

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.

Wednesday, September 21, 2005
7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: **Baddeley, Ferguson, Harris, Kinsella*, Noriel, Tarr, Yearsley**
Staff Present: **Carr, Stewart**

Chair*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 20, 2005

It was moved by Mark Ferguson that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Joe Noriel.

AYES: 5 ABSTEIN: 2 ABSENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1. Verbal Update: Fox Hollow Park Site Consultant Interviews and Recommendation to the City Council – Carr

Carr – Request for Proposals (RFP’s) for the Fox Hollow 4-acre park site were submitted to five firms. The two firms that responded were Gretchen Stranzl McCann Landscape Architects and ZAC Landscaping. A panel comprised of Jim Carr and Commissioners Mark Ferguson and Joe Noriel interviewed the two firms.

Mark Ferguson and Joe Noriel expressed positive comments about Gretchen Stranzl McCann’s (GSM) firm’s presentation. The recommendation of the panel is that the firm of GSM be selected to design the Fox Hollow park site.

Carr – Will be presenting the recommendation to the City Council on October 17. Carr commented that he envisions the development of a passive nature type of park on the site.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to the public present, it was the general consensus of the Commission to change the order of the agenda and discuss Item No. 3 as the first item under New Business.

1 **3. Introduction to the Proposed Adobe Creek Bike/Pedestrian Path Project – Comm. Ferguson**

2
3 **Mark Ferguson** – Through a power point presentation, he showed the Adobe Creek Watershed and
4 outlined the areas of concern. Following discussion, he suggested the following improvements to
5 Adobe Creek in order to deter negative activity and improve visibility.

- 6
7 · Open newly constructed path from Sartori bridge to Lakeville apartments.
8 · Repair and add additional cyclone fence along southeast side of the creek next to neighbors’ fences
9 between Sartori bridge and Lakeville apartments (to prevent graffiti and vandalism).
10 · Annex to neighbor on Spyglass Road a small portion of land (to prevent negative handout area).
11 · Reconstruct trail at Spyglass Road to move it away from neighbors houses.
12 · Open up trail head at Spyglass for better visibility.
13 · Work with Lakeville apartments to open up the fence at the creek to create an access point for
14 residence to the pathway.
15 · Install an irrigation line on the southeast side of the pathway for future vegetation.
16 · Build a 3-foot two rail fence through the entire length of the creek to deter habitat destruction and
17 negative activity.
18 · Install 2 low directional light poles at Del Oro Park in back of the tennis courts and along existing
19 path next to the fence.
20 · Lower cyclone fence at Del Oro Park to 3 feet with a green open cyclone mesh fence.
21 · Install bollards at Sartori bridge entrance of trail.
22 · Install a foot bridge over the creek near the Lakeville apartments for future trails.
23 · Construct a pathway on the north side of Adobe Creek from Del Oro Park to Ely Road - PEP will be
24 assisting with construction costs of this future pathway.

25
26 **Mark Ferguson** - Since the biggest cost for the project is future maintenance and repairs, he is
27 suggesting an “Adopt a Trail Program” that will allow companies to make donations for segments of
28 trails throughout the City. He asked the Commission to recommend to the City Council that the
29 project be considered a future Capital Improvement Project.

30
31 Following discussion, Tom Furrer, founder of the Casa Grande Anglers, a Casa Grande High School
32 student, and Landscape Architect Paul Harris who volunteered to work on the plans, spoke in support
33 of Mark Ferguson’s plans. Mr. Furrer indicated that on October 1st, he and a group of students are
34 planning to clean up the creek and invited the Commissioners to attend.

35
36 **Carr** – Suggested that Mark Ferguson continue working with Paul Harris to refine the Adobe Creek
37 Master plan. Staff to set a public meeting in order to obtain community input before presenting it to
38 the City Council for consideration.

39
40 It was the general consensus to go along with Carr’s suggestion.

41
42 **Steve Mathias** – Del Oro Circle – Indicated that he works on crime prevention through environmental
43 design and would like to submit a report with suggestions to address some of the concerns presented.

44
45 **Carr** suggested sending his recommendations to Mark Ferguson so he can include it in his next
46 presentation.

47
48 **Mark Ferguson** – Thanked everyone for their support and mentioned that he would like to see more
49 neighborhood input.

