



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Wednesday, May 28, 2014
6:30 p.m. – 100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025**

Menlo Park Senior Center

Vice Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

PRESENT – J. Cebrian, K. Cox (Vice Chair), C. Harris, M. Palefsky, T. Stanwood, E. Tafoya

ABSENT – T. Cecil (Chair)

Staff Present – Derek Schweigart, Community Services Manager; Noreen Bickel, Community Services Manager; Tod Zeo, Program Coordinator; Ruben Nino, Public Works Assistant Director

Minutes:

A. PUBLIC COMMENT #1: None

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of minutes dated April 28, 2014

ACTION: Motion and second (Cebrian/Palefsky) to approve the minutes of April 28, 2014, with the following amendment: Item E2 – the last sentence should read: “Following discussion, no action was taken”.

Motion passed with all present Commission Members in favor.

The new Commission Members, Elidia Tafoya and Thomas Stanwood, introduced themselves to the Commission, Staff and the public.

Vice Chair Cox ordered item D1 to precede item C Regular Business items.

D1. Brenda Villa, Menlo Swim and Sport Water Polo Team

Brenda Villa, with Menlo Swim and Sport, spoke about the Youth Water Polo Program offered at Belle Haven Pool. She introduced a few of the youth members and spoke about their upcoming events. They will host a Junior Olympics Qualifier at the Belle Haven Pool.

Brenda Villa thanked the Commission and the City Staff on support they provided in their first year of the program and suggested adding lighting to extend the operating hours.

C. REGULAR BUSINESS

C1. Selection of new Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

James Cebrian opened the nominations for the Commission Chair and Vice Chair.

ACTION: Motion and second (J. Cebrian/K. Cox) to appoint Kristin Cox as a Chair and Marianne Palefsky as Vice Chair.

Motion passed with all present Commission Members in favor.

C2. Review and consider staff recommendation to decline a request to partner with the Menlo Park City School District on development of sports field at the new Laurel School off O'Connor Drive ([attachment](#))

Commission Members and present City Staff discussed potential advantages and disadvantages of entering into the agreement with the Menlo Park City School District. The questions were in regards to revenue, maintenance and functionality of the field. The existing field does not have proper drainage and would require excessive maintenance efforts to keep it available for potential user groups.

Following discussion, the commission agreed that it is not an imperative to enter the agreement with the MPCSD until more information on its design, construction and purpose is available.

ACTION: Motion and second (K. Cox/C. Harris) to decline MPCSD's request for \$600,000 for the installation upgrade of a synthetic turf field.

ACTION: Motion and second (K. Cox/J. Cebrian) to make recommendation that Menlo Park City Council takes no action at this time regarding entering into a joint-use agreement with the MPCSD for field use until the Commission is provided with further information regarding field design, construction and purpose.

D. PRESENTATION

D2. Friends of Bedwell-Bayfront Park will provide update on current events, issues and opportunities at the park.

Steve with Friends of Bedwell-Bayfront Park, spoke about their concern about the maintenance expenditures. The current fund allocated for maintenance is nearly depleted.

Chris MacIntosh spoke about the park's amenities, events and presented data on incidents. In their presentation, the FBBP suggested reconfiguring current and adding more signs, garbage cans and benches. Other topics the Commission Members and FBBP discussed are:

- Off-leash dog rules
- Sanitation
- Pathways for handicapped
- RC Aircraft regulation
- Feral Felines
- Utility User Tax increase

Following discussion, the Commission recommended to form a sub-committee and explore the Utility User Tax increase in support of the park. Then the item would be discussed in a future meeting.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

E1. Community Services Department Director's Update

Noreen Bickel provided an update to the Commission. No discussion followed.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Vicky Robledo, of Menlo Park, spoke about the lack of off-leash dog regulations in the Bedwell-Bayfront Park. Ms. Robledo is concerned about the users' safety. She suggested adding more garbage cans and signage.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jelena Gaines