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**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
ANNUAL RETREAT
February 5, 2016
Foothill Park, Interpretive Center
11729 Page Mill Road**

14 **Commissioners Present:** Jim Cowie, Jennifer Hetterly, Abbie Knopper, Ed Lauing, David
15 Moss, Keith Reckdahl

16 **Commissioners Absent:** Anne Warner Cribbs

17 **Others Present:** Council Liaison Eric Filseth

18 **Staff Present:** Daren Anderson, Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus

19 **I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY:**

20
21 **II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

22
23 None.

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25 **III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

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27 None.

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29 **IV. BUSINESS:**

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31 **1. Review 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission Accomplishments/Priorities**

32 Vice chair Knopper handed out a list of the Commissions 2015 accomplishments. The
33 Commission reviewed and commented.

- 34 • Discussed 7.7 Acres Foothill Park
- 35 • New Pedestrian bridge over 101
- 36 • Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan
- 37 • Conceptual Plans for new Junior Museum and Zoo
- 38 • Temporary Batting Cages at Baylands Athletic Center



- 39 • Council recommendation for next steps 7.7 Acres-Hydrologic Study for Buckeye
- 40 Creek
- 41 • Organics Facilities information meeting
- 42 • Recommendation for Park Improvement Ordinance within the PASCO site to allow
- 43 pilot Batting Cages at Baylands Athletic Center
- 44 • Staff update on drought response to Parks and Open Space and Golf areas
- 45 • Approval of Memo to Council on supporting funding for the implementation of the
- 46 Foothills Park Fire Master
- 47 • Approval of recommendation to Council to adopt a Park Improvement Ordinance for
- 48 improvements identified in the Byxbee Park Hills interim park concepts plan
- 49 • Avenidas capital project study session
- 50 • Junior Museum and Zoo capital project update – Friends of the JMZ – Discussion
- 51 • Informational report on sustaining trees during the drought within the City and Parks
- 52 a Public Works presentation
- 53 • Discussion on new online procedure for Summer Camp registration.
- 54 • Community Garden Ad hoc update report and recommendation
- 55 • Review of the Baylands Interpretive Center Improvements and Boardwalk Feasibility
- 56 Study
- 57 • Discussion on the share use Dog Park Pilot Program
- 58

59 **2. Consider Potential Areas of Focus for 2016**

- 60 • Ongoing items: Dog parks, 101 Highway Pedestrian overpass
- 61 • Review Council Priorities to be aligned with PRC’s priorities: Built environment:
- 62 housing, parking, livability, mobility; Healthy city/Healthy community;
- 63 Infrastructure; Comp plan
- 64 • Staff de Geus reminded commission that the role of the commission should be
- 65 priorities with policy recommendations.
- 66 • The Masterplan should focus on sustainability
- 67 • Council member Filseth pointed out that sustainability isn’t just climate change.
- 68 • The Commission raised the question is the Gym/Field use brokering policy working
- 69 well? Do we need to revisit? Commissioner Hetterly commented that the Master Plan
- 70 will address but the key policy question is “How far do we want to go?” We want to
- 71 keep pushing the consultants MIG to identify what we need.
- 72 • Commissioner Lauing would like more data to justify decisions for things like more
- 73 synthetic fields.

- 74 • Commissioner Moss commented that we should make sure that all these big issues,
75 dog owners, community gardens, gyms, etc. are addressed in context so that it is a fair
76 and equitable split of land use.
- 77 • Commissioner Reckdahl commented that we should keep moving on things like dog
78 parks, where we have enough data to show that we are too short. Gyms are
79 something we don't know about, and maybe can wait.
- 80 • Chair Lauing suggested that the ad hocs working on the priorities for gardens, dog
81 parks, gym/field space should continue working on them.
- 82 • Commissioner Knopper stressed that we need a cohesive policy for field use.
- 83 • The 7.7 acres hydrologic study is out to bid
- 84 • The 10.5 acres was discussed, don't want to take action to hastily with this and not let
85 it become a dumping area for whatever the Masterplan says we need. More analysis
86 needs to be done for this site.
- 87 • Land around the Baylands Athletic Center needs to be considered for possible ideas,
88 such as more parkland, parking, batting cages, etc.

