

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

Petaluma Community Center

7:00 p.m.

320 North McDowell Blvd.

Petaluma, CA 94954

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

Commissioners Absent: Moynihan

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: May 21, 2003

Marja Tarr moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Elaine Ramirez, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS –

Carr – Ms Kay Drew wrote a letter to the Editor of the local newspaper complaining about the swimming pool being closed during the week at the end of May. (Correspondence from Ms. Drew provided for Commissioners). Carr indicated that the pool was only opened on weekends during May and will be opening seven days a week starting mid-June when school is out. Carr called Ms. Drew and left a message on her recorder.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Park Master Plan Update - Carr

Carr – Teen Coordinator Donnie Frank and Carr are almost finished with the Youth Master Plan. Regarding the Parks Master Plan, Carr plans to put the goals into a narrative format, similar to the General Plan, and will be presenting it to the Commission in the near future.

1 **1) Rocky Dog Park – Status Report – Carr/Anchoroguy**

2
3 **Carr** – Gave a background of the issue discussed at the May meeting, and indicated that staff is trying
4 to develop a plan to re-establish a cover of native grasses at the park.

5
6 The primary obstacles to creating a solution are: The soil cap cannot be penetrated for any reason (i.e.
7 scarify the soil to re-plant, sink fence posts or plant trees); there is no irrigation on site, and funding is
8 non-existent.

9
10 Carr outlined three different options that staff is considering. He indicated that regardless of the
11 alternative chosen, staff plans to install base rock in a 30’ radius from the parking lot to serve as an
12 apron to reduce bad drainage at the entry points to the dog run area, and also implement the same
13 policy currently used for the turfing areas in all of the City athletic fields. That means closing the park
14 after the first heavy rains in December and leaving it closed until mid-March. This will reduce the
15 compaction of the soil and allow grasses to become established prior to the first mowing in the spring.

16
17 If Rocky Park closure is required for grass establishment, Commissioners suggested:

- 18 • Providing equivalent space on alternative sites.
- 19 • Set up a committee with users of the park, so they can help find alternative sites,
20 and assist with restoration and maintenance.
- 21 • Post signs at the site, indicating that staff is looking for alternative locations.

22
23 **Carr** - Staff will be presenting to the Commission a detailed plan, identifying costs and possible
24 funding sources.

25
26 **3) Commissioners Park/Facilities Watch Program**

27
28 **Carr** – Explained the program to the new elected Commissioner Karen Nau. Following discussion, the
29 following parks were assigned for her watch: Petaluma Historical Museum, Sunrise Park, Skate Park,
30 Swim Center, Carter Field, and McDowell Meadows.

31
32 **NEW BUSINESS**

33
34 **1) Park Naming Contest for the Magnolia Avenue Park Site - Carr**

35
36 **Carr** –Project Manager of Mission Valley Properties Dan Aguilar, initiated a park-naming contest
37 with local schools to name the Magnolia Park site. The participating elementary, middle schools, and
38 high school would obtain cash prizes, and the idea was to pick a winning entry from each of those
39 categories. Six entries were received from five schools. Although the rules specified one entry per
40 school, two entries were received from St. Vincent’s High School. Mr. Aguilar agreed to accept all
41 entries due to the light response. He planned to give \$300 to each school that submitted an entry and
42 then have a \$1,000 prize for the winning school, but now, he is considering giving each school that
43 responded \$1,000.

44
45 Carr referred to the staff report included in the packet and asked the Commission to make a
46 recommendation from the names submitted or provide a suggestion.

47
48 Following discussion, John Kinsella made a motion recommending that the new park at the Magnolia
49 site be named Mannion Knoll, seconded by Marja Tarr, unanimously approved.

1 **2) Lafferty Trail Presentation (Information Item) – Bruce Hagen**

2
3 **Bruce Hagen** – Bonnie Mitsui, who owns a 630-acre parcel at the top of Sonoma Mountain, is willing
4 to donate a 1.45 mile trail easement to the State of California that will connect Lafferty Ranch to Jack
5 London State Park. About 15 years ago, she donated the development rights on her property to the
6 California State Coastal Conservancy, so that nothing can be built on it.

7
8 What is needed is the State and City approval, along with the consent of one of the nearby landowners
9 whose land occupies 500 feet between Mitsui’s property and Jack London State Park. Opponents are
10 expected to challenge the project. The State wants to ensure that there is enough public support.

11
12 Bonnie Mitsui has given proponents of the trail, permission to take people on tours to visit the site. The
13 City Manager, some Councilmembers, and City staff have already visited the property.

