

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

*Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.
Petaluma, CA 94954*

7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Hagen, Kinsella, McCoy*, Moynihan, Ramirez, Tarr

Staff Present: Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ed Anchordoguy, Parks and Landscape Manager
Sara Stewart, Admin. Secretary, Parks and Recreation

Chair*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *March 19, 2003*

Bruce Hagen – Page 3, Line 47 – Re: **Cardoza Property Discussion** – **Correct:** Bruce Hagen *did not* have a conversation with Ms. McKenzie but was able to visit the property and do some videotaping.

Bruce Hagen moved that the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by Marja Tarr

AYES: 4, ABSTEIN: 2

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

1) Proposed Conceptual Design Rockridge (West Haven) Park Site - Carr

Carr – Introduced Landscape Architect Gretchen McCann who is working on the West Haven Subdivision Project. As part of the project, a 1.9-acre park is to be dedicated to the City. Staff has been working with the project architect regarding the park. In addition, according to the recommendations made by this Commission to the Planning Commission and the City Council, the open space parcels have been dedicated to the City, with the exception of parcel “I” which will be dedicated to the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department. The emergency vehicle access path has also been dedicated to the City. The two proposed cul-de-sacs within the subdivision, have open access to the open space areas.

Gretchen McCann made a presentation about the proposed park, spoke about the grading required in order to incorporate the elements needed in the park area, showed views from the parkside, and outlined the features of the proposed park. After the presentation, the Commission made the following recommendations for the proposed park:

- Light covers to keep the lights focused down
- Two benches by the playground

- 1 ▪ Some type of wind buffer by the playground, i.e. trees/shrubs
- 2 ▪ A three-level drinking fountain
- 3 ▪ A community bulletin board
- 4 ▪ A plastic bag receptacle for dog bags and waste in one of the entry ways
- 5 ▪ Two picnic tables with an upright barbecue pit
- 6 ▪ Detailing to prevent skate boarding on the wall
- 7 ▪ Signage
- 8 ▪ Bike racks
- 9 ▪ Trail loop within park
- 10 ▪ Space reserved for future art display

11

12 **OLD BUSINESS**

13

14 **1) Park Master Plan Update - Carr**

15

16 **Carr** – Congratulated the Commissioners for the work they did on the park master plan workshop, where
17 they considered the list of park master plan elements and discussed the short, medium, and long-range
18 goals. Next to the listed items, he and Ed Anchordoguy will be developing an additional column with a
19 description of the type of resources that would be needed to implement the projects, such as funding, land,
20 partnerships with other agencies, public restrooms, etc.

21

22 After reviewing the list, he will be sorting the items into the following sub-categories: Facility expansion,
23 facility development, maintenance issues, program development and expansion, partnerships, funding
24 strategies, education outreach. These categories would be helpful to obtain a composite idea of what
25 resources would be needed. Because of budget constraints, Carr indicated that there is a need to develop
26 relationships with another organizations in order to develop some of the projects.

27

28 So that the Commission can better evaluate the small, medium and long-range goals, staff will be
29 developing a draft master plan, which will include a narrative, additional information, the Existing
30 Conditions and Opportunities report, and prices. Once the Commission receives the information, they can
31 start sorting the projects into one, five, and ten-year time frames. Staff will be submitting the list of
32 projects by next week.

33

34 **Ken McCoy** – Suggested that the Commission review the list of projects before the next meeting. He
35 believes that some of the projects could be implemented at a minimal or no cost at all and would like to
36 proceed with those projects as soon as possible, i.e., the BMX track, and the “non-spray” ordinance for
37 parks.

38

39 **John Kinsella** – Suggested that staff include estimated costs to develop projects.

40

41 **Bruce Hagen** – In order to develop a tool that can help the Commission, he asked Carr to send him the
42 list of master plan ideas so he can create a spread sheet and sort the projects by price range, time frame,
43 age groups that are served, etc.

44

45 **Bryant Moynihan** – Due to budget difficulties, he suggested that the Commission consider partnerships
46 with other organizations to operate some of the City facilities or whatever creative ideas they can come up
47 with that would shift the operation from the City’s general fund to another areas, so that next year, the
48 City does not have a severe reduction in services.

