

MINUTES



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2004
Palo Alto City Hall
Council Conference Room
250 Hamilton Avenue**

Commissioners Present: Anne Warner Cribbs, Ellie Gioumousis, Edie Keating, Paul Losch, Jeanette Marquess

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Hagan, and Judith Steiner

Others Present: Jim Burch, Council Liaison

Staff Present: Greg Betts, Rob de Geus, Rachel Meyer, Patrick Larkin, Eric Christensen, Dan Williams, Virginia Gibbons

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chair Edie Keating at 7:00 pm

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Virginia Gibbons.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Ute Engelke, 2136 Oberlin St., Palo Alto:** Residents in support of a community garden in the Cameron Park neighborhood want to make sure that their garden plans are integrated into the renovation of Cameron Park. The group is requesting radius information on the radius around the park to survey for neighborhood input in this issue.

BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of September 28, 2004 Meeting.** Minutes were approved with two wording changes to Item #7.

2. **Junior Museum and Zoo Update.** Rachel Meyer gave a presentation highlighting the JMZ's 70th birthday with before and after pictures, exhibits, outreach and educational classes, camps and programs for children.
3. **Youth Council Update.** Austin Freeman and Susan Wu, members of the Palo Alto Youth Council addressed the Commission describing the Youth Council's various accomplishments over the past couple of years. These accomplishments include Teen Liaisons to City Commissions and Boards, volunteering at City events and for the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital, homework help for teens in need, and the Youth Council's commitment to become involved in City politics by meeting with the City Council in November and trying to create a cultural shift by making businesses more aware of teens and their potential.
4. **Community Gardens Staff Report.** Greg Betts answered a few brief questions from the Commission on the information item, and stated that the request is to formally bring the community gardens under the "umbrella" of the Park Policy and Procedures. This item will be agendized as an action item for the next meeting.
5. **Approval of a Letter of Support for the Application to the State of California for Renovation of the Cubberley Community Center Football/Soccer Field.** Greg Betts detailed the grant requirements for the Commission and requested that the Commission approve a letter of support to be included in the grant request package. The Commission unanimously approved the request. Greg Betts will draft a letter of support for the Commission's approval.
6. **Athletic Field Use.** Eric Christensen answered numerous questions about the present use of fields and information contained in the Field Use Report and on playing groups, types of field use, and variety of games played on the existing fields. The Commission had a short brainstorming session to create a list of next steps or a "wish list" for the fields issue. On the recommendation of Jim Burch, Council Liaison, the Commission created a sub-committee, consisting of Anne Warner Cribbs, Jeanette Marquess, and Paul Losch to meet and create a list of next steps to for the Commission to use as guidelines for fields.
7. **Twilight Concert Series.** There was a short discussion of the information report included in the Commission packets. It was noted that there were no complaints regarding the event, and that the plan for the Twilight series for next year remains the same, but perhaps wine will be sold as well as beer. Councilman Burch commented that in is his opinion, the City should not be involved in the selling of alcohol and that he preferred the simpler version of the event. Commissioner Losch

stated that he felt the Black and White Ball was fantastic and that the Committee and Staff deserved credit for all their efforts.

8. **Commission Retreat Agenda and Goals.** Commissioner Losch requested that the Commission agree to priority setting of five top priorities for the coming year. There was discussion of several topics, a review of the PARC scope, an “education wish list” for the Commission, and to create a work plan for next year. It was suggested that Richard James act as meeting facilitator and provide the Commission a strategic plan update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commissioner Gioumouisis noted that she had a copy of a letter from Herb Borock detailing information regarding illegal construction at El Camino Park. According to Mr. Borock, the construction company working at El Camino Park is building on dedicated parkland. This information was unknown to attending staff and Dan Williams will check into the claim.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2004 COMMISSION RETREAT

1. EIR update on Stanford Trails (December or January)
2. Establish Priorities
3. Review Scope and Services (org chart)
4. Strategic Plan Update (where are we at and where are we going)
5. Scope of Commission
6. Fields Sub-Committee Update
7. Educational Wishlist

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.