



APPROVED

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 27, 2012
Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road**

Commissioners Present: Deirdre Crommie, Stacey Ashlund, Jennifer Hetterly, Ed Lauing, Daria Walsh, Paul Losch

Commissioners Absent: Pat Markevitch

Others Present:

Staff Present: Daren Anderson, Greg Betts, Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Catherine Bourquin

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

IV. BUSINESS:

- 1. Approval of Draft Minutes from the February 28, 2012 regular** – The Draft Minutes from the Regular February 28, 2012 minutes were approved as amended. **Approved 6:0**
- 2. Magical Bridge Playground concept design review** – Tom Fitzgerald of RHAA was introduced and Peter Jensen, City Landscape Architect presented the Commission with a slide show on the initial design layouts under review for the Magical Bridge Playground. His presentation consisted of the background on the Magical Bridge and what has taken place to date. A Community Meeting was held on March 17 with a future community meeting tentatively set for Mid-April he told the commission. The commission was given time for questions and comments. Questions and Comments consisted of parking concerns, security of equipment, bike racks, location of tables, and funding. This item will be coming back to the Commission within the next two months.



- 3. Palo Alto Golf Course – Recommendation to Council on a preferred Palo Alto Golf Course reconfiguration design** – Chair Lauing introduced the topic and opened the item for Public Comment.

Public Comment

Craig Allen – Mr. Allen spoke on design “G” saying it was a real opportunity for the golf course. He wanted to emphasize the concern for funding and said the golfing community didn’t want to be responsible for paying for it. He also wanted the commission to consider the loss of revenue and having the golf course have 10 holes open during construction.

Staff de Geus began the discussion by providing background on the San Francisquito Flood control project and how it has resulted in having to make a decision on re-configuring the golf course. The Commission discussed this in length and the Commissioners all agreed that option “G” was the best with the place holder of potential recreational use of 10 acres. Concerns expressed by the commissioners related to the unforeseen cost of the actual reconfiguration and any impact to the golf community, environmental impact on the local habitat, and the potential use of the 10 acres reserved for future use.

Chair Lauing presented the Commission with a draft recommendation report for Council. (Attached). The Commission reviewed the report and a motion to accept the draft recommendation was made by Commissioner Walsh and seconded by Commissioner Losch. The Commission wanted to discuss further and Commissioner Walsh with drew her motion and was accepted by Commissioner Losch. After a lengthy discussion and suggested amendments a motion was made by Commissioner Hetterly and seconded by Commissioner Losch to accept the report as amended.

Motion: The Commission accepts the recommendation report to Council as amended.

Approved 6:0

- 4. Recommendation to place limits on amplified sound at Lytton Plaza** - Chair Lauing introduced the item and opened it up for public comment.

Public Comment

Mark Weiss – Mr. Weiss wanted to thank Commissioners Crommie and Markevitch for their participation in the stakeholders meeting. He quoted from a case in New York City related to a proposed sound ordinance. The case was rendered illegal. Mr. Weiss a concert proposer who represents musicians believes this to be the same type of issue. He provided a handout for the Commissions reference.

Sue Webb – Ms. Webb spoke to the Commission commenting on her investigation into the complaints for Lytton Plaza. She found that 1% of the complaints received by the Police department were related to noise violators. She advocated for letting the musicians play their music without restrictions. She believes there is another issue not the amplified sound.

Russ Cohen – Mr. Cohen Executive Director of the Downtown Business Association thanked Commissioner Crommie for attending one of their meetings. He said he was in

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attendance to answer any questions that might come up with this issue tonight. He also emphasized that the outcome is to just have balance with the uses of Lytton plaza.

Staff Anderson briefly gave an overview on the background leading up to the recommendation for placing limits on amplified sound at Lytton Plaza. Chair Lauing continued with the discussion on behalf of the sub committee (members Commissioners Lauing, Crommie, Walsh). He commented on the meetings that had been held and after reviewing with staff the subcommittee decided on a regulation to be proposed while the existing sound ordinance still exists. The regulation was handed out and Chair Lauing went over the main points of the regulation. (Attached) The Commission was then given time for questions and comments. Some comments revolved around the permitting process and cost associated with it, the time allowed. The next steps were discussed; the sub committee will have some more meetings with the users and businesses around Lytton Plaza and then come back next month with a formal recommendation.

