



**PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**January 16, 2008
Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street
Menlo Park**

Chair Maurano called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Paula Maurano, Jim Tooley, Patricia M. Watkins, Andy Kirkpatrick, Kelly Blythe, and Kristi Breisch.

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Santos George, Community Services Director, Jessica Lewis, Jennifer Bester, Senior Civil Engineer Lawrence Johmann, Public Works Director Kent Steffens, Assistant Public Works Director Ruben Nino

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

None

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS:

None

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

The friends of Bayfront Park invite commissioners to attend the beginning of birding at Bayfront Park. The dates are February 9th, March 8th, and April 12th from 9-11am.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Motion is made to approve the minutes from both the November 14th and the December 12th meetings. Motioned seconded and both minutes are approved.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Choose a new Chair and Vice Chair for 2008

Maurano nominates commissioner Naclerio to be commission chair person. Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconds and the vote is unanimous. Naclerio is elected Park and Recreation Commission Chair person for 2008.

Commissioner Blythe nominates commissioner Kirkpatrick to serve as Vice Chair. Maurano seconds and the vote is unanimous. Commissioner Kirkpatrick is elected Park and Recreation commission vice chair person for 2008.

2. Review and approve commission calendar for 2008

After review of the commission calendar for 2008, the February meeting has been moved to February 27th. The commission also wants to keep the month of August as a month of recess.

There will be three commission meeting held at Onetta Harris and other changes may be changed later in the year. Commissioner Kirkpatrick moves to accept the calendar with the changes. Vote is unanimous.

3. Sports Fields- Menlo Atherton Adult Soccer League

April Watson and four representatives from the Menlo Atherton Adult Soccer League address the commission with concern to the sports fields. They are a non-profit organization that has been in existence for 30 years. They are unique to the bay area in that they welcome women of all levels to enjoy fitness and the company of other league members. During their use of fields in Menlo Park they feel that they have been very flexible and considerate of other users. They respectfully ask the commission that they be considered in the future planning of Menlo Park Sports fields.

4. Update on Gym

Commissioner Naclerio has reached out to basketball and gymnastic users and commissioner Tooley has talked with neighborhood representatives to encourage participation in the steering committee. The steering committee will meet on January 29th and 30th; two meeting will be held one during the day and one in the evening. It will be the responsibility of the Community Services department to communicate and promote the meetings. According to Mr. Steffens, Public Works Director, the architects will come to the commission three times before they present plans to council. Their presentations will be on March 12th, April 16th and May 21st. The intention of these meetings will be to clarify program needs, discuss initial concepts and hear what plans will be ultimately be presented to council. The architects will present to council on June 23rd. Council member Kline adds that thus far the process of both the gym and fields projects has been a Holistic vision and so far council has been happy about the process, now it is an issue of execution.

5. Update on Sports Field

Commissioner Kirkpatrick is happy to announce that the community has been engaged in the meetings concerning sports field and have responded very well to the project. The main focus right now is on Kelly Park. Meetings have taken place with Larry Johmann, Senior Civil Engineer, and there was a community meeting at Kelly Park. Many sports league representatives attended the meetings and brought up issues about lighting and artificial turf. Out of the meetings it was apparent that there are 4 main priorities of the field project. First, soccer field (potentially a football field), second was the issue of parking, third a baseball/softball field and finally ideas about a track. Although Burgess Park is also a priority, plans are on hold right now due to Gym project.

6. Commission Review of Green Ribbon Citizens Committee Proposals (GRCC)- Elizabeth Lasensky

Green Ribbon representative, Elizabeth Lasensky gives a summary of their report. On November 20th the Green Ribbon committee presented findings and action items to City Council. City commissions were asked to look at specific action items that were proposed by the Green Ribbon committee. The three action items are to encourage recycling at city events, promote green practices at schools and include new residential and major renovation projects in water efficient ordinance #840 and establish turf limitations and water efficient landscape requirements. Commissioner Breisch wanted to make sure that while the discussions about the gym and field projects continue that the commission keeps these important environmental issues in mind. Kent Steffens Public Works Director adds that the architects that are being used are experts in "Green" building. Commissioner Maurano would like the commission to come up with guidelines about how much park and open space Menlo Park should have. She thinks this would be helpful for future department planning and to the City Council. Further, at

the next meeting she would like to discuss the environmental guidelines of neighboring cities, including but not limited to water usage, recycling, and waste collection. The commission would like a staff report from CSD or Public works to hear staff recommendations.

7. Capitol Improvement/Project List Recommendation

The commission names three items that they feel should be on the project list for 2008.

- 1) Kelly Park renovation
- 2) Restrooms at Lyle Park
- 3) Restrooms at Willow Park

8. Update on the Dog Park

Jennifer Bestor presents update on the Dog Park. DOGMA representatives have given an outlined timeline to Dave Mooney. They would like to see things get started and hopefully completed before the start of softball season. DOGMA has also created a steering committee to look at Dog Park changes.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2:

None

I. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.