



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Burgess Recreation Center

The meeting was called to order by Commission Member Naclerio at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Blythe, Breisch, Cebrian, Maurano, Naclerio
Not Present – Chair Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair Tooley

A. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

None.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Minutes dated [December 16, 2009](#).

Moved/Seconded (Breisch / Cebrian) and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of December 16, 2009.

C. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Selection of a New Chair and Vice Chair for the Commission

Moved/Seconded (Maurano / Cebrian) and passed unanimously to nominate Jim Tooley as the Commission Chair.

Moved/Seconded (Naclerio / Maurano) and passed unanimously to nominate Kelly Blythe as the Vice Chair.

2. Cooley Landing – Lily Lee gave a presentation on the EPA Cooley Landing Park Project ([handout](#))

Lily Lee, EPA Cooley Landing Project Manager gave the brief history of the Cooley area in East Palo Alto. The land is located at the east end of the Bay Road and forms a peninsula of 8.5 acres and is owned by Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District. In 2003 the East Palo Alto City Council decided to open the area to the public. She also explained that with only 16 acres of parks, East Palo Alto has a deficit of open green space.

The plan of the project is to significantly increase the green area and eventually turn the Bayfront into a “front door” to EPA. Ms Lee presented the map of the area and pointed out the part that is under the jurisdiction of Menlo Park. Ms Lee said that she appreciates the opportunity to present their project to Menlo Park Commissions as now is the time all the parties should be brought together to discuss the plan and usage, and identify the stakeholders. As far as the project status, the landscape concepts have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Calandar Associates are doing the cost studies. Ms Lee mentioned that she will introduce the project to the Menlo Park Planning Commission and work with Arlinda Heineck, Community Development Director to obtain the needed permits. She pointed out that Menlo Park does not own the property but has the jurisdiction over the part annexed from the edge of the water to the middle of the Bay. Ms Lee explained that EPA has the funds to begin the project, but the serious fundraising is the next step. The City of EPA sees the project as an opportunity to rebuild its community and offer the

youth and residents a chance to participate as interns or volunteers. As the polluting businesses are shutting down, they will open the new places for economic development.

3. Recreation Trends – Continuation of the baby boom discussion

Katrina Whiteaker started the presentation with an article from the lecture *What the Future Holds* by Jim Carroll (acknowledged as one of the world's leading global futurists, trends and innovation experts) held at the 2009 National Parks and Recreation Association Conference. She said the lecture was an example of how to use the variety of resources and strategies to successfully confront the challenges facing the new generation. She pointed out that 65% of preschoolers today are going to work in jobs that don't even exist today. In her opinion, we are leading the new baby boomers and we have to understand the complexities of change occurring in the workplace. Katrina made the second key point with the way we should look at the healthcare, as the answer to its stability may lie within the parks and recreation industry. We need to think of more proactive approaches to wellness and health. Katrina also mentioned that Menlo Park is landlocked and in her opinion it is important to utilize all of our resources and even redesign the park spaces for new uses, yet be aware of an expectation gap: what the public wants and what the public can afford.

Katrina explained that with the new MA Performing Art Center, new gymnasium and renovated Kelly Field, there is a challenge in front of the City as far as staffing, programming and utilizing the facilities.

Discussion following the presentation:

Kristi Breisch asked to bring the discussion on field and facilities usage to a future agenda. Cherise Brandell pointed out that the midyear budget review is showing that the city is significantly lower in the revenues than expected. Sales tax revenues are down sharply in Menlo Park, even lower than in the state. She explained that Menlo Park is in a lockdown with any new projects and asked for the commission's collaboration in making changes on the Project Priorities scale. Cherise mentioned that the Field Usage Policy is in process and that with the facilities the City has there shouldn't be any problem in meeting the community's needs.

D. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Commission Chair / Vice Chair meeting on January 13
Item not discussed at the meeting.
2. Mid year budget overview

Cherise informed the Commission that the Menlo Children Center is close to cost recovery. The cost recovery study will be ready for the February meeting and will represent the direct cost recovery. The staff is working on generating an RFP for the pool and it will be developed in 2011.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 (*This item is optional*)

G. ADJOURNMENT – 8:11 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jelena Gaines