

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.

7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: *Ferguson, Canevaro*

Staff Present: *Carr, DeNicola, Phoenix, Stewart*

*Chair**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *November 16, 2005*

It was moved by Joe Noriel that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Mike Baddeley, with the following vote: **AYES: 4 ABSTEIN: 1 ABSENT: 2**

PUBLIC COMMENT: (NONE)

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS -

Carr-

- **Distributed** the annual report from docents at Shollenberger Park.
- Welcomed Ron DeNicola as the new Parks and Landscape Manager who has replaced Ed Anchordoguy.

Carr mentioned that Ed Anchordoguy will continue working on part-time basis to help out with the transition and to assist Mr. DeNicola with the 41 assessment districts.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Petaluma Aquatics Advisory Committee Function and Makeup: Mark Ferguson, Don Phoenix

Don Phoenix - Members of the Aquatics Committee, along with Commissioner Mark Ferguson, Don Phoenix, and Aquatics Director Jessica Sartain, met on 1/11/06 and reviewed their mission, activities, and membership. Changes were as follows: membership on the board of a high school swim team representative was removed (should a high school swim team coach want to be on the board, an at large membership is an option); the addition of alternate Twin Valley Swim Team parent as a member of the board; and the requirement that all five at-large board members be Petaluma residents.

Carr – Regarding the pool, there is no status change at the present time. The City expects the Petaluma Swim Center to stay at its current location. Pool consultant, NTD Stichler will be preparing a report regarding different renovation alternatives and costs. Once staff receives the NTDStichler data, Carr will be inviting the Aquatics Advisory Committee, this Commission and the general public to become involved in the process.

1 Carr suggested that the Commission take action to approve the recommended Aquatics Advisory
2 Committee's role and membership makeup.

3
4 Marja Tarr moved that the Commission approve the proposed outline of Aquatics Committee tasks and
5 membership makeup, and the suggestion to recruit publicly for the at-large positions of the Aquatics
6 Advisory Committee, seconded by David Yearsley, unanimously approved.

7
8 **2. River Front Subdivision Proposed Project: Carr, Larry Reed (Project Manager)**

9
10 **Carr** – The Recreation Commission had made recommendations about the project at their November 16,
11 2005 meeting which was forwarded to the Community Development Department.

12
13 **Project Manager Larry Reed** – Indicated that today, the formal project application was submitted to
14 SPARC. Previous meetings with SPARC were informal and preliminary, so there were no public notices.
15 The developer was trying to solicit comments from the SPARC committee for the site plan, density, and
16 the appropriateness of the Central Petaluma Specific Plan.

17
18 Larry Reed outlined the proposed River Front Subdivision Project. The size of the central green area
19 shown in the plan is about 1.5 acres. 450' x 150 across and the lawn area itself is 100' across. The
20 developer would like to provide a civic park (square) in the center of the project. The park would be more
21 in the scale of Wickersham, Walnut or Center Park. There will be a continuous path all the way around
22 the park with benches all along. There are some smaller parks, which are supposed to be spill out spaces
23 for clusters of homes. There are also more organized parks which are supposed to function for more
24 organized play. The nature park is a linear park along the waterfront and is for informal play. One of the
25 points made at a SPARC meeting was to consider ways for the public to gain access to the river.

26
27 **Carr** – The Recreation Commission had previously asked for river access for small crafts, or kayaks
28 primarily. They would like to see some place where people can park their vehicles and launch their
29 kayaks in the river.

30
31 **Kevin McDonald** – Spoke about the need for playing fields and gave some suggestions regarding the
32 park size.

33
34 A board member of the Northbay Rowing Club indicated that the 20 year old club has a membership of
35 about 150 rowers from all ages, and since their playing field is the Petaluma River, they need access. The
36 club is looking for a permanent home, and they are willing to build a boat house and a dock. For this
37 purpose, they are interested in connecting with other aquatics people in Petaluma, kayakers and boat
38 builders.

