Steamer Landing Park is finished.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1. Acknowledgement for Outgoing Commissioners Elaine Ramirez and Bruce Hagen - Carr

Carr – Gave an overview of the projects in which Commissioners Hagen and Ramirez had participated in their particular terms. As a token of appreciation, Carr handed Bruce Hagen and Elaine Ramirez an individualized recognition plaque. There was a coffee break and cake in honor of both Commissioners.

Bruce Hagen – Commented that spending eight years with the Commission has been a great experience. Thanked staff for all the support and work done on behalf of the community.

1 **Elaine Ramirez** – Indicated that participating in the Commission for the last four years has been a
2 very rewarding and gratifying experience.

3
4 **John Kinsella** – Thanked both Commissioners for their participation and commitment as members of
5 the Commission and invited them to come back to any of the future meetings.

6
7 **2. Overview of Lafferty Ranch History – Hagen**

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9 **Bruce Hagen** – Gave a presentation of the history of Lafferty Park. Following presentation, he
10 encouraged the Commission to reaffirm the community commitment to having a park on the mountain
11 top and to taking advantage of every opportunity to give children a chance to enjoy wild nature. He
12 suggested asking the City Council members and County supervisors whenever possible, to remove the
13 roadblocks and stop insisting on AASHTO standards for Sonoma Mountain Road, and taking a more
14 aggressive approach to the right of way. He believes that this is a difficult task, but encouraged the
15 Commission not to give up. He commented that he is writing a book about Lafferty.

16
17 **Mark Ferguson** – Thanked Bruce Hagen for his efforts and for doing an excellent job.

18
19 **NEW BUSINESS**

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21 **2. Orientation/Department Overview for Commissioners - Carr**

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23 **Carr** – Welcomed the two newly appointed Recreation Commissioners, Mike Baddeley and David
24 Yearsley. Carr mentioned that the City of Petaluma is going through some major changes and the
25 Commission will play an integral part in the City’s transformation. Some of the items facing the
26 Commission are: The renovation and/or relocation of the Petaluma Swim Center, relocation of the
27 Skate Park and existing athletic fields, and the development of new facilities.

28
29 In addition, there is the challenge of meeting a number of expressed needs from the community while
30 facing the reality of limited amount of resources to provide and maintain expanding programs and
31 facilities.

32
33 In order to assist the Commission, he has included the following documents in the Commission’s
34 packet:

- 35 · Copy of the Parks and Recreation element of the current General Plan.
36 · Draft of the Existing Conditions for Parks and Recreation, in preparation of the new General Plan.
37 · The Petaluma Municipal Code establishing the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission
38 · Orientation regarding being a commissioner: “What did you get yourself into?”
39 · Department organizational chart

40
41 Carr gave an overview of the contents of the documents, the history of the Parks and Recreation
42 Department, explained the organizational chart, described the Parks and Recreation staff’s areas of
43 responsibilities, and presented future projects and challenges.

44
45 **John Kinsella** – Asked if Pamela Tuft could be scheduled at a future meeting to make a presentation
46 regarding the park element of the General Plan.

47
48
49

1 **1. Appointment of Commissioners to Committees/Park Watch Assignments**

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3 **a) Appointment of Commissioners to Committees:**

- 4
- 5 **Bicycle Committee:** Marja Tarr
- 6 **Cultural Arts:** Staff will find out if committee is still active
- 7 **Museum:** David Yearsley
- 8 **Senior Advisory Committee:** Recreation Supv. Jan Mandrell will periodically give a report
- 9 regarding senior activities
- 10 **Tree Advisory Committee:** Joe Noriel – *Alternate:* Marja Tarr
- 11 **Aquatics Advisory Committee:** Mark Ferguson - *Alternate:* Michael Baddeley
- 12 **Petaluma Arts Council:** John Kinsella - *Alternate:* Mark Ferguson

13
14 **b) Park Watch Assignments** – Was postponed until next meeting.

15
16 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

17
18 **1) John Kinsella –**

19 **a. Swim Center** – Commended swim center staff for the level of hospitality, quality of education, and
20 cleanliness of the pool - The pool is a great resource and is being heavily used.

21
22 **b. Oak Hill Park** – Looks good - Noticed that there is tagging on the upper section - The old tags are
23 being replaced by spray paint scribbles on the lower wall and the play structures have felt pen
24 markings.

25
26 **c. Cavanagh Center –**

27 . **Pool** – The Cavanagh pool is running well.

28 . **Community Garden** – The garden site is very attractive. There are a number of e-mails being
29 circulated around gardeners about spraying and herbicides in the parks and the impact that they
30 might have on pregnant women and children. Most people are misinformed about the true
31 dangers and real issues. The City often places warning signs asking people to keep off due to
32 spraying. He asked staff if there are policies established or information available.

33 **Ed Anchordoguy** – An Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) for the City has been adopted
34 by the City Council.

35 **John Kinsella** – Asked Ed to give a presentation about the IPM program at one of the Commission’s
36 meetings.

37
38 **2) Mark Ferguson -**

39 **a. Graffiti** – Will be meeting with Ed Cerar regarding graffiti around his neighborhood. He will be
40 storing paint in his house to cover graffiti.

41
42 **b. Del Oro Park and Adobe Creek** – Was able to get the fence locked back again. Met with the
43 management staff of the Lakeville apartments regarding the Adobe Creek trail and they were in favor
44 of the possibility of opening it up. Mark Ferguson mentioned that he would like to include the Adobe
45 Creek project on a future agenda.

46
47 **Carr** – Suggested preparing a proposal for Commission’s presentation.

1 **3) David Yearsley** –
2 **a. Petaluma River** – Spends a lot of time at the river and one of his goals is to advocate for more
3 access to the river.
4

5 **4) Joe Noriel** –
6 **a. Movies at the Park** – Had a chance to attend the movies at McNear Park and thought it was great
7 event. Commented that this is a great resource for the City.
8

9 **b. Lucchesi Park** – Feels that the park is under-appreciated in some ways, but not under-utilized.
10 There is graffiti on the trash cans, the tables and benches in the barbecue area are in bad condition and
11 need to be painted, and the barbecue pits need to be cleaned. Suggested asking a non-profit
12 organization to invest some time working on the park. He volunteered his time to take care of what
13 needs to be done.
14

15 **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS** - *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*
16

17 **1. Gatti Park** – Pressure testing of the irrigation system will start, followed by sod installation. The
18 park construction will be completed at the beginning of September and then the maintenance period
19 will start.
20

21 **2. Marina** – Dredging may start next week. The spoils will go into a detention area adjacent to
22 Shollenberger Park.
23

24 **3. Request for Proposals (RFP's)** – Will be sending an RFP for the Willow Glen Park/Turtle Creek
25 Park along Lynch Creek. An architect will be hired to start the design. There will be public meetings
26 in order to obtain community input.
27

28 **4. Playgrounds** – In order to bring the play equipment up to code, staff will be sending an RFP for the
29 playgrounds at Arroyo, McDowell Meadows, Miwok, Casa del Oro and Grant Parks.
30

31 **5. Wiseman Park** - \$80,000 have been budgeted to build a unisex restroom at Wiseman Park similar
32 to the one at Shollenberger Park. A security service will be contracted to lock the restroom at 10 p.m.
33 A letter will be mailed to the neighbors to inform them about the new restroom and its location.
34

35 **ADJOURNMENT** –
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37 It was moved by David Yearsley, seconded by Joe Noriel, unanimously approved to adjourn the
38 meeting at 10 p.m.
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