

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

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

*Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd.
Conference Room No. 2*

7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Hagen, Kinsella, Nau, Moynihan, Ramirez, Tarr*
Staff Present: Carr, Anchordoguy, Stewart

Chair*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *December 17, 2003*

Bryant Moynihan moved that the Commission approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Elaine Ramirez with the following vote: **AYES: 5; ABSTEIN: 1; ABSENT: 0**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Hal Warren, a member of the Senior Center Advisory Board asked about the status of the Senior Center renovation project.

Carr – The project plans and specifications are going through plan check, and the project will be sent out to bid in March 2004. Anticipated cost is \$481,000. The funding source is State Parks Bonds (Proposition 12 per capita funds). Carr will keep Mr. Warren informed about the progress.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1) Update on Aquatics – Carr

Carr – The City Council at their meeting of February 2, authorized the opening of the Petaluma Swim Center on March 1, 2004. Given the fiscal constraints facing the City, the City Council authorized an abbreviated schedule for March and April, provided that the Aquatic groups raise the revenue shortfall of \$10,141 and 8,664 respectively. The hours of pool operation will be Mon-Thurs. (3-7 pm) and Saturdays (11 am-1 pm). Among the strategies to reduce costs, the City Council directed staff to raise aquatic fees. Staff is recommending raising swim classes and general recreation swim fees. In addition, the Aquatic Advisory Committee met on February 11 and came up with a number of strategies to raise revenue.

1 Carr mentioned that staff is currently working with the Master's Swim coach Patrick McMillan, about the
2 feasibility of conducting early workouts (5:30-7 am) with Patrick acting as lifeguard, in order to reduce
3 costs of pool operation. Recreation Supervisor Don Phoenix is currently working on pool schedules and
4 park maintenance staff is getting the pool prepared for the March opening. Staff is trying to do everything
5 they can to ensure that the pool is open for community use and the Master Swimmers.

6
7 **2) Proposed Disc Golf Course in Lucchesi Park Presentation: Jerry Vance (United Flyers of**
8 **Sonoma)**

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10 Jerry Vance made a presentation of the Disc Golf Course proposal at Lucchesi Park. He indicated that the
11 cost to develop the short course will be approximately \$4,000 and that the disc golfers will be looking for
12 sponsors to donate contributions to cover the cost. Bryant Moynihan suggested that they also request
13 contributions from service organizations.

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15 Bruce Hagen moved that the Commission supports the Disc Golf Course at Lucchesi Park as proposed,
16 and instructs staff to work with the disc golf volunteers to implement the project. The motion was
17 seconded by John Kinsella, unanimously approved.

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19 **NEW BUSINESS**

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21 **1) Park Capital Improvement Discussion – Carr, Moynihan**

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23 **Carr** – Reviewed the list of approved Capital Improvement Projects included in the Commission's
24 packet. Some of the projects are under construction, or anticipated over the next five years.

25
26 Bryant Moynihan suggested using the project list as basis to come up with a recommendation of a 5-year
27 CIP. He commented that the City is creating a trust fund to maintain Mannion Park and suggested asking
28 the Southgate project developer to create an annuity to maintain the park. Due to the budget constraints,
29 and the decline of general fund revenues, this could be an option among others, for funding future
30 maintenance and bringing those parks on line. He also suggested charging project administration fees.

31
32 He spoke in favor of the renovation of the Boys and Girls Club pool and asked about the status of the
33 project. Carr indicated that he will be speaking to Executive Director Jennifer Weiss regarding the status
34 of their pool and asking her to make a formal proposal to the City.

35
36 Mr. Moynihan asked Carr that along with the other projects scheduled for this year, which are Gatti,
37 Senior Center, RESA, and Shollenberger, to develop a 5-year CIP budget and include the Traditions
38 Parksite, Rockridge Pointe and Mannion Park and present it to the City Council to make them aware of
39 the projects for budgeting purposes. As requested, Carr will be preparing a CIP budget for Council's
40 presentation.

41
42 Carr commented that for the next year's Parks and Recreation budget, he will be preparing a 5-year CIP
43 budget for Commission's consideration in order to anticipate the use of funds that would be coming in
44 from park fees.

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46 **2) Southgate Subdivision – Carr**

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48 **Carr** – The Southgate subdivision has been proposed for the south end of town, adjacent to Frates Road
49 and Lakeville Highway. The project proposes up to 221 detached single-family homes, a 1.34 acre park,
50 and a 3.04 acre parcel to be retained for future affordable senior housing (approx. 80 units). The original
51 proposed park location was in the middle of the subdivision with three homes backing onto it. Due to the

1 location of the park within the development, the development of a small sport field was not feasible.
2 Staff's recommendation was to develop a large community playground in the parksite.
3
4 The Planning Commission reviewed the project and asked the developer to meet staff's requirements and
5 to move the park location to an area adjacent to the urban separator.
6
7 Carr indicated that the construction of a bicycle/pedestrian path has been proposed, which runs the entire
8 length of the urban separator. The path is to have benches and trash receptacles, consistent with other
9 east-side urban separator paths. The Commission's comments will be presented to the Community
10 Development Department.
11
12 Bryant Moynihan suggested forming an annuity for the ongoing maintenance of the park and making a
13 recommendation to the City Council at their March 2 meeting.
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15 Regarding the size of the annuity, Ed Anchordoguy recommended that it be \$250,000 at \$12,000/acre per
16 year.
17
18 Elaine Ramirez moved that the Commission recommends:
19 • Developing a large community playground which should be in the order of the proposed Gatti Park
20 playground;
21 • Creating an annuity to cover the annual maintenance of the park;
22 • Connecting the urban separator path to the street that parallels Lakeville on the western boundary
23 between the soundwall and the last home, and also,
24 • That the areas on Frates, Ely, Urban Separator and Lakeville be maintained by a Landscape Assessment
25 District.
26 The motion was seconded by Bruce Hagen, unanimously approved.
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28 **3) Erosion Repairs to Adobe Creek (Lafferty Park) - Hagen**

