



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

**Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Burgess Recreation Center**

CALL TO ORDER at 6:40pm

ROLL CALL – (Chair) J. Tooley, K. Breisch, P. Maurano, N. Naclerio

ABSENT – (Vice Chair) K. Blythe, J. Cebrian, A. Kirkpatrick

Others Present – Cherise Brandell, Community Services Director
Ruben Nino, Assistant Public Works Director

A. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Bronte Abraham of Menlo Park spoke about inclusive aquatics. Ms. Abraham explained that for Menlo Park children that need special accommodations there are no options when it comes to aquatic programs at Burgess Pool. Ms. Abraham requested that the upcoming Request for Proposal for Burgess Pool include an item that would require not a specific program, but that the vendor have a program of inclusion beyond ADA access. Ms. Bronte's second request was to develop a study session to address inclusion in all Community Services programs.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Minutes dated [April 21, 2010](#)

Motion/Second (P. Maurano / K. Breisch) to approve the Minutes dated April 21, 2010 with the following amendments:

- Item C 1 Regular Business:
Commission members asked that Matt Oscamou, Senior Civil Engineer, provide a list of all of the energy efficient elements planned for the new gym (Commissioners were subsequently sent a link to the energy efficiency staff report).
- Item C 1 Regular Business:
Matt Oscamou said that PG&E will pay for the wire relocation at Kelly Field. PG&E doesn't have an easement for the wires in their current location. A solution has been agreed upon and PG&E has agreed to pay for the change.
- Item C 2 Regular Business:
Alejandro Vilches informed the Commission that as a part of the budget cuts, his position will be half-time funded by the Community Services Department. School District and other funds will supplement the remainder of the salary.

Motion voted and passed 3:1 (Naclerio abstaining due to being absent from the meeting).

C. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Tinker Park – Ruben Nino, Assistant Public Works Director

The City Council gave preliminary approval for the Hillview Middle School Improvement Project for which the City would contribute \$500,000 toward a turf field and renovation of Tinker Park. Under the agreement the City would remain the main sports field operator. The proposed plan is to expand and reposition the school facilities and update the Tinker Park play structure to meet ADA requirements. During the school year the Community Services Department would have

access to the fields from 3pm (or 3:30) for scheduling and programming. Tinker Park will not be replaced, as initially proposed by the school district, but would be resized and rearranged to accommodate Fire District requirements for the new school. The park will stay at the same location and will have most of its structures replaced by rubber elements rather than fiber. Tinker Park will remain fenced and the two oak trees will remain. Ruben Nino presented the rendition showing a pathway/fire apparatus access "road" connecting the central campus with Santa Cruz Avenue. This road divides the park into a grassy area on one side and play area on the other. There was discussion about the size and location of the path. Paula Maurano expressed concern about the path running through the middle of the park and taking up most of the play or grassy area. Paula would like to see the road go around the park leaving more room for the users. Nick Naclerio mentioned that the park's purpose is to entertain the youngest population while their oldest siblings are participating in the sports programs after school, therefore it should have as much play area as possible.

In conclusion to the item, the Commission mainly discussed:

- maximizing the grass area
- eliminating the planting area or replacing it with picnic tables or grass
- minimizing the fire apparatus access road and moving the play structure to the right

Ruben pointed out the importance of the fire department's access from Santa Cruz Avenue and that the staff would look into the possible solutions. He added that the goal of the meeting is to first present and discuss the plan and then come back with a joint agreement.

D. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Annual Commission Surveys

Cherise Brandell encouraged the commission members to participate in the survey.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. 2010-11 Budget and strategies impacting CSD

Cherise Brandell explained that staff is recommending the City Council include the following CSD cuts in order to meet the goal of a balanced budget for 2010-11 FY:

- Eliminate summer school program at the Community School that will save \$60,000
- Transition of Community School Director's position to half time that will save \$60,000
- Reducing the hours of operation at Onetta Harris Community Center saving \$26,000
- Eliminating 2 seasonal parks workers which would reduce the frequency of litter removal in the parks and save \$30,000
- Eliminating a full time teacher position at Belle Haven Child Development Center saving \$61,000
- Closing the Senior Center for 8 days a year, saving \$36,000
- No new hires for the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium (the new sports facility at the Burgess Campus)

Cherise pointed out that \$200,000 in increased fees (approved in the Master Fee Schedule in March) and moving toward full cost recovery at MCC (Menlo Children Center) are included in the proposed budget. Through these cuts and increased revenues, the Community Services Department is able to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the department by more than \$450,000.

Nick Naclerio excused himself from the meeting at 7:53pm.

2. Review of items planned for the June agenda

The commission agreed to place the following items on June's Agenda:

- Input on the RFP for Burgess Pool
- Programming for the new gym
- Follow up with Ruben Nino on the Tinker Park project / Hillview proposal

- Commission workplans

Commission will place an item on July's Agenda to discuss the Bedwell-Bayfront Park's usage policy and the Gymnastics Business Plan.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There were no public comments.

G. ADJOURNMENT at 7:58pm.