



**PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Special Meeting (Postponed from April 19, 2006)
April 26, 2006
5:30 pm.
Burgess Recreation Center
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park**

The meeting began with a tour of the new Menlo Children's Center. The meeting was held in the school-age building of the newly renovated center.

Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Watkins, Vice Chair Cline, Commissioners Luder, Robinson, Maurano, and Silano.

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Taylor, Acting Community Services Director

ABSENT: Whittaker

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

None

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS:

None

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

Lindsay Bowen – Portola Valley, requested that the City check the electricity at the Burgess Baseball Field which he reported is not currently working and that a fields crew remove a drag rake that is presently stuck in a tree on the first base side of the field.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of March 15, 2006 Commission Meeting Minutes:

- **Motion by Commissioner Maurano to approve the March 15, 2006 meeting minutes; seconded by Commissioner Luder unanimously carried.**

E. PUBLIC HEARING:

None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Buy a Brick Program Update

With the absence of Commissioner Whitaker, the Buy a Brick Program update was tabled.

2. Sports Field Task Force Update

The Sports Field Task Force report was presented by Commissioners Cline and Maurano. Commissioner Cline reported that he had attempted to present the preliminary report to the City Council on April 25th but was denied the opportunity. The Commission requested that the minutes reflect their disappointment that Council chose to act on the Bayfront Sports Field issue without Commission input.

Public Comments

Elizabeth Lasensky – Menlo Park, commended the Commission on their dedication to see the Task Force work through. She recommended adding “rooftop options” to field space.

Nancy Borgeson – Menlo Park, questioned the information in table 2 on page 7. She asked for clarification on number of fields and the relevance of the data.

Lindsay Bowen – Portola Valley, asked the Commission to consider recommending to Council to enter into negotiations with the Town of Portola Valley on the possibility of a regional sports field on Stanford property behind Ladera Oaks.

After considerable discussion, the Commission revised the Task Force Report to remove table 2 on page 7. Commissioner Watkins asked that Ravenswood City School District information be included in the data to supplement Menlo Park City School District information on page 8. The Commission adjusted the recommendations to better reflect the public comments and the intention of the full Commission.

- **Motion by Commissioner Robinson to accept the Task Force Report with changes and present the recommendations to Council seconded by Commissioner Luder unanimously carried.**

3. Sports Field Maintenance Update

The Commission was provided with a copy of the current Sports Field Maintenance schedule. Commissioner Cline noted the closure of Burgess Baseball Field during the early part of the baseball season that impacts the ability of local teams to practice before the season. Following discussion, no action was taken.

4. Measure T Projects Status Update

Michael Taylor, Acting Community Services Director, updated the Commission on the status of the Measure T projects by presenting the Commission with copies of the June 15, 2005 staff report. After discussion questioning the information and the financial data, no action was taken.

5. Possible Renaming of the Commission to Include Cultural Arts Duties

As requested by the Council at the March 21, 2006 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Commission considered changing the name of the Commission to include Arts.

- **Motion by Commissioner Luder that no change in the Parks and Recreation Commission name be made seconded by Commissioner Robinson unanimously carried.**

6. Consideration of Naming the Dance Studio at Burgess Rec Center

A proposal by staff to recommend to Council the naming of the dance studio at Burgess Recreation Center after Marianne Crowder was discussed.

- **Motion by Commissioner Luder that the Commission recommends to Council to name the dance studio at the Burgess Recreation Center in honor of Marianne Crowder seconded by Commissioner Silano unanimously carried.**

7. Tennis Month Proclamation

A copy of the proclamation proclaiming April 28 to May 29 as Tennis Month was distributed. After some discussion, no action was taken.

8. Burgess Pool Update

Michael Taylor, Acting Community Services Director, updated the Commission on the projected opening of the newly renovated Burgess Pool.

- **Motion by Commissioner Robinson that the Commission reviews the Team Sheeper use of Burgess Pool on a quarterly basis beginning in July seconded by Commissioner Silano unanimously carried.**

9. Special Events Discussion

Michael Taylor, Acting Community Services Director, updated the Commission on the schedule of existing special events and concerts.

- **Motion by Commissioner Robinson that all future special events sponsored by the City be non-denominational seconded by Commissioner Silano unanimously carried.**

10. Impact of Budget Reductions to Community Services

Michael Taylor, Acting Community Services Director, updated the Commission on the impact of budget reductions to Community Services. After some discussion, it was requested that the Commission be kept apprised of all future strategies but no action was taken.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2:

None

I. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

The Acting Community Services Director, Michael Taylor, gave the Commissioners additional updates.

j. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.