

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

*Wednesday, March 19, 2003*  
*7:00 p.m.*

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

***Commissioners Present:*** Hagen, Kinsella, McCoy\*, Tarr

***Commissioners Absent:*** Moynihan, Ramirez

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

***Chair\****

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 19, 2003**

**Marja Tarr** – On Page 3, Re: **Pesticides in Parks – Include:** The suggestion that the Browns might want to form or join a park maintenance group similar to the one at Oak Hill Park, where the neighbors who use the park, have work parties and take care of the park.

Marja Tarr moved that the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by John Kinsella, unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Bill Phillips** – Gave an update of the Magnolia Park project and distributed a report about the site. The first sheet of the report is a recap of the neighborhood suggestions regarding the park features prior to the election of the new City Council. The second page, is a proposition made by the developer to the neighborhood, and includes information summarized on the back of the sheet. The third page, shows the final wish of the neighborhood and based on this, Landscape Architect Steve Arago from CSW/Stuber-Stroh will device a plan, which will be submitted to Jim Carr and this Commission.

Following discussion, Carr indicated that the procedure for designing parks adjacent to existing neighborhoods is to hold a public meeting for local residents, to hear their ideas about the park. Steve Arago will then develop a conceptual design, which will be presented to the Commission and submitted to the City Council for approval.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**1) Carr's** response letter to Mr. George Nazzal who had presented a number of concerns to the City Council regarding the use of the Lucchesi park synthetic field.

1 **2) Alan Anspach Recognition** – Carr presented the former Executive Director of the Petaluma Boys  
2 and Girls Club Alan Anspach with a recognition plaque for his 20 years of community service. Carr  
3 commented that the Parks and Recreation Department staff had a good working relationship with Mr.  
4 Anspach and that he will be missed.

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6 **Alan Anspach** – Thanked the Commission and Jim Carr for their time and energy and said that he has  
7 enjoyed working with them.

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9 **OLD BUSINESS**

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11 **1) Lucchesi Multi-Use Field Update - Tarr**

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13 **Marja Tarr** – During the last 5 months, she has received many complaints from Petaluma parents about  
14 the Lucchesi Park synthetic field use. As a follow up from the last Commission meeting of February 19,  
15 she met on two occasions with Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix, and PYSL League Field Scheduler  
16 Tracie Hankerson to revisit the Lucchesi rental policies and procedures, and to address some of the  
17 concerns that have been presented.

18  
19 **Don Phoenix** – The Lucchesi Park synthetic soccer field came on line July 8, 2000, and since then is  
20 being heavily used. Through the end of February 2003 (approximately 32 months), the field has been  
21 booked a total of 1,882 times. During the year 2002 alone, the field has been scheduled 355 times out of  
22 365 days.

23  
24 Don Phoenix mentioned that he works closely with Tracie Hankerson and other PYSL families in  
25 scheduling the field and that PYSL has first priority in the use of the field. Currently, PYSL is scheduled  
26 to use the field from Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and all the other groups are  
27 scheduled around that time.

28  
29 Included in the Commission’s packet, were formalized policies and procedures, a handout to users  
30 indicating the procedures how to activate and turn off the lights, rules and guidelines when the field was  
31 first established, a fee schedule, and a cost and revenue report for the field.

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33 **Marja Tarr** – Asked about revenues.

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35 **Carr** – Fees collected for lights are placed in an operating account to pay for utilities with the remaining  
36 funds placed in a holding account to offset the cost of the projected replacement of the turf in  
37 approximately 10 to 12 years.

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39 **John Kinsella** – Asked about the status of the grooming machine for the field.

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41 **Ed Anchordoguy** – The machine is being manufactured and will be put to use as soon as it is received.

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43 **Marja Tarr** – It seems to her that the field is generating the amount of money needed for its  
44 replacement in 10 to 12 years, and not being sold over the priority of having children use it. She  
45 believes that this is a very good balance.

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47 **Tracie Hankerson** – Reported that the lights located on the southeast corner of the field are out.  
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**2) Oak Hill Park Issues – Update - Carr**

**Carr** - Had a conversation with the Police Chief and the City Attorney and both are suggesting postponing the discussion of the daylight savings time schedule for a few weeks, and reviewing the policies before presenting this item back to the City Council. He suggested that perhaps in the summer, the Commission might want to discuss the winter hours and present their recommendation to the City Council. At the same time, they may want to consider revisiting the hours for all parks.

**3) Park Master Plan Workshop for Commissioners Report - Carr**

**Carr** – Reminded the Commission that the Park Master Plan workshop has been scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. General Plan Administrator Pamela Tuft will be present at the meeting for a portion of the morning session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1) CAD System – GIS Manager Trae Cooper.**

(Discussion of Auto CAD Possibilities for Property/Park Management, Inventory and Development)

**Trae Cooper** – Following introduction, Trae Cooper indicated that he is in charge of maintaining the City mapping database. He gave a demonstration of a new technology application that the City has obtained and explained its use. The information obtained is very valuable and is available to all staff via the City’s computer network.

