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**MINUTES**



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 25, 2005  
Council Conference Room  
250 Hamilton Avenue**

**Roll Call by:** Catherine Bourquin

**Commissioners Present:** Anne Warner Cribbs, Ellie Gioumouis Jennifer Hagan, Jeanette Marquess, Judith Steiner, Paul Losch

**Commissioners Absent:** Edie Keating

**Others Present:** Jack Morton, Council Liaison

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Chair, Anne Cribbs

**AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None**

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** Rita Morgin, Community Garden Fee increase, Kristina P. Smith, Community Gardens Fee Increase, Henry Lew, Community Garden Fee Increase; Annette Ashton, Hoover & Socials

**BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of September 27, 2005.** The Commissioners approved the minutes with six corrections. *Motion Approval of Minutes: 6:approved 1:abstention*

2. **Council/Commission Study Session debrief**  
**Commissioner comments:**

Commissioner Marquess felt the meeting was a little too formal, but that we left with a better understanding of what the Council's priorities would be for PARC in the coming year.



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Commissioner Cribbs agreed with Marquess that the atmosphere was a little too formal and perhaps questions should not have been supplied in advance. It was an awkward time too, due to coming elections. Due to schedule changes, some commissioners had previous engagements. She was also disappointed that more time wasn't given to the discussion of buying more land.

Commissioner Steiner felt that this is the first time she got a sense of what the PARC should be doing.

Commissioner Losch asked if the priorities that PARC set up last year was discussed. Commissioner Cribbs commented that we didn't discuss the priority list, however the priorities were woven into some of the questions we gave them. Commissioner Losch also added that it is important that we have ideas we can offer them.

Staff Dias added the city is looking into restructuring these sessions for all commissions to be more informal.

3. **Palo Alto Tennis Club (PATC) Cubberley Tennis Court Lighting proposal**

Kay Carey president of the Palo Alto Tennis Club presented some background information into the PATC and their proposal to have lighting installed at the Cubberley Tennis Courts.

- Lighting costs are estimated at \$110,000 – 130,000. Palo Alto Tennis Club has 20,000 and another possible \$2,500 from USTA.. They are requesting that the City contribute the balance of the costs through Development Impact fees.

**Questions from the commissioners:**

Commissioner Losch asked if they looked at the analysis from the Terman tennis courts controversy, which took place a couple years ago. Ms. Carey replied that during the hearings, the Terman Tennis Community were told that the courts were on park land and would continue to be tennis courts.

Commissioner Losch asked “Did you consider Terman tennis courts in terms of available capacity for the player population?” Ms. Carey answered that she had not seen the analysis.

Commissioner Marquess acknowledged how pleased she was with the information Ms. Carey presented. Commissioner Marquess replied that she was very interested to see that the Winter Lodge listed in their report as city courts. Staff

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Dias replied that it is a Private entity. Ms. Carey said they did not include the Winter Lodge Tennis Courts out of the 44 mentioned in their report.

There was some discussion on the dilapidated courts in the city. Staff Dias briefly explained the restraints on budget dollars and that some cleaning for safety reasons would only be done. The resurfacing of JLS courts would be happening in the next 5 years.

Commissioner Steiner brought up the possibility of using fundraisers to raise some money beyond member dues. Ms. Carey replied that they (Palo Alto Tennis Club) have considered other possibilities, but at this time didn't have any information on it.

Ms. Carey felt that since, the Tennis Community averaged around 10,000 players a year, PATC shouldn't be the only one to contribute funds, when the tennis community as a whole would benefit from this proposal.

Commissioner Cribbs suggested that the Tennis community consider other fundraising possibilities in their proposal to the city. Commissioner Hagan added that she wanted to commend the PATC on putting together such a well organized, funded proposal.

Mr. Chuck Bradley introduced himself as a member of the Palo Alto Tennis Club heading up the project. He started off by clarifying the issue of the Winter Lodge being considered city property. He referenced page 5 from their report. There was an agreement made back in 1991 between the city and the Winter Lodge that the Winter Lodge would operate the tennis courts.

Mr. Bradley conducted a survey of some of the residents in the area around Cubberley's tennis courts. He contacted sixteen homes, and talked with nine neighbors, out of that group seven were not objective to the lighting proposal, four were for the lights, because they are tennis players, and two objected. The objection was primarily about the security lighting on the roof at Cubberley's parking lot. The other five were not home. They also met with the Greenmeadow Association and presented their proposal to them. Mr. Bradley said the general consensus was that they were fine with the idea. The added benefit that they liked was that the lighting would act as security lighting for the parking lot at the center.

Commissioner Gioumouis asked if they were looking for an endorsement from the Commission. Staff Dias said this was just an informational presentation no action item.

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Mr. Bradley also added that the type of lighting is different than what is installed at other city lighted courts. The lights are less evasive, no spillage onto other areas other than the courts.

The Cubberley Advisory Committee had a concern on the fiscal impact to the city regarding electricity. Mr. Bradley provided information regarding electricity costs.

4. Mitchell Park Youth and Teen Center Update

Staff de Geus was present to give updates related to the Mitchell park youth and teen center.

- Article from “The Guide” in the Mercury News.
- Palo Alto Recreation Foundation – \$13,000 to support computer lab
- Donation of computers, 5 from the City of Palo Alto Administrative Services Department (ASD) and 10 from Hewlett Packard
- New manager, Kim Parker replacing Patrick Larkin
- Recreation staff is looking for new ways to collaborate with other youth serving agencies, such as Youth Community Services, Adolescent Counseling Services, YMCA and others.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Meeting Date changes: Dates were discussed, November 29 was agreed upon for November meeting at 6pm at the Golf Course. December 20<sup>th</sup> was agreed for December meeting.
2. Peers Park Handout - Commissioner Hagan gave background on the Peers handout regarding playground equipment at Peers Park.
3. Commissioner Hagan brought up requesting an action item to endorse the Palo Alto Tennis Club Cubberley Lighting proposal.
  - Motion made by Commissioner Hagan to place the Cubberley Lighting Proposal on the next Agenda as an Action item. Seconded by Commissioner Gioumousis. No Vote.
  - Commissioner Marquess would like to discuss as work plan possibility.
  - Commissioner Cribbs would like to see the PATC rewarded somehow on their efforts.
  - Staff Dias – Process and PARC to take forward as inclusion in money for CIP.



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- Commissioner Cribbs addressed concerns as part of priorities.
- Commissioner Hagan requested a motion to move to Council as an action item.
- Commissioner Losch include as part of priority setting. Amend motion to agendize at December meeting.
- Commissioner Hagan accepts amended motion to place on Decembers PARC Agenda.

***Motion: Have the Cubberley Lighting Proposal placed on the December Agenda as an Action item. Accepted 5:1, Commissioner Marquess voting No.***

#### **TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Greer Park Sub-committee report
2. Priority Setting

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 9:20pm