



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

Regular Meeting

June 18, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Onetta Harris Community Center
100 Terminal Avenue

Call to order 6:18

ROLL CALL – (Chair) Naclerio, (Vice Chair) Kirkpatrick, Blythe, Breisch, Maurano, Tooley and Watkins

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

City Council met with El Camino Vision Committee about Phase 1. The Visioning committee will be at the July Council meeting.

2. Sports Fields – Andrew Kirkpatrick

Commissioner Kirkpatrick reserves his comments for later in the meeting

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

Bridget Matheson, Recreation Coordinator Onetta Harris Community Center

Bridget presents some of the new things that are happening at the Onetta Harris Community Center. New programs include: Camp OHCC, Indoor Soccer, SuperTeen Basketball, Soul Line Dancing, Zumba and Hip-Hop Aerobics. Bridget and staff have also been working to collaborate with different community organizations. Currently their collaborations include: Built to Last, East Palo Alto Tennis Tutoring and Parent Initiative Leadership Facilitator. In the fall, OHCC will house more youth and adult enrichment classes, additional sports programs and host special events.

Seminary Oaks Park

Margaret Spak of Menlo Park

Mrs. Spak expressed her concern about the Supplemental Emergency Water Supply Project at Seminary Oaks Park. She is unhappy that the Park and Recreation Commission were not informed by Public Works about this project. This park was created in 1996 because of the Seminary Oaks development. If the emergency water supply was placed in the Seminary Oaks Park the park would not have the same level of use and the trees would be destroyed. She is interested in the criteria for deciding sites for this development. She ended by stating that Menlo Park prides itself on being a “green” city and moving forward with the project would be in conflict to this goal.

Robyn Denholm of Menlo Park

Mrs. Deholm lives in the house right next to Seminary Oaks Park. She is also concerned about the Supplemental Emergency Water Supply Project. The park is in constant use and there is no other park in the area that is walking distance. She hopes that the commission will get more involved in this proposed project.

Rich Shane of Menlo Park

Mr. Shane has three main concerns about the proposed Supplemental Emergency Water Supply Project. First the proposed reservoir will only serve municipal water and is not sufficient for the

population. Second, it will significantly reduce the size of the park and lastly will include a large slope which is dangerous to children and members of the community.

Bill Evans of Menlo Park

Mr. Evans implores the Park and Recreation commission to review and work with Public Works on the proposed Supplemental Emergency Water Supply Project. He agrees that we need an emergency water supply but thinks it is a mistake to use Seminary Oaks Park. According to Mr. Evans, it will be an invasive component to the park.

The Commission applauds the community getting together to voice their concerns. They will follow up with Public Works about the project and inform the public that Ruben Nino of Public Works will be at the July meeting to make a presentation about the project.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Minutes dated May 21, 2008

The minutes from the May 21, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission are unanimously approved with the addition that EPATT, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring serve 20% of the Menlo Park community out of their approximately 100 members.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Renaming of Bayfront Park to Bedwell Bayfront Park – Friends of Bayfront Park

Ann Moser of Menlo Park

As a representative of Friends of Bayfront Park, Mrs. Moser supports the renaming of Bayfront Park to Bedwell Bayfront Park. She believes it is appropriate to honor someone who served his community for so long and so well. She also talks about the Friends of Bayfront Park idea to make a historical storyboard that highlights Mike Bedwell.

Patrick Bedwell of San Francisco

As the son of Mike Bedwell he expresses that his father put his heart and soul into Menlo Park and the renaming of Bayfront Park is a fitting recognition. He also mentions the leadership his father showed on the Bayfront Park conception and that his father would be humbled by such a honor.

Allan Bedwell of Newport Beach

States that the renaming of Bayfront Park in his father's honor not only recognizes his service but shows that effort and service in government and beyond can have a significant affect on ones community.

Jack Morris of Menlo Park

Mr. Morris recites a quote; "The wheels of government grind slowly but exceedingly fine." He was a Mayor during the time Mike served as City Manager and has fond memories of him and remembers his contributions and involvement with Bayfront Park. Through all the changes in Menlo Park including staff changes and council changes Mike was always there. He had great respect and admiration for Mike and urges the commission to recommend the renaming of Bayfront Park in Mike's honor.

Jim Lewis of Palo Alto

Mr. Lewis gives a packet of information to commissioners that included articles and tributes to Mike Bidwell that commemorates his contributions to the Menlo Park community. He knew Mike for about 20 years and like many of the people who spoke about his service, Mr. Lewis has fond memories of him as a person, a friend and the positive influence he had to Menlo Park. He also points out that the current mayor has endorsed the renaming of Bayfront Park to Bedwell Bayfront Park.

Commission Discussion

The commission expresses its sympathy for lose of such an important figure in Menlo Park and acknowledges the contributions Mr. Bedwell had to Menlo Park government and beyond. They discuss the policy that does not allow the renaming of Public buildings or parks until 5 years after someone's death. However they agree that this policy needs to be reexamined especially in this circumstance. They do think that a 6 month waiting period is appropriate so that the public can give input. A motion is made by commissioner Naclerio.

Parks and Recreation Commission motion to recommend to City Council to approve the renaming of Bayfront Park to Bedwell Bayfront Park as of January 1, 2009 and erect a story board designed in conjunction with the Friends of Bayfront Park.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconds and motion is approved

2. Kelly Park Fields – Presentation & Recommendation
Commission makes a motion:

Parks and Recreation commission recommends to City Council that they approve the Plan D of Kelly Park Fields with the addition of fitness stations.

3. Compliance with Amendment to Brown Act, SB343 – Barbara Santos George
Barbara informs commission that everything that is received at commission meetings as well as agendas and minutes will be placed in a binder and available for the public at the Burgess Recreation Center front desk. This will create more transparency in government.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (Attachment B)

- 1) Carleen Bedwell – Renaming Bayfront Park
- 2) Mark Flegel - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 3) Pat & Ollie Brown - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 4) Doug Dupen - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 5) Lorie and Sam Sinnott - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 6) Karen Poza - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 7) Russell Scotten - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 8) Lauren Mercer - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 9) John Jorgenson - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 10) Janice La Fetra - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 11) Jack Morris - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 12) Ellen Gray - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 13) Carol Mince - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 14) Lee Boucher - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 15) Susan Dunlap - Renaming Bayfront Park
- 16) Nancy Borgeson – Renaming Bayfront Park
- 17) Anne Moser – Renaming Bayfront Park
- 18) Jim Lewis – Mike Bedwell information

H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Henry and Rose of Menlo Park

Express concern and distain that the City of Menlo Park is allowing an East Palo Alto organization, EPATT to make use of city facilities. They feel that East Palo Alto should take ownership over programs that refer to that city in their name. Further they feel that the council and the commission should not be involved in East Palo Alto business and should concentrate on the needs of and goals of Menlo Park.

Juanita Croft of Menlo Park

Ms. Croft disagrees with the statements that Menlo Park should not allow EPATT to be the Menlo Park community. She works with students in Belle Haven and feels that they are lacking services and resources. She also points out that the Belle Haven and East Palo Alto community are connected by the Ravenswood school district. In addition most programs that serve minority kids come out of East Palo Alto, but the name does not necessarily mean that they are only affiliated with that city. She has always been apart of East Palo Alto yet as always lived in Menlo Park. She ends by saying that if the program is viable and enhances educational opportunities for kids there is no downside to allowing the City of Menlo Park to be apart of their contributions.

J. ADJOURNMENT at 7:58pm