39
40 **John Kinsella** moved that the Commission support the idea of a gathering place as articulated in the
41 current proposal but in addition to the prior recommendations made by the Commission, to modify point
42 number one of Commission's recommendation to include an athletic field in the southwest corner of the
43 project with a minimum size of two acres. The motion was seconded by Mike Baddeley, unanimously
44 approved.

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1 **3. Sports Organizations/Future Needs Status Report: Harry Clifford, Mike Baddeley, and Don**
2 **Phoenix**

3
4 **Harry Clifford** – He, along with Mike Baddeley, and Don Phoenix met for the second time with
5 representatives of 15 sports organizations. They review the existing field situation and spoke about future
6 needs.

7
8 Currently, there are 5,429 kids playing sports and 96 percent of them live in Petaluma and 1,300 adults.
9 Sports organizations are trying to find out the composition and needs of their teams. Issues discussed
10 were: RESA, field scheduling, Casa Grande property sold to Centex Homes, Basin Street property at the
11 river, replacement fields for Little League, and Pop Warner.

12
13 A goal is to be able to take some fields off line for about a year to allow a recuperation period. Their
14 recommendations are: 1) to establish a relationship with the school district; 2) To build a multi-purpose
15 field on the Basin Street development. Next meeting will be on February 29, 2006.

16
17 **Carr** – Indicated that Centex will be presenting a proposal at the Recreation Commission meeting in
18 February, which will be a public hearing. The neighborhood will be invited so they can voice their
19 concerns and the Commission can develop a recommendation.

20
21 **Mike Baddeley** – Commended Harry Clifford for a great job. He suggested:

- 22 . Working with the school district, helping with school field maintenance, or getting involved in some
- 23 kind of partnership.
- 24 . Using the urban growth boundary or County lands to develop additional fields.

25
26 Mike Baddeley and Harry Clifford would like to explore the possibilities of presenting a proposal to the
27 County to see if they can help out financially. They would also like to meet with Mike Kerns to see if he
28 can provide some ideas.

29
30 **Carr** – Suggested that Mike Baddeley, Don Phoenix and Harry Clifford meet with Steven Bolman from
31 the Petaluma School District to discuss alternatives and report back to the Commission.
32 Commissioners were all in favor of the suggestion.

33
34 **NEW BUSINESS**

35
36 **1. Cedar Grove Proposed Subdivision (Preliminary Review) – Jim Carr, Carl Euphrat**

37
38 **Carr** – Introduced Project Manager Carl Euphrat and indicated that the Cedar Grove project is reflected
39 on the City’s General Plan as a future park site. Carr asked Community Development Director Mike
40 Moore about the reason for the park designation. Mr. Moore’s recollection is that there are archeological
41 areas on the site and the intent for the park designation was to protect them.

42
43 Carr indicated that there are two small parks as part of the project; one park has existing heritage trees and
44 archeological sites.

45
46 The parcel as it currently exists is landlocked. Any access off of Lakeville Street is problematic since it
47 would require a signalized intersection at the railroad’s at grade crossing. Apparently, the railroad will
48 not allow a signalized intersection for residential traffic. The project developer is proposing to purchase
49 two homes coming off of Rocca Drive and create an access road to the development.

50

1 Carl Euphrat met with the neighbors a couple of times, and the neighbors' primary concern is traffic
2 generation through the area. SPARC Board members suggested accessing the property via a bridge across
3 the Petaluma River through the Clover Stornetta site in order to minimize Payran neighborhood concerns.
4

5 Staff suggested that the developer place park acreage (1-2 acres) adjacent to an existing mitigation area
6 along the Petaluma River, with public access allowed.
7

8 **Carl Euphrat** – Introduced his partner Doug Elliott and project designer Andrew Silverman and gave an
9 overview of the project. Following discussion, Mr. Euphrat indicated that he will meet with General Plan
10 Administrator Pamela Tuft and property owners to formulate a proposal that will be submitted to the Corp
11 of Engineers.
12

