



CITY OF PIEDMONT

Recreation Commission Agenda Wednesday, April 18, 2018 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. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 2. Approval of Recreation Commission Minutes – December 20, 2017 and March 21, 2018
 3. Director's Report
 4. Consideration of the Betty C. Howard Award for 2017
 5. Update on Linda Beach Master Plan
 6. Update on Capital Improvement Projects Review Committee (CIP)
 7. Update on Facility Master Planning Projects
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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 13, 2018.

DRAFT

PIEDMONT RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 20, 2017

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Recreation Commission was held December 20, 2017, 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 December 15, 2017.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steve Roland called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Steve Roland; Vice Chair Carrie Graham Lee; Commissioners Glyn Burge, Jeff Dorman, Kobi Eshun, Vincent Fisher and Conna McCarthy

Staff: Director Sara Lillevand

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for Public Forum.

Chair's Report

Chair Roland welcomed new Commissioner Conna McCarthy and stated the Tennis Subcommittee has been temporarily placed on hold and will hopefully begin meeting at the beginning of 2018.

**Aquatics Survey
Center Survey**

Recreation Director Sara Lillevand reported that Dave Metz, of FM3 gave a presentation to the City Council regarding results of the Aquatics Center survey conducted in October/November. The survey resulted in 457 participants providing comments via telephone as well as on-line. The survey focused upon attitudes towards a municipal bond measure supporting recreational facilities with an emphasis on aquatics.

Ms. Lillevand summarized the survey results, noting that they indicated that respondents were quite pleased with how things are going in Piedmont and direction of the community. She noted that a large majority of respondents are happy with Piedmont's governance and services. The results indicate that 86% of respondents hold a favorable view of the Recreation Department, while 7% hold an unfavorable view.

Ms. Lillevand discussed the possible bond measure language included in the survey. She indicated that 53% of respondents were supportive of a possible bond measure at this time, but that this level of support falls short of the super majority required to pass a bond. She indicated that respondents were asked about different bond amounts, but that support levels remained the same for a \$15 million or \$20 million bond. She relayed Mr. Metz's conclusion that respondents did not see the upgrades to the pool or recreational facilities as an urgent matter.

Ms. Lillevand relayed that following receipt of this information, Council directed staff to reconvene the ad-hoc subcommittee of Councilmember Andersen and Mayor McBain to work with staff on possible public outreach and education initiatives. She also indicated that staff is working to obtain a professional opinion on the useable lifespan of the existing facility as well as what would happen in the event of a major failure at the pool.

**Hampton Park
Improvement Project**

Ms. Lillevand indicated that the Council has formally accepted the Hampton Park Improvement Project. She also indicated that a celebration was held to recognize the donors who gave so generously to the project.

Ms. Lillevand gave a brief history of the park and the project, noting that there were more than 300 private contributors, who gave a total of \$820,124 toward the project.

Commissioners asked about the overall cost savings for constructing the project in a single phase. Ms. Lillevand confirmed that staff had identified an approximate 10% cost savings based on economies of scale in utilizing a single phase.

**Design Concepts for
Coaches Field
Master Plan**

Ms. Lillevand reported that the Council received a presentation on the history of the work done at Coaches Field over the last decade and an overview of past suggestions for the field which came forward from two Piedmont residents.

Ms. Lillevand indicated that the Council directed staff to engage a landscape architect firm to evaluate a slight enlargement of the existing space to ideally fit a U14 soccer field, review artificial turf and lighting to achieve more play space and hours on the field. There will be an opportunity for the community to get involved and provide input.

Commissioners questioned costs, funding and whether a subcommittee was needed. Ms. Lillevand stated the Council had allocated funding for the master planning process based on recommendation from the CIP committee and she confirmed that a subcommittee could be formed in early 2018.

**Linda Beach Master
Plan**

Ms. Lillevand reported the first community meeting to discuss ideas for the Linda Beach Master Plan was held in November at the Beach School Auditorium. She indicated there was good attendance and that many ideas were voiced. Ms. Lillevand stated that the next community meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018 and that staff is focusing on gathering teen feedback for that meeting. Groundworks will return with conceptual ideas based on input from the first meeting.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Lillevand for the briefing and asked that pickleball be pursued as a use at the field.

Fall Fest 5K

Ms. Lillevand reported on discussions held about the Piedmont High School Boosters' potentially taking over the Fall Fest 5K event, previously run as a fundraiser for the PUSD Wellness Center. She indicated that the Wellness Center has been very successful in raising awareness and funds over the last decade and no longer need the race to support its budget. Discussions have also focused on changing the FallFest 5K run to be held in the spring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Fisher asked for a discussion of outdoor basketball facilities, noting that some courts on School District property have been locked. Ms. Lillevand agreed to agendize the topic and indicated she would contact PUSD to find out why they have been locking courts on their property.

Vice Chair Graham Lee asked for an update on the Schoolmates Program at the next meeting. Commissioner Burge suggested a discussion on the Recreation Department's organizational structure, which would also tie into resources for Schoolmates. Ms. Lillevand agreed to place this item on a future agenda.

