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**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
August 19, 2008  
City Hall  
250 Hamilton Ave**

**Commissioners Present:** Deirdre Crommie, Joel Davidson, Pat Markevitch, Alex Panelli, Daria Walsh

**Commissioners Absent:** Carl King, Paul Losch

**Others Present:** Council Liaison Jack Morton

**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:** None

**IV. BUSINESS:**

**1. Review of the Baylands Master Plan Update for Errors or Omissions –**

Staff Betts provided a brief introduction to the topic and informed the Commission that the Baylands Master Plan was being reviewed by both the Planning and Transportation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan Update was reviewed on Wednesday, August 13 and the Planning and Transportation Commission recommended to Council the adoption of the Baylands Master Plan. Staff Betts then introduced Gloria Humble of the Planning Department who gave the Commission a short recap from the previous discussion with the Commission on this topic. The presentation was then followed by discussion and questions from the Commissioners.

The Commissioners were asked if they had any comments:

Council Liaison Morton – No comments

Commissioner Walsh – No comments

Commissioner Crommie – Commissioner Crommie found the document to be a very thorough document and expressed her appreciation for what the Planning department had



put together. She found some typos which she would provide to Ms. Humble for correction to the document. Her main concerns were as follows and marked on her copy in pink highlighter:

- Was unsure of when the policies mentioned in the document were amended.
- Section on pedestrian and bike trails needs to be clearer with the words “pedestrian and bike”
- Section where it mentions bicycle bridges should include the location of the bridge.
- Trails mentioned in the document – Staff Betts informed Commissioner Crommie that the document is intended for policy makings and not an extensive trail guide.
- Policy 25 – How does someone reading this find out where this document is located for further reference? Possibly providing an appendix referencing where to find the supplementary documents. Cross reference some key documents, possibly adding a link if they are available on line.
- On page 228-229 take out “However, none of the Baylands projects were included in Table 6-3, “High Priority Projects”.

Commissioner Markevitch – Suggested the Palo Alto Airport working group had a comprehensive report that was available on-line. It would be useful to have a note in the document advising where to find this report for separate reference.

Commissioner Davidson – Commissioner Davidson acknowledged his appreciation for the document. He had one question on the term used as “passive” recreation

Commissioner Panelli – Commissioner Panelli expressed his acknowledgement of the document. He had a question on the ITT antenna field and whether their was an alternate site for their transmission use.

Commissioner Walsh – Commissioner Walsh brought up a past request on providing an appendix referencing what the goals were for recreation. Staff Betts questioned Ms. Humble on a side document she had created that could be included as reference. It was documented that she had created that listed the recreation elements. It was agreed that Staff Betts would work off-line with Ms. Humble on including this document.

### **Oral Communications**

Emily Renzel 1056 Forrest– Acknowledged the appreciation for the document. Ms. Renzel provided the Commission with some history pertinent to the update.

Enid Pearson – Thanked the Planning Department for the time put into the update of the Baylands Master Plan. She also encouraged the Commission to recommend to Council the acceptance of the Baylands Master Plan.

Libby Lucas – 174 Yerba Santa, Los Altos Ms. Lucas spoke on flood control on page 242. U.S. Fish and Wildlife mandated in 1978 that a tidal marsh was to exist and that the levels were to be kept at a specific level. She would like to see this included in this section and would provide staff with the supporting documents.

Staff Betts reminded the Commission on the next steps related to this business item. He stated that the Commission was to provide Planning and Transportation with any omissions and errors they found in the document and make a motion to recommend to Council the adoption of the Updated Baylands Master Plan.

**Motion: Commissioner Panelli moved, seconded by Commissioner Crommie to recommend to Council the Adoption of the Updated Baylands Master Plan**

After some discussion from Commissioner Crommie and Commissioner Walsh, they stated that they would like to see a policy included in the Baylands Master Plan that includes the use of recreation, the motion was tabled until next week's August 26, 2008 regular meeting.

