



**APPROVED**

**MINUTES  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2009  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Ave**

**Commissioners Present:** Pat Markevitch, Carl King, Paul Losch, Daria Walsh, Sunny Dykwel, Deidre Crommie, Joel Davidson

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Others Present:** Council Liaison Sid Espinosa

**Staff Present:** Rob de Geus, Catherine Bourquin

**I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY:** Catherine Bourquin

**II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:** None

**II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

**IV. BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of September 22, 2009 regular meeting** – The Draft Minutes of the September 22, 2009 regular meeting were approved. **Approved 5:2 (abstention – Davidson and Crommie)**
2. **World Music Day Presentation** – Claude Ezran a member of the Human Relations Commission came before the Commission to give a debriefing of the World Music Day that occurred on June 21<sup>st</sup>. There were around 43 musical groups with 300 individual artists that participated, and 30 volunteers. The feedback was that it was a good event and that traffic was the primary problem. Mr. Ezran was looking for assistance from the Commission to make this a permanent event in Palo Alto.
3. **Recommendation to City Council for a Park Improvement Ordinance for the Jr. Museum & Zoo Bobcat Ridge Exhibit Capital Improvement Project** – John Aikin, Supervisor for the Junior Museum and Zoo came before the Commission to elicit a motion to approve the recommendation to City Council for a Park Improvement



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Ordinance for the Bobcat Ridge Exhibit Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Aikin went over the improvements that were included in the project and the Commissioners were provided with time to ask questions. After the discussion there was a motion made by Commissioner Dykwel, seconded by Commissioner Davidson to approve the recommendation.

***Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends to Council to approve the Park Improvement Ordinance for the Jr. Museum and Zoo Bobcat Ridge Exhibit Capital Improvement Project. Approved 7:0***

4. **Presentation on Concepts for Public Art at the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center** – Kelly Morariu, Assistant City Manager came before the Commission to update the Commissioners on the concepts for Public Art at the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. The Chair of the Public Art Commission, Elise Griffin De Marzo and Project Manager, Debra Jacobs were introduced. It was mentioned that City Council approved the Bruce Beasley piece at the October 26th Council Meeting; the art piece will be placed in front of new Mitchell Park Library/Community Center. Funding for art is included in the project. There is funding available to add other art for the building. The Parks and Recreation Commission provided feedback on possible art selections as well as locations for art.
5. **Update on Gym Use Policy** - Staff de Geus provided the Commission with an update to the Gym Use Policy that was approved in July of 2009 by City Council. Staff de Geus said the policy was working reasonably well and that all gym users that requested space were given an allotment. Although not all needs were met most gym users understand that this is a pilot program and we will continue to refine the process. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of working with PAUSD on a joint venture to utilize their Gym space. The Commission agreed that staff de Geus and Commissioner Walsh would work with PAUSD to gather information on the use of PAUSD Gym space and look into the possibility to supplement the bond to expand the gym space at Jordan.
6. **PAUSD Commissioner Liaison Update** - Commissioner Walsh said there wasn't much to update the Commission on. The main issue that has been the center of discussion has been the mental health support for Palo Alto teens. PAUSD, the City's Recreation Division among many other partners has been working together on suicide prevention plans and teen mental health and wellness strategies.

## **V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The Public Meeting for recreational ideas for dog owners is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>, location to be determined.
2. The terms of office will be discussed next year; time was not available to have the changes take place for this current year.



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3. Commissioner Davidson expressed his disappointment on the composting issues.
4. The Fire Plan was approved.
5. Council Liaison Espinosa suggested using “doodle.com” to schedule the retreat meeting.

**VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2009 RETREAT:**

1. Date conflicts with the Public Community Meeting on recreational dog opportunities. Staff de Geus would work on scheduling this and notify the Commissioners with the new date and time.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Davidson.  
Adjourned at 9:28pm.