14
15 Hagen made a slide presentation of the site. He asked the Commission to visit the site before the next
16 meeting, and suggested placing this item on the next agenda so that the Commission can consider a
17 resolution of support for the project.

18
19 **Carr** – Suggested that this item be discussed at the public meeting of July 16, after the Gatti Park
20 project.

21
22 Hagen asked Carr about the possibility of placing a sign at the entry to Lafferty Ranch that identifies
23 the City property and indicates that permission to trespass is subject to City control. Carr indicated he
24 has made the request to the City attorney some time ago. He will follow up regarding the request.

25
26 Following discussion, it was the general consensus of the Commission to visit the Mitsui’s property on
27 June 23 at 5 p.m. Mr. Hagen said that he will be inviting Councilmembers O’Brien, Harris, and
28 Moynihan who have not yet visited the property.

29
30 **COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

31
32 **1) John Kinsella -**

33 **a) Penry Park** – Looks attractive.

34 **b) Oak Hill Park** – Needs mowing - Requested additional mulch..

35 **c) Sunrise Park** – Looks attractive. Noticed some tall weeds along the creek.

36 **d) Cavanagh Community Garden** – The garden is looking very nice and vegetables are growing in
37 all the plots. On May 31, gardeners planted dozens of habitat plants along the borders and prepared the
38 holes to plant apple trees. On the same date, there was an organic class attended by 30 people. He
39 invited the Commissioners to visit the garden.

40
41 Members of the Petaluma Art Council are trying to do a mural or mosaic project on the brick wall at
42 the Cavanagh pool. Their idea is to get the schools involved and have them make panels in their
43 classrooms before installing them on the wall.

44
45 **Carr** – Suggested that any mural proposal selected for the Cavanagh brick wall be presented to the
46 Commission for review.

1 **2) Marja Tarr -**
2 **a) Gatti Park** – Requested that staff invite the interested athletic organizations to attend the public
3 hearing scheduled on July 16.
4 **Carr** – Plans to advertise the meeting through the local newspapers, send notices to the neighborhood
5 and athletic organizations.
6 **b) Bulletin Boards** – Asked about plans to install bulletin boards in the different parks.
7 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Staff will be installing bulletin boards by mid-July on the athletic fields at
8 Lucchesi, Wiseman and Prince Parks. The main purpose of the boards would be to display the
9 permitted schedules.
10 **c) Swimming Lessons** – Master Swimmers raised scholarship money to help needy families pay for
11 swimming lessons. She asked if some procedure has been set up to help those families.
12 **Carr** – Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix works with the Salvation Army, COTS and other
13 organizations, and they determine who needs the help.
14 **d) Bond and McNear** – Thanked staff for fixing the drinking fountains at both parks.
15 All of her parks look attractive and many people are enjoying them.
16
17 **3) Elaine Ramirez -**
18 **a) Petaluma Arts Council** – As a Commission liaison, she met with Alison Marks and Karen Peterson
19 from the Arts Council. They asked that she present the following topics to the Commission:
20 • Inclusion of the arts and culture component in the Parks Master Plan.
21 • Renaming of the Recreation, Music and Parks Commission to Commission of Parks, Recreation, and
22 Cultural Arts.
23 • Formation of a Public Art and Culture Advisory Committee
24 Ms. Ramirez suggested that staff place this item on the September agenda so that the Arts Council has
25 ample time to formulate the committee’s organization, frequency of the meetings, reporting
26 procedures, and define their charge.
27 **Carr** – Suggested that this item be placed on the October agenda. He will be contacting other cities to
28 obtain information regarding their arts council policies.
29 Ms. Ramirez will be providing Carr with a copy of the Santa Rosa Arts Council policy.
30 **b) La Tercera** – Presented safety concerns about the bad condition of the portable toilet.
31 **c) McDowell** – There is a piece of broken wood behind one of the softball backstops.
32
33 Her remaining parks look very good. She talked about the poor maintenance of the school grounds
34 compared to the excellent maintenance of the City facilities. She would like to see some cooperation
35 between the school district and the City in regards to grounds maintenance.
36
37 **4) Karen Nau -**
38 **a) Petaluma Historical Museum** – On May 31, there was a dedication event at the museum
39 celebrated with music, costumes, and a tea party. \$80,000 were received from community donations
40 and used for improvements. The new deck looks very attractive, and the beautiful plantings have been
41 all done by the garden club and community members. She thanked Susan Villa for her fundraising
42 efforts.
43
44 **5) Ken McCoy -**
45 **a) Prince Park** – Looks very attractive. He asked Carr to review the estimate for the synthetic turf.
46 **b) Lucchesi Turf Field** – Asked staff about the possibility of drilling holes on the wood barriers in
47 the parking lot, so that the water drains into the parking lot and not on the field.
48
49

