

San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2013

Chairman Ralph Mihan called the joint meeting of the San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission and Pickleweed Advisory Board 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

Board Members: Jenny Broering, Chair, Lieu Phan, Elizabeth Ruellan, Arlene Sukolsky

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

Commissioners Absent: Bustillos, Bassett

Staff Present: Director Carlene McCart, Parks Superintendent, Dave Davenport, Recreation Supervisor Steve Mason.

1. Action Items

A. Annual Report Marin Bocce Federation

Chairman Mihan welcomed Mark Bassett, President, and Tom Miller Past President of the Marin Bocce Federation. Miller submitted the Annual Report and provided the supplemental narrative. He also expressed appreciation for the support of the Commission and staff during his 3-year tenure as President of Marin Bocce Federation.

MBF a non profit organization operating since 1994 developed and manages the San Rafael Bocce Complex in Albert Park. The complex has 10 courts. 1200 players participate on 156 teams in League play each of three seasons per year. Drop in or open play has expanded to 25 hours per week serving 4000 visitors last year. Both League and Open play are public serving programs. In 2012 MBF hosted Marin Special Olympics, Cedars of Marin and 47 other non-profit organizations conducting activities and fund raisers at the Complex. 24 corporations and 140 private parties reserved court time as well. Income to operate the facility and programs is generated through League Fees, rental fees, and fundraising activities by MBF. In 2012 revenues were \$260,000, up from \$225,000 in 2011. Expenses were \$186,000.

MBF highlighted the 2012 accomplishments as formation of the League Captain's Committee, several events for the San Rafael Pacifics Baseball Club, formation of a Winter league season on the indoor courts, and the reconstruction of two existing courts.

Mihan congratulated MBF on a successful and profitable year. Commission accepted the Annual Report by consensus.

B. Annual Report Pickleweed Advisory Board

Chair Broering made a Power Point Presentation on the accomplishments of the Pickleweed Advisory Board in 2012. It depicted the mix of programs the Board is responsible for approving and monitoring in the Albert J Boro Community Center and Pickleweed Park as well as the celebratory events such as the renaming of the Community Center, the Day of the Dead, Holiday festivities and summer Circus. The Board approved 36 classes, events and activities sponsored by non-profit organizations at no or low cost to participants, free of charge at the Community Center, serving 13,587 youth and adults.

The Power Point also stressed the social impacts of the educational and enrichment programs, for example the estimated tax refunds received and spent in the neighborhood due to the free tax preparation assistance offered at the Community Center.

After discussion, the Commission thanked the Board for their service and their contributions towards the continued success of the Community Center and Park. By consensus the Commission accepted the Annual Report.

C. Appointment to the Pickleweed Advisory Board

The Commission greeted Lieu Phan, applicant for a vacant position on the Pickleweed Advisory Board. Ms. Phan has been a frequent visitor at Board Meetings, is active in the Asian senior group that meets at the Center, and participates in the Multi Cultural Older Adult Program. She comes recommended by Supervisor Mason as a welcomed addition to the Board.

The Commission reviewed the application and asked Ms Phan to address them. After recognizing her for her active role in several programs at the Center as well as her interest in serving on the board it was

M/s Gamblin/Holm to appoint Lieu Phan to the Pickleweed Advisory Board.

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

D. Measure A: Protect Marin's Parks, Open Space and Farmland Discussion

McCart summarized the topic discussion of the February meeting. Staff provided two lists of suggested projects, one for facility repair/improvement and the other for park related repairs and improvements. She suggested the lists be categorized as per the Commission, and then ordered in priority for recommendation to the City Council. The Council would like to hear the recommendation in May in a Study Session before acting on a final recommendation.

Commissioners discussed:

Combine the lists to accurately describe suggested projects for each park and/or facility site
Refine the lists to determine which projects responded to safety issues
Refine the lists to determine which projects provided maintenance benefits or relief for the City
Refine the lists to identify the locations of projects for equitable distribution of the benefit of the funds.

Commissioner Gamblin noted the estimated \$200,000 per year over the next 9 years generated by Measure A is not a large sum and will not fund all the projects on the current list. Commissioner Obletz suggested naming rights be considered as a means to raise more money for parks, and that volunteer work days could be utilized to address some of the project work proposed. Chair Mihan supports addressing the highest safety issues.

Staff requested a sub committee be assigned to review the new matrix and make suggestions at the next meeting on categories of priority. Commissioners Gamblin and Jones were appointed to the sub committee.

2. Commission Items

A. Director's Report

Mc Cart announced the Grand Opening of the Canal Community Garden. Departments are conducting tours with City Council members to orient them to operations. The Appellate Court ruled in favor of the San Rafael Pacifics and the City of San Rafael, finding no conflict with the use of Albert Park by the baseball club and the deed for the property. Staff is in conversation with the management of Terrapin Crossroads regarding the maintenance and use of adjacent Beach Park.

B. Falkirk Report

McCart described the repairs and upgrades to the Falkirk Greenhouse produced by the Marin Master Gardeners. The group has requested a gathering to recognize the accomplishments in April.

C. Parks Report

Superintendent Davenport reported with the spring the Parks Division has returned to a weekly mow schedule. Replanting of the Freitas Parkway entry median and the front landscape of the Boro Community Center is underway. Staff received a bid for replacement of the existing ball field lights at Albert Park. The Terra Linda Community pool was readied for use by the swim club and in April to the public. The Parks and Paths volunteer program resumed this month with repainting of the playground equipment in Pickleweed Park. Pt San Pedro median project is finished.

Commissioners inquired about the replacement of lamps in the ball field lights. Annually the City replaces up to 15 lamps. Wild Care is moving to a site adjacent to McInnis Park. There is no indication of when or who will re occupy the existing Wild Care facility, but concern for the parking impact on Albert Park Lane. Reduction in service to the green belts in the Spinnaker neighborhood has not taken place. Homeless activity in parks and open space continue to have significant impact on property and staff.

D. Report from Committees

Mihan reported the City is renegotiating with the San Rafael Yacht Club for extension of their lease. Through his discussions with the City Attorney the proposed lease now makes provision for public access on the property to launch oar powered vessels.

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2013

M/s Oblatz/Holm to approve the minutes.

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