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MINUTES



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING July 26, 2005 Council Conference Room 250 Hamilton Avenue

Roll Call by: Catherine Bourquin

Commissioners Present: Ellie Gioumousis, Jennifer Hagan, Edie Keating, Jeanette Marquess, Judith Steiner, Paul Losch

Commissioners Absent: Anne Warner Cribbs

Others Present: Jack Morton, Council Liaison

Staff Present: Darren Anderson, Greg Betts, Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus, Paul Dias

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Vice Chair, Jeannette Marquess

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Roger Smith, Friends of the Park spoke on the donation of \$25,000 from the Summerhill Developers for Heritage Park. He wanted to thank the commission for all their hard work on Heritage Park.

BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of June 28, 2005.** The Commissioners approved the minutes as written. *Motion Approval of Minutes: 5:approved 2: abstention*
2. **Greer Park Committee update**
Commissioner Marquess reported that the Committee is moving their tasks forward. They have been meeting in sub-committee's. Commissioner Hagan said we met two weeks ago. Commissioner Marquess asked if Commissioner Hagan would like to



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report on the meeting. Commissioner Hagan agreed. The studies that the committee focused on as possibilities got narrowed down to three viable uses for the land:

1. Tennis Courts
2. Greenscaping
3. Partnership with city and private school for example (just a possibility)

Commissioner Keating asked if this was a sense of the committee. Commissioner Hagan said that they met three or four times. Commissioner Marquess reminded commission that this is a process. The committee investigated fifteen uses for the land and refined the list down to the three mentioned uses. Commissioner Marquess said commission will get the final report in September/October. Midtown will be holding a meeting on August 11 at 7pm at the friends meeting hall. This meeting will be to further discuss and to pack up the ideas and bring back to the commission. Commissioners Gioumouis said she read in the paper of a private group proposing a partnership to build a gym with the city, was this true? Commissioner Marquess said “Yes and that it was just being discussed as an option”.

Council Liaison Morton, asked that with Mayfield coming up stream has the issue of developing soccer fields at Greer slipped to a lower level? Commissioner Marquess said one of the reasons that the sub-committee was developed was because staff recommended turfing the area. The consensus from the committee was that it wasn't the best use of that piece of ground.

Staff Dias confirmed the discussions of the Fields committee, including ideas such as a passive park with just grass and trees, dog parks. The gym is on the table at this point. Just a place holder right now. Commissioner Marquess also included that one reason it is being considered is the lack of gymnasiums in the city. The report will include all of this discussed here today.

Betsy Allyn, resident of the neighborhood spoke on the issue of Greer park land use, as part the neighborhood Greenacres Palo Alto acres has had experience with partnerships such as when Terman was leased out, which was not successful. Why would the City go into partnership with any group? You would lose control. If parents want a gym they should go out and raise money to build one instead of using the city's parkland.

3. Baylands Design Guidelines

Virginia Warheit from Planning spoke on the Baylands design. She gave a brief overview and history of why this is being reviewed. The guidelines project started a year and a half ago. It became clear that there were not any guidelines. The Baylands

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Masterplan written in 1978, never included how the signage should look, paving, etc. This is an attempt to get a handle on this and won't take us to the end. The guidelines do not constitute a sign program; it just provides a basis from which to start.

The guidelines were discussed and commented on by the commission and suggestions were provided to Virginia Warheit to take to ARB. It was mentioned that out of the Baylands, Byxbee Park has its own adopted design plan and should continue to be managed by its own plan.

ACTION ITEM: Review of Baylands Design Guidelines- Forward Commissioners suggestions to the Architectural review board.

- Wood or Metal, agree with design
- Sustainability, recycle material and sealer to extend life. The regulatory sign should look the same.
- Make signs the same starting where the Baylands begins and carry the design throughout the park.
- Samples of paint stain colors

Virginia will be keeping the commission notified on the date of the ARB for this project.

Motion: Commissioner Hagan motioned that ARB accept this design plan as written and consider the Parks and Recreation Commissions comments and suggestions. Seconded by Commissioner Giomousis. Approved: 6

4. Baylands Conservation Plan

Staff Betts introduced Senior Ranger Darren Anderson. Staff Betts gave an overview from the handout provided in the packet on the action of this item tonight. Open space received a \$24,000 grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a comprehensive conservation plan. The attached list(Attachment A) of sixteen topics were developed and identified for consideration out of three categories:

1. Vegetation Management
2. Wildlife Management
3. Public Access.

The commission is asked to identify their top five out of sixteen what should be considered as a priority.

