

MINUTES



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 27, 2002
Palo Alto City Hall
Council Conference Room
250 Hamilton Avenue**

Commissioners Present: Anne Warner Cribbs, Ellie Gioumousis, Edie Keating, and Jeanette Marquess

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Hagan, Paul Losch, and Judith Steiner

Others Present: Jim Burch, Council Liaison

Staff Present: Dan Williams, Greg Betts, Paul Dias, Shia Geminder, Rob de Geus, Patrick Larkin and Virginia Gibbons

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Edie Keating at 7:10 pm

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Virginia Gibbons.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: Item #8 deferred to the May 25, 2004 meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of March 23, 2004 Meeting.** Minutes approved with spelling correction to Item #3 and word change to Item #4.
2. **May Fete and Black and White Ball Update.** Shia Geminder passed out a May Fete T-shirts to each of the commissioners and provided an update on the upcoming May Fete celebration. There are presently 3,100 parade registrants. NBC 11, which has provided \$70,000 in free advertising, will be participating in the parade along with NBC 11's reporter, Lisa Kim. The 2nd Annual Town Fair will be held after the parade, with food, music and games until early afternoon.

The Black and White Ball will be held October 2, 2004 at the Lucie Stern Community Center. This year's theme will be "Moonlight Paradiso." Entertainment will include a raffle

APPROVED

for a Mini Cooper car and Cartier watch, a 1 karat diamond hidden in a class of champagne, food samples from numerous local restaurants, showing of old movies, and four dance venues. The tickets are be \$100 per person, with the money going to benefit the Palo Alto schools.

Other upcoming events include, the 5K Dog Run in June and the Chili Cook-off on July 4th.

3. **Camp Registration.** Rob de Geus provided the Commission with information regarding online registration, which has received excellent feedback from residents.

Patrick Larkin, Recreation Supervisor, provided the Commission with information regarding the Summer Camp registration. The second year of the lottery system ran smoothly, and while there was fewer envelopes gathered this year, there were more registrations in the envelopes collected. Enrollment in our classes is up 11% over last year, the total registrations are 6,388. Revenue generated for summer registration is \$803,000, which is a 17% increase over last year.

Changes were made to the Registration Form based on last year's customer service survey results, which included adding a contact phone # for the day of registration and having an alternate choice if the customers first choice was filled. Recreation accepted registrations for two of the Children's Theater programs (Playing Along and Camp Sneak Preview) for the first time. New camps and classes were added to accommodate the demand.

- **The Arts Mini camps added new programs:**
 - Chinese Brush Painting
 - Colors of Nature
 - Folk Art of Europe
 - Illustration
 - Intro to Chinese Brush Painting
 - Life- Size Self Portrait Sculpture
 - Natural Colors
 - Young Inventors
 - Young Person's Journal
 - Relief Printmaking
- **The Junior Museum and Zoo added new camps**
 - Science for Kinders Camp
 - Camp Kinetic at Duveneck
- **Recreation added new camps and swim classes.**
 - New Camp J.I.V.E
 - Future Authors Camp added a new session
 - Camp Explorer added a new session
 - Camp Ventura was added back this year
 - New British Soccer Camps

New Skyhawks Mighty Hawk Multi- Sports Camp
New Water Polo Camp
Added more Private Swim lessons
New Semi-Private swim lessons
New, added level 7 swim lessons for advanced swimmers

Customer Service Surveys went out to 500 customers who registered for summer programs and at this time we are waiting for more returns in order to evaluate how the customers felt about the registration process. The sub-committee will meet again soon to review the survey results and make recommendations for next year.

4. **Adopt-a-Park and Get Acquainted Designations.** The Commissioners were given a list of parks and a list of Recreation, Open Space and Sciences divisions and asked to sign up according to their preferences. The information from the four Commissioners who were present was given to staff at the end of the meeting.
5. **Park Picnic Table Signs – Robles Park.** Paul Dias informed the Commission that since the renovations to Robles Park last year, picnic and park activity has increased substantially. Park picnic users were coming to the park in the morning, leaving picnic supplies on the tables to reserve the table and then would not return until the afternoon to actually have their picnic in the park. In response to neighbor complaints and since the picnic reservation system does not include neighborhood parks, staff posted signs alerting users that holding tables when not in use is not allowed.
6. **Golf Course Fees for 2005.** The golf course fee schedule was reviewed and approved by the Golf Advisory committee at its March 16, 2004 meeting. The Committee recommended that the replay fee be waived on a trial basis for one year in order to encourage customers to stay and spend additional dollars on food and beverage, and the golf shop/driving range services. This change will be reviewed and analyzed in one year. To reflect this change, the 18-Hole Daily Fee is proposed to change to “Daily Fee.”

The Committee also proposed to lower the senior age requirement from 62 to 60 years. This is being done in an effort to more fully market to this group of customers during a period of instability for daily fee golfers.

MOTION:

*Commissioner Gioumousis made a motion recommending that the golf course fees be approved as recommended. Motion was seconded and approved by all Commissioners. **FOR: 4** (Cribbs, Gioumousis, Keating, and Marquess). **AGAINST:***

0

APPROVED

7. **2004-05 Budget Update.** During the City's two-year budget process, some reductions were taken in year one and others in year two, which is the upcoming 2004-05 budget. The following reductions will occur in the Parks and Golf Division for 2004-05:
- A. Tennis court cleaning will be reduced from twice monthly cleaning to single cleaning using air blowers only to clean the City and school district tennis courts.
 - B. City and school tennis court resurfacing is again deferred until resources are available.
 - C. City and school athletic fields maintenance supplies and materials (grass seed and top-dressing materials) are reduced.
 - D. Reduction in turf mowing frequencies at Cubberley Center.
 - E. Elimination of the annual track renovation at Cubberley Center.
 - F. Additional Golf Division supplies and materials reductions.
8. **Discussion of Opportunities for Community Outreach / Community Support of Parks.** This item was deferred to the May PARC meeting.
9. **Sub-Committee Report: Resource Management Funding for Control of Non-Native Species.** Commissioner Gioumouis noted that persistence in combating non-native species over many years is required to prevent the regeneration of non-native plants and expressed concerns regarding re-growth of French Broom in Foothills Park. The Commissioner stated that a habitat management specialist should be hired in order to maintain the non-species removal work that has already been achieved. She continued by expressing her concern that a new generation of volunteers is needed, and that the continuation of knowledge gained by the senior volunteers of the Foothills Park non-native control program is extremely important.

Commissioner Gioumouis raised the subject of infrastructure financing, suggesting that Council review their original decision and that the funds could be better spent by preserving the natural resource of Foothills Park. There was a short discussion of how this item could be put into the next budget cycle. It was suggested that this issue be brought back to the Commission in the fall and that a strategic plan for non-native species control be created and submitted to staff with a written recommendation to staff to change the budget. Greg Betts will pursue working with the Palo Alto Weekly to help in volunteer recruitment.

AGENDA FOR MAY 25, 2002 MEETING

1. Discussion of Opportunities for Community Outreach / Community Support of Parks.
2. Prioritize Projects to be Funded by Park Impact
3. Naming of SOFA Park and Renaming of Arastradero Preserve

ANNOUNCEMENTS



APPROVED

1. Friends of Foothills Park were chosen to receive the Community Star Award and will be presented with an award at the upcoming Community Services Department Award Breakfast.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.