5. Select a commissioner to participate on the Hoover Public Art Proposal panel -

Staff de Geus introduced the item and remarked that the Public Art Commission is responsible for placing Art around the City and is currently looking at placing something at Hoover. They requested a Commissioner participate in the panel for Hoover Park. Staff de Geus asked for a volunteer. Commissioner Hetterly volunteered to be on the panel.

Commissioner Walsh made a motion to accept Commissioner Hetterly as the PARC representative on the Hoover Public Art Proposal Panel, seconded by Commissioner Crommie. **Passed 6:0**

6. Parks and Recreation Commission Ad Hoc Committee Updates - None

IV. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff de Geus announced the resignation of Shia Geminder, Supervisor of Recreation Program. He also added that he will be on vacation for the next couple of weeks.
2. Teen event at Lucie Stern, March 31st for high school students.
3. El Camino Park was pulled and being rescheduled. Commissioner Walsh volunteered to attend the Council meeting.
4. Ethics training on line course available if you haven't attended. Also check to see alternative dates for next training.
5. April 19th – Library/Art Center

V. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2012 MEETING

1. Lytton Plaza
2. Field Policy
3. CIP Process



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VII. ADJOURNMENT
Adjourned at 10:40pm



PALO ALTO GOLF COURSE OPTIONS

DISCUSSION DRAFT FOR PARC MEETING 3/27/12

PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES BY ED LAUING

The PARC endorses option G for the renovation of the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course in conjunction with the JPA renovation of the levy adjoining the course. The benefits to the City of this approach are:

+This valuable recreation area is transformed into a magnificent layout integrating more naturally with the Baylands. It can be a destination “park” for golfers and other outdoor enthusiasts with the opportunity over time to make the clubhouse and its environs a true community center.

+This design allows the City to reserve a land bank suitable for up to three full size athletic fields in the future while still maintaining a full “regulation” golf course appealing to golfers of all ages and drawing golfers from a wide area. The Commission recommends that no field construction be undertaken at present until further demonstration of need is documented and due to the total cost of the project already.

+ The current course is profitable and contributes positively to City revenues. Assumptions and projections on estimated rounds played on the renovated course indicate that this asset is highly likely to substantially increase revenue contribution to the City after construction with option G contributing the highest revenue of all the options. The new design with “wow-factors” in many places will be a real draw for golfers from an extended geographical area.

+ The full long-term vision for complete transformation of the site – including clubhouse architectural drawings, new parking and pedestrian flow and practice areas - needs to be presented to the Council now for future planning.

The above recommendation is tempered by the following facts:

- + Costs for option G are the highest of the choices - exceeding \$7m (before compensation from the JPA). Recently the Blue Ribbon Infrastructure Committee completed work on expenditure priorities. This new project needs to be prioritized as well and fully funded from unknown sources. In addition there will be one year of course closure which will negatively impact stretched City budgets.
 - + While there is a lot of an ad hoc comment on the need for fields, there is no documented urgent need for additional field space at present. The City has done a good job of expanding field space already. Notable examples are the new Stanford fields and the current construction on El Camino Park which will include a full size turf field. Further play on existing fields could be created by adding lights at lower cost than additional fields. Demographic trends need to be watched closely to address future needs.
 - + The full benefit of the golf course renovation (for golfers and non-golfers) cannot be realized without additional significant changes to the buildings, parking and pedestrian access, and practice area of the course. Maximum revenue will likely be blunted for tournament play and corporate outings/meetings by the current unappealing amenities. There will be a jarring difference between the entry to the facility and the course itself. Ideally, this would all be addressed as a total package on close construction timelines.
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To: City Council

From: Parks and Recreation Commission

Date: April 16, 2012

Title: Palo Alto Golf Course Re-configuration Resulting From the San Francisquito Flood Control Project

On March 27th, 2012 the Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission (PAPRC) endorsed option G for the renovation of the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course (Golf Course) in conjunction with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) renovation of the levy adjoining the Golf Course. Below the PAPRC articulate the benefits and areas requiring special consideration with option G:

