



CITY OF PIEDMONT

Recreation Commission Agenda Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 120 Vista Avenue, Piedmont, CA

Call to Order

Public Forum This is an opportunity for members of the audience to speak on an item not on the agenda. The 10 minute period will be divided evenly between those wishing to address the Commission.

Regular Agenda

1. Welcome – New Recreation Commissioners: Glyn Burge, Jeff Dorman, Vincent Fisher
 2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 3. Approval of Recreation Commission Minutes – February 24, 2016
 4. Review of Recreation Commission Duties and Powers - Piedmont City Code Sec. 25.7
 5. Update - Hampton Park Master Plan
 6. Update - Potential Temporary Changes to Beach Playfield Use Restrictions during Hampton Construction
 7. Update – Aquatics Master Plan
 8. CIP Update
 9. Consideration of Betty C. Howard Awards
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Announcements, old business and consideration of future agenda items

Adjourn

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Recreation Commission are available for public inspection in the Recreation Department during normal business hours.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (510) 420-3040. Notification at least two business days preceding the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

In accordance with G.C. Sec. 54954.2 (a) this notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board and also in the Piedmont Police Department on April 15, 2016.

DRAFT

PIEDMONT RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2016

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Recreation Commission was held January 20, 2016, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on February 17, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stephen Mills called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Stephen Mills; Commissioners Brian Cain (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Kimberly Hebert, Carrie Graham Lee, Nick Levinson and Steve Roland

Absent: Vice Chair Elizabeth Andersen

Staff: Director Sara Lillevand

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers.

REGULAR CALENDAR

The Commission considered the following items of regular business:

Commissioner Levinson questioned whether his name shows as absent in a couple of places in the minutes. Ms. Lillevand clarified that Commissioner Levinson was noted as arriving late at roll call, absent for the vote for the minutes, and identified upon his arrival.

Minutes

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission approves, as submitted, its meeting minutes of January 20, 2016.

Moved by Levinson, Seconded by Roland

Ayes: Hebert, Lee, Levinson, Roland and Mills

Noes: None

Absent: Andersen and Cain

Chair's Report

Chair Mills had no report.

Director's Report

Director Lillevand gave the following report:

- Registration went live today for residents to register on-line for spring classes. For the first time the department did not print a spring brochure and all residents received a postcard in the mail letting them know the Activity Guide could be viewed on-line and that on-line registration started February 24th. A summer brochure will be printed, but given the spring brochure is the smallest of the year, staff determined that they could save costs and paper.

- They had good registration numbers today. If people cannot access programs on-line or they do not have a computer, they can contact or visit the Recreation Department and staff can provide assistance.
- Summer registration will go to print tomorrow and go live on March 16th. They are printing hard copy summer brochures and those should land in mailboxes during the week of March 7th. They will also be viewable on-line by March 4th.
- The Recreation Department is hosting a Summer Camp Fair this Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Recreation Department patio. There will be advanced copies of the summer brochure available on hand on Sunday and staff to answer questions and help families plan their summer.
- They have expanded their offerings for middle and high school aged kids for the summer and added a new program called Summer Side Kicks where high school students will be trained to provide one-on-one assistance to participants who need that in order to fully participate in their programs.

Commissioner Lee thanked Ms. Lillevand for alerting her about the brochure not being printed and said she remembers that when surveying other recreation departments, postcards were prepared for smaller seasons.

Commissioner Levinson asked and confirmed that the cost for the summer brochure is in excess of \$10,000 to print and additional costs for mailing. Ms. Lillevand said the man-hour work is still the same, but the costs are significant to print and mail brochures.

**Linda Beach Playfield
Use Restrictions**

Ms. Lillevand stated Hampton Field is one of three City-owned sports fields and this is targeted to be under construction from June 2016 to February 2017 which will have significant impact on field space. The biggest impact will be on Recreation Department programming during the summer and in the U-8 Soccer program that Piedmont Soccer runs in the fall. Hundreds of boys and girls participate every year and last fall 22 U-8 practices and 15 U-8 games took place each week at Hampton Field in the fall.

