



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 14, 2011
6:30 p.m. – 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center
Elm Room**

Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm

PRESENT – (Chair) K. Blythe, C. Carlton, J. Cebrian (Vice Chair), A. Kirkpatrick, N. Naclerio,
J. Tooley; T. Cecil

ABSENT – N. Naclerio

Others Present – Cherise Brandell, Community Services Director; Matt Oscamou, Interim Engineering Services Manager

A. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Paul Kick of Menlo Park, spoke against the proposed well construction at Nealon Park. Mr. Kick asked for an accurate picture of the well.

David Alfano of Menlo Park spoke against the well. Mr. Alfano said that the mission statement of the Parks and Recreation Commission is about serving as the liaison between the community and city. The park should not be the part of business.

Peter Drekmeier from Palo Alto spoke about the well. Mr. Drekmeier said that it is important for Menlo Park to look into water resources and take advantage of local resources.

Elisabeth Houck spoke about the Dog Park at Nealon. Ms. Houck proposed that the City charge fees for the dog park usage and enforce the rules. Ms. Houck also spoke about Nealon park well and feels that the community is against the project. Ms. Houck pointed out that Menlo Park resources should not be used to supply water to a private club.

Louise DeDera of Menlo Park spoke against the well and expressed concern about water conservation.

Donnasue Jacori spoke against the well and said that a golf course is a “wasteland”.

Bob Wilkes spoke against the well in Nealon Park. Mr. Wilkes believes that because of the well there will be less opportunity to use the park.

Elisabeth Houck spoke against the well and said she believes there is no community acceptance for the project.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of [minutes](#) dated November 16, 2011

Motion/Second (Tooley/Cebrian) to approve the minutes of November 16, with the following correction to Item 4: Motion was made by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Blythe.
Motion passes with all present members in favor.

C. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Potential Irrigation Well Project – Matt Oscamou, Interim Engineering Services Manager ([attachment](#))

Matt Oscamou started the presentation with a retrospective of a November 2011 community outreach meeting. The second of two outreach meetings served to help neighbors better understand the implications of a well that would irrigate Nealon, Jack Lyle and Sharon Parks

and provide groundwater to Sharon Heights Country Club to decrease use of Hetch Hetchy water. Staff determined that Nealon Park or Jack Lyle Park would be the best locations to accommodate a well because both parks are larger and a well could easily be blended in with the existing surroundings. The well would have a diameter of up to 12 inches and be submersed approximately 600 feet below the surface. Above ground, the well would consist of a wellhead, a meter, and an electrical panel, while the pump and inlet would be below ground. The next phase of the decision making process is to discuss the item at a City Council meeting in February.

Catherine Carlton asked about the increase in water use in the past 10 and 20 years. Matt explained that there is a limitation of water use and it fluctuates from year to year, depending on weather.

Further discussion was about the use of park space. Kelly Blythe pointed out that the commission's role is to look into park use, rather than water. There are concerns about the aesthetic side of the well, location and noise levels.

Motion/Second (Kirkpatrick/Blythe) to follow through with the proposal with the following stipulation:

1. The wellhead has to be underground;
2. Staff should consider one alternative location besides Nealon Park and one additional location east of the railroad tracks;
3. The final construction location should be a remote corner that will not affect park use;
4. After issuance of the Environmental Impact Report, the project should be presented to the commission for further discussion;

Motion passed with 4 votes in favor; with Jim Tooley and Catherine Carlton against and Nick Naclerio absent.

D. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commission meeting calendar for 2012 was presented. The presented calendar will be updated quarterly.
2. Commission Input on 2012-17 Capital Improvement. The draft CIP is scheduled to be presented to the City Council for their approval on March 13, 2012. The plan organizes the proposed projects by year and is sorted by category, by funding source, and by responsible department. The commission will receive a copy of the proposed draft plan and the staff will be taking the input on the parks and recreation items.
3. The Aquatics User Group report is scheduled for January meeting.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Director's Update

Gymnastics Center - The project is moving rapidly, work inside the structure will begin during the holidays keeping the project on schedule for completion in April.

Flood Park - A community engagement process to develop a long term master plan for the park would likely begin in Fall of 2012.

Breakfast with Santa - Breakfast with Santa was held on December 3rd at the Arrillaga Recreation Center. Approximately 500 adults and children attended the event.

Recreation Center rentals - Revenues for the Recreation Center made a 7% increase over last year.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 None

G. ADJOURNMENT at 9:00pm

Minutes submitted by Jelena Gaines.