

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
APRIL 24, 2003

COMMISSION:       PRESENT: Chair Hauser, Blauvelt, Scammell

                          ABSENT: Aschwald, Wall

STAFF:               PRESENT: Recreation Director Wilkinson,  
  Recreation Supervisor Whitley

Chairperson Hauser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2003

M/s Blauvelt/Scammell, to approve the minutes of March 27, 2003 as submitted.

Ayes: All   Absent: Aschwald, Wall

BUSINESS ITEMS

Chair Hauser stated the Commission would switch the order of the agenda and hear item #2 prior to item #1.

2. Plans for Dedication of High Canal Path

Recreation Director Wilkinson presented the staff report. He stated the bid has been approved and the work will begin in May. It will be finished sometime in June. A work group consisting of Councilmember Lundstrom, representatives of the local schools, and City staff will meet on May 7<sup>th</sup> to coordinate ideas for the dedication ceremony.

Ms. Nancy Weninger, representing the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, suggested the theme for the dedication be "Share the Path". This is the "buzz word" that implies there are rights and responsibilities to using multi-use paths. The Coalition received a donation of bicycle bells that they would like to pass out that day. She suggested that the event be publicized through the schools for greater participation. Local politicians should also be invited. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the dedication ceremony should be held before the end of the school year.

Commissioner Blauvelt stated the event should also be publicized in the Twin Cities Times and the Independent Journal.

Chair Hauser stated he would like to see the younger children targeted and he suggested holding a parade. Commissioner Scammell would like to see the schools get involved and hold some type of contest for the kids.

Recreation Director stated the “walking group” would also be in attendance along with representatives from the disabled community. He invited everyone to attend.

1. Parks Playground Inspection Report  
Report by Recreation Supervisor

Recreation Supervisor Whitley stated he, along with Jim Brunton of the Public Works Department, performed an inspection on April 22<sup>nd</sup> of all the playgrounds in Larkspur. He displayed the tools used to gauge the amount of risk for certain structures. He discussed the results of each inspection.

Greenbrae School Park

Recreation Supervisor Whitley stated aside from a few loose bolts, there were no deficiencies found and the structure was found to be ADA compliant. There was no need for fencing around the park since street traffic was minimal. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the neighbors would prefer no fencing.

Niven Park

Recreation Supervisor Whitley discussed the following problems: several head entrapment hazards; vandalism resulting in a depression burn in the slide; entanglement hazards; a fall hazard; splintered wood; re-caulking needed; penetration hazards.

Chair Hauser asked about the age of the structure. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated it was installed in the late 1970's or early 1980's.

Recreation Supervisor Whitley stated the structure was out of code compliance and not ADA accessible. He recommended the structure be removed and replaced with a new, code compliant structure. Several parts of the structure could be salvaged and used on the new structure. In addition, he suggested a cyclone fence be installed around the new structure.

Commissioner Scammell expressed concern with cost of bringing this structure up to code. Chair Hauser stated it would not make sense to make the existing structure compliant. Commissioner Blauvelt stated they could look at this during their upcoming park tour.

Piper Park

Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the bulk of this equipment was installed in 1996-1997. Recreation Supervisor Whitley discussed the following problems: entrapment

hazard; lack of a channeling device; lose pole; fall hazards; entanglement hazard; collision hazards; need to replace hardware; need to relocate tire swing. He stated most of these problems were fairly negligible and could be easily fixed.

### Dolliver Park

Recreation Supervisor Whitley discussed the following problems: entanglement hazards; entrapment hazards; need to remove swings; need for resilient surfacing; outdated hardware; blunt trauma risk; need for additional clearance; drainage issues; some jagged edges.

He suggested the blue and orange structure be replaced since the footings are rotting.

Chair Hauser asked about the needed renovations and how this fits into the Park Master Plan. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated none of these issues were on the high priority list. Commissioner Blauvelt asked about the status of the Prop. 40 funds. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated they would have a better idea on the status of the funds after July 1<sup>st</sup>. The City will receive at least \$220,000 and it is designated for park improvements.

Chair Hauser asked about the cost to replace the structure at Niven Park. Supervisor Whitley stated he was not sure but it would not be more than \$10,000 to \$20,000. Commissioner Scammell stated she was hesitant to install the cheapest model.

The Commission discussed the issue of liability and possible litigation against the City. Chair Hauser stated they need to prioritize the hazards and prevent injuries as opposed to avoiding liability. Supervisor Whitley stated many of the repairs could be done by the Public Works Department.

Commissioner Blauvelt suggested they go back and review and possibly re-evaluate the priorities of the Park Master Plan. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the cost for the entire scope of work called for in the Mini Parks Master Plan was \$1.2 million. He stated the Commission priority list was based on the following: 1) donations, 2) safety, 3) ADA compliance.

The Commission thanked Supervisor Whitley for a very impressive presentation.

### RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the Park Tour was scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will meet with the City Council in a joint meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> and the May 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Commission meeting will be cancelled. The first deadline for the Ross Valley Summer School Program at Bacich School was Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Hauser asked about the Lacrosse Program. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated a Lacrosse Program is renting space in Piper Park. The Lacrosse, Rugby, and Select Soccer Programs will benefit from the new multi-use field due to their December through

May schedules. Staff met with representatives from the Larkspur School District and the landscape architect to discuss Phase 2 of the design for the field. There is a shortfall of approximately \$300,000. The idea is to have a plan in place so they will be ready to proceed when the funding becomes available. Staff is meeting with five or six turf vendors soon. Staff met with the architects from the school district regarding the new offices for the Recreation Department. Staff will hopefully move into the new offices sometime in September or October.

#### COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS/OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORTS

Commissioner Scammell reported on the successful Roller Hockey Program and stated there had been several rain-outs.

Commissioner Blauvelt reported on the Environmental Forum of Marin. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated he could put this item in next year's budget if any one of the Commissioners is interested.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis  
Recording Secretary