- This valuable recreation area is transformed into a magnificent layout integrating more naturally with the Baylands. It can be a destination “park” for golfers and other outdoor enthusiasts with the opportunity over time to make the clubhouse and its environs a true community center.
- This design allows the City to reserve 10.5 acres suitable for multiple recreation and park needs while maintaining a full “regulation” golf course appealing to golfers of all ages and drawing golfers from a wide area. The Commission recommends that an open and inclusive process be undertaken to explore the full array of recreation needs for the use of the 10.5 acres.
- The current course is profitable and contributes positively to City revenues. Assumptions and projections on estimated rounds played on the renovated course indicate that this asset is highly likely to substantially increase revenue contribution to the City after construction with option G contributing the highest revenue of all the options. The new design with “wow-factors” in many places will be a real draw for golfers from an extended geographical area.
- The full long-term vision to complete transformation of the site – including clubhouse architectural drawings, new parking and pedestrian flow and practice areas - needs to be presented to the Council now for future planning.

The above recommendation is tempered by the following facts:

- Costs for option G are the highest of the choices - exceeding \$7 million. Recently the Blue Ribbon Infrastructure Committee completed work on expenditure priorities. This new project needs to be prioritized and fully funded from known sources. In addition there will be one-year of course closure which will negatively impact stretched City budgets. Lastly, the City should be cognizant of the disproportionate burden on golfers

to pay for a golf course design that sets aside 10.5 acres of land for other recreational uses.

- While there is a lot of ad-hoc comment on the need for athletic fields there is no documented urgent need for additional athletic field space at present. The City has done a good job of expanding field space already. Notable examples are the new Stanford fields and the current construction on El Camino Park which will include a full size turf field. Further play on existing fields could be created by adding lights at lower cost than additional fields. Demographic and community trends need to be watched closely to address future recreational needs.
- The full benefit of the golf course renovation (for golfers and non-golfers) cannot be realized without additional significant changes to the buildings, parking and pedestrian access, and practice area of the course. Maximum revenue will likely be blunted for tournament play and corporate outings/meetings by the current unappealing amenities. There will be a jarring difference between the entry to the facility and the course itself. Ideally, this would all be addressed as a total package on close construction timelines.
- This project will have significant environmental impacts that will need to be evaluated prior to development given the proximity to sensitive environmental areas and riparian habitat.

Lytton Plaza

Amplified sound at Lytton Plaza would be allowed on a first-come first-serve basis on:

Monday to Thursday 5pm-10pm

Friday 5pm to 11pm

Saturday noon – 11pm

Sunday noon -10pm

There would generally be no permit, insurance or fees required during these standard hours - unless a group wanted to reserve the Plaza in advance for amplified music during these hours. To reserve a time in advance a permit must be obtained by submitting a permit request to the City's Special Event Team- headed by the Police Department. The permit fee at the present time is \$150.

Amplified sound outside of these standard approved hours might also be available via the existing permit process. To obtain a permit for amplified sound outside of the hours listed above you a permit must be submitted to the City's Special Event Team- headed by the Police Department. The permit fee at the present time is \$150.

City Sponsored events or paid permit events would have priority, and musicians without a permit would not be able to use the plaza during the permitted event. The City could post permitted events on the City Web page so that musicians could check to see if there would be a conflict with their events. Businesses could also check the website to see when music events would take place during business hours and plan work around the disturbance accordingly.

Only one outlet would be available for events, and the outlet would only be powered during the times listed above. The outlet would not be secured/locked. The power to the outlet would be remotely controlled or set on a timer.

Only one musical group may perform at a time. For musicians without permits there is a three hour limit on performing. This will be a self-enforced limit. The available outlet is limited to 20amps. If the circuit is overloaded and the breaker is tripped, power will not be restored until the following work day. The outlet will be labeled "Do not exceed 20amps".

Acoustic music would be allowed anytime in the plaza.

The existing noise ordinance would apply to all music (amplified or acoustic) at all times. It should also be noted that if the group is going to have more than 25 people present for an event, they need a special use permit whether they have amplified music or not. The existing ordinance prohibiting commercial activity applies to all music in the plaza.

(This fee rate of \$150 is based on the \$90 fee for the basic review from the City's Special Event Team and \$60 for staff time to arrange to have the power available to the outlet, and post the date to the website).

Pros and Cons

47 hours a week of free amplified jamming x 52 weeks= 2,444 hours per year.

Long window of time that outlets are powered on weekends may draw in musicians and people seeking free electricity from all over.