Piedmont Unified School District has been extremely accommodating and has allocated the Witter Softball Field to Piedmont Soccer Club for weekday use next fall which will take care of most of the practice needs that will have been displaced. Weekend game space is still sorely lacking.

Ms. Lillevand recommended for discussion tonight the possibility of temporary changes to use restrictions at Beach Field during the field closure at Hampton Field, as follows:

- No changes to the weekday restrictions or to the field lighting;
- Extending the Saturday permitted use to 6PM with no game starting after 5PM. Currently the restriction is 9-5 and this would go to 9-6.
- There is no scheduled use of Beach Field on Sundays and she proposed that Sunday mirror the Saturday use from 9-6 during the duration of construction at Hampton Field.

Chair Mills opened the public forum.

Noted Present

Commissioner Cain was noted present at 7:40 p.m.

Public Comments

Mark Pollock, 325 Howard Avenue, said he and neighbors will experience no impacts from the proposed changes and said the kids' sounds do not rise to the threshold of a nuisance. However, a group of adult males play on Saturday afternoon until dark and they significantly exceed noise thresholds. They feel entitled to use the field, police do not enforce noise or the 5PM cut-off time, and he asked that this nuisance be resolved.

Commissioner Hebert said she shops for groceries at Piedmont Grocery and she personally stopped and had altercations with these men. The City changed the rules such that they were only allowed to play half on the field. She said she has sat in her car and has watched them even playing in the rain. They play at 4PM, take up parking, can be heard when driving by with windows up, and she wants the neighbors to know that this has been an ongoing problem which the Recreation Commission is aware of.

She said they have invited the players to come and talk to them but none of them attend public meetings. There have been field monitors who show up to ensure they were abiding by rules and the City is not ignoring the situation.

Commissioner Cain said he, Commissioners Levinson and Mills have a unique perspective about this and they have seen it from all sides. He said if their agenda is to shut the game down and their calamity is lack of field space, he suggested eliminating this opportunity.

Jason Lambert, 801 Oakland, said in terms of supporting the use restriction and temporary removal for Sundays and Saturday evenings make sense. The U-8 Soccer program needs a place to play and they only have 3 fields that make sense. To the extent possible, particularly on Sundays, he asked if scheduling accommodations could be made so neighborhood families have time to play, as it is the only time of the week where local families and people in the neighborhood have time. And, based on his experience he asked to avoid scheduling before 10AM or 11AM, this would help groups.

Chair Mills returned discussion to the Commission.

Commissioner Roland asked whether the City has determined exactly how much time is needed. Also, at the last meeting the Commission talked about whether or not there could be games at the Witter Baseball Field, but this was not mentioned.

Ms. Lillevand said staff does not yet have an answer on using the right field at Witter baseball. She said extending the hour on Saturday and getting 9 hours on Sunday may just cover what they need. Currently there are games at Hampton Field all day Saturday from 9-5 and noon-5 on Sunday. She thinks it is close enough where if games could be just a bit shorter and perhaps less time is spent in between games, they can make it work if they have similar numbers of players this year. She said she does not think noon-5 on Sunday at Beach Field is enough time in their current setup unless space can be found elsewhere. Ideally, they would have right field at Witter in addition to the extra 9 hours at Beach.

Commissioner Hebert asked about baseball being taken away at Hampton Field. Ms. Lillevand said there is no baseball there in the fall. She believes fall ball takes place at Coaches and Witter. She said the start date is targeted for June 13 such that construction is completed before the start of baseball season in late February.

Commissioner Hebert asked if the summer camps held at Witter Field will be held on Beach Field. Ms. Lillevand said Beach is maxed out with programs in the summer and staff has done a great job of brainstorming ideas so they have not cut anything from summer programming, but they will have a lot at Hampton this summer. Some will be at Beach, some at Coaches, Wildwood Playground, on basketball courts, and the school district has been working with them in this process.