49

1 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

2
3 **1) Elaine Ramirez –**

4 **a) Elings Park–(Santa Barbara)** –Visited the 230-acre park facility which is owned and administered
5 by a non-profit organization called the Elings Park Foundation. The park is not funded, operated, or
6 maintained by tax dollars. Elings Park draws over 170,000 visitors a year and has playing fields for soccer
7 and softball, hiking trails, picnic areas, venues for special events, tennis courts, a temporary BMX track,
8 and a variety of programs. There is an off-leash park area that can only be used by purchasing a permit for
9 \$56 a year. Elaine Ramirez commented that this is an example of certain ways Petaluma can operate
10 beyond relying upon tax dollars to fund or maintain a park. She distributed information about the park.
11

12 **b) Shollenberger Trail** – Walked the trail from the Marina to Shollenberger Park and saw many visitors
13 walking along the path. She suggested that staff consider for the general plan, having a river walk access
14 all the way from downtown Petaluma. She gave positive comments and encouraged the Commissioners to
15 visit the site.
16

17 **2) Marja Tarr** – No Report.
18

19 **3) Bruce Hagen -**
20

21 **a) Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)** – The BAC will be sending out flyers to neighbors who live
22 along Washington Creek to notify them about the trail improvements. Members of the committee are
23 planning to go door to door to the houses that back up against the creek. The trail will start on East
24 Washington Creek by the shopping center near Round Table Pizza and will extend behind Mervyns.
25 There is also a section of the trail that continues to Ely Blvd. He will keep the Commission informed
26 about the project.
27

28 The BAC is planning to have by the end of the year, a user-friendly, attractive map, that shows the main
29 bike routes around town.
30

31 **4) Bryant Moynihan -**
32

33 **a) Carter Field** – National Little League has been doing most of the renovation work on volunteer basis.
34 They have been working on the diamonds, benches and repainting everything. He commented that the
35 field is heavily used but he does not find the parking adequate.
36

37 **b) Colorado** – During his vacation, he spent half a day visiting a Community Center which features a
38 gym, an indoor pool with a water slide, and a lap pool. The facility is a two-story structure and in the
39 upper floor there is place to run laps, gym equipment, climbing walls. There are also indoor and outdoor
40 Jacuzzis and hot tubs, and many recreational classes are also offered. He suggested that in the future the
41 City might consider doing something similar to that facility in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club.
42

43 **5) John Kinsella**
44

45 **a) Tree Advisory Committee (TAC)** – Reported that members of the committee are considering
46 planting trees around the skate park. He asked staff about vandalism.
47

48 **Ed Anchoroguy** – Spoke about vandalism experiences at the skate park and said that all the trees that
49 were planted at the entrance of the Park and Ride lot are replacement trees for the ones that were
50 vandalized.

1
2 **Carr** – Commented that the benches that were installed around the park were also vandalized. The
3 benches became congregation points for vandals, so staff removed them. He mentioned a long-range plan
4 to light the skate park and having the lights go off at 10 p.m.; Carr suggested planting arbors for shade
5 rather than trees.
6
7 **b) Sunrise Park** – Looks good.
8
9 **c) Oak Hill Park** – It was mowed and looks attractive. About three weeks ago, there was an excellent
10 community building event where many volunteers pulled weeds in the native grass area.
11 ▪ The Plexiglas is missing in the bulletin board located on the lower area of the park.
12
13 **d) Penry Park** – It was mowed and the turf looks good. Noticed a great amount of weeds in the asphalt
14 and walkway.
15 ▪ The water fountain was shooting about 5 feet high when it was turned on.
16 ▪ There is graffiti on the Penry’s monument.
17 ▪ One of the benches had a broken seat.
18
19 **e) Community Garden** – The project is proceeding. On Saturday, April 12, regardless of the heavy rain,
20 the irrigation was installed with the help of Dusty Resneck and Ed Anchoroguy. The beds are ready to
21 be planted. About 200 plants were donated by Cottage Gardens including 8 apple trees. There are plans
22 for an apple orchard in back of the garden. Planting will start on May 3 at 9 a.m. He invited the
23 Commission to participate and thanked staff for their assistance.
24
25 **6) Ken McCoy -**
26 **a) Wiseman** – Detected standing water on the south goal of the north field. Also, there continues to be
27 standing water on the north corner of the south field.
28 ▪ Noticed that is very wet around the water fountain by the south field.
29
30 **b) Lucchesi Field** – Complained to Don Phoenix about the Sonoma County men’s league who used the
31 Lucchesi field for a tournament a couple of weekends ago. They put tape on the field, spray painted the
32 field, and moved the goals. He suggested to Don Phoenix to ban the use of the field by outside teams with
33 the exception of the men’s teams from Petaluma.
34 ▪ More garbage cans are needed by the field.
35
36 **c) BMX Track** – Asked staff to provide suggestions regarding a location to develop a bmx track facility.
37 He spoke in favor of the proposal that Valerie Neuhaus presented to the Commission in February 2003,
38 and encouraged staff to take advantage of the offer to install the track at no cost, if the City would provide
39 a location. Ken McCoy asked staff to place this item on the next agenda.
40 **Carr** – Indicated that a two-acre site would be needed for the track since parking needs to be considered.
41
42 **d) Miwok Playing Fields** – Has not heard from Don Phoenix about the status of the playing fields.
43 **Carr** – Attended the dedication of Miwok and La Tercera and all the fields are usable. As part of the
44 renovation of Miwok, an 8-mile track has been developed. The field renovation at La Tercera will be
45 finished in a few weeks. Miwok is available for youth sports.
46
47 **e) Swimming Pool** – Received a request from Sonoma Coast Bamboo Reef for the use of the pool for
48 diving classes on 25 dates.
49 **Carr** – Suggested that Ken refers the request to Don Phoenix.
50

1 **f) Prince Park** – Is in good condition. He was happy to see that two practicing teams were able to work
2 together and make arrangements so that both can play at the same time.

