



DRAFT

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
March 25, 2008
City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave**

Commissioners Present: Deirdre Crommie, Carl King, Paul Losch, Pat Markevitch, Alex Panelli, Daria Walsh

Others Present:

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

I. Roll Call Conducted by: Catherine Bourquin

II. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION – Middle School Athletics

Lisa Goncalo, Recreation Coordinator for Youth programs gave a presentation to the Commissioners on the Middle School Athletic programs that the Palo Alto Unified School District and the City of Palo Alto's Community Services department offer. The program consists of after-school sports for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at JLS, Jordan and Terman Middle Schools.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Melaine Bales, 811 Southhampton Dr spoke on the Jordan Field issue on behalf of the Jordan Neighbors. She read from a letter that was provided to the Commissioners. Faith Braff, continued with the same letter on the topic of Jordan fields. Cindy Nelson, President of the Palo Alto Volleyball Club discussed the need for more Gym space and the use of Cubberley's Community Center Gyms which are utilized by Foothill College. Bonnie Turner, 474 Embarcadero Road representing the Palo Alto Lawn Bowling Club wanted to thank the City's Park department, especially Doug Fox, Arturo Jimenez, and Robert Ward for doing such a good job with the maintenance of the Lawn Bowl. She also informed the Commission that the bowling green will be used for the upcoming Senior Olympics.

IV. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS DELETIONS – None

V. BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of February 26, 2008 Meeting –



The Draft Minutes of February 26, 2008 were unanimously approved.
Approved 6 with 1 abstention (Commissioner Davidson absent)

2. State of the City's Budget Forecast for the general Fund and Capital Fund and implications for City programs and services in 2008-2009

David Ramberg, Deputy Director of Administrative Services Department updated the Commission on the 2008-2009 fiscal budget forecast. The proposed budget will go to the Finance Committee for approval on May 6th. He said that departments should be concentrating on increasing revenue potential to offset expenses. The City is looking at a backlog of infrastructure projects that need to be addressed.

3. Report from the Sub-Committee on Off-Leash Dog Exercise Alternatives

Commissioner Walsh presented the Commission and staff with a timeline to develop a taskforce on recreational opportunities for dogs. The Commission discussed this topic and provided input to add to the Draft Task Force timeline that was presented. The changes would be made and another copy provided to the Commission at the next meeting.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Playing Fields – Commissioner Panelli informed the Commission that they had a Field User Focus meeting on March 13th. They agreed to meet again within the next two weeks and have a policy in place by June. The policy would not take affect until the Winter/Spring Season.
- b. Open space – Nothing to report
- c. Culture of Fitness – Two members met and went over priority goals. No action taken.
- d. Partnership – Met on their priority goal statement
- e. Palo Alto as a Magnet – Worked on priority goal statement

5. Finalization of 2008 Commission Priorities with Specific Goal Statements

Commission discussed the Goal Statement handout that the Commissioners worked on to finalize their 2008 Priorities. The Commissioners selected their Priority sub-committee they wanted to be on.

Culture of Fitness – Encourage the citizens and employees of Palo Alto to embrace a healthier lifestyle through increased physical activity.

Members – Crommie, Markevitch, Davidson

Staff – Rob de Geus

Playing Fields – Provide desirable playing fields (and associated infrastructure and services) necessary to meet the recreation demands of our residents at a fair and reasonable cost.

Members – Panelli, King

Staff – Rob de Geus

Partnerships – Identify and compile a comprehensive list of all partnerships pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Department with an eye towards forging new ones.

Members – Davidson, Markevitch
Staff –

Open Space – Provide citizens and staff clear statements and guidelines on balancing recreational uses with habitat preservation in Open Space.

Members – Crommie, Davidson, Walsh

Staff – Greg Betts

Palo Alto As A Magnet – Understand Palo Alto’s role and cost structure with regards to providing Parks and Recreation services to residents and non-residents.

Members – Losch, Crommie

Staff – Betts, de Geus

Commissioner Chair Markevitch would make corrections and provide a new copy of the Priority Sub-Committee chart.

Commissioner King made a motion to have handouts be available on-line prior to meetings.

Motion: Commission requests that staff post complete meeting packet with Agenda notice on City’s website, and also with minutes upon approval of same. Commission requests that any documents to be discussed at meetings be available for overhead projection at the meeting. Motioned seconded by Commissioner Crommie. Approved 6:0

VI. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff de Geus reminded the Commissioners that if they haven’t already signed up for the Speakers Bureau that was requested via email to sign up ASAP.
2. Staff Betts requested a volunteer as a PARC representative to participate in the Planning and Transportation committee for the upcoming five years CIP. It is scheduled for April 11 from 2 – 4pm. Commissioner Chair Markevitch volunteered.
3. Staff Betts handed out a new Open Space Map brochure
4. Staff Betts briefly explained the report by the National Citizen Survey on Demographic Subgroup Comparison of 2007 that was in their packets.

VII. AGENDA FOR APRIL REGULAR MEETING: April 22, 2008

1. Sub-committee reports
 2. Friends of Palo Alto parks – Subcommittee on Universal ADA special needs in Parks
- *Commissioners Crommie, Walsh and Panelli will not be at the next meeting.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Panelli
9:40 pm