

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

*Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.*

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: Harris

Staff Present: Carr, Anchordoguy, Stewart

*Chair**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *September 21, 2005*

It was moved by Marja Tarr that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by David Yearsley, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Chris Schultz – 131 Sunshine Court – Indicated that he had attended the meeting with two Petaluma Boys Scouts who are working on their citizenship in the community and are required to attend a public meeting.

2. Troy Sanderson – Regarding the use of the field at Kenilworth for National Little League, Regency has been promising for nearly three months to submit an agreement, but the athletic organization has not yet received it. National Little League is hoping to receive the agreement by October 21st. He is concerned about the next season.

Carr – Met with Regency regarding Pop Warner who is currently using the fields. Also, the City Manager and some Department Heads met with Regency on October 13 and discussed about the Little League fields, the pool, skate park, and the shopping center design.

· As far as National Little League is concerned, one of the stumbling blocks for Regency is the City requiring Regency to include the relocation of National Little League in the shopping center environmental impact report. Regency has agreed to remove the National Little League element from the Kenilworth shopping center. Regency will pay for the environmental work for the purpose of Little League moving to the Petaluma Junior High School.

· Swimming Pool – It appears that the pool will stay at its present location, since Regency will not come up with the funds for relocation. After the week of October 31, the City Manager, Carr, and pool consultant will be meeting to discuss what it will take to renovate the pool at its current location. The Aquatics Committee and the Recreation Commission will be involved.

· Skate Park – There is a need to identify the location and funding source for the skate park. The facility is part of the environmental impact report for Regency because it impacts the Petaluma residents. Carr will be considering alternative sites in the City and informing the Commission.

1 Carr voiced concerns about timing regarding pool and skate park relocation.

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3 **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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5 **Carr** – Included in the Commission’s packet, is a letter addressed to the City Manager from California
6 State Parks indicating that the school renovation grant for Petaluma Junior High School was unsuccessful.
7 There were 251 applicants requesting about \$180 million dollars and there was \$23 million dollars
8 allocated to the program. As a consequence, there are no grant funds available for the Petaluma Junior
9 High School field renovation.

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11 **ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS**

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13 **Chair** – David Yearsley nominated John Kinsella to continue as Commission Chair, seconded by Mike
14 Baddeley, unanimously approved.

15 **Vice-Chair** – Marja Tarr nominated Mark Ferguson as Commission Vice-Chair, seconded by Mike
16 Baddeley, unanimously approved.

17

18 **OLD BUSINESS**

19

20 **1. Update on the Park Element of the Draft General Plan–Pamela Tuft, Dir. of General Plan**
21 **Administration.**

22

23 **Pamela Tuft** – Included in the Commission’s packet, is a schedule for the completion of the General Plan
24 (GP) including the adoption process, and a chronological list of tasks and progress to date. Also enclosed,
25 is a copy of the Preferred Land Use Plan. The map illustrates the comments received from the Planning
26 Commission and City Council during fourteen months of review (17 workshops) and the locations of nine
27 proposed park sites, based on input received from the Park and Recreation Commission and numerous
28 public workshops over the last four years. The completion of the draft GP and EIR documents is
29 anticipated in December 2005. Public workshops and hearings will be scheduled as soon as document
30 availability dates are known.

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32 The tentative date for a workshop/hearing before the Parks and Recreation is February 2006. She asked
33 for Commission’s input regarding the type and format of workshop desired in order to plan and organize
34 the various meetings.

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36 Ms. Tuft indicated that the Commission will be receiving a full copy of the General Plan in about a month
37 and a half with all the exhibits for review. Staff’s intention is to present the General Plan to the
38 Commission and they welcome all of the Commission’s comments in all its components. She is also very
39 interested in asking the Commission to co-host with the General Plan Department a public workshop to
40 discuss Parks and Recreation needs for the community.

41

42 Ms. Tuft commented that she would like to reintroduce the concepts of the General Plan to the
43 community in January 2006.

44

45 **John Kinsella** – Volunteered to collaborate with Pamela Tuft in the public workshops.

46

47 **Marja Tarr** – Suggested that some of the public workshops be conducted on Saturdays and that the
48 Bicycle, Aquatics Committees, and Arts Council be invited.