13 **Carr** – Following discussion, Carr suggested that the developers continue their efforts to try to open the
14 mitigation area to the community, especially to gain access to the public trail along the river. Secondly, to
15 go ahead with the recommendation of the two proposed parks as presented with the installation of a
16 playground on the larger parcel that could serve the area. He also recommended that an HOA be in
17 charge of the maintenance as long as they recognize that the parks are opened to the public.
18

19 Mike Baddeley moved that the Commission accept the recommendation of the two park parcels as
20 presented with the larger site to contain a playground, a drinking fountain, and a bike rack. Also, to
21 continue working on the mitigation area with the Army Corp of Engineers and General Plan
22 Administrator Pamela Tuft in order to get it open to the public. The motion was seconded by Marja Tarr,
23 unanimously approved.
24

25 Mike Baddeley suggested that Carr provide the developer with some recommendations regarding the park
26 layout that the Commission can review at a future meeting.
27

28 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

29

30 **1) Marja Tarr –**

31 **a.** Attended the Santa Rosa Junior College Transportation Committee workshop last night along with four
32 representatives of the Bicycle Committee. At the meeting, SRJC Administrator Doug Garrison announced
33 that the SRJC will be starting Phase II construction project next spring which will take 18 months to
34 complete. At the same time, they are planning to break ground for a temporary trail going along the urban
35 separator. The trail connector has been missing on the back of the Junior College. Once the construction
36 of Phase II is finished, they are planning to make the trail link permanent. When that happens, people will
37 be able to walk from one end of town to the other.

38 **b. Bicycle Advisory Committee** – Has been attending the meeting and members are very enthusiastic and
39 get a number of things accomplished.

40 **c. Parks**

- 41 · Lucchesi Park – Very soggy and wet except for the soccer field which looks great.
- 42 · McDowell Park – Noticed many soggy areas.
- 43 · McNear Park – Looks fine.
- 44 · Polly Hannah Klaas – Same as usual.
- 45 · Pitonk – An individual who will be speaking at the next Commission meeting was very interested to
46 see if staff would consider Pitonk being played at Wiseman Park.
47

48 **2) John Kinsella -**

49 **a. Arts Committee** – Had a great meeting this month with Regency. Members of the committee were
50 able to see the plans for the shopping center and subsequent residential site. Regency obtained a number

1 of great ideas about local artists and people who could contribute to public art in the proposed Kenilworth
2 Shopping Center project. The Arts Committee felt that they were listened to and they were brought into
3 the project at a time that they could actually have an impact on it. They will meet again in two months.
4 **b. Cavanagh Community Garden** – The Boys and Girls Club will be using the community garden. The
5 2006 sign ups for the community garden have taken place, and there is a long waiting list. One of the
6 major plans for the year is to develop a physical barrier between McNear Park and the community garden
7 to prevent the invasion of Bermuda grass. John Kinsella invited the new Parks Administrator Ron
8 DeNicola to visit the park.
9 **c. Oak Hill Park** – The park looks good but it is still getting tagged – Graffiti is on the signs, and on top
10 of the tot lot area. Due to the rain, the mulch has compacted in the tot lot area.
11 **d. Swim Center** – He is pleased to know that the swim center will be opened in March.
12 **e. Shollenberger Park** – On daily basis, the park is heavily used.

13
14 **3) Joe Noriel –**

15 **a. Prince Park** – On the left side of the park entrance, there is a brick structure covered with graffiti.
16 **b. Walnut Park** – There are a number of new trees – All of them are very well placed and look very
17 attractive.
18 **c. Leghorns Park** – Great park and is heavily used. Joe Noriel referred to a newspaper article regarding
19 the lack of a barrier between the grassy area of the park and Sonoma Mountain Parkway. Due to the
20 heavy traffic on Sonoma Mountain, Joe Noriel indicated that he was concerned that something might
21 happen and perhaps some type of border should be installed.
22 **Carr** – Indicated that he has spoken to the firm that designed the park; architects and staff are considering
23 the situation and observing the use patterns of the park.
24 **d. Wickersham Park** – Asked about the status of the proposal regarding dog hours presented at the last
25 meeting.
26 **Carr** – The presentation of this item has been postponed until the March meeting.