1 **1. Park Watch Assignments**
2

3 **Carr** – Explained to the new Commissioners how the program works. Facilities and Parks for
4 Commissioners to oversee were assigned as follows:
5

- 6 **1) Michael Baddeley** – Carter Field, Country Club Open Space, Grant Park, Westridge Open Space.
- 7 **2) Mark Ferguson** – Arroyo, Bond, Casa del Oro, La Tercera, Glenbrook, and Miwok Parks.
- 8 **3) Mike Harris** – Country Club Open Space, Meadow View, Penry Park, Putnam Plaza.
- 9 **4) John Kinsella** – Cavanagh Recreation Center, McNear Peninsula, Oak Hill Park, Petaluma Swim
10 Center, Skate Park.
- 11 **5) Joseph Noriel** – Wickersham, Prince, Walnut, Wiseman, Sunrise, Eagle Parks.
- 12 **6) Marja Tarr** – Kenilworth, Lucchesi, McDowell, McNear Park, Polly Hannah Klaas Performing
13 Arts Center, Senior Citizens Center.
- 14 **7) David Yearsley** – Sunset, McDowell Meadows, Petaluma Historical Museum, Petaluma Marina,
15 Shollenberger, Cherry Valley Park, Rocky Dog Park.
- 16

17 **John Kinsella** - Suggested placing “Election of new Officers” on the next agenda.
18

19 **2. Discussion re. Security for Helen Putnam Plaza incl. the use of Cameras – Comm. Harris**
20

21 **Mike Harris** – Mentioned the he had received complaints from merchants regarding negative activity
22 occurring at Putnam Plaza and suggested installing security cameras.
23

24 Following discussion, Mike Baddeley suggested placing two security cameras in the parking garage.
25

26 **Carr** – Gave a background history of former problems and merchant complaints at Putnam Plaza.
27 Carr indicated that he will be speaking to the Petaluma Downtown Association regarding the camera
28 installation suggestion.
29

30 **Marja Tarr** – Commented that over the summer, there was great music played at Putnam Plaza and
31 she believes that those events kept negative activities away from the site.
32

33 **Carr** – As a next step, he will be checking regarding camera resources and speaking with the Police
34 Department and the Petaluma Downtown Association regarding possible solutions.
35

36 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**
37

38 **1) Mike Ferguson -**

39 **a. Del Oro Park, McDowell, and Prince Parks** – In all three parks, there are a number of dead areas
40 where the sprinklers are not reaching. Specifically, on the South field at Prince Park, the ground is so
41 dry that it is starting to separate.

42 **b. Casa Grande and Sartori** – Asked staff if the water line that used to run through that area could be
43 resurrected.

44 **Carr** – Staff will check to see if the water line could be repaired.
45

46 **2) Michael Baddeley -**

47 **a. Lucchesi Park** – Noticed that the synthetic field is starting to wear out. Since the fields are used
48 quite a bit by out-of-town teams, he would like the Commission to consider a criteria to prioritize the
49 use of playing fields. He would like to work with Carr or Don Phoenix to develop a fair process

1 whereby the Petaluma based teams have priority use for the swimming pool, Lucchesi field, or any
2 other recreational facility.

3
4 **Marja Tarr** – Believes that there is already a process established, where the priorities are given to the
5 Petaluma teams. Some of teams have dedicated fields.

6
7 **Carr** – Will be meeting with Harry Clifford in a couple of weeks to consider playing fields; how to
8 obtain more fields, field maintenance, and use of existing fields. The idea was to meet with all the
9 sports organizations and lay out the ground work. The question is: How is the City going to meet the
10 needs of the sports organizations over the next 20 years? He invited Mike Baddeley to participate in
11 the discussion.

12
13 Mike Baddeley expressed desire to pursue the RESA complex to develop sports fields.

14
15 Carr indicated that Marty Hronec would like to make a presentation to the Commission at the next
16 meeting. The deadline to come up with the funding for the RESA Complex is April 16, 2006.

17
18 **3) Mike Harris** – Indicated that he will not be able to attend the next Commission meeting.

19
20 **4) David Yearsley** -

21 **a. Toley Park** – Friends of Tolay Lake Park will be putting on a celebration event on Sunday, October
22 2, 2005 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tolay is a Regional Park that will benefit Petaluma. Mr. Yearsley will
23 be e-mailing the Commission information about the event.

24 **b. Petaluma Museum Association** – He is planning to attend the next Museum meeting.

25
26 **5) John Kinsella** -

27 **a. Cavanagh Recreation Center** – Is in good condition.

28 **. Community Garden** – Looks attractive - Last Saturday, gardeners removed the Bermuda grass
29 that was invading the garden.

30 **b. Oak Hill Park** – There is graffiti on the tot lot. Would like to have mulch delivered and organize a
31 community clean up.

