

San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2013

Chairman Mihan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners: Mark Bustillos, John Gamblin, Eric Holm, Jeff Jones, Mark Machado, Ralph Mihan, Chair, Tom Oblatz, Commissioners, Patricia Bassett, Alternate

Commissioners Present: Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz, Bassett

Commissioners Absent: Bustillos,

Staff Present: Director Carlene McCart, Parks Superintendant Dave Davenport.

1. Action Items

A. Tour of Fire Station 1

The Commission traveled by van to Fire Station 1 for a tour of the facilities. A Bond Measure in 2008 to support the rebuilding and renovation of all public safety buildings was narrowly defeated. The City is considering another ballot measure to accomplish needed updating and repairs. The need was demonstrated at Station 1, a 100 year-old building that houses the fires and paramedic services and equipment for Central San Rafael as well as mechanical repair garage for Fire Department vehicles and administrative functions. After the tour, the group re convened at the San Rafael Community Center for the remainder of the meeting.

B. Recommendation to Increase Commercial Rental Rates, Albert J. Boro Community Center

Director McCart related that by City Council policy, the rental rates for use of the Albert J Boro Community Center are 50% of those charged for the use of the San Rafael Community Center. The policy reflects the City's desire to make the use of the Center affordable for Canal Neighborhood residents as well as attractive to users throughout Marin County. The Pickleweed Advisory Board on May 1, 2013 studied the current rental rates and made a recommendation to raise the Commercial Rate category in the interest of increasing revenue for the Center.

The rationale for increasing Commercial rates is that these events collect admission or program fees from attendees, sometimes at a profit. There is support for a reduce fee as an incentive to use the Boro Center, in the spirit of the Policy. The Board recommended raising the Commercial Rate fees from 50% to 75% of those charged for use of the San Rafael Community Center.

Commissioners asked the following questions:

- What per centage of the groups reserving space at the Boro Center are doing so at no or low cost? 70-75%
- Are the rental rates intentionally set for low cost? Yes
- Have the commercial users been consulted or any outreach been done? No
- Is it preferable to raise the commercial rental rates to equal those in other facilities? Staff recommends maintenance of below market rates as incentive to potential users

Commissioner Oblatz encouraged staff to consult with users. Commissioner Gamblin noted the proposed increase was not garages.

M/s Jones/Machado to recommend an increase in fee structure for Commercial rental of facilities at Albert J. Boro Community Center

AYES: Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Obletz, Bassett
NOES: None
ABSENT: Bustillos

2. Commission Business

A. Director's Report

McCart reported the San Rafael Pacifics are completing the preparations for Opening Day at Albert Park on June 11. The Community Services Department is concluding a year long process of reorganization, to be agendized at the June meeting. Hot weather has brought record crowds and sales to both terra Linda Community and Hamilton Pools, even causing an unscheduled opening, well received due to social media contacts with the Department data base. Staff is in discussion with Valecito School administration on the expansion of child care services to accommodate the influx of new students next year. Pickleweed Park fields are open for public and organized use.

B. Falkirk Report

McCart reported a contract has been signed for the restoration of the wood features in the back hallway and stair case. The Greenhouse restoration project is complete thanks to the Master Gardeners volunteer efforts. Lattice work at the wedding garden was re-built. Falkirk was named best wedding venue by a Sonoma County magazine.

C. Parks Report

Superintendent Davenport reported Parks Division completed re-landscaping of the front of the Boro Community Center. High weed mowing was completed early due to the dry weather conditions and the fire danger posed. The Division purchased a wood chipper that will make trimming and pruning tasks more efficient plus provide mulch and ground cover resources; the irrigation system at the library was replaced. 35 volunteers re-painted all the play equipment at Pickleweed Park. 697 fewer plants were installed than ordered on the San Pedro medians. The contractor will rectify. Over 10,000 plants were installed on the entire project. Staff will with neighbors on May 21 to discuss concerns from a sub group that not enough trees were included in the approved plan. All landscape has been cut back severely on Mahone Pathway to deter homeless encampments. Freitas Park water feature is on for the season. The city paid \$7,000 to replace light bulbs at Albert Park Fields. Many of the replacements are out again due to fuse and wiring problems. A quote of \$180,000 was received to replace the light fixtures entirely. In July the Down Town Street Team begins cleanup on sidewalks and parking garages.

Commissioner Holm inserted that homeless issues continue to plague Boyd Park and the Dollar Hill area. The Mayor is aware of the severity of the problems there.

Commissioner Obletz noted Carla Koop has recently joined the City as Volunteer Coordinator. She organizes the Parks and Pathways volunteer projects on the 4th Saturday of each month. Boy Scout volunteers are available all year. Recently an Eagle Scout candidate completed some picnic table replacement in a park.

D. Report from Committees

There was no report.

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes, April 18, 2013

M/s Oblatz/Holm to approve the minutes.

AYES: Basset, Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz
NOES: None
ABSENT: Bustillos

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.