

**CITY OF PETALUMA**  
**RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

**Petaluma Community Center**

**7:00 p.m.**

**320 North McDowell Blvd.**

**ROLL CALL**

***Commissioners Present:***

***Baddeley, Canevaro, Ferguson, Noriel, Tarr, Yearsley***

***Commissioners Absent:***

***Kinsella***

***Staff Present:***

***Carr, DeNicola, Stewart***

***Chair\****

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *January 18, 2005*

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** NONE

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Park Facility Watch Program – Commissioners Park Assignments**

The discussion of this item was postponed until next meeting

**2. Public Meeting: Proposed Project to Revitalize and Open for Public Access the Adobe Creek Path- Ferguson, Carr**

**Carr** – Commissioner Mark Ferguson has been working on a project to revitalize and open up for public access the portion of Adobe Creek between Spyglass Road in the Fairway Meadows Subdivision and Sartori Drive.

This area has had some issues such as homeless encampments, drug use and sales, graffiti, vandalism and trespassing. The proposed project will open up the Adobe Creek path as part of the City's bike pedestrian path system. Experience has proven that where public access is encouraged, negative activities are minimized.

**Mark Ferguson** – Presented a list of projects that he, architect Paul Harris, and staff have identified as short and long term improvements for the area. He indicated that the cost to revitalize the entire length of the creek and beautify the area will be approximately \$67,000 not including the fence. Mr. Ferguson opened up the floor for public comment.

Neighbors of the area asked a number of questions regarding the proposal and suggested:

- 1 . Posting signs in English and Spanish indicating that:
  - 2     “Drinking of alcohol is prohibited”
  - 3     “No trash dumping except on trash containers”.
  - 4 . Leaving the park open from 6 am to 10 pm year round
  - 5 . Establishing off leash hours for dogs
- 6 Among the concerns presented were: Possible adverse effects on neighbors due to lighting of the  
7 bridge, vegetation problems along the creek, and maintenance issues.

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9 Commissioners discussed the proposal and budget concerns. Following discussion,

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11 Joe Noriel moved that the Commission recommend to the City Council to identify the Adobe Creek  
12 Revitalization Project including opening the maintenance road for public access as a Capital  
13 Improvement Project. The motion was seconded by Keith Canevaro, unanimously approved.

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15 **NEW BUSINESS**

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17 **1. Public Meeting – Centex Subdivision Project and Proposed Park – Carr**

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19 **Carr** – Outlined the proposed project and indicated that during the 12/13/05 Planning Commission  
20 meeting, a number of comments were made regarding the need for more park space within the Casa  
21 Grande area, the density of the proposed subdivision, and how it should provide more green space (i.e.  
22 parkland) for the community. There were also comments that the .42 acre proposed park should be  
23 located adjacent to City owned .29 acre parcel located on Crinella Drive.

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25 Public present at the meeting, voiced their comments about the density of the proposed project, size of  
26 the proposed park, the need for more green space as a gathering place for the community, possible park  
27 uses, and park location within the subdivision.

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29 Ira Bennett from Centex Homes addressed concerns presented by some neighbors.

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31 Following Commission’s discussion, Keith Canevaro moved that the Commission recommends  
32 butting up the proposed park against the City owned parcel in order to create a larger park. Further,  
33 sending back the proposal to the Planning Commission and awaiting for their recommendation  
34 regarding more open green spaces throughout the project as another option, and incorporating their  
35 decision into the Commission’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Marja Tarr,  
36 unanimously approved.

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38 **2. Proposed Alcohol Policy for Public Buildings - Carr**

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40 **Carr** – Over the last few years at the Petaluma Community Center, there has been an increase in the  
41 number of events that allow minors to use alcoholic beverages, often due to cultural differences.  
42 Despite the use of private security, numerous problems have developed including fighting, bringing in  
43 additional amount of alcohol, often in violation of the event contract, attacking building staff and/or  
44 security guards, and making it difficult when police are called to control the situation. The majority of  
45 those events are Quinceaneras (15<sup>th</sup> birthday parties for Hispanic girls), weddings, anniversary  
46 celebrations and graduation parties.