49

1 Ms. Tuft commented that the recommendations from this Commission as well as from other committees
2 and commissions will be taken from the public workshops and synthesized into a summary document that
3 as required by law, need to be sent to the Planning Commission which is the Advisory body on the
4 General Plan and then to the City Council.
5

6 Following discussion regarding different types of workshops, John Kinsella asked staff to include this
7 item on the Commission's agenda of February 14, 2006.
8

9 **2. Continued Discussion and Proposal to meet with all sports organizations regarding future sports**
10 **facilities requirements – Carr, Harry Clifford**
11

12 **Carr** – When staff was going through the General Plan process and the sports organizations participated
13 in the public meetings, one of the comments that staff kept hearing was that there were not enough
14 athletic fields. There was a desire for more soccer, baseball, and softball fields. Due to the fact that
15 Regency purchased the Kenilworth site, a problem arose with National Little League and Pop Warner
16 losing their fields, and they were forced to find a location to relocate. Alternative sites were considered,
17 to relocate National Little League such as Parcel "C" at the factory outlet, McNear Park, and Petaluma
18 Junior High School. Harry Clifford attended the meetings when the relocation of National Little League
19 was being discussed.
20

21 Carr commented that it is necessary to identify the needs of each organization and what documentation
22 these needs are based on. There is a lot of discussion about the conditions of City fields and sometimes
23 the public assumes that the City takes care of the school district fields.
24

25 Carr indicated that he would like to make sure that sports groups are aware of the fact that there is a line
26 around the City called the urban growth boundary and fields cannot be developed beyond that line.
27 The question is what does it take, to have the schools and all the athletic organizations work together to
28 have a common sense of direction.
29

30 In that vein, staff has scheduled a tentative meeting on November 15. Notices will be sent out to
31 representatives of sports organizations by next week. Commissioners are welcome to attend. Staff will
32 be developing an agenda, and the session will be for fact finding. This will supplement what was found in
33 the public meetings over the last four years (General Plan process) and could be added to the parks
34 element of the General Plan.
35

36 **Harry Clifford** – Attended the meeting at Cavanagh Center regarding the proposed relocation of National
37 Little League at McNear, began to get interested and attended all the meetings after that. Following the
38 meetings, he thought of developing a plan and incorporating all the people involved as well as
39 understanding the needs and maintenance costs.
40

41 **Marja Tarr** – Suggested adding indoor sports to the list of athletic organizations, such as the youth
42 basketball organizations (CYO and MJB). The Junior High School is also coming up with some
43 activities. She suggested approaching both Junior High Schools and getting some representation from
44 them to attend the meeting as well as the athletic directors from the high school because they oversee the
45 high school fields.
46

47 **Mike Baddeley** – If Harry Clifford is going to have a meeting, it might be more productive to invite the
48 school administration and also the parks/landscaping people to obtain a better idea about costs. Then,
49 follow up with three separate meetings and end up with a master meeting in which the professionals' view

1 could be synthesized and represented. He suggested inviting Tawny Tesconi from the Fair board,
2 regarding the fairgrounds to see how that property could be integrated.

3
4 Following discussion Mike Baddeley volunteered to be a liaison to the Commission and work with Harry
5 Clifford - He will be reporting back to the Commission.

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7 Mark Ferguson and John Kinsella commended Harry Clifford for taking the initiative on this effort.

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9 **Harry Clifford** – Suggested inviting to the meeting two representatives from every sports organization.

10 **3. Update regarding surveillance cameras in public spaces – Carr (Verbal Report)**

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13 **Carr** – At the last meeting, Mike Harris presented the suggestion regarding surveillance cameras in
14 Putnam Plaza. Staff has been gathering information regarding the cameras. There are different types of
15 cameras that people have used in other recreation departments. They are digital or standard cameras that
16 cost approximately \$5,000. There is a local firm that would like to submit a proposal to give staff ideas of
17 how cameras could be mounted, what value they represent for the City, and quality.
18 Carr will be presenting to the Commission more specific information in the future.

