

MINUTES



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING February 22, 2005 Council Conference Room 250 Hamilton Avenue

Commissioners Present: Anne Warner Cribbs, Ellie Gioumousis, Jennifer Hagan, Edie Keating, Jeanette Marquess and Judith Steiner

Commissioners Absent: Paul Losch

Others Present:

Staff Present: Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus,

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chair Anne Cribbs at 7:00 pm

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Catherine Bourquin

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of January 22, 2005.** The Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes, subject to 4 changes.
2. **Friends of the Palo Alto Parks presentation.**
 - ❑ Power point Presentation given by Jagdish Basi, member of Friends of the Palo Alto Parks.
 - ❑ Commissioner Steiner asked if they considered partnering with the schools as well. Providing an appreciation of nature through educating the students.

3. **CANOPY presentation.**

- Power point presentation given by Catherine Martineau, Executive Director
- Commissioner Steiner inquired on if Canopy provides classes. Catherine Martineau answered that they provide classes on a yearly basis.
- Commissioner Gioumousis questioned if Canopy makes suggestions to nurseries on how they grow their trees. Canopy said they work with nurseries and provide suggestions.

4. **Greer Park sub-committee update**

- Commissioner Marquess reported the Greer Park sub-committee has been organized.
- Upcoming meeting scheduled for March 2 with the neighborhood, city staff, and community members. Including input from tennis groups, and GotSPACE.
- The sub-committee will create goals and timelines.
- It was requested to keep the Greer Park Phase IV progress report on the PARC Agenda every month.

5. **Skate Park Info**

- Staff Liaison de Geus answered questions on informational handout on Skate Park.
- A discussion opened up and included communication from some skate bowl users that were present from the public.
- Skate users explained their feelings on updating the skate bowl, saying it is fine the way it is. The issue of safety was brought up, and the skaters present said that having the existing graffiti on the walls helped when they fell, allowing them to slide down the wall as the graffiti has made the skate bowl surface slippery.
- Issues were discussed on the bikers and skaters using the bowl. The skate bowl users presents said that the users were courteous of each other and didn't feel there was a problem.
- Commissioner Cribbs suggested that more research was needed to understand Palo Alto's skating needs, and asked that the Greer subcommittee consider these needs as they look at the undeveloped land at Greer Park.

6. **Commissioners Training**

- Feedback was given from Commissioners who attended the City of Palo Alto Board and Commission Workshop.
 - a. Commissioners praised the workshop content and will implement some of the suggestions given in the workshop, including the use of an easel and pad to write motions.

INFORMATIONAL ATTACHMENTS

1. Special Joint Commission Agenda

- Anne Cribbs will attend to represent the Commission. Any other Commissioners are encouraged to attend this budget information session.

2. Rescission of Special-Use Permits for Dog tracking

- Commissioner Steiner commented that a similar situation had occurred at Hidden Villa.
- The Commissioners felt that this should be discussed further feeling that this was a good service and perhaps there were some other alternatives for scheduling.
- Commissioners requested that this be included on next Agenda. Greg Betts was absent and was not present to answer questions.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commissioner Marquess provided a report on the Recognition of Contribution of Richard Beckwith. The recommendation is as follows:

“After thoughtful review and consideration of the policies referenced above, the subcommittee finds that, while Richard Beckwith’s contributions are substantial and worthy of honor, it is our recommendation at this time, that it would be better if Mr. Beckwith were honored through a private organization in which he has made his most substantial and compelling contribution, rather than through a public process.”

- 2. An announcement reminding everyone of the upcoming California Parks and Recreation Conference was made by Chair Cribbs. A report from the Conference will be on the April Agenda.
- 3. Commissioner Cribbs handed out a flyer on the 22nd Annual Fifty Plus Lifelong Fitness Weekend, a weekend event to be held March 12 – 13 at Stanford University.

AGENDA FOR MARCH 22, 2005 MEETING

- 1. GOTSPACE – presentation
- 2. Info on Tennis Use Survey – Dias
- 3. Greer Park subcommittee update – Cribbs
- 4. Impact Fees – Dias

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