32 **c. Petaluma Arts Council** – It was very exciting to attend the inaugural meeting. The committee is
33 comprised of 3 artists, 2 appointees and 2 people from the general public.

34
35 **6) Joe Noriel** -

36 **a. Kenilworth Park** – Noticed blatant drug use at the park. Similar situation goes on at Lucchesi
37 Park. There seems to be a law enforcement issue, which is very consistent with all the parks. As a
38 citizen and Commissioner, he is concerned about those problems. Mr. Noriel asked Carr to speak to
39 Police Chief Hood about his concerns.

40 **Carr** – Will be speaking to Chief Hood about the existing problems regarding use of drugs in parks
41 and restricting alcohol use at Lucchesi and Wiseman Parks.

42
43 **Mike Baddeley** – Suggested placing “no glass allowed” signage at Oak Hill Park.

44
45 **7) Marja Tarr** -

46 **a. Casa del Oro Park** – Needs to be rolled or flattened. Asked if a schedule could be set up to close
47 the playing fields for refurbishment one at the time.

48 **b. Wiseman Park** – Is in bad condition - Both parks are being used by little league, softball and
49 soccer and the poor condition of those parks are impacting the games.

1 **c. McNear Park** – It looks great - It is a delightful place to be. Gave favorable comments about
2 “Movies in the Park.”

3 **d. Bicycle Advisory Committee** – Attended the meeting and was very impressed by the enthusiasm
4 of the group. The members are a very dedicated group of volunteers who get things accomplished.
5 The bike plan was discussed – They are starting to work on a list of projects and prioritizing them and
6 a 5-year plan.

7 • **Bike Lanes** – The Bike Committee is discussing the lack of bike lanes on Petaluma Blvd. North and
8 members are trying to research grants and work with County organizations. They would like to see
9 people bike to work.

10 • **Walk and Roll to School Program** – Is scheduled for October 5. Members are trying to convince
11 kids and parents to walk, roll, skate board or bike to school in order to decrease traffic congestion.
12

13 **DIRECTOR’S REPORTS** – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*

14
15 **1) Lucchesi Park** – Suggests that alcohol be restricted to the group picnic area only on a permit basis.
16 Will be talking to Chief Hood about this suggestion before obtaining City Manager’s approval.
17

18 **2) Wiseman Park** – Suggests restricting the use of alcohol at the park due to problems with
19 unscheduled afternoon adult soccer leagues.
20

21 **3) Shollenberger Park** – Lately, there has been a number of break-ins in the parking lot.
22

23 **4) Marina Dredging** – Will be completed this afternoon.
24

25 **5) Fishing Pier at Shollenberger** – The project will be starting soon.
26

27 **6) Fox Hollow** – The awarding of the contract will be presented to the City Council on October 17.
28

29 **7) Wiseman Park Restroom** – Staff is processing the contract with Gretchen Stranzl McCann to do
30 the design of a modular restroom similar to the one at Shollenberger Park.
31

32 **8) Redwood Empire Sports Associates (RESA)** – Marty Hronec has asked to be included on the
33 next month’s agenda to make a presentation. The deadline set by the City for him to start the project
34 is on April 16, 2006.
35

36 **9) National Little League/Swim Center/Skate Park** – The project is at a stand still. Regency, the
37 developer of Kenilworth site, does not feel that they are obligated to replace the Little League fields
38 and believe that the field relocation is the school district’s problem. Regency does not feel that they are
39 responsible for paying the 10 to 12 million dollars to replace the pool. The skate park is not being
40 discussed at this time. All impacted City Department heads are meeting next week to discuss the
41 project. There is to be a meeting with Regency within a few weeks to discuss all issues since
42 Regency’s EIR is at a standstill. Carr will keep the Commission informed.
43

44 **10) Youth Commission** – Teen Court is being proposed to come to Petaluma. There is a teen court in
45 Santa Rosa that works with the Probation Department and the Youth Commission is trying to do the
46 same thing in Petaluma. Carr explained how the program works and commented that it is an
47 excellent program. He will meet with the Probation Department next week.
48

1 **11) Gatti Park** – The sod has been installed and the park has a finished look. There is a 120 days
2 maintenance period from the date the project was accepted which will be January 2006. There will be
3 a park dedication approximately the second week of November and most of the amenities will be
4 opened with the exception of the athletic fields. Commission’s participation will be requested.

5

6 **ADJOURNMENT**

7

8 It was moved by Marja Tarr, seconded by Mike Harris and unanimously approved to adjourn the
9 meeting at 10:05 p.m.