19 **NEW BUSINESS**

20 21 22 **1. Proposed Alteration to the Redwood Empire Sports Associates (RESA) Complex – Carr, Marty** 23 **Hronec (RESA developer).**

24
25 **Carr** – Marty Hronec has been involved for a number of years with the sports complex. The complex has
26 been approved and consists of 6 lighted softball fields, a large concession building, and a number of
27 recreational activities. Mr. Hronec has had difficulty arranging financing to back the project in the past
28 but said that he is currently talking with three potential funding sources. The land was graded in 2003 and
29 there is an April 2006 deadline to secure a building permit with the City, otherwise the agreement with the
30 City can be in default.

31
32 Mr. Hronec has submitted a proposal to alter the existing approved project. He has been meeting with
33 representatives of the Petaluma Youth Soccer League (PYSL) and the outcome of those meetings is a
34 proposal to change the scope of work of the approved RESA project. The proposal is to replace one
35 softball field and a small soccer field with three lighted synthetic soccer fields for year round use. One of
36 the synthetic soccer fields would also have a backstop, allowing it to be used as a softball field. The other
37 features of the complex would remain as approved.

38
39 The increased costs for this change in the project scope are estimated to be approximately \$1.5 million
40 dollars. PYSL is suggesting that there be three sources of funding for this proposed addition to the RESA
41 project. The three sources would be PYSL, the City of Petaluma, and grants.

42
43 The proposed project would provide a year-round venue for soccer and softball. Visitors will use the
44 concession building and other features of the complex. The proposed change of project scope includes
45 portions of City property that are currently under lease to the Rooster Run golf course. This would
46 require additional negotiations with golf course representatives.

47
48 Following discussion Marty Hronec suggested the following:

49
50 . To enter into negotiations with Rooster Run golf course in order to make the project work.

- 1 . Need the lease extended 5 years - (Currently it is at a 25 year lease, SBA requires 30 years in order to
- 2 get financing.)
- 3 . Need to change the lease, so he can sublease to PYSL for more than 5 years.

4

5 **Kevin Tassalmayer**, a representative of PYSL talked about the shortage of fields for soccer in the

6 fall/winter season. He indicated that between 850-1000 kids continue to play soccer in the winter months.

7 The proposed three lighted fields will be a tremendous help to keep the program going.

8

9 There was discussion regarding field scheduling, project cost, and field configuration.

10

11 **John Kinsella** – Regarding the City’s contribution, he asked how does the City feel about contributing a

12 third of the funds to property that they would not have jurisdiction over.

13

14 **Carr** – He has a problem with spending money for a sports complex that is not entirely available for the

15 whole community. Regarding funding the Commission would have to decide which project they would

16 want to eliminate as far as money is concerned. The City’s share would be anywhere from \$600,000 to

17 \$700,000. Regarding the grants, Carr does not know if that is a possibility since the State is saying that

18 they have no funds available.

19

20 Questions arose regarding:

- 21 . The ability to secure funding for the proposed additional aspects of the project and the entire complex.
- 22 . In order to proceed in a timely fashion, the ability to renegotiate with the Rooster Run golf course for
- 23 the additional required land needed to make the proposal viable.
- 24 . Equitable use of the proposed new fields by all citizens of Petaluma.

25

26 He asked the Commission to consider the proposal before presenting a recommendation to the City

27 Council - There was a lengthy discussion.

28

29 **John Kinsella** – Asked for a validation of the cost.

30

31 **Marty Hronec** – The cost estimates and an explanation of funding sources will be available by the next

32 meeting.

33

34 **Mike Baddeley** – Would like to recuse himself from voting.

35

36 The Commission will make a decision next month after receiving more information.

37

38 **2. Status Report Regarding Integrated Pest Management Program to reduce the Use of Pesticides**

39 **on City-owned Property – Ed Ancho doguy**

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41 **Ed Ancho doguy** – Gave an overview of the Integrated Pest Management Program which was adopted

42 by the City Council on August 1999.

43

44 **3. Proposal to name the Gatti Park Site - Carr**

45

46 **Carr** – At a previous meeting Commissioner Joe Noriel provided some information regarding the

47 Petaluma Leghorns when the Commission was thinking about naming the Gatti park site. During a brief

48 conversation with Petaluma Museum Board President Susan Villa, she also mentioned the idea of naming

49 the park after the Petaluma Leghorns a semi-professional football team of the 1950’s. Carr gave a

50 background history of the Leghorn’s team.

