



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Burgess Recreation Center

6:30 p.m. REGULAR MEETING

ROLL CALL

Present: (Chair) A. Kirkpatrick, (Vice Chair) J. Tooley, K. Blythe, K. Breisch, J. Cebrian

Absent: P. Maurano, N. Naclerio

Other Present: Cherise Brandell – Community Engagement Manager

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

None.

B. COMMISSION VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Burgess Gymnasium – Susan informed the commission that the groundbreaking for the new gymnasium will take place on January 8, 2010 at 3 PM next to the Burgess Recreation Center on Alma Street.
2. El Camino Visioning – K. Breisch reported that the Draft Specific Plan is in process and will be released for public review in early spring of 2010. Draft EIR is to be released late spring. She also mentioned that city staff is working on additional public involvement strategies as directed by the Council Subcommittee.
Kristi also gave an update on the changes within the Specific Plan Oversight and Outreach Committee, as new members Patty Boyle (Housing Commission) and Charlie Bourne (Transportation Commission) are on board.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Elizabeth Ouren with *Empower African Children*, addressed the commission about the children's dance group called Spirit of Uganda. The dance group visits the area every other year and are very interested in performing at the Menlo Atherton Performing Art Center MAPAC. The company promotes awareness of Uganda's crises of AIDS and civil war. Elizabeth feels that such event brings the community together and their performance of drumming, singing, dancing and storytelling inspire audiences of all ages. Her question is whether the company could use one of the City's 55 days at the MAPAC in order to waive the additional \$1500 fee charged to outside organizations. Chair Kirkpatrick suggested that Community Services Department communicate with Elizabeth to work out the possibilities. He feels that until there is a huge demand for MAPAC it shouldn't be blocked.

Jennifer Besfor of Menlo Park, thanked the commission for taking care of the middleclass people in the community. Ms. Besfor explained how pleased she is with the dog park and that she appreciates the park's maintenance. She added that Nealon Park is a great facility, appreciated from the dog owners.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the minutes dated [November 18, 2009](#).

Motion (J. Tooley/ K. Breisch) to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2009.
Motion carried unanimously.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Introduction of the New Community Services Director

Susan introduced Cherise Brandell who will take over as a new Director of Community Services Department on January 4th, 2010. Chair Kirkpatrick thanked Susan Holmer for her effort and he welcomed Cherise.

2. Menlo Children's Center Update ([Attachment A](#))

Susan Holmer provided the commission with a copy of the Menlo Children's Center first quarter enrollment comparison for fiscal year 08/09 with 09/10 ([handout](#)). The center is currently exceeding the budgeted cost recovery due to changes in the enrollment process that gives priority to full time enrollment. There is still a need to do an RFP, and Cherise Brandell will work on that with the sub committee. Kristi Breisch feels that the revenues should be checked up on every 6 months. She doesn't feel that the issue is clear yet, and the commission's role is not done yet. Andy Kirkpatrick feels that the program works and that the issue is clear if the program covers the costs. He added that there is a need in the community. If it's not sustainable we will have to take a look and think about the next step in February. He also added that there has to be a pressure mechanism to keep this program with good numbers. If the numbers are not sustainable the next step would be discussed in February.

3. Kelly Park Field Update

Susan Holmer reported that Matt Oscamou, Senior Civil Engineer is in contact with Calandar Associates to improve the track lanes. They are working on adding the 4th track lane back into the project while maintaining the approved field size.

4. Hillview Playing Fields and Tinker Park Update

Susan Holmer informed the commission that there were no updates on the Hillview School construction timeline. The construction on the new field will not begin until all of the students are moved to the new building. The field will not be completed until late 2011 or early 2012 based on the assumed 18 month construction period and another 6 months for demolishing the old building and installing the new field.

Kirkpatrick asked that Flood Park be put on the Priority Projects list.

5. Recreation Trends (Continuation of discussion of Baby Boom)

The commission decided to put the item on a future agenda.
Kirkpatrick suggested inviting the Mayor to the next meeting.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None

H. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

None

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

ATTACHMENTS

None

