APPROVED

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 2010
City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave

Commissioners Present: Deidre Crommie, Sunny Dykwel, Jennifer Hetterly, Ed Lauing, Paul Losch, Daria Walsh

Commissioners Absent: Pat Markevitch

Others Present:

Staff Present: Sally Camozzi, Rob de Geus, Joe Teresi

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Sally Camozzi

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

IV. BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes from the May 25, 2010 Regular Meeting –** The Draft Minutes of the May 25, 2010 regular meeting were deferred until next months meeting. There was a typo of the date on the Agenda. The original May 25, 2010 minutes mailed was correct.

2. **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Initial Flood Protection Project. Study Session review of preliminary plans to provide 1% (100-year) flood protection, riparian corridor enhancements, and recreational opportunities along San Francisquito Creek between Highway 101 and San Francisco Bay -** Staff de Geus introduced Joe Teresi, Senior Engineer for the City's Public Works Department. Staff Teresi briefly went over the reason they were meeting with the Commission tonight and informed the Commission even though the project wasn't a City project, the City of Palo Alto was a member of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority and the City's input would be provided for this project. The project will have many benefits that involve flood control that will impact the recreational and natural habitat for the Baylands and the Golf Course for many years to come. Staff Teresi introduced

Kevin Murray, Program Manager with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority who presented the Commission with a slide presentation. He informed the Commission that the project is in the 30% stage of planning and wanted to get input from the Commission tonight. The project would be split into phases, phase 1: SF Bay to Highway 101; Phase 2: Highway 101 overcrossing (Caltrans project); Phase 3: Upstream of Highway 101. The Commission was given an opportunity for questions and answers. The questions from the Commissioners involved funding of the project, habitat, levy design enhancements (gravel vs. paved), feedback from other groups, flooding, and impacts to the golf course.

Commissioner Walsh asked whether there would be any consideration of mitigation for construction on the golf course. Parts of the golf course will be closed during the construction and inevitably rounds of golf will be lost.

Commissioners also discussed access to the paths and how the project will affect the Baylands Athletic Center. There was some discussion and concern that the back field of the Baylands Athletic Center might no longer have parking.

3. **Update on the El Camino Park Reservoir Project and Discussion of possible Park Design Elements –**Staff de Geus introduced Jennifer Cioffi, Project Engineer for the Utilities Department. Staff Cioffi gave a presentation of the upcoming El Camino Park Reservoir project. The park will be closed for approximately 14 – 18 months starting next year. The whole park will be replaced with all artificial turf. There was some discussion on why we are going with artificial turf. Commissioner Losch who knew the the history behind the use of artificial turf for athletic fields answered the question of why artificial turf. Public comment was taken at this point in the discussion.

Commissioners all believed the El Camino Park Reservoir Project presented a great opportunity to improve the park.

Oral Communications

Herb Borock, P.O. Box 632, PA – Mr. Borock discussed the use of artificial turf at the the park. Explaining that the public process for this implementation should take place soon before this part is contracted out. The cost for artificial turf may not be as cost effective as previously considered. The implementation of a dog exercise area should also be discussed.

Staff de Geus informed the Commissioners that this was still in the preliminary stage and suggested a visit and walk-through of the project site for the Commission. Staff de Geus would arrange for a special meeting to do a site visit for more discussion on the ideas for the park.

There was some discussion on having a Community Meeting at this stage in the preliminary design. Staff Cioffi would bring this back to the Utility department to implement.

Some questions related to the fields being closed for two seasons were discussed. Staff de Geus said it would definitely be more challenging for field brokering, but having Greer Park fields open again and the artificial turf at Cubberley will help.

The type of artificial turf being considered was discussed. Staff Cioffi stated that the same type that was installed at Cubberley would be used for El Camino Park.

4. **Selection of a Commissioner to be the Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison for the Palo Alto Youth Council –** Chair Walsh provided a little background on this topic. It was tabled at last months meeting and now is before the Commission to vote on a Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison to attend the Palo Alto Youth Council meetings. Commissioner Dykwel moved to elect Commissioner Losch as the Palo Alto Youth Council Liaison, seconded by Commissioner Crommie.

Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commissioners elect Commissioner Losch to be the Liaison for the Palo Alto Youth Council. Passed: 6:0

5. **Update on Project Safety Net, community task force working on suicide prevention and social emotional health of youth and teens –** Staff de Geus spoke on the Project Safety Net Community Task Force and provided the Commission with a report that was created to provide background and recommendations that the Community came up with. The Mission of Project Safety Net is to develop and implement an effective, comprehensive, community-based mental health plan for overall youth well-being in Palo Alto. It is being presented to you tonight for review, and comments should be returned within the next couple of weeks. The final report will be presented to the City Council on July 19, 2010.

6. **Update on the City Managers Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 –** Staff de Geus provided a brief overview on the final results of the proposed budget changes. It will go to City Council on June 28th for adoption.

V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Budget Meeting on June 28, 2010
2. Chili Cook-off on July 4th from noon – 5:30pm at Mitchell Park, Music provided by "Blues at Eleven". Anyone interested in being a judge should contact Minka.
3. Public Art selection committee
4. Commissioner Losch acknowledged World Music Day held last weekend, June 20th.
5. Commissioner Hetterly thanked staff for all their hard work on the budget.

APPROVED

VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 27, 2010

1. Extend invitation to Melissa Murray to discuss Middle School Athletics
2. Gym Policy Review – discussion
3. Field Use Review – discussion
4. Subcommittee updates
5. Cost Recovery Discussion
6. Update from Youth Council
7. El Camino Park site visit update

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at approximately 9:30pm