



DRAFT

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
June 24, 2008
City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave**

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

Commissioners Absent: Joel Davidson

Others Present:

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

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Catherine Bourquin

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS

IV. BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of May 27, 2008 Meeting –

The draft minutes of the May 27, 2008 regular meeting were unanimously approved.
Approved 6:0

2. Chili Cook-off Activities and Public Information –

Staff de Geus gave an update on the upcoming Chili Cook-off scheduled for July 4th. He said there were 24 teams competing in 3 judged categories. This year Recreation decided to formalize a responsible drinking policy for the event. There will be arts and crafts, music, and face painting for children. The Commissioners who signed up to be judges are Alex Panelli, Joel Davidson, and Paul Losch. If anyone else is interested, Recreation needs to know by June 25th.

3. Baylands Master Plan Update with Specific Information on Byxbee Park Hills

Chair Markevitch announced to the public that if anyone was interested on speaking to this topic, they should fill out a card and that they will have a chance to speak after the presentation.



Staff Betts introduced Gloria Humble and Kathy Siegel from the City's Planning Department. Staff Betts briefly described the purpose of the presentation.

Ms. Humble provided handouts to the Commission on the informative Power Point presentation she gave. She reviewed extensively the history behind Byxbee Park and how the Baylands Master Plan was developed in the 80's. The Baylands Master Plan update will be presented to the Commission in time for discussion at the August regular Commission meeting.

Oral Communications

Tom Jordan, 474 Churchill Ave, PA – Spoke on the original adopted Baylands Master Plan. He made mention that the Commission's job is to look for errors and omissions in the plan update but it wasn't their responsibility to make any changes to the updated plan. Secondly, the Commission should consider what the impact of composting will be on the Baylands Master Plan implementation.

Enid Pearson, Forest Court, PA – Spoke on the issue of composting at Byxbee Park and expressed her opinion that composting is incompatible with the design of the future passive park.

Emily Renzel, 1056 Forest Ave, PA – Spoke on composting at Byxbee Park and expressed her opinion that composting is incompatible with the design and intent of the future park as envisioned by Hargreaves & Associates.

The presentation was followed by questions and answers from the Commission. The Commission has some concerns of convenient bike and pedestrian access to the Baylands. Staff Betts said that the Commission will have an opportunity to make suggestions for new elements of the Baylands Master Plan, such as enhanced access to the Baylands, once the Council has reviewed the plan in September. It was agreed that Ms. Humble would check with City Transportation Manager Gayle Likens to see if there are any future plans or projects involving different access methods, such as through East Palo Alto, San Francisquito Creek or Matadero Creek under-crossings.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Playing Fields – The draft Field Allocation Plan should be ready in August and ready for public input in October. By the September meeting the Commission should be ready to adopt the proposed Field Allocation Plan.

Oral Communications

Manu Kumar, Garland Dr, PA – Wanted to thank Commissioners Panelli and King, and Shia Geminder, Rob de Geus, and Greg Betts for working on the Field Allocation

Plan. He also expressed his concern for better signage at Jordan relating to noise control and field regulations.

Faith Braff, Garland Dr, PA - *Expressed her concerns over tournaments issues and associated noise caused by large crowds.*

- b. Open Space – Met a few times, but nothing to report at this time.
- c. Culture of fitness – Commissioner Crommie is working with Anne Cribbs on publicizing the upcoming Senior Olympics. She informed the Commission that in August the public should start seeing information on the Senior Olympics. She will be working on more affective ways to get the word out.
- d. Partnerships - Nothing to report at this time.
- e. Palo Alto as a Magnet – Nothing to report at this time.

V.. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Update on Jordan Field Activity – Commissioners were given an updated Field Activity Collation handout by Greg Betts.
- 2. Update on Park Development Fee Projects – Staff Betts went over the Prioritization of Potential Park Projects Utilizing Park Development Fees which was adopted by City Council in 2006.

VI. AGENDA FOR JULY REGULAR MEETING: July 22, 2008

- 1. Approval of June 24, 2008 Minutes
- 2. Presentation from the Friends of Palo Alto – Universal Playground
- 3. Sub-committee reports

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 9:25 pm