3
4 **g) Boys and Girls Club Pool** – Requested information regarding County funding for the pool and the
5 athletic field.

6
7 **Marja Tarr** – The committee funded three projects in Petaluma: \$75,000 was awarded for a track and
8 field project at Two Rock; \$45,000 for field renovation at Liberty School; \$165,000 for the Boys and
9 Girls Club pool from the \$193,000 they requested.

10
11 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

12
13 **1) Redwood Empire Sports Association (RESA)** – The agreement was signed and the project will be
14 proceeding.

15
16 **2) Shollenberger Park** – In about two to three weeks staff will be finding out if the State Lands
17 Commission will be finalizing the acquisition of the property which will then be leased to the City. The
18 CCC will be installing the remaining bridge.

19
20 **3) Arts Council** – Carr had a discussion with Scott Hess from the Arts Council about the Arts in the Park
21 program. Bruce Hagen had suggested asking the Arts Council if they could help with the selection of art
22 pieces.

23
24 **4) HC2** – The HC2 organization has a program called Building Healthy Neighborhoods. About six
25 months ago, Hospital Board Member Whitney Hall attended a workshop in San Diego which basically
26 dealt with children who lack proper diets, have chronic diseases, and weight problems - that leads to low
27 self-esteem and lack of motivation. The suggestions brought up besides education, ties in with the
28 Commission’s master plan such as after school programs, sports programs, creative art, and community
29 type of activities. In the HC2’s Healthy Neighborhood Program, the idea is to work with neighborhoods
30 and build a coalition, similar to what is happening at Oak Hill Park. HC2 has received a small grant to
31 assist neighborhoods in getting started, i.e. buy materials and supplies, etc.

32
33 **5) Lyons Club** – Club members are considering participating with the City on projects. There is a list of
34 about 30 projects that were approved by the City Council for funding when the Prop 40 monies become
35 available. There is also a possibility that three Rotary Clubs will work together on a park project. Carr
36 will be suggesting that they work on Gatti Park.

37
38 **6) Rocky Park** – Ed Anchorodoguy and Carr have been dealing with a number of dog owners who use
39 Rocky Park. Among other things, they are requesting that staff remove the foxtails. Carr commented that
40 is difficult to remove foxtails from that area that is so impacted with dogs that the native vegetation has
41 been destroyed. Staff has installed a portable toilet at the park and is trying to repair some drainage areas.
42 The dog owners have also been complaining to the City Council and Animal Control. Carr commented
43 that the City needs more areas to run dogs and otherwise existing areas will be severely impacted because
44 of the heavy use. Staff is trying to work with Nancee Taveras from Animal Control who has been very
45 supportive in that regard.

46
47 **John Kinsella** – Suggested revisiting the issue regarding places to develop a dog run area, such as
48 detention basins, and the site on Industrial Drive.

1 **Carr** – The site at Industrial Drive is not recommended due to the heavy traffic in the area and the cost to
2 develop a parking lot.

3
4 **Ken McCoy** – Suggested the vacant lot at Wiseman where the tennis courts are planned to be developed
5 in the future. He also suggested that the Commission meet on a weekend so they can find spots that are
6 scheduled to be used for other purposes in the future, but currently could address the issue. He also
7 recommended considering a spot at Garfield, (Arroyo Park), the field behind Casa Grande High School,
8 and a portion of Prince Park.

9
10 **Carr** – Staff has been considering many areas, and would like to find a site that does not attract heavy
11 traffic going through a neighborhood. Staff will continue looking for alternative sites.

12
13 **Elaine Ramirez** - Suggested charging a yearly fee to dog owners for using the different dog run areas
14 which could be used to pay for grounds maintenance.

15
16 **Bryant Moynihan** – Suggested placing this item on the next agenda.

17
18 **7) Shollenberger and Lucchesi** – Some people come to the parks to capture the cats, have them fixed,
19 and then they release them to the wild. Animal Control prohibited the release of cats in the parks, but
20 people continue doing the same thing.

21
22 **Ed Anchoroguy** – Announced that the grooming machine for the Lucchesi Turf Field has been
23 received. Commissioners expressed interest to find out how the machine works.

24
25 **ADJOURNMENT** –

26
27 John Kinsella moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Bruce Hagen, unanimously
28 approved.

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