89 **3. Review Commission Ad hoc Committees and Liaison assignments**

- 90 • The Arastradero Preserve benching and parking issues need to have an ad hoc
91 established to work on this.
- 92 • The Commission web page still being worked on, resources limited but should have it
93 wrapped up within the next couple months.
- 94 • CIP should stay on the list
- 95 • Cubberley should stay on the list
- 96 • Take IBRC off the list.
- 97 • Project Safety Net – possibly do something for parents.
- 98 • Sterling Canal – need more information and a firm ruling from Utilities. This should
99 continue to be considered for space, staff Anderson will be the lead on this.
- 100 • The Lucy Evans Interpretive Center boardwalk project will be monitored.
- 101 • Take off the Byxbee Park Hills design and add a new ad hoc for the Baylands
102 Comprehensive Conservation plan.
- 103 • The Baylands Satellite Parking – The shuttle idea was abandoned; but there may be
104 interest in adding parking on Embarcadero Road and reducing a lane. This would be
105 from 101 to the Baylands, with parking on both sided. This should be taken out.
- 106 • Keep the following on and monitor: 101 Adobe Creek Bridge, Lefkowitz tunnel, Golf
107 Course Project
- 108 • New Ad hocs: Matadero Creek Underpass project, Baylands CCP, Baylands Athletic
109 and Recreation Complex, PAUSD/PRC dialog – shared use of facilities

- Continue with Ad hocs: Parks Master Plan, Dog parks, Community Gardens, CIPs, Baylands CCP, Parks Tree Canopy

See attached 2016 Priorities and Ad hoc list

4. Other

Staff Anderson spoke on the dog park issue. My personal feeling is that we need a team of staff and Commissioners to sit in a room with a large map of every park (and park-like area) up on the wall and figure out all the possible locations to place dedicated dog parks. Then we pick out the best of those locations and prioritize them. Ideally, there would be a few we can implement in the near term, without waiting for the Master Plan or a new CIP; and several more that can be implemented in the near future; prioritized by the Master Plan, along with many other important community needs, and completed through the CIP process.

We've tried twice now to offer a few near-term off-leash options (the shared use athletic field idea, and the expanded Mitchell/El Camino Park dedicated idea) and both times they have failed to gather much support from the community or the commission. Selecting just a few sites and recommending a "first step" solution hasn't worked. I believe we need to present a comprehensive plan for dog parks before we can take that first step. This is exactly what the Parks Master Plan is intended to provide, but hasn't yet. I think this can be done in coordination with the Master Plan, be part of the Master Plan, and used to provide the "first step" solution in advance of completing the Master Plan.

It would be helpful to have Commission discussion and consensus on the following:

1. Is the share-use concept right for Palo Alto? If it is, should it be shared with athletic fields, or only non-athletic field areas?
2. Is the unfenced shared-use concept (City of Mountain View model) right for Palo Alto?
3. Should we conduct a comprehensive dog park analysis initiated by staff and the Ad hoc; and then bring back to the Commission as mentioned above? It seems to me that it would inform decisions on the other questions. For example, if after looking at every possible site, we are able to identify an appropriate number of suitable locations for dedicated dog parks distributed equitably throughout the City, perhaps we don't need to further explore the shared-use and unfenced shared-use models.

Chair Lauing commented, It's agreed that we need to expand the scope of the ad hoc, and we are at a point in the Master Plan development where we are looking at an in depth analysis of where to place dog parks. We will keep going with El Camino as a potential site and wrap the expanded Mitchell Park dog park into the whole analysis. We then can

bring it to the whole Commission to get action on expanding the scope of the ad hoc and potentially discuss policy issues. It's agreed then that the ad hoc can move forward with looking at the full list of City wide dog opportunities.

V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.



2016 PARC RETREAT PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

Categories: (*Previously determined that Master Plan will guide the initiative/outcome)

A = PARC Driven

B = Staff Driven

M = Monitor activity and update/engage PARC as appropriate.

I = Identify lead/ad hoc to generate initiative

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RECREATION

Parks and Rec Master Plan Category: A/B Lead: Ad Hoc(s)/Staff

Goals: Work with staff to complete draft by August, 2016

Continue Ad Hoc and full commission involvement to facilitate. For example,

1. Existing Ad Hoc for pre-processing major new material prior to monthly Commission Meetings.
2. Others as needed

***Dog Parks** Category: A/B Lead: Ad Hoc/Staff

Goal: Increase off leash dog space with geographical distribution in City.

