

**San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes: October 20, 2011**

Chairman Ralph Mihan called the meeting of the San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mark Bustillos, Eric Holm, Jeff Jones, Mark Lubamersky, Ralph Mihan, Armando Quintero, Fred Warnecke,

Commissioners Present: Mark Bustillos, Eric Holm, Jeff Jones, Mark Lubamersky, Ralph Mihan, Armando Quintero, Fred Warnecke

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Director Carlene McCart, Assistant Director, Parks Superintendent Vern Doughty

1. Action Items

A. Request for Donation to Freitas Park

Director McCart introduced the item with a review of the dedication ceremony for the completion of Freitas Park Phase 2. Over 200 attended the ribbon cutting and enjoyed activities and refreshments organized by the Terra Linda Homeowner's Association. She introduced Reuel and Sylvia Brady.

Mr. Brady addressed the Commission. The new playground is a success. In light of the fact that funding constraints eliminated a portion of the pre school age equipment from the project, the Neighborhood Association proposes to fund raise and donate a musical play feature commercially produced by Sound Play. The music station is sized for pre school age children and features four instruments in one unit. Mr. Brady described the station as having an acceptable volume. It could be permanently installed in or around the new playground since it does not require a fall space or other safety measures. A similar piece is installed at the Civic Center Park playground.

He went on to explain the neighborhood desires to remember a Terra Linda High School student who grew up in the neighborhood and lost her life to suicide last year. A plaque with the student's name could be affixed to the music station for residents to remember, heal and come together.

The Neighborhood Association is willing to raise the \$4,500 to purchase the musical station. Phase 2 Landscape Architect Phil Abey submitted options for potential locations.

Chair Mihan said he wanted to see the play piece at Civic Center Park.

Commissioner Lubamersky noted that he is on the faculty of Terra Linda High School and voiced concern that installing a plaque in honor of the deceased student may send the wrong message, and is contrary to the school policy designed to avoid glorifying student suicide. He suggested the Trellis Drive neighbors be notified if it is the intent to

Install a musical station in the Park.

Commissioner Warnecke suggested integrating the student's name into the design of the music station. He noted the importance of locating the piece in an appropriate area of the park to avoid noise impacts and impacts on existing landscape.

Mihan asked if the piece was damage/vandal proof. The piece is fabricated of post consumer plastics, and should be easy to clean.

Commissioner Quintero offered that he has seen similar pieces in parks and that they lend a "magical" element. He suggested inscribing the piece with the first name of the student, without a picture or description, to remember her appropriately for the park setting.

After discussion the Commission agreed with the concept of the donation of the music station, pending inspection of the piece located at the Civic Center Park, without the plaque, but with an inscription if the neighborhood wishes to do so. An official vote will be taken at the next meeting.

B. Request for Approval of Renovation Plan for the Bocce Complex.

Tom Miller, President of Marin Bocce Federation proposed three improvements to the Complex facility. The Federation wishes to replace the roll up door to the building with one that is equipped with a regular door so that access is possible without raising the entire roll up door. Heat retention is one advantage to replacing the garage door type apparatus currently in operation. The Federation also desires to install ceiling fans in the building to circulate air and provide an improved heat source for the space. There is interest in redesigning the Rose Garden as the original tree roses have claimed space that restricts sight lines and gathering areas. Tables and chairs would replace the tree roses. The intension is to create a space to accommodate 35-40 people and an attractive rental feature in the Complex.

Commissioners inquired about the number of people in the Complex (120 attend in the mornings, 140 at night for league play most weekdays. Additional attendees come for drop in play and on weekends, for events). The changes would not affect the esthetics of the Garden as it is considered overplanted in its current state. It was noted that water usage would be reduced with the removal of the rose trees. After discussion it was

M/s Mihan/Lubamersky to approve the replacement of the door, installation of the ceiling fans, and redesign of the Rose Garden

AYES: Bustillos, Holm, Jones, Lubamersky, Mihan, Quintero, Warnecke
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

When asked about future plans, Mr. Miller reported the organization is operating close to capacity with impacts on the facilities. The Federation has been preliminarily approved for a loan from a local bank to finance the renovation of the existing courts and possibly to install a solar power system on site. The Federation is seeking an extension of the current Agreement with the City to qualify for the loan.

2. Commission Items

A. Director's Report

McCart reported on the recruitment for the Police Chief; the retirement of Linda Jackson, Planning Manager; the hiring of the Human Resources Director; ADA issues in the Terra Linda Community Garden; the progress of the Canal Community Garden; the Wells Fargo grant to support programming in the Pickleweed Community Center Computer Lab; the Mill Valley Film Festival Gala Closing; completion of the Albert Park Tennis Court refinishing; the Marin County Senior Fair; recruitment for the Administrative Assistant position; the Boards and Commissions Reception scheduled for December 7; and the Mayor's retirement dinner scheduled for December 3.

B. Falkirk Report

McCart noted the Cultural Affairs Service League is financially supporting the new interpretive display in the Robert Dollar History Room; the increase in rental use of the mansion in November and December with the success of the revised Sunday rental rates; the Auction preview is set for mid November with the Auction schedule for December 9; homeless presence in public areas on the grounds continues to be a problem for security and preservation of the facilities

C. Parks Report

Parks Superintendent, Vern Doughty reported the Parks Division is coordinating and assisting Marin ReLeaf with replacement plantings at sites around the City; Arbor Day observation will be on October 25 at Gerstle Park, with the replacement planting of a Magnolia tree; a very large Cypress tree will be removed from its 5th Avenue location due to poor condition and resulting safety concerns; over seeding and leveling of the Pickleweed Playing Fields will result in the closure for the next 4-6 months in attempt to repair the field.

Discussion ensued on the concept of securing a low or no cost loan for the replacement of the natural turf with a synthetic turf surface at Pickleweed Park. Fees collected for the use of the fields could be applied to retire the loan and savings in maintenance and water would help offset loan costs. The Commission urged staff to research the possibility of a loan for the conversion if the City's grant application for Prop 86 funds was not successful.

D. Report from Committees

There was no report

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2011

M/s Lubamersky/Bustillos to approve the Minutes

AYES: Bustillos, Holm, Jones, Lubamersky, Mihan, Quintero, Warnecke
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.