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30 **Bruce Hagen** – The site is located at the headwaters of the northernmost fork of Adobe Creek, in a
31 meadow approximately halfway between the gate and the north-most corner of Lafferty Park. In the
32 spring of 2003, Mr. Hagen visited the site with a senior staff person from the California Coastal
33 Conservancy, who noticed some erosion of Adobe Creek and suggested that the City apply to the
34 Conservancy for funding to address the problem.
35
36 Following inspection with Steve Chatham of Prunuske-Chatham, a local firm that specializes in
37 ecological restorations, he contacted Laurette Rogers of the San Francisco Bay Institute's STRAW Project
38 (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed). Ms. Rogers informed Mr. Hagen that the STRAW
39 project specializes in streamside restoration and education projects involving K-12 students and their
40 parents; and she indicated that there were two sixth-grade teachers at McNear Elementary School who
41 were currently looking for a project.
42
43 Bruce took the two McNear teachers to visit the site, and they were very enthusiastic about the potential
44 for their students to learn not only about the restoration and related subjects but also about the Lafferty's
45 natural history.
46
47 Bruce asked the Commission to support the project and make a recommendation to Jim Carr and the City
48 Manager so he can proceed with the development of a proposal to be presented to the City Council.
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1 Carr distributed a letter from Mr. Stephen Butler faxed to the City Attorney on February 18th, questioning
2 Bruce Hagen’s reasons to access the site.

3
4 Following a lengthy discussion, Commissioners expressed desire to obtain more information before
5 making a decision and asked Carr to request that the City Attorney review Bruce Hagen’s memo and Mr.
6 Stephen Butler’s letter and request his opinion if it is advisable to proceed with the proposal.

7
8 **Elaine Ramirez** – Asked staff to provide the Commission with the procedure that schools used in the past
9 to enable them to work in Adobe Creek (i.e. cleanup, erosion control).

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11 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

- 12
13 **1) Elaine Ramirez** –
14 **a. The Petaluma Arts Council** – Alison Marks and a group of Petaluma Arts Council members will be
15 making a presentation to the City Council on February 23 and will be asking that they allocate a
16 percentage of the redevelopment and project fees for Public Arts for the City. She supports the Petaluma
17 Arts Council in this endeavor. Elaine reported that she is the Commissioner liaison for the Sonoma
18 County Public Arts Advisory Committee, and so far no meetings have been scheduled.

- 19 **b. Penry Park** – Looks very attractive
20
21 **2) John Kinsella** –
22 **a. Sunrise Park** – Looks good, except for the tall weeds between the asphalt and the creek area.
23 **Ed Anchooguy** – The area needs to dry before it can be mowed.
24 **b. Oak Hill Park** – Staff provided a large amount of mulch which has helped reduce the erosion.
25 Noticed graffiti by the playground (wall and concrete) and on a number of structures.
26 **Cavanagh Community Garden** – Is doing great. Town and Country Sheds has donated a storage shed.
27 Monthly training classes have been planned for the next four months.

- 28
29 **3) Bryant Moynihan** –
30 **a. McNear** – Looks good.
31 **b. Westridge Park** – Asked staff to place on the next agenda the discussion of an off leash dog run area
32 on the site located on the south side of the creek.
33 **c. Westridge Knolls** – Would like staff to schedule off leash dog hours on the area opposite to the
34 playground, above Lavo Lane.
35 **d. Rocky Dog Park** – He suggested considering different grass species like Sudan or Fescue or
36 something that will hold out better under wear and tear.
37 **Ed Anchooguy** – Will be checking the cap and coverage.

- 38
39 **4) Bruce Hagen** –
40 **a. RESA Project** – Asked about the status of the proposed bike path in front of RESA.
41 **Carr** – To his understanding, there has not been any changes, but he will check on the status.

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43 **5) Karen Nau** –
44 **a. Petaluma Museum** – Staff is celebrating the Museum’s 50th year anniversary. The kick-off date is
45 February 29. Work on the roof has been finished.

1 **b. Kenilworth Playing Fields** – The metal garbage containers are dented and need to be replaced.

2 **c. Lucchesi Park** – Suggested installing recycle containers at the park.

3

4 **Marja Tarr** –

5 **a. State Cup Tournament at Lucchesi Field** – The State Cup tournament is one week away from
6 Saturday and she is requesting that staff groom the field.

7 **Ed Anchordoguy** – The field will be groomed by Field Turf’s staff for free. Lights have been replaced,
8 and staff will be doing some fence repairs.

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10 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

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12 **Graffiti Removal** – Volunteer Ed Cerar has been cleaning graffiti on the north side of the creek along
13 Washington Street, on the fences by Leisure Lakes at the north end of town, and on fencing in different
14 City locations. He and his volunteers need to be commended for their efforts.

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16 **ADJOURNMENT**

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18 The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

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