

MINUTES



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 30, 2007  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Ave**

**Commissioners Present:** Dave Charleson, Anne Warner Cribbs, Paul Losch, Pat Markevitch, Beth Trailer

**Commissioners Absent:** Jeanette Marquess, Judith Steiner

**Others Present:** Council Liaison Morton

**Staff Present:** Greg Betts, Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus

**Roll Call Conducted by:** Catherine Bourquin

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

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** Manu Kumar, Garland Drive, Palo Alto, expressed his concern over the noise at Jordan Fields.

Staff Betts announced the proceedings for the vacancies of the four Parks and Recreation Commissioners. City Council Member Mossar moved, seconded by Barton, to continue the selection of the Park and Recreation Commissioners until after an advertisement for additional candidates has been conducted, and interviews completed, for the new candidates. Those candidates who have already applied and were interviewed would continue to be included in the applicant pool and need not do anything further to be actively considered for appointment. Therefore, no new Commissioners will be on board at our next February meeting. The four commissioners whose term of office was to have expired December 31, 2006, are requested to attend the February and March meetings.

**BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of December 19, 2006** – Unanimously approved the Draft Minutes for the December 19, 2006 meeting. **5:0**
2. **Priority and Goals 2007 – Update, timeline and Strategies - Action**

**APPROVED**

Staff Betts reminded Commissioners that they were to set up sub-committees to assist with accomplishing the action items on their priority list. The Commissioners discussed briefly and suggested that they wait to involve the new Commissioners in this decision making process. This item will be brought back at the February meeting to give the Commissioners time to process the information.

**3. Heritage Park Conceptual Plans Presentation and Feedback from Commissioners**

Jeff Traum of the Friends of the Palo Alto Parks presented the Commission with the background that led up to the design of a playground area within Heritage Park. The project is a partnership between the City and the Friends of Heritage Park, LLC. He then introduced the Landscape Architect Linn Winterbotham who presented the design in detail to the Commissioners. Kristine Erving provided the Commissioners with the budget and fundraising aspects of the project. The Commissioners then were given time to ask questions. Some concerns of the commission were:

- The distance between the picnic tables and the possibility for longer picnic table(s) for birthday parties.
- The ability to wash the tables: Quick couplers would be installed and the tables would be designed to drain through.
- Drinking fountains: Drinking fountain already incorporated within Heritage Park.
- Budget concerns: The current amount raised is \$210,000. If the amount raised doesn't match what is needed, then they will lower the cost by eliminating a piece of equipment.
- Surface area under swings: Why not sand instead of tan bark?
- Maintenance of playground equipment: Life expectancy of equipment is 30 years.
- Naming of the playground: What are the legalities of this?
- End date of lease and reversion of the project to the City.
- Waste receptacles: Consider having recycling containers.

**Public Speakers:**

Roger Smith, 270 Tennyson, Palo Alto, acknowledged the process for getting this project funded. This has saved the city an enormous amount of money and time.

Jagdish Basi, 514 Rhodes Dr., Palo Alto, hopes that this project can be used as a model for other parks.

Joe Shakes, 225 Homer Ave., Palo Alto, concerns over the location of the playground and its affects on the adjacent Palo Alto History Museum at the Roth Building

David Bubenik, 420 Homer Ave., Palo Alto, would like to be on mailing list for information related to Heritage Park. He said he was concerned the original intent of Heritage Park being a passive park with no playground.

**APPROVED**

Beth Bunnberg, 2351 Ramona St., Palo Alto, spoke on behalf of the Palo Alto History Museum and provided their opinions on the development of the playground. She mentioned that they (History Museum) understood the timeliness of the project but asked to consider some of their concerns. (Refer to letter from Steve Staiger, President, Palo Alto History Museum)

Jeff Traum spoke on the concerns of the Palo Alto History Museum, confirming these issues were discussed with city staff and have been considered and/or resolved.

**4. 10,000 Steps Challenge to other Commissions**

Commissioner Cribbs announced that they will be extending the 10,000 Steps Challenge on February 5<sup>th</sup> to Council, Commissions, and Neighborhood Associations. The challenge will start on February 12<sup>th</sup> and end on April 16<sup>th</sup>. They have designed new pedometers and they will be available for purchase through the Lucie Stern Community Center. A website to log your steps will be available at [www.10000steps.org.au](http://www.10000steps.org.au). This challenge will be announced through various media sources, the Chamber of Commerce, Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Daily, and PAUSD.

**COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Dennis Boyle presentation – Staff Betts reminded commissioners to refer to the packet information on the Brown Bag Lecture.
2. Status report on Greer Park expansion: Staff Betts reminded Commissioners if they were interested, the next meeting with the Art Commission will be March 27<sup>th</sup>.
3. Neighboring City Commission joint meeting: Staff Betts informed the commission that to recognize the Brown Act, the meeting will have to be agenzized for all Commissions involved. Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission would host the meeting. Staff is in the process of scheduling a date.
4. Impact Fee Priorities from the Parks and Recreation Commission: Staff Betts informed the commission that a Staff report transmittal would be forthcoming at the March meeting.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2007 MEETING**

1. ~~Election of Chair, Vice Chair~~ – Postponed until the March meeting
2. Neighborhood Athletic Field Use Policy (referral from City Manager's Office) **Action**
3. Recreation Cost Recovery Policy – Public Hearing – Do
4. Advocacy Rules for Commission Members (Bond Measures) Betts
5. Discuss Sub-committee for Accomplishment of Commission Priorities

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:10 pm