Commissioner Eshun and Councilmember Jen Cavanaugh announced the “Let’s Talk-Building an Inclusive Piedmont through Deliberative Dialogue” program, which is intended to facilitate a thoughtful community discussion and ability for people to voice their views. The sessions will be held February 5, 11, and 12, 2018.

Ms. Lillevand announced that the same night of the Linda Beach master planning meeting on January 18th at 5:30 p.m., Natasha Singh will hold a Healthy Relationships program at 7:30 p.m. for parents of 6, 7, 8 and 9th graders at 801 Magnolia East Wing. For those participating to date, very positive feedback has been received.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

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

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PIEDMONT RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 21, 2018

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Recreation Commission was held March 21, 2018, 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 March 16, 2018.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steve Roland called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Steve Roland; Vice Chair Carrie Graham Lee; Commissioners Jeff Dorman, Kobi Eshun, Vincent Fisher and Conna McCarthy

Absent: Commissioner Glyn Burge

Staff: Recreation Director Sara Lillevand, Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public speakers for public forum.

Minutes

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission approves its meeting minutes of January 17, 2018, as submitted.

Moved by McCarthy, Seconded by Eshun

Ayes: Dorman, Eshun, Fisher, Lee, McCarthy and Roland

Noes: None

Absent: Burge

Chair's Report

Chair Steve Roland reported that the Capital Improvement Projects Review Committee met twice. He encouraged the public and City representatives to provide any input in terms of CIP projects. Their next meeting will be held March 27 with a tour around town, following a written report for major project recommendations.

Director's Report

Recreation Director Sara Lillevand reported that Recreation Supervisor Marissa Clavin has resigned and that Michael Murphy, Havens Schoolmates Site Coordinator and 36 year employee has been appointed Interim Recreation Supervisor. She indicated that Schoolmates Site Coordinator Sena Weidkamp, who has served the City for more than 20 years, will resign her position as of Friday, March 23rd.

Ms. Lillevand reported that the Coaches Field master planning process continues to move steadily forward. She indicated that City Council awarded a contract to Callender & Associates to develop a conceptual plan, including a re-examination of artificial turf, lights, and potential reconfiguration/expansion of the space to incorporate a U14 size soccer field.

She reported that the Recreation/Veterans Hall master planning process and assessment are nearly complete and are in the queue for presentation to the Recreation Commission at a future meeting.

Regarding the Aquatics Master Plan, Ms. Lillevand reported that the City is undertaking an in depth assessment of current facilities relative to the pool's life

expectancy and expected closure date if the a new facility does not move forward. She further reported that the pool experienced a gas leak, which required a temporary closure of the pool. Repairs began today and it is expected to be closed at least through tomorrow.

Ms. Lillevand reported that the middle school boys' basketball season concluded with the 7th Grade A team finishing in second place and the 8th Grade A team finishing in first place. She also indicated that all four competitive boys interscholastic basketball teams and their coaches fully participated in the Coaching Boys into Men program.

Staff is closer to finalizing plans for a new Schoolmates financial model to accommodate the significant impact of the Piedmont Unified School District's elimination of full day kindergarten. Ms. Lillevand indicated that projected revenues and expenses for the new program model will be presented at the public budget hearing on May 12.

**Linda Beach Master
Plan Preferred Option
Presentation**

Ms. Lillevand reminded the Commission of the process which has lead to tonight's presentation from Groundworks Office, Landscape Architects. She indicated that the work thus far has been productive and included two public meetings and an online survey, which received over 250 responses.

Ms. Lillevand then introduced Sara Peschel and Will Smith of Groundworks Office, Landscape Architects as well as Piedmont resident John Ware of Ware Architecture and Engineering who would provide a presentation and answer questions of the Commission.

Ms. Peschel gave an overview of the process for developing the three options which were presented at the second community meeting. These options were 1) Sports; 2) Nature; and 3) Hybrid.

Ms. Peschel indicated that residents provided feedback regarding restrooms, the tot lot, athletic field seating, additional play equipment, tennis, pickleball, public art, and a quiet area, and the possibility of adding a skate park.

From the feedback and comments received from residents and staff, the Groundworks Office staff arrived at seven guidelines they believed addressed all feedback received. They used these precepts to help develop the preferred option:

1. Park Identity – This will enable the design to strengthen the identity of this park as a neighborhood and community asset and a place for all ages and all abilities.
2. Circulation and Access – Related to poor access to the park, both physically and visually.
3. Green Space – Increasing and enhancing green space
4. Stormwater Management
5. Addition of Indoor Multi-Purpose Space
6. Event Space –Outdoor and multi-purpose space
7. Public Art – Finding ways to incorporate art into the park

Mr. Smith then displayed and described features of the preferred option for the overall site which is based upon recommendations of the City and requests from community comments. He indicated that site topography played a role in the

plan. He relayed the constraints that the preferred option had to work with, including maintaining the existing sports field as well as the request to keep both tennis courts. Groundworks Office was asked to increase the indoor and outdoor programmable space, improve circulation and add areas for formal and informal gathering. He also indicated that requests were received for playgrounds at both ends and activating the area under the redwoods as well as the area around the bridge.

