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**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
September 23, 2008
City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave**

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

Commissioners Absent: Joel Davidson

Others Present: Council Liaison Jack Morton

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

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Catherine Bourquin

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Le Levy, 690 Greer Road, PA – Mr. Levy came before the Commission to give an update on the progress of the Lytton Plaza project informing the Commission that they received approval from the City to move forward on the project and that the City would be funding \$350,000 of the \$700,000 - \$1,000,000 that the project would cost. Sunny Dykwel, 480 Gary Court, PA - Ms. Dykwel a member of the newly formed *Friends of Lytton Plaza* have raised \$260,000 towards the cost of the project. Ms. Dykwel said that the project was a joint partnership between the Downtown District and the Friends of Lytton Plaza and the City of Palo Alto. They would like the Commissioners to share with them any comments they might have on the project. They will be coming back to the Commission in the future to give a presentation on the newest design.

III. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

IV. BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of August 26, 2008 regular meeting – The Draft Minutes of July 22, 2008 were unanimously approved. **Approved 6:0**



2. **Approval of Draft Minutes of the August 19, 2008 special meeting** – The Draft Minutes of the August 19, 2008 special meeting were approved with two corrections. **Approved 4:2absentions (King and Losch)**

3. **Review and Approval of Draft City of Palo Alto Field Use Policy** -

Staff de Geus introduced Shia Geminder, Recreation Supervisor who has worked diligently on putting the Field Use Policy together. Staff de Geus also thanked Commissioners King and Panelli for their contribution in developing the draft policy. Staff Geminder went over the changes that were made from the first draft and asked the Commissioners to approve the final draft as submitted and recommend the policy move to City Council for review and approval. The Commissioners commented on the new changes and asked some clarification questions.

Oral Communications

Manu Kumar – Garland Dr, PA – He wanted to Thank Shia and staff for the progress and having at least no play at Jordan on Sundays. He added that the information on the Field Use Policy that he received did not include the last column in Appendix C. Dr. Kumar also wanted to request that the hours of use be capped at 6pm instead of until dusk Monday through Friday. He would also like staff to look into the 25 person limit for non-reserved field use.

Jean Wilcox – 4005 Sutherland, PA – She wanted to express her concern of the pick up games that take place at Mitchell Park. Does this group pay for the use of the field? She has even seen them play when there has been orange fencing up after renovating the field.

Melaine Bales – 811 Southhampton, PA – She wanted to express her thanks for giving the Jordan School neighbors at least Sundays off from the noise of organized games but would still like to have Saturday and Sunday off. Her other issues were applied to Appendix C on the Field Use Policy on the section pertaining to the hours for play during the week. She would like the word dusk changed to 6pm. She would also like to see signs related to enforcement of rules at Jordan School Fields be put up.

Neill Dorward, 947 Embarcadero Road, PA – He feels that the policy as written is going in the right direction. Areas of concern for him were scheduling games on Sunday and the youth group allocations. He felt that the policy for residency should be inclusive of students who attend PAUSD schools but have residency outside of Palo Alto's limits.

James Hannan, 3003 Waverley St, PA – He expressed his concern over the residency requirement for students who attend PAUSD schools but have residency outside of Palo Alto's limits. His other concern was over the scheduling due dates. He believes that the groups will put a false date in since they won't know how many have signed up etc. until after the date of November 1st. He thinks the groups such as Babe Ruth should get together and come up with a plan.

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Carol Mullen, 1249 Pine St. PA – Concerned with the section on eligibility and residency requirements. She expressed her concern on the policy section on allocating for paid coaches vs volunteer coaches.

Juliana MacPherson, Diablo Court, PA – She feels that the priority over scheduling shouldn't have any difference if it's AYSO or CYSA. They both should have the same priority.

The Commissioners were given the opportunity to discuss any other concerns that they had regarding the Fields Use Policy and make any additional revisions for the final version. After a long discussion, the Commissioners made some wording changes that were to be incorporated into the final version. The topic discussed at length was Section V Eligibility, and specifically giving priority to non selective membership groups over other groups. Although opinions varied whether drawing such a distinction was needed it remained in the final draft and all Commissioners were ultimately supportive of the policy as revised. Commissioners made a motion to approve the Fields Use Policy as amended.

***Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission approves the final draft of the Field Use Allocation Policy as amended during the meeting on September 23, 2008 and recommends the policy move to City Council for review and approval.
Approved 6:0***

4. Review of Banning Smoking in City Parks and Facilities -

Commissioner Walsh opened up the topic and requested that Staff Betts review with the Commission the current Smoking in City Parks and Facilities policy. The handouts that were provided to the Commissioners in their packets were also reviewed and the topic was opened up for discussion with the Commission. Commissioner Walsh felt after reviewing the current policy that she was satisfied with it. Commissioner Panelli expressed his opinion and would like to have further discussion on the current policy and open it up for public discussion at a future meeting.

Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to move this item for discussion and action at next months meeting. Approved 6:0

V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff de Geus made an announcement on the Black and White Ball scheduled for October 4th.
2. Staff de Geus commented on the success of the Moonlight Run
3. Commissioner Crommie wanted to inquire on how to go about getting information on issues that residents come to her about. Should she bring them to the meeting or send an email with her questions. Staff Betts answered by instructing the Commissioners to bring these questions to staff off line.



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4. Commissioner King wanted to express his children's concern over no sand at Peers Park. He also asked about the pedestrian underpass at Adobe Creek. Staff Betts commented that Staff would keep this as a reoccurring informational item when there is any new information to share with the Commission.

VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER REGULAR MEETING: October 28, 2008

1. Approval of the minutes of the September 23, 2008, regular commission meeting.
2. Receptions Programs – Information TBD
3. Community Challenge to Get Active – Information Rob de Geus/Amy French
4. Wildland Fire Management Plan – Information Greg Betts/Ken Dueker and Consultant Carol Rice.
5. Banning Smoking in City Parks and Facilities – Action

VII. ADJOURNMENT

9:40 pm adjourned