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The Commissioners five priorities are:

- Commissioner Losch = #1, 2, 5, 12
- Commissioner Gioumousis = #1, 2, 3, 4
- Commissioner Steiner = #1, 2, 7, 12
- Commissioner Hagan = #1, 2, 7, 12,15
- Commissioner Marquess = #1,2,12,15
- Commissioner Keating = #1,2,12,15

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Liaison Morton spoke briefly on encouraging the commissioners to involve themselves in supporting activities such as the concert series. When budget cuts are upon the city the commission should focus their attention on making sure the city doesn't lose activities such as this.
- Rescheduled Council Study Session, October 17 6pm
- Rescheduled Mayfield Ground Breaking, August 30 Noon
- Post property
- Canopy Ivy Buster – Looking for volunteers

TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR AUGUST 23, 2005 MEETING

- August Meeting Cancelled

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:50pm

ATTACHMENT A

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

**From: Greg Betts, Open Space Division
Manager**

Date: July 26, 2005

**Subject: Baylands Nature Preserve Conservation Plan
Scope of Work Elements**



The purpose of this informational report is to provide the Commission with an outline of elements that *might* be included in a Request For Proposal solicitation of park planning consultants. Feedback from the Commission is sought for additional elements that should be included or elements that should be a high priority if the proposals for the consulting work exceeds the \$70,000 budget for this project.

Staff requests that the Commission identify the top five elements of the plan that it feels are important to the long-term preservation of the Baylands. Staff has indicated elements of the plan (*) that we feel are essential for management of resources at the Baylands.

Background:

At the January 2005 regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission voted to make the development of a Baylands Conservation Plan a Commission priority for 2005. Staff was directed to return to the Commission with an outline for a *Request For Proposal* (RFP) for professional park planning consulting services. With feedback from the Commission, staff will finalize the Request For Proposal, will solicit proposals, evaluate the proposals based on the consultant's ability to address the key elements of the RFP, and evaluate the costs of the proposals.

Scope of Work

It is the City's intent to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the 1,940-acre Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve that provides guidance to staff on realistic, best- practices for managing the numerous resources in the Baylands. The plan should incorporate current management practices as well as consider staffing, equipment, and budget limitations in all recommendations. The plan should incorporate adaptive management and be flexible enough to change when needed, as well as address how changes may be made.

Specific plan elements might address the following: (* indicates an essential component of the plan.)

Vegetation Management

1. * Prescribe appropriate methods for control of non-native invasive plants.
2. *Prescribe methods for maintenance and management of upland refugia areas. Provide direction whether the existing mix of plant species should be modified.



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3. Prescribe methods for maintenance and management of riparian areas (creeks).
4. Prescribe recommendations on restoration management of the Renzel wetlands, and Ponds A and B.

Wildlife Management

5. * Prescribe management guidelines for the operation of the Baylands Duck Pond and nesting area. Address feeding wildlife throughout the park. Address vegetation management in the nesting area.
6. * Prescribe best management strategies for the heronry at the duck pond.
7. * Provide guidance on closing areas for wildlife concerns.
8. * Review Fishing access – Consider whether or not it is an appropriate use and if it is deemed to be appropriate, the present alternatives which ensure protection of the environment and ensure public safety.
9. Prescribe best management strategies for controlling ground squirrels and rats.
10. Identify priorities for restoration of areas filled with harbor dredging materials.
11. Prescribe management of tidal wetlands to protect and foster wildlife habitat.

Public Access

12. * Develop a trail use and management plan for the Baylands - how trails should be used.
13. Limits and details on fun run events- where is it appropriate to have groups runs.
14. Should group bike rides or races be allowed?
15. Prescribe appropriate uses for the closed, and soon-to-be-closed, public landfill. Prescribe how the land can best be used for conservation purposes. Decide how the use of this 77-acre site should be balanced with

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appropriate recreational needs (wildlife viewing, trails, playing fields, or other low-impact activities).

16. Prescribe amendments to Park Regulations to ensure environmental protection

