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MINUTES



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
June 28, 2005
Council Conference Room
250 Hamilton Avenue**

Roll Call by: Catherine Bourquin

Commissioners Present: Anne Warner Cribbs, Ellie Gioumousis, Jennifer Hagan, Edie Keating, Jeanette Marquess, Judith Steiner

Commissioners Absent: Paul Losch

Others Present:

Staff Present: Catherine Bourquin, Paul Dias, Greg Betts, Rob de Geus, Richard James, Patrick Larkin

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chair Anne Cribbs at 7:00 pm

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: Item #4, presented by Rob de Geus instead of Shia.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of May 31, 2005.** The Commissioners approved the minutes, subject to three changes. *Motion Approval of Minutes: 6:approved 1:abstention*
2. **Greer Park Committee update**
 - Commissioner Marquess gave a brief update on the status of their Greer Park Committee meeting on June 24th. They came up with five items of discussion:
 1. The committee has narrowed down their choices and come up with a process of elimination. They will be investigating the choices that were



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considered but eliminated. The five that are being considered are: Tennis Courts, Gym, Skate/BMX Course (Bicycle, Motor Extreme Course), Passive Park, and Dog Park. The criteria they will be using to evaluate these choices are: what's the community benefit, does it meet the needs of the community, what other options, what qualifies.

2. Financial consideration, what would be the cost of implementing, cost of maintenance, possible CIP funding, staffing, other funding partners, etc.
 3. The timeline, once the proposal is approved by council they would calculate the time from then, to ground breaking, to completion.
 4. Other considerations, such as the needs of the community and how to prioritize them.
 5. Pros and con's of each item under consideration.
- All of this information will be documented in a report to be considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Included in the report will be background information, the history of the park, options, why some were eliminated, what other improvements are scheduled for Greer, the current CIP for Greer, etc.
 - The committee's goal is to have a report ready for PARC by September, October at the latest.
 - Commissioner Marquess noted that there has been great support provided to the committee by Staff members Dias and James.
 - Commissioner Keating asked if consideration was given to a practice field for soccer. Commissioner Marquess responded that it has been discussed in past meetings and was decided a year ago that it wasn't a good use of space and because of factors such as wind and proximity to East Bayshore Road traffic. All of this information will be included in the report.

3. Youth Council Update

- Presentation given by staff member Patrick Larkin of Recreation.
- Mission: Serve as a task force to address issues that face teens in our community.
- The Youth Master Plan's purpose: Engage and support the Palo Alto Community's middle and high school youth and their families.
- Objectives: 1. Encourage and continue to provide opportunities for youth participation in our community. 2. Improve communication and awareness of

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youth recreation and social programs. 3. Ensure an ongoing collaborative process that coordinates, supports, and monitors youth programs and services.

4. Special Events/Chili Cook-off

- Presented by staff member Rob de Geus
- Staff de Geus reminded the commissioners that the Chili Cook-off will be this coming Monday, July 4th at Mitchell Park from noon to 5pm. Flyers and t-shirts were handed out. There will be live music and activities for children and families.

5. Fee/Service level changes update from budget approval

- Staff James gave an update on the long awaited budget approval.
- The objective of resolving a 5 million dollar deficit for the city has been met. The outcome is going to be hard on staff and services.
- Over the last year and a half there has been a reduction in staff of 23% management and 10% work force.
- Areas that you will see changes in will be the parks, fewer trash pick-ups, no tennis court washings.
- Biggest change will be in Parks and Golf, Don Piana Park Superintendent will be retiring and the position is being eliminated in January 06.
- In Recreation, elimination of one Supervisor and an office specialist.
- Open Space, retained one ranger and one park maintenance assistant that was targeted for elimination.
- Hourly unionization being created. This will definitely change how we do our business. Affects hourly workers working over a certain amount of hours.
- Commissioner Marquess asked if Community Services will be evaluating programs vs. user fees, and how do we break even. Staff James replied that beginning in July, the auditor's office will be auditing Recreation, primarily on what it costs to run a program and what fees should be associated with them.

6. Bay to Ridge Trail/alignment & dedication

- Staff Betts came before the commission to obtain the commissioner's approval on the Bay to Ridge Trail (Exhibit A). *Motion: Commissioner Gioumousis motioned to adopt the amendment as shown in Exhibit A. Seconded by Commissioner Hagan. 6:approved 1:abstention*

7. Baylands Conservation Plan/Draft Scope of work

- *Motion to defer to next scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting due to documentation not being received by all commissioner/staff. 6:approved 1:abstention*

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8. **Joint PARC/Council Study Session Agenda**

- Commissioners and staff discussed items for discussion at the upcoming Council Study Session.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mayfield passed their 30 day window before further planning can commence. Groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for August 1, 2005 at Noon. Project completion in late fall early winter.
- Staff James announced and passed out fliers to the commissioners on a League of Cities conference to be held in Monterey on July 27th and 28th. If interested, Commissioners should coordinate through Catherine.
- Commissioner Keating inquired on the Policy for Restrooms in Palo Alto. Staff Dias indicated that he would provide a copy of the policy to the commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:55pm

