



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting**

October 21, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street

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The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** (Vice Chair) J. Tooley, K. Breisch, J. Cebrian, P. Maurano

**Absent:** (Chair) A. Kirkpatrick, N. Naclerio, K. Blythe

**Other Present:** Susan Holmer – Interim Community Services Director  
Katrina Whiteaker – Interim Program Manager  
David Hill – Program Assistant

**A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

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

**1. Commission Appointments**

James Cebrian introduced himself to the Commission.

**2. Burgess Gymnasium**

Jim Tooley reported that he and Nick Naclerio met with Tom McDonough and Anna Zara from the Library Commission to discuss the Gym-Library parking issue. They discussed the parking situation during construction when 33 parking places will be made unavailable and the exit from the parking lot closest to the Burgess Recreation Center will be blocked. Tooley pointed out the importance of planning ahead for the impact. He also suggested that Community Services Activity Guide for Winter/Spring should inform the residents of construction staging and a possibility of difficulty in finding a parking spot. The group had several suggestions for parking remediation and their suggestions will be forwarded to the City Manager. The next meeting of the group will be November 16<sup>th</sup> and staff from the Public Works Department will attend.

**3. El Camino Visioning Process**

K. Breisch informed that the work is done for Phase II. The City Council voted unanimously to approve the plan. In the meantime, the Sub-Committee was given a task of looking into the project's impact on the Farmer's Market. The Phase III is still in process. The specific plan will be published in April 2010 and will be open for public comment. Breisch also mentioned that the workshop had a very good turnout.

**Comment from Public:**

Alex Cannari of Menlo Park commented on the visioning process and the hiring of consultants to shape Menlo Park. He feels that visioning is a marketing tool that will make the city beautiful and attractive for

developers but wonders if that is what Menlo Park really needs. He also commented that any change should be tailored to the needs of the people that live here.

#### **4. 10/31 Halloween Parade and Merchant Trick or Treat Event**

Katrina Whiteaker informed the commission that the Community Services Department is having its annual Halloween Hoopla event on October 31. The parade will start at 11:45 am on the parking lot adjacent to Burgess Recreation Center and the children will trick-or-treat in Downtown Menlo Park. The city staff will control the traffic. There will be a Magic Show and crafts at Fremont Park from 1 – 3 pm.

#### **C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

Alex Cannari commented about the use of goats at Stanford Hills Park for weed abatement and the damage that was being done to the young trees. He is in contact with the city Parks Division and will keep the Parks and Recreation Commission apprised of any positive changes.

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

##### **1. Approval of the minutes dated [September 16, 2009](#).**

**Motion (K. Breisch/ P. Maurano) to approve the Minutes of September 16, 2009.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **E. PUBLIC HEARING None**

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

##### **1. Status report on Parks and Fields**

S. Holmer gave the updates on Kelly Field and Tinkers Playground.

- Kelly Park: The current plan is under reconsideration by the Engineering Department because there are PG &E anchor wires, “down guys”, which intrude upon the soccer field decreasing the proposed size so it is not a full size field. The Engineering Department has contacted PG & E to begin the process of determining if the down guys can be moved or if the field has to be designed around them. P. Murano expressed her great concern about making sure that a full size soccer field be constructed at Kelly Park.
- Tinkers playground- The school district is expanding the school size at Hillview School and the expansion will demolish the current Tinkers playground. City staff is working with the school district to ensure that the playground will be reconstructed once the school expansion is completed.

The Commission’s recommendation for items for future agendas:

- How to plan and prepare for the increasing youth population in Menlo Park.
- To complete a study of open space in the city and the uses of that open space.
- Do a field trip to Bedwell Bayfront Park.

##### **2. Onetta Harris Community Center – activity update**

K. Whiteaker presented updates on the Onetta Harris Community Center activities which included a major shift in staffing, new partnerships including schools and tutoring programs, and collaboration with the Belle Haven Community School.

This year's highlights:

- New Youth & Adult Classes
- Belle Haven Egg Hunt Event
- Multicultural Events
- New Fitness Equipment
- SJSU Marketing Intern
- Gymnastics Program

K. Whiteaker indicated that the center added new classes for both youth and adults and formed a Youth Advisory Council. Katrina also mentioned the success of the Valentine's Dance (organized in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club and Menlo Park Police) and the Egg Hunt event which gathered a great number of volunteers. The summer activities were enriched with camp programs. The community center added a gymnastics program and workshops with Karen Mihalek. Katrina added that OHCC staff is looking into the gym remodeling, resurfacing the floor for volleyball and badminton. She pointed out that improving the recreation facilities and activities will result in greater attendance and popularity.

### **3. Playing Fields Overview**

D. Hill informed the commission that the city fields are currently able to accommodate the majority of the requests for space. However there are issues about what groups should be given priority over the certain fields. Long time users: Menlo Atherton Women Soccer (MAWS) and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) primarily use Burgess Park and Willow Oaks field. California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) is a new group that would also like to have their fields centrally based and moved to a larger field. Hill explained that there might be some scheduling problems coming in spring, when the number of user groups usually increases.

The Hillview School reconstruction will also have a big impact on field availability. The plan is to be able to send some groups to Kelly Field. He added that the staff would be gathering information on the number of participants and validate the number of Menlo Park residents. More groups are interested in using the fields year-round. A new policy that will regulate the field usage should also consider that the fields are closed for maintenance that takes place every year for several months. David also mentioned that the fields are completely utilized; however Sundays are the least desired time for the users. J. Tooley proposed that the staff survey the user groups and gather the information on their needs and expectations.

**G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - None**

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 - None**

**J. ADJOURNMENT at approximately 8:58pm.**

**ATTACHMENTS - None**