27
28 **4) Michael Baddeley -**

29 **a. Leghorns Park Dedication** – It was very well attended – Staff did a great job. There is a great book
30 written regarding what the Leghorns meant to Petaluma. He recommended reading the book. Gene
31 Benedetti who started the Leghorns attended the dedication ceremony and has since passed away.
32 **b. Athletic fields held up fine under the deluge** – Grant Park was a little soggy.
33 **c. Country Club Open Space** – Looks good.
34 **d. Westridge Open Space** – Held the flood pretty good. Trails are deteriorating.

35
36 **5) David Yearsley**

37 **a. Shollenberger Park** – Commended docent Bob Dyer for a great job and suggested recommending him
38 for citizen's award.
39 **Carr** - Recreation staff will be recommending Mr. Dyer and the Docents for the California Parks and
40 Recreation Society Community Services award. David Yearsley mentioned that the parking lot at
41 Shollenberger is almost always full, especially on nice days and weekends – the park is highly used.
42 Suggested bringing some gravel to provide temporary parking and then eventually stripping the parking
43 lot for perpendicular parking.
44 **b. Fishing Pier** – Asked about the status of the project.
45 **Carr** – Indicated that the project is delayed but will proceed in June when the River's fish window re-
46 opens..
47 **c. Rocky Dog Park** – The park is highly used, especially during nice weather. Right now it is very
48 soggy, and at the entrance there are pretty good size pot holes. The parking lot is getting muddy. Some
49 gravel is needed at the entrance of the park and at the western edge of the parking lot. Dog dispenser
50 boxes are needed throughout the park.

- 1 **d. Marina** – Dog dispenser boxes are needed. At the south end behind the Sheraton, a eucalyptus tree
- 2 has tipped over.
- 3 **e. Museum Committee** – At the next meeting, he will have an update on the museum.
- 4 **f. Cherry Valley Park** – Looks green because of the rains – It is very soggy.
- 5 **g. Recycling Containers** – Some parks will benefit by having recycling containers – like Oak Hill Park,
- 6 and some of the park picnic areas.

7

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

- 9
- 10 **1. Kenilworth Jr. High School** – The dedication of the new facility took place yesterday.
- 11
- 12 **2. Leghorns Park** – Councilmember Karen Nau reported that some pre-school teachers are having
- 13 problems with teens going home from Kenilworth Junior High School who are abusing the equipment.
- 14 Staff will be dealing with that issue.
- 15
- 16 **3. Shollenberger Fishing Pier Project** – Is on hold until the River’s fish window re-opens.
- 17
- 18 **4. Wiseman Restroom** – Once the agreement is signed, design of the project will start.
- 19
- 20 **5. Fox Hollow** – The agreement is signed. Staff is waiting for the insurance to come in.

21

22 Carr reported that the Police Chief and he are working together on a policy to restrict alcohol use at

23 Wiseman and Lucchesi Parks. At Lucchesi, the alcohol will be restricted to the picnic area by permit

24 only. Wiseman Park will be an alcohol free zone, due to the amount of vandalism and neighborhood

25 complaints about excessive drinking by game spectators and athletes, and speeding vehicles.

26

27 Next month, Carr will be recommending to the Commission and ultimately to the City Council, an

28 alcohol use policy for use of public facilities.

- 29
- 30 **6. Emergency flooding** – Because of flooding issues during the December 31st storm, the Petaluma
- 31 Community Center was use as an emergency shelter. There were residents from local mobile home parks
- 32 using the facility. Next Monday night, the City Council is inviting the community to attend their meeting
- 33 and provide information about the flooding.

34

35 **ADJOURNMENT**

36

37 Marja Tarr moved to adjourn at 10:15 p.m., seconded by Mike Baddeley, unanimously approved.