Met with Dog Group and did broader community outreach. . Considered short term shared-use dog parks. Currently considering expansion of existing dog parks and addition of one or two new ones before Master Plan complete. Action item pending.

***Gyms & Fields/Field Use Policy** Category: A Lead: Staff

Goals: Review policy on fields at appropriate time. Evaluate field use policy if need determined by staff. Investigate field and gym location if indicated by Master Plan.

***Community Gardens** Category: B Lead: Staff

CIP for irrigation being executed in 2016. Co-ordinate existing rules with Ventura site.

***7.7 Acre Foothills Parcel** Category: B Lead: Staff

Goals: Complete Buckeye creek CIP hydrologic study before any further action to be taken.

*** Land Bank** Category: A/B Lead: Ad Hoc/ Staff
Goals: Tie-in to Master Plan. Likely longer term activity. Consider use and timing for fields, gyms, open space, other options. .

*** Arastradero Preserve** Category: A Lead: Staff

Goal: investigate land use barriers that may limit ability to expand parking.

Website Category: A Lead: AdHoc/Staff

Goals: Expand PARC website to include issue-specific links and make more user friendly.

CIP Input Category: B Lead: Staff

Goals: Weigh in on CIP priorities

Cubberley Category: M Lead: Staff

Goals: Monitor developments in lease negotiations, efforts to replace Foothill College, Our Town grant application.

Project Safety Net Category: I Lead: Staff

Goals: Propose initiatives.

Sterling Canal Opportunities Category: M Lead:

Goals: Propose initiatives. Clarify opportunities.

Lucy Evans Interpretive Center & Boardwalk Category: I Lead: Ad Hoc

Goals: Propose initiatives. Consider potential physical improvements/CIPs, partnerships to expand services/hours?

101/Adobe Creek Bridge Category: M Lead: Staff?

Goals: Monitor design developments for best access and integration into Baylands Preserve.

Lefkowitz Tunnel Category: M Lead:

Goals: Maximize length of open season and advocate for retention of existing tunnel access in new bridge design.

Golf Course Category: M Lead: A/B

Goals: Identify and promote Clubhouse and parking funds

Matadero Creek Trail Category: A/B Lead: Ad Hoc

Goals: Work with Transportation staff on outreach to impacted neighbors and interested users and consider connections to underpass.

Children's Zoo Reconstruction Category A/B Lead: A/B

Goal: Project requires PIO with vote from PRC

PAUSD/PRC Dialog Category: A/B Lead: Ed to call Council DuBois

Goal: Create Partnership with PAUSD and City for shared use of ALL facilities.

*** Water Conservation** Category A/B Lead: Ad hoc

Goal: Document and implement new policies for all parkland

Facilities Rental Category: M Lead: B

Goal: increase use and fees from city rental spaces

***Baylands Athletic Complex** Category: A/B Lead: Ad Hoc

Goal: Investigate options and timeline

Comprehensive Baylands Conservation Plan Category: A/B Lead: A/B

Goal: fund and participate in study

Increase Park Canopy Category: A Lead: A/B

Goal: Investigate options and timeline

2016 PRC Ad Hoc Committees

Topic	Leads/ AdHoc	Staff
PTOSR Master Plan pre-processing	Reckdahl/Hetterly/Lauing	
Matadero Creek Undercrossing	/Reckdahl/Moss	Anderson
Comprehensive Conservation Plan	Moss/backup Hetterly	O'Kane
Community Gardens	Knopper	
Dog Parks	Hetterly/Knopper	Anderson
Gyms	Cowie	
Canopy	Moss/Reckdahl	
Baylands Athletic and Recreation	Cowie/Reckdahl	
CIP	Reckdahl/Lauing	Anderson

AdHoc Assignments as of:
PARC Retreat 2/5/2016

David Moss:

Matadero

Canopy

CCP

Keith Reckdahl:

Canopy

CIP

Baylands Athletic and Recreation

Matadero

Master Plan pre-processing

Jim Cowie:

Baylands Athletic and Recreation

Gyms

Jennifer Hetterly:

CCP-Back UP

Dog Parks

Master Plan pre-processing

Ed Lauing:

Master Plan pre-processing

Abbie Knopper:

Community Gardens

Dog Parks