

CITY OF PETALUMA
RECREATION, MUSIC AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

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

*Wednesday, May 19, 2004
7:00 p.m.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

*Chair**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *April 21, 2004*

Elaine Ramirez moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Karen Nau, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Hal Warren – 905 Mustang Court – Asked about status of the Senior Center renovation project.

Carr – The project will be sent out to bid in the next two weeks.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1) Southgate Park, Playground Design – Presentation: Office of Gretchen McCann Architects

Carr – Informed the Commission that as part of the Southgate Subdivision, the developer is required to build a neighborhood park with a playground “on the same scale as the playground designed for the new Gatti Park.”

Ernest Wuethrich, a representative from Gretchen McCann’s office, outlined the features of the proposed playground to be constructed on the one-acre park at the Southgate Subdivision. The playground will be comprised of two separate play areas; one that incorporates play features for children ages 2 to 5; and another for older children ages 6 to 12.

Following discussion, Bryant Moynihan made a motion in favor of the approval of the park with the following modifications:

- Installing an additional bench in the playground area for older children.

- 1 • An additional bike rack
- 2 • A 3-tiered drinking fountain
- 3 • A community bulletin board
- 4 • Planting a tree in the center of the concreted area
- 5 • Planting two trees in the planter area near the picnic tables
- 6 • Developing a climbing wall on a segregated area, possibly on the south of the play area.

7
8 Further, that staff from Gretchen McCann’s Architect’s office in conjunction with the Parks and
9 Recreation staff work out the playground design, and if mutual agreement is not reached, the
10 architectural staff has the option of making a presentation to the Commission at a later meeting. The
11 motion was seconded by Elaine Ramirez, unanimously approved.

12
13 **2) Kenilworth School Site Sale and Implications**

- 14 a. Swim Center
- 15 b. Skate Park
- 16 c. National Little League

17
18 **Carr** – Announced that on May 18, 2004, the Petaluma School District sold the Kenilworth site. The
19 School District also rejected the bid for the construction of the new Junior High School because it
20 exceeded their anticipated budget by \$4 million.

21
22 The City Council has given direction to the City Manager to negotiate the sale of the skate park and the
23 swim center facilities. Carr understands that the proposed sale will include the relocation of both
24 facilities at no cost to the City. The new swim center and skate park will have to be ready before the
25 City closes the existing facilities. Staff has discussed some possible sites to relocate both facilities.
26 The Commission will be involved in future public meetings.

27
28 A concern is that National Little League will be losing three fields (major, minor, and mini) and a 90’
29 baseball diamond on the back portion of the Kenilworth Junior High site. Due to the fact that National
30 Little League has specific boundaries, staff has discussed two possible options for field relocation on
31 the west side of town: Petaluma Junior High School and McNear Park. Carr discussed advantages and
32 disadvantages of both locations.

33
34 Carr mentioned that the School District does not intend to provide any funds to relocate the fields.
35 Tomorrow, Carr will be meeting with the City Manager to discuss the amount of money required and
36 possible funding sources. Carr will be asking Little League for financial participation.

37
38 Carr informed the Commission that he had received an e-mail from an individual that builds skate/bike
39 parks and he has expressed willingness to participate with staff in the design of the new skate park.
40 Carr indicated that staff has discussed the possibility of building a skate park facility that
41 accommodates both skates and bikes. Regarding the pool, staff will be considering an enclosed pool
42 with a retractable roof to be used year round by the community.

43
44 Following a lengthy discussion, Carr indicated that he will present this issue back to the Commission
45 next month.

46
47 John Kinsella moved that the replacement of the pool, skate park, and little league fields be without
48 any disruption of service for the use of those facilities. The motion was seconded by Karen Nau,
49 unanimously approved.

1 **Bryant Moynihan** - Suggested relocating the fields to the Fairgrounds.

2
3 **Marja Tarr** – Asked staff to include the Kenilworth item in the next Commission’s agenda.

4
5 **3) 5-Year Capital Improvement Program – Discussion and Possible Action – Carr**

6
7 **Carr** – Reviewed the list of Capital Improvement Projects included in the Commission’s packet.

8
9 The Gatti Park project was sent out to bid and 2 bids were received. North Bay Construction
10 submitted the low bid at \$2.9 million. The bid exceeded the \$1.6 million budgeted for the project.

11
12 Carr indicated that he had recommended to the City Manager to proceed with the construction of Gatti
13 Park and use the \$664,000 fund balance from this year’s budget, and \$1.3 million from next fiscal year
14 which will be obtained from development projects. The City Manager is suggesting not to build the
15 bocce ball courts, the in-line hockey and the gazebo at this time. The idea is to have service clubs
16 donate funds for the construction of those facilities. This will mean savings for the City of about
17 \$150,000. The total cost to build the park will be \$3.5 million. Carr suggested proceeding with the
18 project.

19
20 Carr reported that he has been on negotiations with the Santa Rosa Junior College District regarding
21 financial participation in the Gatti Park project. A proposal discussed is for the Junior College to pay
22 for the tennis and basketball courts. The Junior College is looking for a 20-25 year Memorandum of
23 Understanding allowing them to use the tennis courts, basketball courts, and athletic fields as part of
24 their PE program.

25
26 The City Manager concurs with staff’s recommendation to proceed with the playground replacement at
27 Arroyo Park. Staff believes that there are sufficient funds available. In addition, the Rotary Club will
28 be replacing the playground at Walnut Park next September. In June, Onita Pelligrini from the Rotary
29 Club will be presenting staff with a check for \$31,000 for the project, and next spring, the club will be
30 donating an additional \$30,000 to pay for the entire project.

