



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014
6:30 p.m. – 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center
Cypress Room**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

PRESENT – J. Cebrian, K. Cox (Vice-Chair), M. Palefsky, K. Blythe, N. Zasslow arrived at 6:34 p.m.

ABSENT – T. Cecil (Chair), 1 Vacancy

Staff Present – Derek Schweigart, Community Services Assistant Director, Matt Milde, Recreation Coordinator

Minutes:

A. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

Vern Lesley of Menlo Park spoke about his concern with other tennis court users and tennis court rentals. He is constantly encountering issues with other users who don't follow city rental procedures.

Elizabeth Houck of Menlo Park spoke about her concern of tennis court users. She would like to see the process of the tennis key changed to a swipe card. She also mentioned her concern of people staying at Nealon Park with their dogs longer than hours permitted. She also expressed her concerns of an off leash dog park at Nealon Park.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of minutes dated December 18, 2013

ACTION: Motion and second (Cebrian/Zasslow) to approve the minutes of June 26, 2013.

Motion passes unanimously with all present members in favor.

C. REGULAR BUSINESS

C1. Overview of the Proposed General Plan Update and Discuss and Potentially Provide Comments to the City Council on the Scope of Work

Justin Murphy, Development Services Manager, gave an overview of the Proposed General Plan. He explained what a General Plan is, why it needs to be updated, the basic steps and initial givens for the General Plan and the scope of the work program and timeline. The Commission and Public were asked to provide general input on the scope of work for the General Plan Update.

Following discussion, the Commission said they would like to be kept in the loop with regard to bay trails and developments and to make sure they are in coordination with the rest of the Commissions.

C2. Review and Discuss of Radio Controlled (RC) flying aircraft at Bedwell-Bayfront Park

Derek Schweigart, Community Services Assistant Director, mentioned that after receiving a letter of concern regarding the use of radio controlled aircraft, City Staff would like the

commission to weigh in on the issue. The following questions were for discussion: What strategy should the City take in addressing the issue of RC aircraft, which may include providing designated space for the recreation activity, banning the activity in public parks by a City ordinance or taking no action? What other information does the Commission require to move forward with a decision on the issue? Does this issue require a public meeting, study session or park user survey? What role would the Commission like to play in this moving forward?

Following discussion, the Commission would like Staff to seek input from the City Attorney regarding liability and possibly speak with The Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park regarding their concerns with RC aircraft.

C3. Review and Discuss Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals and Outcomes

The Commission reviewed and discussed their Work Plan Goals. Some of the suggested tasks under the work plan goals include support and increase art displays, investigate the previous work of the former Arts Commission, improve the partnership with the Menlo-Atherton High School to make the MA-Performing Arts Center scheduling process more user-group friendly, and Bedwell-Bayfront Park being studied and evaluated for maintenance of structures and flora.

D. PRESENTATION

D1. Presentation and Discussion of City's Facility Naming Policy and Consideration of a Monument Policy

Derek Schweigart, Community Services Assistant Director, gave a presentation of the City's Facility Naming Policy and Consideration of a Monument Policy. The following questions were for discussion: What is the commission's overall assessment of the City Facility Naming Policy and the City's Current moratorium of plaque placement in the city's parks? Does the commission have any recommendations for changes to the current policy? Given the high interest for memorial plaques in City parks by the community, does the Commission recommend changes to the current policy or the development of a Monuments and Memorial policy for the City of Menlo Park? If so, what role would the Commission like to play in implementation of a new Monuments and Memorials policy?

Following discussion, the consensus of the Commission was to leave the Policy alone, especially since it is working fine. However, the Commission did suggest modifying the policy regarding plaques.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

E1. Community Services Department Director's Update

Derek Schweigart, Community Services Assistant Director, provided an update to the Commission. No discussion followed.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Commissioner Kelly Blythe mentioned he received an email from a resident in unincorporated Menlo Park asking why he has to pay more when he enrolls in a class. Derek explained that unincorporated Menlo Park does not pay taxes to The City of Menlo Park and that they are under the County of San Mateo. Derek asked Commissioner Blythe to forward him the email for him to respond.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Munguia