

MINUTES  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 27, 2010  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Ave

**Commissioners Present:** Deidre Crommie, Sunny Dykwel, Jennifer Hetterly, Ed Lauing,  
Paul Losch, Pat Markevitch

**Commissioners Absent:** Daria Walsh

**Others Present:**

**Staff Present:** Greg Betts, Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus, Shia Geminder

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

**II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:** Staff de Geus announced a typographical error on the Agenda sent in the Commissioners packet. He noted that it was corrected for the public on the City's website and a new Agenda was provided to the Commission for tonight's meeting.

**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 approved as written. **Approved 5:1(Commissioner Dykwel arrived late)**
- 2. Approval of Draft Minutes from the June 22, 2010 Regular Meeting** - The Draft Minutes of June 22, 2010 were approved as amended. **Approved 5:1 (Commissioner Dykwel arrived late)**
- 3. Presentation on the Middle School Athletics Program** - Melissa Murray, Recreation Coordinator for Recreation was introduced by Staff de Geus. She provided a presentation on the Middle School Athletics Program that she has been managing for the last seven months. The Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Some of the questions the

**APPROVED**

Commissioners had related to the demand of the program, how the residents sign up for the program and if the program accommodates the school schedule for practice's, etc.

4. **Review of the Gym Use Policy adopted in 2009** – Staff Geminder, Supervisor of Recreation Programs presented an update on the Gym Use Policy. The Gym Use Policy was created to ensure Palo Alto residents have priority access to the gyms at Cubberley Community Center and to establish policies and procedures governing the use of the gyms managed by the City Palo Alto. (Attachment) Staff Geminder informed the Commission that staff at this time did not have any changes they wanted to make to this policy. The Commission was given the opportunity for comments and questions. Commissioner Losch inquired on how we can expand the Gym capacity for the City. After some discussion related to this question, it was agreed that staff would develop conversation with the representatives of the user groups who use the gyms to see if they wanted to pursue a more broad look at the need for more gyms. The Commission also agreed that it would be helpful to have some background on the facility use of Cubberley. Staff de Geus would work with Martha Miller, Manager of Real Estate to come and present to the Commission on this topic.
5. **Recommendation to forward El Camino Park design considerations to the park design Consultants and City Staff working on the El Camino Park Reservoir Project** – Staff de Geus thanked the Commissioners for attending the special meeting held at the El Camino Park fields. The report (Attachment) that was included in the Commissioners packet contains the concerns that were mentioned during this meeting and separate walk through meetings. The objective for this agenda item is to give the approval of these notes so they can be submitted to the consultants and staff responsible for this project. The Commissioners provided feedback and provided some items to be included in the report. Items to be included:
13. Design back to the PARC before 90% completion stage
  14. To ensure we engage the Community with feedback
  15. Consider backstop improvements for baseball field
  16. Consider shade covering for bleachers

Staff will meet with the project team and present these items to be considered from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

***Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to forward the El Camino Park design considerations to the park design consultants and City staff working on the El Camino Park Reservoir Project as amended. Approved 6:0***

6. **Recommendation to change the Municipal Ordinance to allocate two 20-foot by 20-foot spaces at Lytton Plaza to allow for concession vending for public benefit and revenue share with the City of Palo Alto** – Staff de Geus introduced Greg Betts, Director of



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Community Services who provided the Commission with some background on the Recommendation being requested of the Commissioners at tonight's meeting. The Commission was given time for questions and then followed by public comment. Some of the questions centered on the fact that there is already food, flower and coffee establishments within walking distance of the Plaza, existing establishments competing with these potential concessionaires, and the size of the area being considered.

**Oral Communications**

Herb Borock, PO Box 632 PA – Mr. Borock came before the Commission to request that the Commission reject this recommendation based on needing to have it go through the Environmental Quality Act before coming before this Commission. Mr. Borock provided the Commissioners with some handouts, one was the Charter of the City of Palo Alto, second the locations of where Calafia is at, and third current articles on commercial activities at Lytton Plaza.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hetterly to reject the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Markevitch.

***Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission rejects the recommendation to change the Municipal Ordinance to allocate two 20-foot by 20-foot spaces at Lytton Plaza to allow for concession vending for public benefit and revenue share with the City of Palo Alto.***  
**Approved 6:0**

7. **Subcommittee updates** – Commissioner Crommie provided an update on the Committee for Creeks and Urban trails/bicycle pathways. The Committee was made aware that there was an informational meeting on the development of urban trails along the creekside parks in South Palo Alto. The Committee met and decided that they would develop an action plan that centered globally on this issue and would present it to the Commission at the next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Commissioner Dykwel updated the Commission on her meetings as the Liaison for the Art Selection Committee. One was for the mural for the teen center and the other one was for the bollards at the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. She also attended as the Liaison Representative for the City School Committee on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Staff de Geus let the Commission know that the Project Safety Net report went to City Council on July 19<sup>th</sup> and it was well received. He thanked the Commission for all their help on the report.
3. Staff de Geus wanted to acknowledge the recreation staff for their work on the Summer camps enrollment process. They had 5,700 enrollees for the camps, enrollment was down by 2.2% but the revenue was up by 6.5% from last year.



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4. The Commission voted on cancelling the regular schedule August meeting. It was unanimously approved not to have an August meeting.
5. Commissioner Hetterly commented on feedback from residents on the Summer concert series. She commented that there is disappointment that they are on weekends instead of weekdays. Commissioner Markevitch also pointed out that the concerts were all in South Palo Alto. Staff de Geus said he would pass this information on to Judge Lucky.

**VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2010**

1. Review of 2010 Summer Camps and Aquatics
2. El Camino Park Reservoir Project
3. Mitchell Park concession CEQA requirements.
4. Discussion on the use of development impact fees
5. Update on gymnasium discussion.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at approximately 9:20pm