



APPROVED

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2013
CITY HALL
250 Hamilton**

Commissioners Present: Stacey Ashlund, Deirdre Crommie, Jennifer Hetterly, Ed Lauing, Abbie Knopper, Pat Markevitch, Keith Reckdahl

Commissioners Absent:

Others Present: Council Schmid

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

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Catherine Bourquin

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

IV. BUSINESS:

- 1. Approval of Draft Minutes from the January 22, 2013 regular meeting** – The Draft Minutes from the January 22, 2013 minutes were approved as amended. Motioned by Commissioner Markevitch and seconded by Commissioner Ashlund. **Passed: 5:2 abstentions (Commissioner Knopper and Reckdahl)**
- 2. Welcome new commissioners Abbie Knopper and Keith Reckdahl**– Staff Betts introduced the two new commissioners, Commissioner Knopper and Commissioner Reckdahl and welcomed and thanked them for joining the Commission.
- 3. Introduce Rhyena Halpern, Assistant Director Community Services Department** - Staff Betts introduced Rhyena Halpern, who has been with the City as the Assistant Director for Community Services for 6 months. Rhyena gave a brief introduction of herself and what she is working on in Community Services.



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- 45 **4. Field Use Policy review and recommended changes** – Chair Lauing presented the
- 46 item and introduced the ad hoc committee to present their report on the recommended
- 47 changes. He commented that the past commissioners Daria Walsh and Paul Losch who were
- 48 on the ad hoc committee were present and would be asked upon for their feedback during the
- 49 review of the field use policy. Adam Howard, Recreation Supervisor explained the changes
- 50 highlighting the major changes in the field use policy since the review last month.
- 51 The most significant change related to field brokering eligibility. Current Field Use Policy
- 52 guidelines state that the top field brokering priority goes to all non-profit organizations with
- 53 “non-select” (or “open”; not try-outs for recreation al teams) registration and greater than 75%
- 54 residents within their organization. These organizations, get to choose fields for all of their
- 55 team needs (within field use policy allocation guidelines), ahead of organizations not meeting
- 56 these criteria. The recommended policy changes the eligibility criteria for assigning the
- 57 City’s athletic field resources. It eliminates the “open” or “non-select” priority status. Rather
- 58 it bundles all non-profit organizations that are at 51% or above residency into a single
- 59 category for priority brokering. In the proposed policy, all non-profit organizations that have
- 60 >51% residents are eligible for priority brokering and sitting at the table together to broker by
- 61 pure resident numbers. The policy recommendation is intended to put Palo Alto residents first,
- 62 independent of the organizations to increase the number of residents than in the past; the more
- 63 residents an organization has, the more priority field space they get.

64 Public Comment

65 Jeff Greenfield – Commented on wanting to get more information on how the round robin

66 would work, as well ensuring that adult fields are saved versus youth.

67 Gordon Short – He commented that he would like the commission to turn down the proposed

68 policy. He thought that it needed to have a comparative review and the plan was not

69 favorable to residents.

70 Charlie Williams – He supports the policy with the new changes.

71 The Commission discussed the changes and the commissioners provided their feedback to the

72 changes presented to them. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner

73 Markevitch to approve the policy as amended and seconded by Commissioner Ashlund. Staff

74 de Geus thanked all the stakeholders who gave their time and input. **Motion passed 7:0**

75

76 Daria Walsh and Paul Losch were acknowledged for their contributions.

77

- 78 **5. Update on the Palo Alto Golf Course project** – Staff de Geus provided an update to the golf
- 79 course project. He reported that they are at 60% of design and that the environmental impact
- 80 is moving along. He also commented that the timeline had changed to April 2014 construction
- 81 start date due to a delay in moving utility lines for the flood control project. A meeting to
- 82 discuss the site design is scheduled for next week. Staff is also in the process of negotiations
- 83 with Brad Lozares and Valley Crest to renew their contracts for five years.
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- 85 **6. Select a Commissioner to participate in the review of Request for Proposals (RFP) for**
86 **the Parks and Recreation Master Plan** – Staff de Geus described the reason for the request
87 stating that since the commission worked on the scope of services with staff Peter Jensen that
88 it would be a good idea to have a commissioner assist with reviewing the bids. Commissioner
89 Hetterly moved that Commissioner Crommie participate, seconded by Commissioner Ashlund.
90 Commissioner Crommie accepted.
91
- 92 **7. 2013 Parks and Recreation Retreat Planning** – Chair Lauing discussed the date of March
93 15th that the Commission had considered last month and opened up the communication with the
94 commission to add anything else to the previous ideas discussed previously. The process of the
95 retreat was reviewed for the new commissioner's benefit. The time and location was decided
96 to be from 9 am to noon at the Foothill Park Interpretive center. Staff and the Chair will meet
97 to finalize the agenda for the retreat.
- 98 **8. Parks and Recreation Commission Ad Hoc Committee and liaison updates –**
99 i. Cubberley Community Advisory Committee – Commissioner Hetterly updated the
100 commission on the progress of the committee informing the PARC that the last meeting
101 will be this week Thursday, February 28th. The joint meeting to hear from the public is
102 scheduled for March 20 in the evening between 6 or 7pm. This will also include a tour of
103 the site.
104 ii. Commissioner Ashlund expressed her concern on the Magical Bridge project stating that
105 the public's perception on what is happening needs to be addressed. The City's
106 contribution of 300,000 for design is spent but design is not complete. The Commission
107 needs to be advised on the progress of this project. Staff de Geus responded that he would
108 check in with Peter Jensen it see about getting on the commissions agenda.
109

110 **V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT**

- 111 1. Staff de Geus reported on the El Camino Park project, Siegfried the consultant is working on a
112 revised park design to potentially accommodate the Julia Morgan building. There was
113 discussion from the Commission on this. Council Liaison Schmid was asked when the
114 University project was on the Council's agenda. He replied that it is on the March 18th agenda
115 to set the criteria for the project. The Commission expressed concern on ensuring that they are
116 given adequate time to review the new plans prior to council action.
- 117 2. Staff de Geus announced that there is another public meeting set for Eleanor Park tomorrow
118 evening at Lucie Stern Community Center at 7:30pm. Dog parks are on the list for discussion.
119 If the design changes significantly after this input, it will come back to the Commission for
120 review.
- 121 3. The Annual State of the City Address is also tomorrow at 7pm at Tesla Motors Headquarters.
- 122 4. The Rinconada Park Master Plan will be coming back to the commission in the coming
123 months; currently Peter Jensen Project Manager is working through an environmental review
124 which is taking a little longer than expected.
- 125 5. Staff de Geus spoke on what is currently happening with budget for CSD. He commented that
126 this year there isn't any significant budget reductions expected. He however expressed



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concern when Mitchell Park opens and there is insufficient staff to support the center. They will be trying to get a frozen position back to fill this void. The final budget will be approved in June.

6. Staff de Geus reported that on Feb 2nd they had a summer camp registration event that brought in \$456,000 in revenue. Their target in enrollment for camps is 5,000 and they are working through marketing and other sources to achieve that goal.

VI. AGENDA FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

- El Camino Park
- Rinconada
- Magical Bridge
- De-brief of retreat
- Cost of service study possibly

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hetterly and seconded by Commissioner Markevitch to adjourn. Adjourned at 9:45pm.