Some of the uses of the application are: To find out about property ownership where vacant lands are located, to do public noticing to homeowners within a 500’ radius of certain property, custom mapping, to identify vacant lots in the City, to create traffic and water distribution models for the General Plan, etc. Staff is considering making this information available to the public within a year or two, so that interested people would be able to access the City’s website and obtain mapping information.

**Bruce Hagen** – Believes that the application will be very useful to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

**Ken McCoy** – Asked about the possibilities of obtaining a map of the vacant City-owned parcels.

**Trae Cooper** – There is a map that has been produced for the General Plan that shows not only City-owned land, but also vacant, residential, and commercial land, and is coded in such a way that it is possible to identify public institutional versus private land. He will be providing a copy of this map to Jim Carr before March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**2) Cardoza Property Discussion - Hagen**

**Carr** – Attached is a staff report from the Open Space District regarding the possible purchase of the Tolay Lake Ranch. The General Manager of the Open Space District Andrea McKenzie has received authorization to start negotiations regarding a possible acquisition of the property. Any site visits and further comment are premature at this time. Bruce Hagen had a conversation with Ms. McKenzie and was able to visit the property and do some videotaping. Bruce will show the video at the Parks Master Plan workshop on March 28, 2003.

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2 **Monumental Sculpture Works – (Item not in the agenda)**  
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4 **Carr** - Introduced Susanne and Laurent Wibroe-Fost and indicated that Susanne will be presenting a  
5 proposal tonight regarding monumental sculpture works. He showed the Commission some photos of  
6 sculpture works and indicated that Susanne has asked staff to consider placing a couple of pieces on City  
7 sites. One of the sculptures is a 21' tall tee-pee, which weighs about 1,000 lbs. and a large sculpted piece  
8 of a dog that she is working on.  
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10 Carr suggested that the Commission consider installing the tee-pee sculpture on the sand area at  
11 Lucchesi Park, where the previous pre-school playground used to be and asked that the Commission  
12 consider other sites.  
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14 Susanne made a presentation of her sculpture exhibition proposal and indicated that she is looking for  
15 sites in Petaluma to install the sculpture pieces. The sculptures will be at no cost to the City. The  
16 sculptors themselves will incur the cost of transportation and crane installation and will maintain and  
17 hold themselves responsible for any vandalism, graffiti or tagging to their own works. She asked that  
18 the Commission consider her proposal.  
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20 Following discussion, it was the Commission consensus to address this item on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Park  
21 Master Plan Workshop and discuss possible sites where the sculptures could be installed.  
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23 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**  
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25 **1) Bruce Hagen** – No report  
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27 **2) John Kinsella** –

28 **a) Community Garden** - The project is proceeding. Ed Anchordoguy and Landscape Contractor Rusty  
29 Resneck have helped with the installation of the irrigation system. An orientation day has been  
30 scheduled on April 12. Gardeners have transformed the empty lot into a wonderful garden - Two  
31 hundred plants were donated by Cottage Garden Nursery, which will be planted in April. A web site  
32 and links to other garden sources has been developed with a variety of information about community  
33 gardens.

34 **b) Oak Hill Park** – On March 22, a work crew will be doing weed pulling, plantings, and general fix up  
35 at the park.

36 He did not visit his other parks  
37

38 **3) Marja Tarr** -

39 **a) Swimming Pool** – The swimming pool opened on March 17 and it will be opened in the mornings for  
40 lap swim starting April 2, 2003.

41 **b) Bond Parks** – Grass looks great, foliage is well maintained. In the basketball court, there is one net  
42 that needs to be replaced and the lines are hardly visible. At the centerline, there are two holes in the  
43 cement. She presented concerns about possible liability issues.

44 **c) Casa del Oro** – The tennis courts needs painting. There is graffiti on the fencing along the southeast  
45 side of the park, and there are many areas where the slots are missing. Turf area looks good, the grass is  
46 cut, the play area could use more sand.

47 **d) Petaluma Senior Center** – Was impressed with the beautiful garden in the back of the facility.

48 Noticed that there is no sign in the front of the building, and asked staff about the possibility of placing a

1 visible sign displaying the name of the center. Visited the center and learned about the interesting  
2 programs that are offered.

3 **e) Lucchesi Tennis Courts** – Bathrooms can use power spraying on the ceilings, the courts need  
4 resurfacing, the wind screening looks like they have been set on fire in several different places, the lock  
5 in the bulletin board needs fixing, the backing behind the sign may need replacing.

6 **f) Lucchesi Soccer Field** – Requested a bulletin board similar to the one adjacent to the tennis courts.  
7 The water fountains do not seem to have enough water pressure.

