

San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2015

Chair Mihan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the San Rafael Community Center

Roll Call: Commissioners: Mark Bustillos, Eric Holm, Jeff Jones, Stacey Laumann, Mark Machado, Ralph Mihan, Chair, Tom Oblatz, Cicily Emerson, Alternate

Commissioners Present: Holm, Jones, Laumann, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz,

Commissioners Absent: Bustillos, Emerson

Staff Present: Carlene McCart, Community Services Director, Dave Davenport, Parks Superintendent,

1. Action Items

A. Measure A Park Improvement Recommendation for 2015-2016

Director McCart introduced the item with a summary of the public outreach process since July 2014 to determine community priorities for park improvements. The results of the process were:

- 14 of the 19 City parks were suggested for improvements
- 2 Open Space parcels were suggested for improvements
- 8 homeowner/neighborhood associations submitted requests on behalf of their memberships
- Marin Conservation League submitted a request for Open Space management
- 27 individuals submitted requests through e-mail or written comments
- 102 written surveys were submitted
- 60 separate projects were proposed for recommendation for the 2015-2016 Measure A Work Plan

McCart reviewed the ranking criteria to be applied in the recommendation process. She noted cost estimates were not part of the ranking at this time, but will be prepared for the top ranking projects recommended to the City Council on May 18.

She concluded by advising the Commission that the recently approved Capital Improvement Program for the City includes five park improvement projects related to safety issues:

- Albert Ball Field light replacement
- Schoen Park Playground Replacement
- Sun Valley Park Basketball Court Improvements
- Terra Linda Community Center Basketball Court Improvements
- Victor Jones Park Path of Travel Improvements (ADA compliance, drainage improvements, playground surface replacement, pathway repair, arbor repair).

Chair Mihan asked for public comment on the projects proposed. Hearing none, he reminded the Commission that the City Council had directed the public process to determine park improvements. The proposals for maintenance, new park facilities and Open Space are not considered as park improvements. There was agreement to rank the Open Space proposals, with the understanding that those would not be recommended for funding for the 2015-2016 Measure A Workplan, but important to note for future consideration.

The Commission paused to complete the individual ranking sheets.

The individual scores were posted and collated for each project proposed. From the combined ranking scores totals were determined, and mean scores were assigned. Recommendations were limited to one project per park site, regardless of the score value of multiple projects. The ranking process identified 12 projects for recommendation:

1. Pickleweed Park Synthetic Field Conversion
2. Bret Hart Permanent Restroom Installation
3. Open Space Management Plan
4. Freitas Park Safety Gate
5. Victor Jones Park Playground Replacement
6. Dominican/Black Canyon Debris and Broom Removal
7. Sun Valley Park Playground Improvement
8. Starkweather Shoreline Park Fitness Course
9. Gerstle Park Playground Replacement
10. Albert Park Playground Replacement
11. Terra Linda Park Shade Structure
12. Peacock Park Tennis Court Resurfacing

The Commission made comment on several of the ranked projects. First, Pickleweed Park Synthetic Field Conversion is the most critical project for the City to complete, due to the deterioration of the existing fields, the volume of use the fields receive, and the current inability to make the fields available to the public 4-6 months of the year. The cost however is greater than the Measure A funds can provide. The desire of the Commission is to apply funds over several years to support the project and stimulate fund raising efforts.

Next, the Commission underscored the importance of an Open Space Management Plan, noting that an undertaking to create such for the over 3,000 of City-owned Open Space is an expensive process and results in additional development, maintenance, security, repair, and vegetation management commitment for the City. Measure A funds are not adequate for this initiative. The desire of the Commission is to communicate the import of an Open Space Management Plan.

Finally, 2 of the 12 recommended projects qualify for funding from other resources. The Dominican/Black Canyon Debris and Broom Removal project may be accomplished utilizing the Measure A funded Park Vegetation Management project and the Commission recommends it be addressed in this manner.

Likewise the Peacock Park Tennis Court Resurfacing project can be accomplished utilizing the City's Tennis Court Key Revenue Fund, and need not be recommended for funding from Measure A.

M/s Holm/Machado to recommend to the City Council the top ranking selected park priority projects for Measure A funding.

AYES: Holm, Jones, Laumann, Machado, Mihan, Obletz
NOES: None
ABSENT: Bustillos, Emerson

Staff congratulated the Commission on the thoughtful consideration to this process, and noted a formal recommendation for City Council will be presented at the May 18, 2015 meeting.

2. Commission Items

A. Director's Report

McCart reported the Marin History Museum has executed a Lease Termination with the City for the Boyd Gate House and under terms of the Agreement paid the City \$46,000 for deferred maintenance costs. Boyd Park Opening will be Sunday, April 26 10-2 p.m. the program includes live music, inflatable play features for children, food truck service, program demonstrations and a free picnic blanket to the first 100 families. Albert Park is impacted by an influx in vagrants loitering, drug and alcohol use, trash, vandalism, loud and violent behavior. There are frequent complaints of intimidation. The closure of Boyd Park has caused the re-location of issues to this site and the City will respond. Earth Day activities will include a clean-up project at Pickleweed Park on April 18 at 9:00. A complaint of ADA compliancy has prompted an architectural review of Falkirk Mansion.

B. Falkirk Report

There was no report

C. Parks Report

Albert Park Ball fields are open. Crews have installed site furnishings at Boyd Park. Prior to January 28 most of the park furnishings were vandalized or disabled. They have been removed. Barbier Security Service is contracted to patrol three times daily until the park opens on April 26 when patrols will be increased. Boyd Gate House has been vacated. The City is complying with the mandatory water cutbacks set by MMWD. The goal for water use is to stay within allotment irrigating play fields first. Smaller turf areas in the Parkettes, for example may brown this summer season. Freitas Park water feature will open in May for four days per week, on reduced hours. Terra Linda Community Pool is open. LED lights were installed to replace the failed pool lights. Parks Crews will assist in the Downtown planter areas in preparation for May Madness car parade on May 8. A meeting is scheduled in May with residents of Gerstle Park Neighborhood to propose a tree planting/sidewalk repair partnership. Crews completed clearing on the Miracle Mile median

D. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of March 19, 2015

Laumann corrected paragraph 4 on page two, eliminating the reference to a reply. The reference to Gina Silvestre was noted. On page 2 "remove" was corrected to read "removed".

With the above corrections it was
M/S Jones/Holm to approve the minutes of March 19, 2015

AYES: Holm, Jones, Laumann, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz
NOES: None
ABSENT: Bustillos, Emerson

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.