



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

**Regular Meeting
January 18, 2006**

Chair Cline called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Cline, Vice Chair Watkins, Commissioners Luder left at 8:01 p.m., Maurano, Robinson, and Silano arrived at 6:17 p.m. and left at 7:24 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Taylor, Acting Community Services Director and Linda Munguia, Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Whittaker

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

None

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS:

None

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

Elizabeth Lasensky – Menlo Park addressed the Commission regarding the minutes of the December 21, 2005 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. She noticed that several public comments were not included. Staff will make the changes to the December 21, 2005 minutes and present them at the February 15, 2006 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting for approval.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Approve the December 21, 2005 minutes

ACTION: Approve the minutes for December 21, 2005 with a modification on the public comments.

Motion Chair Cline not to approve the December 21, 2005 minutes until all public comments are included; seconded by Commissioner Robinson and unanimously carried.

E. PUBLIC HEARING: None.

F. REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Choose a new Chair and Vice Chair for 2006

The Commission chooses a new Chair and Vice Chair to the Commission

Motion Commissioner Luder that Vice Chair Watkins be Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission; seconded by Commission Robinson and unanimously carried.

Motion Commissioner Maurano that Chair Cline be Vice Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission; seconded by Vice Chair Watkins approved 3-2 with Commissioner Luder and Chair Cline abstaining.

Motion Commissioner Luder that Commissioner Robinson be Vice Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission; seconded by Chair Cline. Motion defeated 2-3 with Vice Chair Watkins, Commissioners Maurano and Robinson abstaining.

2. Create and approve an Annual Commission Calendar for 2006

The Commission discussed the best months for breaks and how often the meetings should be held in Belle Haven.

Motion Commissioner Maurano to not hold a Commission meeting in the month of August and to hold Commission meetings in Belle Haven once a quarter and for the meetings to continue being held every third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Luder and unanimously carried.

3. Buy a Brick Program Update

Chair Cline gave an update on the Buy a Brick Program. He mentioned 85 bricks have been sold and that there are 320 more bricks to sell. Commissioner Robinson mentioned that the Commission should consider changing the bricks to plaques, which would take away pressure to put the bricks up right away while the Burgess pool is still under construction. Commissioner Maurano mentioned that the Commission should consider adding two more Commissioners to help Commissioner Whittaker with the Buy a Brick Program.

Motion Commissioner Luder that Chair Cline be the lead of the Buy a Brick Program with Commissioners Luder and Whittaker assisting Chair Cline; seconded by Commissioner Maurano and unanimously carried.

4. Sports Field Update

Michael Taylor, Acting Community Services Director, mentioned that the City Manager is willing to attend a Task Force meeting. Chair Cline gave an update on the Task Force meetings and mentioned that the Task Force is one meeting away from finishing fields and will move on to Bayfront Park. He mentioned the Task Force meetings are Monday nights at Burgess.

Public Comments

Brielle Johnck – Menlo Park addressed the Commission with comments regarding the January 7, 2003 City Council meeting when Staff was alluded 160 hours to study the number and conditions of the fields. She asked the Commission if this study was ever done and if there is a study.

Elizabeth Lasensky – Menlo Park mentioned that the fields on the east side are underused and the fields on the west side are overused. If soccer games were played on the east side that would solve the problem. She mentioned that the Commission should consider raising the fee for sports fields, years ago AY gave the City of Menlo Park 40,000 and Menlo Atherton High School gave 17,000. She asked the Commission if there was a way to get information on the amounts given to the City of Menlo Park in past times.

Nancy Borgeson – Menlo Park gave the Commission a summary of her public comments at the December 21, 2005 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. She mentioned that data is missing from the Task Force meeting such as weekend usage of sports fields.

Susan Dunlap – Menlo Park mentioned that she is the artist of the art sculpture at Bayfront Park. She mentioned that there is a number of trails that have been neglected, posts have eroded or are missing, brochure boxes need to be replaced or fixed, weeding needs to be done, construction has made soil go to the art structures, and that rocks have been moved. She mentioned that she has slides of how the sculptures and paths were if the Commission is interested.

Steve Schmidt – Menlo Park recommended the Commission to view the November 1, 2003 City Council minutes which has number on it. He mentioned that it is important to have a base set of numbers to work with.

5. Council Priority Projects

The Commission discussed projects they would like to recommend to Council for consideration at the annual priority setting session for Fiscal year 06/07. The projects the Commission chose to recommend to Council are:

1. Belle Haven Review
2. Field Usage
3. Bayfront Park
4. Quantification of Program Data; includes fee structure, budget input, input and Commission budget.
5. Measure T
6. Teen based program

Motion Chair Cline to send the six priority projects to Council at the January 24, 2006 City Council meeting but not until they have been approved by the Chair and Vice Chair; seconded by Commissioner Robinson and unanimously carried.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

John Slater – Menlo Park mentioned that the Commission does not get enough respect from the City Council. He mentioned that the Commission should ask for more information from Staff regarding the sports fields since there is no full size playing field.

Stewart Stouffer– Menlo Park mentioned that the Commission should ask for a Measure T overview to check for over runs. Chair Cline asked Staff to have an overview of Measure T at the February 15, 2006 Commission meeting.

I. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mike Taylor, Acting Community Services Director, gave the Commissioners a brochure of Menlo Atherton High School theater projects.

j. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.