

MINUTES



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
January 28, 2003
Palo Alto City Hall
Council Conference Room
250 Hamilton Avenue**

Commissioners Present: Richard Beckwith, William Garvey, Ellie Gioumousis, Jennifer Hagan, Edie Keating, Judith Steiner and Lynn Torin

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Joe Saccio, Deputy Director of ASD
Peter Ahn, Youth Council
Nicole Remy, Youth Council
Donald Hughes, Golf Advisory Council
Russell Murray, Committee ad Large Member

Staff Present: Dan Williams, Paul Dias, Greg Betts, Dawn Calvert, Patrick Larkin, Virginia Gibbons

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Lynn Torin at 7:05 pm

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Virginia Gibbons.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: Change Item #3 to Item #4.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of December 17, 2002 Special and Regular Meeting.**
Minutes of the December 17, 2002 Special Meeting were approved as written. The minutes of the regular meeting were not approved pending further clarification. Commission Keating requested clarification of her comments regarding the issue of flood control on the Matadero Creek Project. Commissioner Hagan requested that clarification regarding the absence of Commissioner Garvey be noted in the motion section of the minutes.

2. **City of Palo Alto Long Range Financial Plan.** Joe Saccio, Deputy director of ASD, explained to the Commission that at the City Manager's request, ASD is meeting with all commissions and boards to review the City's financial plan and explain the processes that the plan details.

Major revenues, business and occupancy tax, are jeopardized with the state of the present economy. The state government is taking back vehicle license fee taxes and occupancy is down 38%. The City is looking at controlling costs (health care premiums, pension costs, PERS contributions, etc.) now. Not controlling the budget now would lead to large deficits over the next few years, with a possible \$19 million deficit by 2013. City Departments have been requested to come with 3% and 5% cuts, and 2% for 2005. By cutting budget over next few years it's expected the budget will be balanced after 2005. Although the City has some reserves, they would not last long, so it's important to keep budget balanced.

In mid-June the Council will review the budget for finalization and approval. It is up to the City Manager to present the budget to Council and as an advisory body, the Commission may advise Council regarding changes Parks and Recreation Division.

3. **Youth Master Plan Report.** *(Previously Agenda Item #4).* Dawn Calvert introduced the draft Youth Master Plan (YMP) Report and gave a brief background of the YMP. Since this report is still under review by the City Manager, no copies will be distributed at this time. Patrick Larkin, Recreation Supervisor, introduced members of the Youth Council who gave visual presentation to the Commission explaining the YMP.

There was a brief question and answer period after the presentation. The Commission was impressed with the Youth Council and the amount of work they had put into the plan, as well as their on-going commitment to the plan.

It was noted by Commissioner Torin that the Youth Council is a City government advisor and on equal basis with the City's advisory commissions.

4. **Election of 2003 Commission Chair and Vice Chair.** *(Previously Agenda Item #3).* **Commissioner Steiner nominated Commissioner Garvey for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Beckwith seconded the motion. FOR: 7; AGAINST: 0. Commissioner Hagen nominated Commissioner Keating for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Gioumousis seconded the motion. FOR: 7; AGAINST: 0.**

5. **Baylands Park Amendment Ordinance.**

Oral Communication:

APPROVED

Emily Renzel, 1056, Forest, Palo Alto. Greg will be happy to hear that I find nothing wrong with this proposal. I do have one concern and that is a design issue; bike lanes on both sides of the road, as well as stripes and bumps will create a more urban atmosphere in open space. I wish striping was not necessary, and perhaps a creative way could be devised to mark lanes without paint.

Greg Betts requested the Commission's approval of a Park Amendment Ordinance (PAO) before taking the PAO to the ARB. There are three projects, all in the harbor area of the Baylands.

- #1: Grant requirement for the Bay Trails must meet needs of bicyclists to have access to the marshland. The plan is to widen the road to accommodate bicycles, use asphalt curbs along the edges to reduce clutter (posts, etc.) along the road and install humps to help reduce auto use.
- #2: Rehabilitation of the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretation parking lot. Plants will be used for bioremediation of the run-off water to remove pollutants before it enters the marsh. The gravel area at the end of the parking lot would go back to natural habitat.

To respond to the concern of a more urban looking Baylands, Greg noted that it might be possible to use 1-1/2" a stripe instead of the usual 3" stripe. The planned parking spaces are slightly larger (11' per car) than urban parking spaces (9-10' per car), which will add to a more open feeling than downtown parking. Although a 4' bike lane is planned for each side of the road, there will be no stripe down middle of road.

- #3: is a Utilities Department project to remove the utility poles and place the lines underground. As a Utilities project, there would be no cost to Open Space. The project will update the cables, giving the Baylands better computer access lines and improve the look of the Baylands by reducing visual clutter.

Commissioner Torin raised the question of can the electrical utility boxes be made more waterproof to prevent downtime? Greg responded that since there are only four buildings in that area, only four connections are required, and therefore less chance of a downtime problem.

Commissioner Gioumouis asked whether the eucalyptus trees could be removed. Greg responded that during the last storm four trees had gone down and were being replaced with native willows. Also, that any future tree replacement would be done with willows.

Commissioner Hagan made a motion that Council endorse the PAO as recommended by staff. Commissioner Keating amended the motion to include "enhance recreation value." A third amendment by Commissioner

APPROVED

Keating requested to “encourage staff to keep improvements as natural as possible.” FOR: 7; AGAINST: 0

Commissioner Gioumousis raised the question of building materials and further discussion ensued on this issue. Commissioner Keating drafted the following motion: **“We encourage staff to consider the goal of preserving the natural setting of the Baylands and to aim for zero-runoff through the use of bio-swailes and through the choice of materials.” FOR: 7; AGAINST: 0**

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2003 MEETING

There was a brief discussion of the February agenda. Staff informed Chair Garvey that there are already three items on the agenda for the February meeting. A draft agenda listing these three items will be sent to the Chair for his review. Any additional items will be added to the agenda before the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Fields issue was presented to Council and received a supportive unanimous vote.
3. The Commission received a card from the Ciardella’s thanking the Commission for support their support.
4. Each Commissioner received a copy of a complaint letter from Mr. Irwin regarding the trails issue. Commissioner Hagan responded as an individual to the letter. Greg Betts will review the letter and send a formal replay.
5. It was noted that Commissioner Garvey was quoted in an article in the Weekly that was written about the Fields Committee presenatation to City Council.
6. Commissioner Torin reminded the Commission about the Cityworks updates and the Commissions update of Scheduled Topics.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

