



**PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 21, 2008  
6:00 pm  
Burgess Recreation Center  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park**

Vice Chair, Kirkpartick calls the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Vice Chair, Kirkpartick, Kelly Blyth, Kristi Breisch, Paula Maurano, Jim Tooley, and Patricia M. Watkins

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Public Works representatives, Lisa Eckers, Larry Johmann, Kesha Weeks from East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring Program, Council Member Richard Cline, Community Services Director Barbara Santos George and Jessica Lewis.

**A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

NONE

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

**1. Green Ribbon Citizen Committee - Climate Action Plan (GRCC) - Kristi Breisch**

There will be a staff report put out on environmental stewardship and commissioner Breisch will keep the commission informed of any other things that are prevalent.

**2. El Camino Real Downtown/Visioning Committee (ECR) - Kristi Breisch**

Commissioner Breisch gave commissioners a packet of information that included, staff reports, community surveys and the El Camino vision plan. The visioning committee made several goals and broke into small groups to discuss these goals. Some of the primary goals that were talked about in small groups included, provide greater east-west town wide connection; improve circulation and streetscape conditions on El Camino Real; protect and enhance pedestrian amenities on Santa Cruz Avenue; and develop parking strategies and facilities that meet the commercial and residential needs of the community.

**3. Sports Fields - Andy Kirkpatrick**

The revised plans for Kelly Park will be presented at the June meeting. It will include a full sized field for soccer and other uses, a track and more parking. The plans for Burgess Park will also be at the June meeting. The primary issues that the sub committee is looking at are: considering the whole campus, baseball field underused, grass on the infield, extended hours, lights and artificial turf.

**4. San Mateo Count Parks and Recreation Workshop - Kristi Breisch**

Commissioner Breisch attended this April 12<sup>th</sup> workshop. At the workshop 20 cities were represented and most of the representatives were new to the workshop. At the meeting there was a focus on community building, in particular, what the role of commissioner was in the community, how to affectively reach out to the community, how to solicit community input and how to collaborate with city staff. Commissioner Breisch thought the workshop was very informative and looks forward to using and sharing the strategies discussed.

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

NONE

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Commissioner Watkins motions to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Maurano seconds. The minutes for the May 21, 2008 meeting are approved.

**E. PUBLIC HEARING**

NONE

**F. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1. Kelly Park Fields**

There are a couple of changes to the Kelly Park plans. Field consultants will add tennis courts to design. This change will not affect original design, the changes are inconsequential. This does have relevance for future community collaborations including partnership with East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring Program.

**2. Burgess Gym recommendation for scheme A (donor option) – Lisa Eckers and Larry Johmann**

Commissioners were interested in the donor's motivations for offering to build the new gymnasium. It was the feeling of Public Works representatives that the motivation was philanthropy. The donor is open to feed back from the commission and staff about the design. The sub committee felt good about the donor's design. The next step is for Commission to make a recommendation to council and for council to approve moving forward with donor Scheme A. Commissioner Blythe makes a motion.

**Motion that Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to City Council that staff move forward with the donor plan, Scheme A and that the plan be approved by Menlo Park City Council.**

Watkins seconds and motion is approved.

**3. East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring – Kesha Week**

East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring serves 100 youth from East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven community. Their services are free and have had great success. They are excited to launch a pilot program at the Onetta Harris community center. This program will provide one-on-one tutoring and group tennis lessons for grades K-12. In the future, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring would like to collaborate more with the City of Menlo Park and be in a location where they can be closer to the community they serve, namely Belle Haven and East Palo Alto.

**4. Discussion of changing the June Commission meeting to June 11th from June 18th**

After discussion the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will remain the same.

**G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

NONE

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

Don Bronner of Linden Oaks expressed concern about the Gymnasium proposal. He believes that it is a mistake to put the Gymnasium facility near the recreation center and worries about the traffic problems that may occur. He urges the commission to consider other locations that are more convenient to the entire Bay area and that are better for Menlo Park residents.

**J. ADJOURNMENT at 8:37pm**