



## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**February 27, 2008  
Onetta Harris Community Center  
100 Terminal Ave.  
Menlo Park**

Chair Naclerio called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Community Services Director Barbara Santos George, Councilman Richard Cline, Recreation Coordinator Bridget Matheson, Jessica Lewis, Senior Civil Engineer Larry Johmann, Assistant Public Works Director Ruben Nino, Representatives Mark Slichter and David Ruben from Callander Associates. Approximately 15 members of the public were in attendance.

### **A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

A plaque was presented to outgoing commission Chair Paula Maurano in appreciation for her service as Chair.

### **B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Green Ribbon Citizen Committee - Climate Action Plan (GRCC) – Kristi Breisch  
Commissioner Breisch updated commission as to what stages the GRCC are in. She states that the GRCC is in its second phase of development and discussions. The GRCC is preparing to meet in small committees (one being held this Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March) to prepare presentations for City council, staff and a budget study session.

2. El Camino Real Downtown/Visioning Committee (ECR) - Kristi Breisch  
There are a number of key community discussions, workshops and forums that will be happening in the next months. The community workshops will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. These meetings will give members of the community a chance to get involved and voice their questions and concerns as well as to give suggestions. Commissioner Breisch asks the commission for direction as to what capacity they want her to be involved with both this and the GRCC projects.

3. Burgess Gym – Nick Naclerio  
Commissioners Naclerio and Tooley as the sub committee for Burgess Gym, give an update of the renovation process. The Burgess Renovation plan is part of Measure T. There have been public meetings. The city has found a consultant and also had engineers look at the building. The plans for the renovations are posted on the internet for public and interested parties to look at. At the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the architects will present their plans. The different schemes will also be posted on the internet.

4. Sports Fields – Paula Maurano  
Commissioner Maurano presents a brief history of the playing fields in Menlo Park. The city did an inventory of all the playing field and what came out of this inventory was the need to find areas of existing park lands that could accommodate a multi use sports field. This is how the renovation of Kelly Park started. City staff requested proposals and selected Callander Associates to create the designs for Kelly Park. City staff and commission members had

numerous meetings with players, field users and city staff. Out of these meetings came a set of main priorities including a full sized field/soccer field, a track, baseball and softball, fitness trail and plenty of parking.

### **Design Presentation**

Presented by David Ruben from Callander Associates.

#### **Design A:**

Full sized soccer, lacrosse, football and baseball capabilities. The infield of the baseball diamond overlaps with other field space. There are group picnic areas, running track, 3ft fence to provide physical barrier but maintain an open feel. Plan also includes fitness stations and 44 parking spaces.

#### **Design B:**

Orientation of baseball diamond is different and is not overlapping with any other field space. There is no perimeter walkway and no running or fitness stations. Picnic area is farther away but there is more connection between field and picnic areas. This plan includes 64 parking spaces

#### **Design C:**

Design three in essence is the best components of designs A and B. In addition, all of the existing redwoods will be preserved almost completely. The long jump will be more flexible for track and field capabilities and a new fence will be installed along the north end. Restrooms will remain in approximately the same position and this plan includes 68 parking spaces.

\*All Designs use synthetic turf

Full descriptions and illustrations of the three proposed designs can be found online for people to view.

### **Discussion**

After listening to public concern the commission agrees that the designs should be looked at again. Many members of the community voiced that the track and field component of the sports field had been disregarded. They urged the council to try to incorporate this fully in the final design. In addition to the track and field concern there were also other comments. The following is a list of ideas that came up in discussion.

1. Expand track and field aspects of sports field
2. Reexamine parking in particular with consideration of senior parking
3. Have a dual use baseball/softball field
4. Move bathrooms away from the senior center
5. Increase the security of field
6. Look at fences both size, type and location
7. Consider keeping the basketball courts

The commission is committed to address everyone's concerns. They express that it will never be possible to give everyone what they want however a concerted effort is being made.

### **C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1 (*Limited to 30 minutes*)**

Under "Public Comment #1", the public may address the Parks & Recreation on any subject not listed on the agenda and items listed under the Consent Calendar. Each speaker may address the Parks & Recreation once under Public Comment for a limit of three minutes. Please clearly state your name and address or political jurisdiction in which you live, e.g., Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo County. The City cannot act on non-agenda items and, therefore, the Commission cannot respond to non-agendized issues brought up under Public Comment other than to provide general information.

1. Carla a resident of Menlo Park speaks with concern to the Burgess Gymnasium remodel. She is a volleyball coach and volleyball enthusiast. The volleyball program is growing and many young people are getting introduced to the sport. She encourages the commission to consider volleyball in the designs for the gym and even try to increase the number of courts.
2. Mr. Bowin proposed to the commission that they should look into negotiating with Stanford University. He is also going to city council to propose the same to them. Stanford has many facilities that might benefit the city especially with the lack of park lands present within the city. He suggests that this might be a positive alternative.

#### **D. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Commissioner Watkins motions to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting. Maurano seconds and minutes for the January 16, 2008 minutes are unanimously approved.

#### **E. PUBLIC HEARING**

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

1. Naming of the new park located on Hamilton Avenue  
Commissioner Naclerio asks audience and commissioners if anyone has suggestions for the renaming of Hamilton Park. One audience member thought it should remain "Hamilton Park." Commissioner Watkins thinks that Menlo Park needs something to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and thinks that this Park should be named in his honor. The renaming will be open for discussion and Barbara Santos George agreed to accept any of the public's ideas.
2. Capitol Improvement / Project List Recommendations  
Barbara lets the commission know that the requests on the Commissions capital improvement list have been submitted. At the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting she will have an update.
3. Discussion to determine commission steps for communicating issues with citizens  
Some of the suggestions to increase communication effectiveness with city community include, reaching out to groups and organizations, increase word of mouth communication, continue to utilize internet, and do focused mailings. Overall the commission seemed happy with the communication to the public.

#### **G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

Barbara introduces the new Recreation Coordinator at the Onneta Harris site, Bridget Matheson.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

Under “Public Comment #2”, the public if unable to address the Commission on non-agenda items during Public Comment #1 (limited to 30 minutes) or with respect to a Closed Session, may do so at this time. Each person is limited to three minutes. Please clearly state your name and address or jurisdiction in which you live, e.g. Menlo Park, Woodside, and San Mateo County.

**J. ADJOURNMENT at 7:51pm**