Mr. Ware said the buildings have a relatively small footprint in the park but play an important role in serving user needs. He reported that the design team is working with City staff to balance the competing needs for space at Linda Beach Park while, at the same time, enhancing the site's unique qualities. He stated that four architectural program goals were set for the master plan:

1. To increase the multi-purpose space for programming indoor activities.
2. To provide restroom access at both the north and south ends of the park.
3. To provide limited enclosed storage for the Recreation Department and for maintenance equipment.
4. To improve the quality of the Schoolmates indoor space and add an outdoor classroom.

Mr. Smith then displayed the diagram showing circulation of the park with ADA accessibility. He pointed to primary points of access to the park and said the design team is aware of parking issues on the Howard Avenue side and is coming up with strategic ways through signage and other methods to make it clear that the primary park entrances are on Linda Avenue.

Ms. Peschel and Mr. Smith then displayed and described the two park levels in the preferred option in greater detail, including flexible spaces for events, play areas, terraces, tennis and pickle ball courts, seating elements, ADA access, green space, as well as graphic art, and a mural area. They described a proposed boardwalk, play zone, seating for the athletic field, restrooms, and skate spot. They also described the proposed plantings, which incorporate a California landscape.

They also described the possibility of using the large space under the Oakland Avenue bridge for storage of equipment. Lastly, they described the opportunities for art presented by the bridge, including murals and a light element.

Ms. Peschel then presented and described the stormwater diagram and program, stating they are committed to using every possible inch of the site to treat stormwater. When moving forward into the 85% designs of the project, the civil engineer will discuss best strategies and areas to tackle stormwater mandates.

Ms. Peschel said their job as the designers is to identify what seem to be the major priorities and concerns for the community and to align those with staff's requests for programmatic needs. Ms. Peschel indicated that this presentation will be given to the Park Commission on April 4th and to the City Council on May 7th. Once these three meetings are conducted, Groundworks Office will go through all comments, review where there are areas of conflict, and decide the best way to resolve the conflict so they can meet the needs of the greatest number of people.

Chair Roland thanked the design team for their presentation. He asked for Commissioner questions.

Commissioners asked questions about the availability of more detailed drawings, the locations and size of buildings and outdoor spaces, the target age of the tot lot, the joint use of courts between of tennis and pickleball, the proposed skate spot, use of the field between the Piedmont Unified School District, and how the various proposed uses were arrived at.

Public testimony was received from:

Lorri Arazi said she is a real estate broker representing 7 townhouses on Linda Avenue, expressed concerns about noise from the skate spot, but overall satisfaction with the preferred option.

Ayden Riley indicated support for bleachers around the athletic field and activation of the south end of the park.

Carol Leahy requested that the quality of life of neighbors on Howard Avenue be taken into consideration in the design.

Dan LaForte voiced his support of the preferred option stating it strikes a good balance between keeping the core functions of the park and also introducing new activities and activates unused spaces. He suggested traffic calming measure on the routes to the park.

Matt Jessee, Matty Jessee, Will Davies, and Tobin Cantrell supported the inclusion of the skate spot. Speakers indicated their opinion that skateboards and art go hand in hand. They also indicated skateboarding was soon to be an Olympic sport. They shared their difficulties finding locations to skateboard, and their belief that this is a good location for a use such as this.

John Gibbs commended the plan for its exciting creativity and level of design and refinement. He also indicated concerns regarding the proposal given the fundamental challenge that the park only has so much space. He referred Commissioners to his written correspondence for additional comments.

Jon Davies shared that the existing walkway is heavily used. He shared his thoughts on the terraces. He also voices concerns about parking, ADA parking and pressures in the area with neighbors. He also commended the inclusion of a skate spot.

Christine Cumbelich indicated her support for maintaining two tennis courts as well as the addition of bleachers and having tables and seating for post-game gatherings. She expressed noise concerns regarding the skate spot. She also expressed support for public art, but asked that it be in keeping with the neighborhood.

Kara Christensen suggested a single tennis court option, as it could allow for a larger skate spot and a larger tot lot area. She indicated that it could be placed closer to the street for better monitoring and the tot lot would still be close to the playfield.

Chair Roland thanked the speakers of their testimony and opened Commission discussion.

In response to a question from the Commission, Ms. Lillevand clarified that the Commission’s role tonight was to discuss the matter, ask questions, and provide their own feedback or concerns. She indicated that the feedback from the Recreation Commission meeting, the Park Commission meeting, and the City Council meeting will be used to inform the 85% design.

The Commission indicated its belief that the 35% design was on the right track, capturing public comments made at the community meetings and through the online survey. They urged the designers to take neighborhood impact and noise issues into account as they move forward with the design.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Lillevand announced that Bunny Blast is Saturday, March 24 from 9:30AM to 11:00AM in Piedmont Park. She also announced the Piedmont Pool Egg Dive on Saturday, March 31st from 1PM to 3PM. She reminded Commissioners that spring break is early this year as April 2 to April 6 and the Recreation Department will have Schoolmates available as well as camps that still have space.

She also announced lifeguard training and the annual Piedmont Relays event to be held on April 18th

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Roland adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