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When trying to identify a name for the new park, the idea was to try to obtain a name that would be representative of the community, not an individual. The new park with its many features will create a space for community building, that to-date does not exist anywhere else in town. The history and impact of the Petaluma Leghorns on the development of Petaluma as a community meets that goal.

Carr suggested that the Commission consider naming the Gatti Park site, Leghorns Park. He recommended having a memorial plaque with a brief explanation of what the Leghorns meant to the Petaluma community and the sense of pride they developed.

Carr indicated that the park dedication has been scheduled for November 19 at 10 a.m. The Commission will be receiving invitations. The park will be opened with the exception of the athletic fields which will remain closed until next spring to allow the sod to get established. Staff will order signs which will be placed on the north and south ends of Sonoma Mountain Parkway. The monument will be ready at a later time.

Mark Ferguson made a motion that the Commission recommend to the City Council naming the 7-acre park site located at Gatti property “Leghorns Park”. The motion was seconded by Mike Baddeley, with the following vote:

AYES: 5, NOES: 1, ABSENT: 1.

Marja Tarr – Commented that in the future, she would like to see the community being involved in the park naming process.

John Kinsella – Suggested that at the next meeting, staff prepare a park naming procedure for Commission’s consideration.

4. Proposal to name the McDowell Park Soccer Field after Joe Verdu – Carr

Carr – Indicated that he had received correspondence requesting naming the multi-use field at McDowell park after Joe Verdu, a founding director and long-term president of the Petaluma Youth Soccer League during the 1970’s. During the same period of time, Mr. Verdu also served in a variety of capacities in the Petaluma Valley Little League.

Mark Ferguson moved that the Commission recommend to the City Council that the McDowell field be named after Joe Verdu, seconded by Mike Baddeley, unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

1. David Yearsley –

a. Petaluma Museum – Attended a museum meeting and was informed that the facility is in need of structural repairs. Estimates have been obtained from two structural engineers - \$7,000 and \$1,500. The museum staff would like to go with the lower proposal but is suggesting that the City pay for the cost.

Carr - Asked Commissioner Yearsley to provide him with the necessary documentation so he can submit it to Public Works.

b. Shollenberger Park – The volunteers from the docent program did a good job removing the hardy grass. In a period of about two months, docents have given over a dozen park tours to school children and many others to community members. Mr. Yearsley suggested that Bob Dyer and the other docents be recognized for their efforts.

c. Rocky Dog Park – Suggested having a doggy bag disposal system He asked staff to consider using the same system for other parks.

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2. Mike Baddeley -

- a. **Westridge** – Looks good.
 - b. **Grant School Field** – Is heavily used and is very well maintained.
 - c. **Carter Field** – Is getting ready for some transition.
- No recommendations at this time.

3. Mark Ferguson –

- a. **Aquatics Advisory Committee** – Attended a meeting last week. Committee members would like to make a presentation to the Commission next month. They feel that they have been left out in the past and not being taken seriously. They would like to find out what their role is and establish some kind or procedure or structure.
- Carr** – A resolution was handed to committee member when they first started, and it identified the people on the committee and their role. Carr indicated that he will give a copy of the resolution for Mr. Ferguson .
- b. **Adobe Creek** – At the last meeting, he made a presentation to the Commission of the redevelopment of Adobe Creek. Also, there was a meeting at his house and the few people that attended were able to come up with a structural plan. He would like to make a presentation to the Commission in November and talk about improvements and outline details.
- c. **Casa del Oro Park** – Noticed a great amount of dead grass.
- d. **Bond and Arroyo Parks** – Look good.
- e. **La Tercera** – There are two broken picnic tables; there are also several dry spots where the sprinklers are not hitting - The whole park seems to be getting a little ran down. There is an alley way between Crinella and the La Tercera park which is really delapidated - Noticed that there has been a lot of graffiti on the fences. He will be going with a graffiti volunteer to talk to some of the neighbors to get some input about how to deter this activity. He suggested painting the fences and replacing the boards. Also, there is a number of young adults hanging out at the park - The site is not very attractive place for young families.
- f. **Miwok Park** – Noticed dry spots in several areas.
- g. **Trash Receptacles** - Would like to see old trash receptacles being replaced in all the parks with newer models. Suggested requesting assistance from non-profit organizations to get this done.

