



**PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MINUTES
Special Meeting
October 30, 2007
6:00 p.m.
Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street**

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Maurano, Vice Chair Naclerio, Commissioners Blythe and Breisch

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Kirkpatrick, Tooley and Watkins

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

None

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS:

None

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

Patrick Gordon – Menlo Park address the Commission regarding the proposed funding of the Park Theatre as a dance studio. He mentioned he feels the money should go towards something else that would be more useful like renovating the gym and Burgess or towards playing fields. He also mentioned his community is losing Tinker Park due to the Hillview Development and he believes this park is a resource to the community. He mentioned this money could be used to create a community park.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

None

E. PUBLIC HEARING

None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and Recommendation from the Commission to City Council regarding the proposed funding of the Park Theatre as a dance studio.

Chair Maurano gave the Commission an update on the proposed funding of the Park Theatre as a dance studio. She mentioned the City is currently in discussion with a private individual to provide funding in the amount of \$2.2 million to buy the Park Theatre on El Camino Real. The City would lease the property for 55 years. She mentioned the first 25 years of “rent” would be returned to the City at the time of purchase in the amount of \$800,000 thus a net outflow in year 1 to Menlo Park of \$1.4 million. No further rent would be collected for the next 25 years until year 26 of the lease (2033). However, the City could buy out the building starting in year 10 of the lease therefore, future rent revenues are difficult to project. She mentioned the money to purchase the Theater would come for the City’s reserve funds. She believes the City Council should refrain from investing any of the City’s money in the Park Theater, or any other private

joint venture, until all the public facilities within the City, such as the gym and Burgess, have been adequately funded.

Following discussion, the following actions were taken:

Motion that the Commission ask City Council to reject the proposed deal to finance purchase of the Park Theater in conjunction with Mr. Andy Duncan.

Motion that the Commission ask the City Council to only consider investing in projects that have been previously identified as community priorities such as the gym and Burgess.

Motion that the City not invest in private enterprises that duplicate existing City services.

Motion from the Commission that in the future City Council refer matters related to the Parks & Recreation Commission and Community Services to the Commission with adequate lead time to ensure the Commission can get proper public input and debate.

Motions Vice Chair Naclerio and seconded by Commissioner Blythe and unanimously carried.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2:

None

I. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.