



**PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**July 18, 2007  
6:00 p.m.  
Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street**

Chair Maurano called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Chair Maurano, Vice Chair Naclerio, Commissioners Blythe arrived at 6:08 p.m., Tooley and Watkins left at 8:15 p.m.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Barbara Santos George, Community Services Director, and Linda Munguia, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Silano

**A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

Chair Maurano mentioned the City Council gave a proclamation announcing July Recreation Month.

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

None

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:**

Gentleman - Thanked the Commission for organizing the Summer Concert Series.

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**1. Approval of the Minutes Dated May 16, 2007:**

**Motion by Commissioner Watkins to approve the meeting minutes dated May 16, 2007; seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick and unanimously carried.**

**E. PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. DOGMA community to present concerns, alternatives, and suggested solutions for the use of Nealon Park ball field as a dog park. Report out to the Commission, no action will be taken on this item at this time.**

**Public Comments**

Schel Reyes - DOGMA addressed the Commission to reconsider its decision regarding the dual use nature of Nealon Park. She mentioned that DOGMA traveled to all of the parks in the City and evaluated them, generated a matrix of their findings, sought and obtained community input, and selected the two best options, Nealon and Willows. DOGMA is concerned that if the City tries to find another option to Nealon, they will come up short, or end up with nothing. She mentioned the dog owners that use Nealon are responsible pet owners and does not feel that the dog park should be taken away because of the people that do not use the dog park as it is intended.

Jody Paley – Redwood City, mentioned dog parks are community building. She has met many people at the dog park and has gone to their businesses and spent money in Menlo Park. She mentioned she has found friends at the dog park.

Brad Miller – Menlo Park, mentioned he is an everyday user of the dog park. He mentioned the Commission should find somewhere else for softball and use Nealon for a dog park only and sell a key like the tennis courts and the money can go toward maintenance for the park.

Mary Henning – Menlo Park mentioned she has organized the “Poop Patrol” which began in March or April. One person is in charge of poop patrol at the park and stays until the end and walks around the park to make sure no poop has been left behind.

Daniel Paley – Redwood City mentioned the dog park is invaluable. He urged the Commission to not take away the dog park but rather find a way to continue dual use.

Teddy Wilson – Menlo Park mentioned she cares about preserving the dog park and is willing to go at any lengths to keep Nealon as a dog park. She also mentioned how unsatisfactory other dog parks from other Cities are.

Carmen Heisman – Menlo Park mentioned Nealon is a good location for a dog park. She has gotten to know other people from the community. She mentioned that during non dog park hours especially over the weekend the trash is overflowing, balloons are left behind from parties but that it is a shared space so it is understandable that this would happen.

Barbara Miller, Palo Alto mentioned that when someone new comes to the dog park they let them know what is expected of them.

Meg Mendoza – Menlo Park mentioned she has altered her work schedule to go to the dog park in the morning.

Mary Kennedy – Menlo Park mentioned the Commission should go back to look at why Nealon was chosen as a dog park. He mentioned it was chosen because it was the perfect park for dual use.

#### **Commission Comments**

The Commission would like an update from Staff with a list of the recommendations from the meeting at the September 19, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on how to modify Nealon Park to make it better for dual use. Following discussion, no further action was taken.

#### **F. REGULAR BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Information packet from Marc Nuckolls, Sports Coordinator, on recommendation guidelines for field reservations for sports groups in Menlo Park.**

Marc Nuckolls, Sports Coordinator, gave the Commission his proposed solutions with the time scheduling for the sports fields. He mentioned the sports groups prefer Burgess Park and that is where scheduling the groups becomes difficult for him, he has spoken with the sports groups and they will be rotating parks every 2 weeks. He also mentioned that other sports groups are calling him to see if they can use Menlo Park sports fields and he has had to say no due to lack of space.

**Following discussion the following action was taken:** The Commission decided to form a sub-committee to help Marc Nuckolls come up with guidelines for field reservations. The Commissioners that volunteered are Blythe and Kirkpatrick.

**2. Program flyer for summer concert series**

Barbara Santos George, Community Services Director, gave the Commission a flyer of the summer concert series.

**3. Report from Commissioner Blythe; Joint Commission meeting in Palo Alto regarding playing fields**

Commissioner Blythe gave the Commission a report on the Joint Commission meeting in Palo Alto regarding playing fields. He mentioned he met with a lot of groups from the peninsula and there was a lot of good will expressed.

**G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Donation from the DOGMA dog owners**

DOGMA gave a donation of \$2400 to fix the entrance of Willow Park.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2: None**

**I. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.