

MINUTES



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 22, 2003  
Palo Alto City Hall  
Council Conference Room  
250 Hamilton Avenue**

**Commissioners Present:** Anne Cribbs, William Garvey, Ellie Gioumousis, Jennifer Hagan, Edie Keating, Judith Steiner and Lynn Torin

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Vic Ojakian

**Staff Present:** Dan Williams, Paul Dias, Dawn Calvert, Virginia Gibbons

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Bill Garvey at 7:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Conducted by Virginia Gibbons.

**AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

1. Item #3: Review of Ordinance Authorizing the Exchange of Minor Portions of Park Land for Contiguous Lands in Order to Implement article 8 of the Palo Alto City Charter was dropped from the agenda due to non-attendance by the City Attorney.
  - The Commission was upset that this item was dropped from the agenda and expressed their strong concern regarding the absence of the City Attorney and lack of a substitute attorney to meet with the Commission.
  - This issue will be discussed at special meeting tentatively scheduled for August 26, 2003. Commissioner Torin requested that the agenda for this meeting also include a second item, a question and answer period, with the attending attorney. Questions would include procedural information from the Attorney's Office regarding Commission guidelines to make decisions regarding land issues and legalities.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** Members of the public requested that oral communications be delayed until after information on Item #2 had been presented. "Oral Communications" moved to follow Item #2 below. Commissioner Hagan made a motion to move oral



**APPROVED**

communications, motion seconded by Commissioner Gioumouis, motion approved. **FOR: 7, AGAINST: 0, ABSTAIN: 0**

**BUSINESS**

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of June 22, 2003 meeting.** Minutes approved with corrections.
2. **Terman Park/PAUSD Improvements.** Paul Dias presented the City Council's decisions regarding the Terman Park issue at the City Council meeting of July 14, 2003.
  - Motion passed to adopt the resolution approving and adopting a plan for improvement.
  - Motion passed to approve the following items:
    1. Initiate discussion with District representative on the long-term options for providing a closed-campus at Terman for the District.
    2. Work with the District staff on project to construct additional basketball courts at Terman. Since the public will use the courts in non-school hours, direct staff to explore sharing equally in the costs of court construction and in developing a design that is acceptable to both the City and the District.
    3. If new courts cannot be built in time for the August school opening, direct staff to work with District Staff on a short-term (maximum 12-month) solution, such as those discussed above.
    4. Work with the District on a temporary (maximum 12-month) sign-in system and signage that will provide the facilities during the school day, within the parameters of the Joint Use Agreement and Park Ordinance. We would ask staff to bring the proposed wording for the signs back to the Council prior to implementation.
    5. In all of these potential changes, ensure that the Terman Specific Plan, Park Ordinance and CEQA requirements are taken into account and brought to Council for direction, as necessary.

This item will go to Council again on August 4, 2003.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Phil Smaller, 4155 Wilkie, Palo Alto
2. John Easter 1175 Stanley Way, Palo Alto
3. Bob Moss, 4010 Orme, Palo Alto
4. Enid Pearson, 1019 Forest Ct., Palo Alto



5. Betsy Allyn, 4186 Willmar Dr, Palo Alto
6. Jack Birnbarn, 3520 Greer Rd., Palo Alto
7. Herb Borock, P.O. Box 632, Palo Alto

A discussion and opinion session evolved with the following issues being raised by the community speakers:

- Encroachment means ownership by PAUSD (reference to Walter Hayes and Rinconada Park). The lease agreement for Terman has run from year to year for the last five years, this agreement should be reviewed by Council.
- What is the fencing proposal by PAUSD to enclose the school/park?
- Long-term solutions should include a land swap.
- Terman EIR requires 28 parking spaces. Where is the public to park during school hours if the parking area is gated closed? Is there parallel parking before the gate and how many?
- EIR/specific plan has no mention of basketball courts on the tennis courts-to be legal, City will have to install temporary basketball courts on other City courts.
- City needs to amend the specific plan now to be legal.
- There is no cost data. How long to build and how much will the courts cost?
- Where is money coming from? The City cannot afford to keep Terman library open and has cut the downtown library hours! This money could be used to keep libraries open!
- City should do a cost/benefit analysis of how much the community will benefit from new basketball courts.
- Terman budget has \$500K change order authority; \$500K design change authority; and \$700K soft money expense -- so why is the city asked to share costs.

Both the Commission and community present were surprised by the fact that this issue is going directly to Council with no Commission or community input on the long-term alternatives to adding basketball courts. The Commission and the community feel it is their responsibility to be a part of the decision making process regarding the long-term solution alternatives.

**APPROVED**

In response to this concern, Commissioner Hagan made the following motion, which was seconded by Edie Keating.

**MOTION:** That the Commission hold a special meeting before the August 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to see the site and make the recommendations to Council to (1) discuss alternative short-term and long term solutions and (2) to request that council unbundle the short-term from the long-term solutions. **FOR: 7, AGAINST: 0, ABSTAIN: 0**

The Commission has tentatively scheduled a field trip and special meeting to visit the Terman site on July 31, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. It was suggested that the meeting be held in the Terman conference room. Vic Ojakian suggested that the Clerk's Office invite the Council to attend the field trip with the Commission and to notify PAUSD officials in order to schedule the field trip.

**AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 26, 2003 (TENTATIVE)**

1. Review of Ordinance Authorizing the Exchange of Minor Portions of Park Land for Contiguous Lands in Order to Implement Article 8 of the Palo Alto City Charter - Action Item – Ariel Calonne (1 hr.)
2. Commission Question and Answer Session – Information Item – Ariel Calonne (1 hr.)

**AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2003 MEETING**

Due to the time sensitive Terman issue, the September 23, 2003 meeting has been changed to September 16, 2003.

1. Review of Terman Plan (if unbundled).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The Matadero Creek issue has been postponed.
2. The Santa Clara Water District has offered to let Ciardella's stay at their present site.
3. A formal welcome to Anne Cribbs as part of the Commission.
4. The new Parks brochures were introduced and it was noted that printed maps suited for framing can be purchased.
5. Judith Steiner will not be able to attend the August meeting.
6. A special thank you to Jennifer Hagan for her research work regarding the parks issue.
7. Commissioner Hagan will draft a legal memo detailing her research information for public record documentation.
8. Chairman Garvey requested that Commissioners arrive a little earlier so that meeting will be able to start on time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