47

1 Staff has reviewed a number of Alcohol Use Policies from other public facilities which have been  
2 faced with similar problems. Agencies have used a number of different strategies to help the situation.  
3 The most common include the requirement of a large number of security guards, use of licensed  
4 caterers only, no alcohol permitted when youth are in attendance, bartenders are required to take a  
5 Responsible Beverage Server (RBS) training program, etc. In various facilities, a zero tolerance stance  
6 is used. If a minor is caught consuming alcohol, the event organizer is given a warning, with the next  
7 infraction closing the event, with all fees forfeited.

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9 Carr presented a proposed Alcohol Use Policy and suggested Commission’s approval.

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11 One of the main points of the proposed policy include the prohibition of alcohol for any youth events,  
12 specifically targeting bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs, quinceaneras, sweet 16 parties, 18<sup>th</sup> birthday parties  
13 and graduation parties. In other words, all events involving groups under 21 years of age. This policy  
14 is taken from the City of Oakland.

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16 Keith Canevaro moved that the Commission approve the Alcohol Use Policy as presented, with staff to  
17 take the policy to the City Council for final approval, seconded by David Yearsley, unanimously  
18 approved.

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20 **3. Proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the 2006-07 Fiscal Year – Carr**

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22 **Carr** – Reviewed the list of Parks Capital Improvement Projects included in the Commission’s packet.  
23 Following discussion, Commissioners recommended:

- 24  
25 . Reprioritizing the Carter Field Replacement Project listed as Number 9 to Number 2 and  
26 renumbering the remaining projects accordingly.  
27 . Adding to the Lucchesi Improvement Project : “Repair of the exercise station, painting, repair or  
28 replacement of the benches as needed”, improving the barbecue area and sprucing up the park.

29  
30 **Carr** – One of the handouts that was distributed tonight indicates that the City Manager has approved  
31 the policy to restrict the use of alcohol to the barbecue area by permit only at Lucchesi Park and also  
32 has prohibited the use of alcohol entirely at Wiseman Park

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34 **Mike Baddeley** – Presented concerns about the Lucchesi Lake as a potential hazard and asked the  
35 Commission regarding their feelings about it.

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37 **Carr** – Suggested that the Commission review the Lucchesi Master Plan and invite the public to  
38 provide input. In addition he suggested adding to the Lucchesi Improvement Project - General park  
39 maintenance and the creation of a one-lane road from Maria Drive, behind the Little League Fields  
40 over to the new parking cul-de-sac, which will allow public access to the group picnic area.

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42 Mike Baddeley moved that the Commission approve the list of Parks Capital Improvement Projects  
43 with the suggested changes, seconded by Keith Canevaro, unanimously approved.

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45 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

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47 **1. Marja Tarr** – No report

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49 **2. Mark Ferguson** – No report

- 1 **3. David Yearsley** –  
2 **a.** Distributed a flyer regarding a presentation at the Sheraton n February 27 by world renown  
3 Environmental Artist Patricia Johansen regarding her new book, “Art and Survival.”  
4 **b. Museum** – Distributed a schedule of events and reported that new floors have been installed in the  
5 museum.  
6 **c. Cherry Valley Park** – Signs are unreadable.  
7 **d. Shollenberger Park** – Suggested repaving the trail.  
8 **e. Rocky Dog Park** – Noticed pot holes at the entrance to the dog park.  
9 **Ron DeNicola** – Temporarily, staff has filled the pot holes with gravel - This project is on the list of  
10 future Capital Improvement Projects.

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12 **4. Joe Noriel** -  
13 **a. Prince Park** – Noticed graffiti.  
14 **b. Leghorns Park** – Suggested installing benches so that parents can have a place to sit down and  
15 watch their children, and if possible, obtaining the benches through donations.  
16 **Carr** – Staff will be installing 5 benches, and obtaining 13 picnic tables from the Probation Dept.  
17 **Mike Baddeley** – Suggested asking the Rotary Club to donate the benches.

- 18  
19 **5. Keith Canevaro** -  
20 **Prince Park** – Noticed a number of teenagers congregating and loitering at mid-day at the park.

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22 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*  
23 Announced that the Parks and Recreation Department has started a week ago an on-line registration  
24 system. The next step is to work on a web page.

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26 **ADJOURNMENT** -

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28 Marja Tarr moved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:25 p.m., seconded by Keith Canavaro,  
29 unanimously approved.

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