

San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes: July 12, 2012

Chairman Ralph Mihan called the meeting of the San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Mark Bustillos, Eric Holm, Jeff Jones, Mark Lubamersky, Mark Machado, Ralph Mihan

Commissioners Present: Bustillos, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan

Commissioners Absent: Mark Lubamersky

Staff Present: Director Carlene McCart

1. Action Items

A. Albert Park Stadium and Ball Field Use Policy Draft Review

Director McCart introduced the item with a statement of purpose that expresses a need to quantify the community desire and stewardship for the use of the stadium and ball fields in Albert Park. The objectives of the proposed policy is to

- Create a standardized approach to fee assessment and space allocation for users
- Strive for an acceptable level of cost recovery that allows for the facilities and services to be available to the entire community.
- To provide for equitable and efficient access to facilities and services.
- To educate the public on the value of the facilities and services.
- To develop and maintain a fee structure based on a fair market value.
- To ensure that the allocation and fee schedule outweighs negative or detrimental impact.

She presented a sample outline of policy definitions, inventory, use and allocation priorities, reservation procedures, use regulations and fee schedules.

Chair Mihan began the discussion stating that this is the first meeting to consider a Policy for the use of Albert Park Stadium and Ball Fields. The ultimate policy will clarify the mission of the public facilities, inventory what is available for use and identify the proper and preferred uses of the stadium and ball fields. Albert Park is a City asset to be maintained, managed and used for its public benefit and preservation. The Commission may spend several months formulating a policy and reviewing it with the community before recommending a final draft to the City Council.

Commissioner Jones suggested a cost analysis be done on the operation of the Albert Park facilities.

Mihan opened public comment.

Mike Soldavini, with the Albert Park Neighborhood Association asked why the Commission was moving forward with a new policy when there is currently legal action pending against the City over the Agreement with Centerfield Partners.

Mihan responded that the City would continue to operate the facilities as per current procedures until such time as a Court ruling requires changes.

Claudia Paloo state that deed restrictions prevent the City from allowing corporate takeover of Albert Park and transparency in this process must be assured.

Adina Beaumont voiced concern over the cost of the process to develop a new policy; wait until September.

Samantha Sargent suggested the parameters of the new policy should relate to all facilities in Albert Park.

Joy Phoenix asked if the Bocce Courts would be included in the policy and offered that activities improve the park environment and create jobs.

Steve Lock asked that the policy address sound and noise issues, hours and duration of events, with consideration of the impacts on the community and surrounding neighborhood.

Samantha Sargent said the appropriate use is determined by the Deed; consider all uses that meet clear criteria such as no burden on City recourses, no potential damage to facilities and time consideration.

Mike Soldavini suggested the use of tenting on the field during events and emphasized the need to consider the impact of activity on the neighborhood.

Steve Lock suggested regulating the number of dates/ nights that the facilities can be utilized for different types of activities.

Robert Bordereau asserted it is the intensity of use and the number and lateness of hours that is the greatest impact.

Paul Richard stated boxing should be in a more appropriate venue; Albert Park should remain a family friendly environment.

Suzanne Murphy supported school fair type events and other school district activities as appropriate use of Albert Park.

Pam Feegles stated commercial uses should pay more than community groups.

Claudia Paloo: The Agreement with Centerfield Partners has first priority as it stands now.

Mike Soldavini added don't displace community use as priority, residents should have the highest priority for use.

Samantha Sargent stated the primary users should be youth groups.

Claudia Paloo requested the presence of alcohol at Albert Park activities should be evaluated and regulated.

Adina Beaumont: Is the presence of signage on the ball field legal? It should be regulation. How are funds appropriated?

Pam Feegles asked to consider that youth attend most events at the park.

Samantha Sargent promoted that signage advertising alcohol be restricted particularly for youth events.

The public comment time was closed.

Commissioner Baustios said the question of the legal proceedings and the Deed were under advisement and that the City needs to go forward with a policy. This discussion is not directed to the current Agreement with Centerfield Partners, and likely will not change the current use of the facilities for baseball, softball and volleyball but have more impact on the various other uses the City will allow in the facilities.

Mihan reminded the group that issues surrounding the Agreement with Centerfield Partners and the San Rafael Pacifics use of Albert Park are under consideration by the Albert Park Community Advisory Committee. The Committee meets next Monday, July 16 for the mid-season review. The public is encouraged to attend.

Mihan went on to say the type of use and the priority of use will be the key to the new policy; determination if the facilities are for broad community use, or limited to athletic activities. Noise, traffic and parking congestion, alcohol sales will be addressed, subject to any deed restrictions.

Joy Phoenix asked that no boxing events be allowed in any open venue.

Mihan thanked the public in attendance and advised that the Commission would continue to work on a draft policy to review with the community before final adoption.

Mihan requested staff to re-send a copy of the Albert Park Deed.

B. September Park tour Schedule

The Commission discussed the preference for tour stops and indicated Friday afternoons were the preferred times to schedule the tour.

2. Commission Items

A. Director's Report

McCart reported the Nave professional boxing event at Albert Park was approved by City Council. Pickleweed Park Community Center will be renamed in honor of Al Boro. Vendors at Pickleweed Park are creating a garbage problem with illegal sales; Private security has been hired to monitor the weekend activities in the Park. The San Rafael Airport proposal for the indoor soccer facility will be on the August 6 City Council Agenda. Police report fewer incidents at the recent Marin County Fair. Staff from Community Services, Community Development and the City Attorney's office made a collective response to the Official Complaint submitted by the Albert Park Neighborhood Committee over signage and the Albert Park Community Advisory Committee composition.

B. Falkirk Report

There was no report.

C. Parks Report

The Parks Division has installed gateway planting at Freitas Parkway, mad repairs to the deck at the Terra Linda Community Pool, as well as regular high season maintenance work. The Council
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agreed to the reduced maintenance of pocket parks and the Superintendant is formulating a cost savings estimate as well as an Adopt a Park program.

D. Report from Committees

There was no report.

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes may 17 and June 21, 2012

M/s Machado/ Holm to approve the minutes

AYES: Bustillos, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan
NOES: None
ABSENT: Lubamersky

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.