



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting

March 15, 2006

6:00 pm.

Burgess Recreation Center  
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** Chair Watkins, Commissioners Luder, Maurano, Robinson, Silano, and Whittaker

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Aaron Johnson, Senior Recreation Supervisor and Linda Munguia, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Vice Chair Cline

### A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

None

### B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS:

None

### C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

None

### D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of the Minutes dated February 22, 2006

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes for February 22, 2006.

**Motion by Commissioner Maurano; seconded by Commissioner Luder and unanimously carried.**

### E. PUBLIC HEARING:

None

### F. REGULAR BUSINESS:

#### 1. Buy a Brick Program Update

Commissioner Whittaker gave an update on the Buy a Brick Program. He mentioned that he has met with Ruben Niño, Director of Engineering Services, and a 10 x 20 pathway has been selected for the brick to be implanted. 100 bricks are planned to be implanted by July. Sales for the bricks will begin next week and will be ongoing.

#### 2. Sports Field Task Force Presentation Update

Commissioner Maurano asked that the Sports Field Task Force Update be delayed for the April 19, 2006 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting.

**Motion by Commissioner Maurano to delay the Sports Field Update for the April 19, 2006 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Robinson and unanimously carried.**

#### 3. Presentation by Tim Sheeper on Proposed Schedule of Programs and Fee Structure for Burgess Pool Activities

Tim Sheeper gave a presentation on the proposed schedule of programs and of the fee structure for Burgess pool activities. He plans to add to the schedule instruction programs which will include swim school, water exercise, water running, seal training, scuba diving certification, water safety certification and kids triathlon camps. He also plans to add a recreation program; which will include

lap swimming, open pool/recreational swimming, family nights, and family swim Sundays. The last program he plans to add is a performance program which will include, masters/adult swim team, masters/adult water polo, youth year round swim team, youth summer swim team, adult triathlon team and a youth triathlon team.

#### **Public Comments**

Stacy Fredericksen – Menlo Park read a letter from Robin McDonald a resident from Menlo Park who is very excited about the idea of bringing in a private swim team. She has swam at Burgess Pool in the past before the renovation and felt it lacked a more organized aquatics program with master classes and a swim team for adults.

Lucey Bowen – Menlo Park mentioned that she urges the Commission to go forward with the proposed schedule for the Burgess Pool.

Hank Lawrence – Menlo Park read a letter from the Palo Alto Daily from Mickie Winkler a current Councilmember for Menlo Park.

Stephane Mouradian – Menlo Park mentioned to the Commission that he is a lap swimmer for many years and was concerned with the purposed water temperature for lap swimming. Tim Sheeper mentioned that the water temperature has not been set and can be flexible.

Joseph Prohaska – Menlo Park mentioned that he had some concerns with the lap swimming but was reassured and pleased with the presentation given by Tim Sheeper.

#### **Commission Comments**

Commissioner Robinson mentioned that he was impressed with the presentation and with Tim Sheeper.

Commissioner Whittaker mentioned that he is for the purposed schedule and fee structure.

Commissioner Silano mentioned that he too is for the purposed schedule and fee structure.

Commissioner Maurano mentioned some concerns for the lockers on how they will be monitored but was pleased with the presentation.

Chair Watkins mentioned that she had some concerns due to some conflicts on the proposed schedule. Tim Sheeper mentioned that the schedule given to the Commission was a draft and that the final schedule will be given to Mike Taylor, Community Services Director at the end of the week.

**Motion by Commissioner Sillano to go forward with the Proposed Schedule of Programs and Fee Structure for Burgess Pool assuming Tim Sheeper satisfies the planning commission; seconded by Commissioner Whittaker approved 5-1 with Chair Watkins abstaining.**

#### **4. Discussion of Possible Future City Sponsored Special Events**

Commissioner Robinson asked that the Discussion of Special Events be delayed for the April 19, 2006 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting and asked Staff to give them a list of all Special Events from previous years.

**Motion Commissioner Robinson to delay the Discussion of Possible Future City Sponsored Special Events for the April 19, 2006 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting when a list of**

**Special Events has been given to the Commission; Seconded by Chair Watkins and unanimously carried.**

**Bayfront Park Update**

Commissioner Robinson asked Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works, to give an update on the Bayfront Park proposal. Kent Steffens mentioned that the City Council will have a closed session next Tuesday to discuss the Bayfront Park proposal. He also mentioned that once a contract with Highland Golf is made it will be given to the Commission to review then the contract will go to the City Council.

**Public Comments**

Elizabeth Lasensky – Menlo Park mentioned it is the City's advantage to talk to the BCDC, Army Corps of Engineers.

John Slater – Menlo Park mentioned that he encourages people to do business in Menlo Park and to open business in Menlo Park, especially on El Camino Real, to help pay for more sports fields.

Robin Smith – Atherton mentioned that the Macketter Wetlands Act does not allow wetlands to be filled. She mentioned that she is very bothered that when the Bayfront Park proposal first came out a golf course was not included. She stated that most people are interested in how the Park is now.

**Commission Comments**

Commissioner Robinson mentioned that there has been talk about using Bayfront Park for years and that more sports fields are needed however, the contractor does not want to put sports field at Bayfront Park. Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works, responded by saying that he would not rule it out.

Commissioner Maurano asked Kent Steffens if there was any land in Menlo Park for sports fields. Kent Steffens responded by saying yes but very limited land is usable.

**G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Director Update on Department Activities**

Mike Taylor, Acting Community Services Director, although not present at the meeting did write a report of the updates on department activities. The report included the following updates: Construction is nearing completion on the Menlo Children's Center. It is anticipated that activities will begin at the new site on or about April 15<sup>th</sup>. A ribbon cutting ceremony is currently being planned. Construction on Burgess Pool is expected to be completed around the first of May. A ribbon cutting ceremony and tour will be held in collaboration with the contract operator. Further details will be sent to the Commission as soon as possible. The Commissioners are invited to assist the Kite Day event at Bayfront Park on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**2. Letter from John Fox of the Bicycle Commission**

The Commission received a letter from John Fox regarding safer cycling for adults and children. The Bicycle Commission thinks that the City, through the Parks and Recreation courses and flyers, should provide information about local safe cycling classes, as well as post listing about good safety literature. The Bicycle Commission also thinks it may be useful for the City to organize safe cycling classes, perhaps in conjunction with the City of Palo Alto.

**3. Results from November 2005 Commission Survey**

The Commission received the results of the November 2005 Commission Survey. The Commission will discuss the results at the April 19, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2:**

None

**I. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.