**Motion: Commissioner Davidson moved, seconded by Commissioner Walsh to table business item 1: The Baylands Master Plan Update to next week's August 26, 2008 meeting.**

**Motion Passed 5:0**

**2. Recommendation to Council on the Use of Byxbee Park Hills As A Site for Composting**

Staff Betts advised the Commission on what their responsibility was to this item of business. The Commission is asked to first consider the basic question of whether composting of green waste is a compatible use of park land. Then recommend to City Council whether composting should continue at Byxbee Park. Staff Betts introduced Mr. Raschke from Public Works who was available to answer questions related to this item. The Commissioners asked questions of Mr. Raschke.

Commissioner Panelli – Commissioner Panelli asked questions related to the cost and the funding of the refuse/recycling/composting center. He also inquired on the trends of cost related to composting.

Commissioner Davidson – Commissioner Davidson requested staff to define what is meant by “passive park” land. Staff Betts responded by reading from the City's Charter Article 8 section 1 and the Municipal code Title 22. Commissioner Davidson wanted to know the worst case scenario of global warming affects on the Baylands in terms of tide water rise. Mr. Raschke responded by informing the Commission that he believes the US Army Corp of Engineer will be providing a report in September of the sea rise in the coming years. Commissioner Davidson also had some questions related to the CMR from Public Works CMR:219:08.

Commissioner Markevitch - Asked what type of composting facility the San Francisco Presideo has Windrow or In Vessel? Staff Betts replied “Its windrow and it is done on asphalt in a parking lot.” Commissioner Markevitch also pointed out that according to the Baylands Master Plan the municipal code does not require a composting facility.

Commissioner Crommie – She had questions related to the percentage of green waste that we truck out of the City to either Gilroy or the SMaRT transfer station in Sunnyvale.

Commissioner Walsh – Asked if Mr. Raschke could talk about the recent fire that occurred at the refuse. She also enquired on the possibility of a different location within the park for a composting site.

Council Liaison Morton – This issue came about from the City's Zero waste plan to continuing composting as the city has historically done.

### **Oral Communications**

Bryan Long, 1413 Dana Ave PA – Strongly supports continuing composting in its current location. He feels that composting is a conservational use of park land.

Enid Pearson – Industrial composting site does not belong in our park land. She informed the Commission that the recent fire was a wake-up call that the composting site does not belong in the current location.

Sylvia Dolce, 2081 Cornell PA – She supports continuing composting in Palo Alto. She also mentioned that on August 8 a poll was conducted through the Palo Alto Weekly and 80% responded that they support continued composting in Palo Alto.

Cedric de La Beaujardivre, 741 Josina Ave PA – He supports continuing composting in Palo Alto. He doesn't feel that there is any payback in any of the situations mentioned.

Susan Stansbury, 741 Josina Ave PA – Runs a non-profit called Conexions in Palo Alto. She supports keeping the composting facility at the current location. She feels that running a compost facility at this site has higher ecological importance.

Hilary Gans, 3529 Ramona Street – Spoke on the economics of composting. He believes that it could run more effectively and would cost the city much more if they try to relocate.

Jeb Eddy, 2579 Cowper Street – Mr. Eddy commented on pricing and policy and how it relates to composting. His recommendation to the Commission is to keep the facility in its current location. His wife and him are proud of the recycling and composting that the city offers.

Emily Renzel, 1056 Forest Avenue PA – Urge the Council to discontinue use of composting on dedicated park land.

Herb Brock, PO Box 632 PA – Believes that this issue should be reviewed by the environmental review board. He recommends to the Commission to get more information before making their decision.

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Libby Lucas, 174 Yerba Santa Ave Los Altos - She wanted to reiterate what she had said before regarding the wetlands not being honored from the mandated mitigation that happened in 1978. She also feels that there are more sophisticated options to windrow composting that should be considered.

Chair Markevitch suggested given the lateness of the meeting if the Commission would consider continuing the discussion of this agenda item until the next meeting. Staff Betts suggested to the Commission if they had any questions they still needed answers to that they should forward them to him and he would pass them on to Mr. Raschke.

**Motion: Commissioner Crommie moved, seconded by Commissioner Panilli to table the agenda item until next weeks August 26, 2008 regular meeting.**

**Passed 4:1**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 9:55 pm