Commissioner Lee asked if the park could be used. Ms. Lillevand said they do use the park and the amphitheater as a home base and the lower level of Community Hall. They often have multiple camps running there each week.

Chair Mills asked if Crocker Park could be used for smaller kids. Ms. Lillevand said they talked about Crocker Park and Dracena Park which are not currently used and will not have either of those facilities in the brochure being printed. There are a few things that are to be determined if they need to, but given the use restrictions, they decided to move quickly to come up with other alternatives.

Commissioner Roland asked if the City maximizes use at Havens for soccer type events. Ms. Lillevand said the U-6 Soccer Club uses Havens a lot and they will continue to maximize its use. Commissioner Roland supported spreading use around fields and neighborhoods. If there is no other way than to use Beach for 9 hours a day for both weekend days and

they have exhausted all other efforts, he would support doing that. But, he would only support this if they cannot find another space because as a matter of fairness, if they could carve out time for people to use the field or to have peace and quiet, the City should try and accommodate that.

Commissioner Levinson suggested recommending to the soccer club that they schedule a 9 to 10 AM game on Sunday if they need that time. Commissioner Hebert also suggested holding one game in the morning and then doubling them up as it gets later in the afternoon which might allow for two activities going on and for families to access play time.

Ms. Lillevand stated Sunday will always be a particular challenge which has heated up in the last few weeks. She has received calls about people not following rules and not behaving well with each other. The City hired a monitor for Beach Field today and he will begin this Sunday and continue to monitor on Sundays.

Chair Mills said given ideas discussed he asked if scheduling kids on the field help solve some of the other problems regarding usage. Ms. Lillevand said she recognized this may help in the afternoons but there are currently three groups that arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. on Sundays who want the same half of the field. Commissioner Hebert suggested then scheduling games on all fields at those times. Ms. Lillevand said another idea is to schedule one field game and one side be used for open play. She noted there is nothing permitted on Sundays and half of the field by the tennis court can be used for a semi-organized pickup game and the other half left alone for free play.

Chair Mills said when he was running U-8 soccer programs, the two fields were used for two games, yet it was a total of two teams. It would not therefore be practical to split the field for half of the kids and half of the community. Otherwise they could change the hours and ask the club to leave 9:00 open.

Commissioner Roland suggested seeing how things go and whether field use can be constrained a bit when the time comes unless they can formally find another space.

Commissioner Hebert recommended that once times are picked, if there is any remaining space on the field in-between scheduled times during construction, that it be designated only for free play.

Commissioner Levinson referred to emails from neighbors, stating the first is more concerned about not changing lighting, but it also talks about parking.

Ms. Lillevand recognized parking impacts; however, the City is looking to install bulb-outs at crosswalks on Linda at the same time the Linda Kingston Triangle work gets done. By doing this, the site lines become

better and more parking becomes available on Linda. She agreed to return with the number of parking spaces for the next meeting. Commissioner Hebert asked if police could enforce those illegally parked.

Chair Mills confirmed that a motion was needed to make a recommendation for hours proposed for one season of soccer or neighbors affected for 8 months.

Ms. Lillevand suggested extending the timeline through the construction timeline in order for staff to be able to review recreation programs and further alleviate adult group use issues. She said right now on Saturdays the park is open from 9AM to 8PM or dusk, whichever is later. On Sundays, the park is open from 9AM to 7PM and she might think about shifting times a bit given neighbors' comments.

Commissioner Roland said the Commission could suggest a 9 hour time commitment for either 9AM to 6PM or 10AM to 7PM subject to further exploration by the Recreation Department. Ms. Lillevand said it would be easier to manage the morning than the evening from a monitoring perspective, so leaving the 9AM to 10:30AM spot open and making sure it works is more manageable and less impact on the neighborhood than trying to deal with the later evening impacts. Also, they could post better signage, locking the gate on the Linda side and other things if they need to.