4. John Kinsella -

- a. **Cavanagh Recreation Center** –
 - . **Community Garden** – Looks good. At this time of the year, there are lots of pumpkins.
- b. **McNear Peninsula** – No report at this time.
- c. **Oak Hill Park** – There was a report regarding homeless people living by the bushes. Some neighbors trimmed the shrubbery to have more visibility and that solved the problem.
 - . Noticed that there are lots of beer bottles laying around the park.
 - . The labyrinth needs some care.
 - . There is graffiti constantly in the tot lot area
- David Yearsley** – Suggested checking on portable cameras that can be moved from park to park.
- d. **Swim Center** – Has been swimming quite a bit. There is a number of people still swimming in October so he is pleased that the pool is opened that late in the year.
- e. **Skate Park** – There is a number of people using the skate park - Most of the time, skaters are not using helmets.
- f. **Penry Park** – The asphalt path is very uneven.
- g. **Arts Commission** – He attended the second meeting and really enjoyed it. They are forming a new Commission. They want to include the arts language in the General Plan.

1 **5. Joe Noriel** –
2 All of his parks look very good.
3 . Informed the Commission that he wrote a letter to the Police Chief explaining his concerns about
4 Kenilworth and Lucchesi Parks and was very disappointed with his answer. He felt that he was being
5 dismissed. He was looking for information from the police standpoint but he was not able to get it. The
6 Police Chief asked him to call the police when he needs to report negative activity or Jim Carr.
7 **Marja Tarr** – Would like to invite a police officer to one of the Commission meetings, so he can address
8 the Commissioners concerns.
9 **Carr** – As far as the process, Police staff reviews all park plans. He asked the Commissioner to raise their
10 concerns, and he will ask the Police Chief or one of the officers to attend a Commission’s meeting.
11 **Mark Ferguson** – Recommended to continue calling the police when they see a problem occurring in any
12 park.
13

14 **6. Marja Tarr** -
15 **a. Rotary Walk** – Will take place this coming weekend at Shollenberger Park.
16 **b. Bike Committee** – On October 24, a Cal-Trans meeting will be held at the Petaluma Community
17 Center at 4:30 p.m. regarding the Petaluma-Novato narrows. He invited the Commission to attend.
18 . On November 15, there will be a SMART Rail forum and will be held also at the PCC at 7:00 p.m.
19 **c. McDowell Townhomes** – Asked staff if the townhomes are going to be included in the Commission’s
20 agenda for them to review. The Bike Committee already reviewed the plans. The developers are planning
21 to build a small park.
22 **Carr** - Has not seen the project come through yet. Once he receives it, he will be presenting the plans to
23 the Commission
24 **d. Lucchesi Synthetic Field** – Is starting to wear out and needs help.
25 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Is getting to the point that staff will have to replace sections of the synthetic turf.
26

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

- 28 **1. Proposed Leghorns Park Dedication** – Will take place on November 19 at 10 a.m.
29 **2. Marina Dredging Project** – Has been completed.
30 **3. Shollenberger Fishing Pier** – Is underway.
31 **4. Fox Hollow Park** – Last Monday, the City Council approved the design of the park.
32 **5. Wiseman Restroom Design** – Next spring, Gretchen McCann will be working on the project.
33 **6. Rockridge Park** – Is under construction
34 **7. Turnbridge Park** – Will be turned over to the City next month.
35 **8. Corona Creek** – Tonight, there is a public meeting regarding traffic and parking impact in the Corona
36 Creek neighborhood. The Healthy Community Consortium is facilitating the meeting.
37

38 **Ed Anchordoguy**

39 **Walnut Park** – The Tree Advisory Committee is planning on planting more trees and removing
40 structures between now and next spring.
41

42 **ADJOURNMENT**

43
44 Mike Baddeley moved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:55 pm, seconded by Joe Noriel, unanimously
45 approved.
46