1 **6) Bruce Hagen -**
2 **a) Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)** – At the public hearing of May 28, there was discussion
3 about the TDA funds the City is receiving from the State of California to enhance and open up the bike
4 trails along Washington Creek. On June 17, the planning and design process will be discussed. Due to
5 the possibility of better prices, the project may have to wait until next spring.
6

7 **John Kinsella** – Attended the public hearing and some neighbors spoke against the project. Their fear
8 was that some people would be riding bikes in their backyards, loitering, or possible bad behavior. He
9 spoke about the positive benefits of developing a community garden.
10

11 Bruce Hagen informed the Commission that Cobblestone Homes will be developing 63 units behind
12 COTS and that the BAC has seen some preliminary plans. He spoke about the project and indicated
13 that there is a possibility that a 2 to 3 acre pocket park could be developed. He suggested that this item
14 be brought before the Commission.
15 No report on his facilities.
16

17 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*
18

19 **a) Art in the Park Program** – Informed the Commission that the art sculptures have been placed at
20 Lucchesi Park. The large train that Susanne Wibroe-Fost, dedicated to the City has been placed in the
21 sand area behind the group picnic area.
22

23 **b) Gatti Park** – Staff sent out an RFP for the project and a number of responses were received. Five
24 firms were interviewed and Gretchen Stranzl McCann, the firm that was working on Rockridge Park
25 was selected. Carr gave positive comments about the firm and reminded the Commission that Cross
26 Creek developer Doyle Heaton is required to fund the development of the softball and little league
27 fields.
28

29 Carr outlined the park features and commented that the first public meeting will be on July 16 at the
30 Santa Rosa Junior College. He will be notifying the neighborhood and sports organizations. The intent
31 is for the public to attend the meeting and provide ideas of what they would like to see in the park.
32 Once the Commission approves the park design, it will be presented to the City Council for approval.
33

34 **3) Petaluma Senior Center** – After resolving some issues, the architect signed the agreement and
35 provided staff with the proper insurance. The firm has started to work on the plans and specifications.
36 The project might be ready for bid by November or December, but if it waits until next spring, a better
37 price may be obtained.
38

39 **4) Shollenberger Park** – State Lands has approved the lease for the last segment of trail where one
40 bridge needs to be placed. The CCC has provided a price to install the bridge. The Fishing Pier which
41 is required for Shollenberger Park has also been approved by State Lands and staff is trying to obtain
42 prices to start the project.
43

44 **5) Polly Hannah Klaas Performing Arts Center** – Professional fundraisers have indicated that
45 unless there is a leading non-profit organization, the ability of generating revenue is going to be
46 difficult. Foundations and other funding sources do not like to provide funds to government agencies.
47 Recreation Supervisor Jan Mandrell is working with members of Leadership Petaluma to form a non-
48 profit organization. Once a non-profit organization is formed, professional fundraisers will be in a
49 better situation to obtain grants. About 1 million dollars needs to be raised. Once the renovation project

1 is completed, the City will control the policies as far as use of the theater. Carr has always envisioned
2 having a non-profit organization operate the facility for the City.
3

4 **6) McNear Peninsula** – General Plan Administrator Pamela Tuft, Scott Duivan, and staff are
5 proceeding with the project. The City received a grant for phase II, and also monies from the Bay
6 Ridge Trail to connect the trail to Hopper Street. In the long run, there will be a bike trail from Hopper
7 Street to Caulfield Lane.
8

9 **7) Petaluma Marina Dredging** – Staff is proceeding with the plans and specifications. Typically, the
10 window to start is August 1. Carr has been trying to communicate with the Army Corps of Engineers
11 for the last four weeks, but has received no response.
12

13 **8) RESA Project Softball Complex** – The project is moving forward. A ground-breaking ceremony
14 has been planned in the next two to three weeks.
15

16 **9) Walnut Park Playground** – The Rotary Club of Petaluma raised about \$80,000 for the playground
17 renovations at McNear Park. They have also agreed to undertake the project to replace the playground
18 at Walnut Park. The project may start next year.
19

20 **ADJOURNMENT** -
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22 Bruce Hagen moved, seconded by Marja Tarr, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at
23 9 p.m.
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