8 **g) McNear Park** – A large number of children use the playground and the tennis courts are heavily  
9 used.

10 **e) Museum** – Landscape looks fine.

11 **f) Polly Hannah Klaas Center** – The sign still reads that \$300,000 has been donated. She hopes that  
12 more donations will be received in order to proceed with the building renovations.

13

14 **4) Ken McCoy** – No report about his parks.

15 **a) Traditions Subdivision** – Asked about parking along the park in the Traditions Subdivision.  
16 **Carr** – Noticed that it appears to be tight to park on both sides of the street. He will be speaking with  
17 City Engineer Craig Spaulding regarding any parking restrictions. Carr pointed out, that with the  
18 pedestrian bridge midway in the park, parking will be available on the south and north sides of the park.

19 **b) Lucchesi Soccer Field** – Due to the fact that there have been fender benders and traffic congestion,  
20 several people have asked him about the possibility of making an exit on the south end of the parking lot  
21 at Lucchesi, so that it can be a one-way flow.

22 **Carr** – Will be speaking to Craig Spaulding from Engineering about this issue.

23 **c) User fees** – He was wondering if bills for user fees have been sent to the different organizations, such  
24 as the soccer and volleyball leagues.

25 **Carr** – Don Phoenix requested that the Finance Department mail out the bills, but staff does not know if  
26 they have responded.

27 **Ken McCoy** – Asked about fees for adult soccer and softball.

28 **Carr** – The softball leagues pay league fees, which include the use of fields. Any others that use the  
29 sports fields pay a per use fee.

30

31 **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS** – *Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation*

32

33 **a) Swim Center** – Is now opened for public use.

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35 **b) Park Master Plan** – The Recreation, Music and Parks Commission and the Youth Commissions will  
36 be working on their respective master plans. The plan was to have the two commissions join efforts in  
37 their master plans, but instead the Youth Commission will be using the Recreation Commission's  
38 information and building upon it.

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40 **c) HC2-** Pat Landrum has been hired as the new Executive Director. Carr would like to show the  
41 Commission a video so they can get an idea about the healthy communities model.

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43 **d) Project Reach** - On March 17, a woman called Carr about a program called "Project Reach" where a  
44 group of volunteers are going to encourage children to write to servicemen and ask them to write back.  
45 They are also planning a workshop and will invite speakers to educate adults how to speak to children  
46 about the current challenges throughout the world.

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48 **e) McNear Peninsula** - Ed Anchooguy, Carr and representatives of two other Departments  
49 interviewed consultants and hired a consulting team to work on the first phase of the project, which will

1 be a trail leading out to the McNear peninsula. Additionally, a grant has been received from the Bay  
2 Ridge Trail to extend the trail from Copeland Street to Hopper Street. The entire project, as it goes  
3 through design, will be presented to the Commission for review.  
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5 **f) Rockridge** – Ed Anchordoguy and Carr met with the architect and a consultant after the City Council  
6 approved the project. This project will be presented to the Commission in order to get input about the  
7 park.  
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9 **g) Rocky Dog Park** – Ed Anchordoguy and Carr met on-site with dog owners and some of them  
10 requested that the park be fenced, and that staff remove the foxtails. Ed Anchordoguy described the  
11 growing process of grasses. Carr just learned that a petition against foxtails is being circulated and will  
12 be presented to the City Council.  
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14 **h) Casa del Oro** – There is a hole in the fence due to vandalism.  
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16 **i) Marina Dredging** – This project is scheduled to occur in August.  
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18 **j) Budget** – The budget process has started. The City Manager has indicated that the existing Capital  
19 Improvement Budget will be carried over to next year. Funding is limited. Projects staff is working on  
20 are expansion of the Petaluma Senior Center and Polly Klaas Theater, Gatti Park, Marina dredging,  
21 RESA and McNear Peninsula.  
22

23 **k) Gatti Park** - Had a meeting with the Rotary Club and according to Club President Ed Fullerton, the  
24 three Rotary Clubs in Petaluma may be interested in participating with the City on the Gatti Park project.  
25 Carr informed them that when the public process starts, a number of park features will be identified that  
26 they will be able to pick and choose from.  
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28 **l) Movies at the Park** - Staff were approached by two women who would like to show outdoor, family-  
29 type movies at McNear Park during the months of July, August, and September. The movies will be  
30 shown once a month on a large screen that they will be providing. Entry fees are by donations only. In  
31 addition, they will be selling raffle tickets and the department will receive half of the sale revenues, and  
32 the other half will be donated to charity. Staff will be suggesting that they donate the funds to the  
33 renovation of Polly Hannah Klaas Center. Staff is in support of the idea and will be working with them.  
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35 **ADJOURNMENT** –  
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37 The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.  
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