31
32 Carr reviewed the list of projects scheduled for FY 04-05 and recommended that the Commission defer
33 other listed projects for one year. Projects that are being funded by alternate revenue sources and that
34 will take place this year are: The Senior Center renovation, Marina dredging, River Plan McNear
35 Peninsula, and Shollenberger Park Improvements.

36
37 Regarding the Boys and Girls Club pool, it was the general consensus of the Commission to
38 recommend designating \$75,000 as a placeholder to match the County grant. There would be a
39 stipulation that the Parks and Recreation Department be allowed to give direction regarding design and
40 construction to improve the facility.

41
42 Bryant Moynihan made the following motion:

43 1) Proceed with the Gatti Park project with the exclusion of the in-line hockey, bocce ball courts and
44 the gazebo.

45 2) Have the Chair develop a letter and present it to the City Council requesting that additional
46 operating funds be provided for any redevelopment and capital improvement projects.

47 The motion was seconded by Karen Nau, unanimously approved.

48

1 **NEW BUSINESS**

2
3 **1) Review of Development Projects (Bike Pedestrian Paths)**

- 4 • Sid Common (Oak Creek)
5 • Deer Creek Plaza
6 • Cal Water (La Cresta Drive)
7 • Petaluma Blvd. North Annexation/Jesse Lane
8

9 Carr gave a brief overview of the projects and bike/pedestrian paths within the above-mentioned
10 subdivisions.

11
12 **Cal Water Project** –Staff’s recommendation for the project is to connect a bike/pedestrian access trail
13 up to adjacent City-owned property. The subdivision developer is giving the City an open-space area
14 and expecting maintenance. Staff is suggesting that either a homeowners association or a landscape
15 assessment district (LAD) maintain the open space area, which would be primarily for fire suppression.
16 Carr asked the Commission to support the idea.

17
18 It was the Commission’s consensus to recommend that the developer provide a public easement to be
19 used for future bike/pedestrian paths constructed and maintained by others.

20
21 Carr will send a memo to the Planning Department advising them of the Commission’s decision.
22

23 **Jesse Lane** – Carr reiterated the fact that at the last meeting, the Commission had recommended a park
24 and a trail connecting to Mannion Park. Carr has already submitted the information to Planning.
25

26 Amy Hogan, a citizen sitting in the audience, presented concerns regarding the development of a
27 walking path on Dana Street - She believes that the path would encourage future development in that
28 area.
29

30 **Bryant Moynihan** – Suggested that she voiced her concerns with the Planning Commission or the
31 City Council.
32

33 **2) Graffiti Removal Proposal – Discussion and Possible Action - Carr**

34
35 **Carr** – Ed Cerar leads a cadre of 70 volunteers who clean up graffiti throughout the City on a daily
36 basis. Recently, an increase of “tagging” has occurred in the City with public and private buildings
37 being vandalized with up to 4’-6’ markings. Staff and Mr. Cerar have discussed a number of options
38 to approach the problem of tagging in Petaluma. Recommended courses of action are as follows:

- 39 1. Not to allow the use of graffiti in the new skate park facility.
40 2. Work with Community Development to require Mr. Al Stack to work with a graffiti volunteer
41 to remove the large amounts of graffiti found on Mr. Stack’s back fence on Hopper Street.
42 3. Establish penalties/fines for anyone caught applying graffiti within the City of Petaluma.
43 4. Establish a reward program for anyone arrested and convicted of applying graffiti, with funds
44 coming from fines paid by violators.
45

46 Following discussion, Karen Nau moved that the Commission send a proposal to the City Council
47 establishing the following fines for anyone caught applying graffiti: First offense, \$200; second, \$500;
48 and third, 1,000. The motion was seconded by Joe Noriel, unanimously approved.
49

1 **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

2
3 1) **Elaine Ramirez** – No report

4
5 2) **Joe Noriel** -

6 a) **Shollenberger Park** – The path connecting to the Sheraton has tall weeds.

7 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Today, staff cut the weeds.

8 b) **Tree Advisory Committee** – For the fifth year, Petaluma has been nominated “**Tree City USA**”

9
10 3) **Bryant Moynihan** -

11 a) **McNear Tennis Courts** – Need resurfacing.

12 b) **Thompson Creek** – Staff has done a good job in cutting down the weeds.

13 **Dog Hours** – Asked staff to check the hours posted on the dog signs at Thompson Creek.

14 **Ed Anchordoguy** – The hours posted by the playground are different than the hours on the east side of
15 the creek, but he will check the signs.

16
17 4) **Karen Nau** -

18 a) **Skate Park** – Presented concerns about the skaters not wearing protective gear and having bicycles
19 in the skate park.

20 b) **McNear Peninsula** – Noticed that the Rotary Club is passing out flyers for dedicated engraved
21 bricks as part of a fundraiser for the park.

22 c) **Museum** – On May 29, the museum is having its 11th annual garden tour.

23 d) **Street Lamps** - Ms Nau showed the Commission a picture of old-fashioned street lamps and
24 informed them that an electrician wanted to charge \$500 to rewire the lamps and put them in three City
25 locations: Walnut Park, Penry Park and the median at Western and Baker.

26 **Ed Anchordoguy** – Economic Development had recommended that staff place them in the mentioned
27 City locations. Parks and Recreation staff found out that the lamps were incompatible with anything
28 existing in the park. In order to use them, they will have to be gutted and rewired. Parks and
29 Recreation and Economic Development do not have the funds to upgrade them at this time. The only
30 value of the lights is the way they look.

31 Karen Nau – Indicated that Heritage Homes does not have the funds to upgrade them either.

32
33 5) **Marja Tarr** – No report

34
35 **ADJOURNMENT**

36
37 The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.