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission recommends to the City Council that 1) amend the field use restrictions during the period of construction so that Beach Field can be used for 9 hours on Saturdays and Sundays with the exact hours, to be further studied by the Recreation Department; 2) that the Recreation Department be charged with making a concerted effort to determine if there is alternative space elsewhere in the City to alleviate some pressure on the need to use the full 9 hour block each day; 3) as a non-binding effort, the soccer club be encouraged to the extent feasible, to try and stay away from scheduling the full 9 hours on Sunday mornings if this is feasible, given the number of kids and teams; and 4) and that there will be no change in the lighting policy at the field.

Moved by Roland, Seconded by Levinson

Ayes: Cain, Hebert, Lee, Levinson, Roland and Mills

Noes: None

Absent: Andersen

Commissioner Lee said one of the CIP projects is the Beach Field and she questioned whether the Commission should think about having something like Coaches Field if nighttime use is such a problem in the neighborhood, noting that those living on Howard have decks which are very close. Ms. Lillevand said in reading the code, there is the provision that the City could choose to lock the facility if needed and this would involve fencing at Howard.

Hampton Park Master Plan

Ms. Lillevand gave the following update:

- Construction drawings and specifications are complete.
- The project will be advertised for public bid very soon with a bid opening at the end of March/early April such that the contract can go to the City Council either at the April 18th or May 2nd meeting.
- This targets construction for June 13, 2016 which is the Monday after school lets out, as well as Piedmont Playschool finishes and Piedmont baseball/softball seasons complete.

Commissioner Lee stated Hampton Field is completely fenced off which was to regrow the grass. She asked and confirmed that the fencing was supposed to come down this last week and it should be down by the end of the week.

Commissioner Roland commented that the grass does look better and he noted that work was also done on the infield.

- There is a working group of residents interested in closing the funding gap at Hampton and working diligently to secure more private funding. This core group includes Commissioners Andersen and Hebert and they will meet tomorrow and will have more information to share at the next meeting. The vision includes a donor area and work has been done at the LaSalle entry by Nancy Kent and Chester Nakahara as well as Harris Design to make some adjustments for donor bricks or paving stones, and others are assisting in the process as well.
- A user-friendly website will also be created for interested parties to purchase bricks or pavers, as well as additional donor opportunities for Hampton Field.

CIP and Facilities Update

Ms. Lillevand gave the following update on facilities:

- Award of contract for the Aquatics Master Plan will be on the March 21st City Council meeting and community meetings will follow in April and May prior to the close of school.
- Community Hall has been closed since the first of the year. The project is winding down and going well. The first scheduled event will be held on Saturday, March 5th.

Chair Mills provided the following CIP Update:

- The CIP committee met earlier this month and another meeting is being scheduled for March.
- Currently the CIP committee is formed of appointed members and a representative from each Commission. He is representing the Recreation Commission until his term ends and a new representative will be needed.

- He stated the Hampton Field project is now moving forward which was supported by the CIP, as well as other projects.

Ms. Lillevand questioned if the CIP representative is required to be a Commission Chair. Chair Mills said he believes it could be any member on the Commission and he suggested continuing to look at opportunities that arise, given the many needed projects.

**Announcements,
Old Business**

None

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Mills adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

DRAFT

SEC. 25.7 POWERS AND DUTIES OF RECREATION COMMISSION

The recreation commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To consider and make recommendations to the City Council on the planning, development and administration of programs and activities relative to public recreation and those facilities and public property under the control of the City for such purposes.
- (b) To consider and make recommendations to the Council on the development and implementation of rules of conduct, procedures, resolutions, ordinances or other pertinent matters relating to recreation in the City.
- (c) To assist in the execution of any plan, project, program or proposal relating to recreation in the City as approved or designated by the Council.