



CITY OF PIEDMONT

Recreation Commission Agenda Wednesday, May 15, 2019 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. Approval of Minutes – April 25, 2019
 2. Chair's Report
 3. Director's Report
 4. Report from Subcommittee on Skateboarding and Scootering
 5. Update on PMS PE Court Renovation Project
 6. Update on Recreation Center Tennis Court Renovations and PRFO Fundraising
 7. Update on Capital Improvement Projects Review Committee (CIP)
 8. Update on City Website
 9. Betty C. Howard Award – June 4th 6:30pm
-

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 May 10, 2019.

DRAFT

PIEDMONT RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 25, 2019

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Recreation Commission was held April 25, 2019, 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 April 22, 2019.

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, Dick Carter, Jeff Dorman, Conna McCarthy

Absent: Commissioner Vincent Fisher

Staff: Recreation Director Sara Lillevand

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for Public Forum.

**Election-Chair and
Vice Chair**

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission elects Steve Roland as Chair.

Moved by McCarthy, Seconded by Graham Lee

Ayes: Burge, Carter, Dorman, Graham Lee, McCarthy

Noes: None

Absent: Fisher

Abstain: Roland

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission elects Conna McCarthy as Vice Chair.

Moved by Graham Lee, Seconded by Burge

Ayes: Burge, Carter, Dorman, Graham Lee, Roland

Noes: None

Absent: Fisher

Abstain: McCarthy

Minutes

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission approves its Recreation Commission Meeting minutes of March 20, 2019, as submitted.

Moved by Carter, Seconded by Dorman

Ayes: Burge, Carter, Dorman, Graham Lee, Roland

Noes: None

Absent: Fisher

Abstain: McCarthy

Chair's Report

Chair Roland had no report.

Director's Report

Recreation Director Sara Lillevand reported that today was Michael Murphy's last day with the Recreation Department after 37 years. A nice luncheon was held and a community-wide celebration will be held on May 5th at Hampton Park from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Chair Roland and Commissioners recognized the dedicated service of Michael Murphy and wished him well.

Ms. Lillevand referred to previous requests by Commissioners for specific agenda topics. She confirmed these items have not been forgotten and will be agendized in upcoming meetings.

**Skateboard and
Scooter Subcommittee**

Commissioner Burge reported that the subcommittee and John Wilk reviewed options for expanding and improving skating and scooter opportunities. They will present their final report at the next meeting on May 15th. He briefly reviewed the subcommittee's general findings and stated feedback could still be provided via the on-line survey.

Ms. Lillevand spoke about the proposed skate spot and voiced appreciation of the subcommittee's creativity in serving skaters.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

Pickleball Trial

Ms. Lillevand announced the launch of the 8-month Pickleball trial. Pickleball began on April 6th. Pickleball play is allowed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Sunday afternoons at Beach; and on Wednesdays and Fridays early afternoons at Hampton. Four courts were striped on the tennis courts at Beach and 4 courts at Hampton with different configurations. The immediate neighbors of Beach and Hampton tennis courts will be surveyed beginning in May to determine any noise impacts.

Separately, the Department is offering a recreation program on Saturday mornings at the Piedmont Middle School PE courts.

Commissioners briefly discussed participation levels, court usage on Saturday mornings and on the tennis courts, and relayed concerns regarding the light color of the striping, which Ms. Lillevand confirmed would be re-painted if pickleball continues long-term at Hampton.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

Chair Roland asked for future updates by staff regarding the Pickleball courts behind the middle school.

**New Recreation
Supervisor**

Ms. Lillevand introduced and welcomed Jackson Stearns, the City's new Recreation Supervisor. She described Mr. Stearns experience and background, and Commissioners welcomed him to the City. Mr. Stearns said he looks forward to serving the Piedmont community.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

**Piedmont Community
Pool Closures, Repairs
& Staffing**

Ms. Lillevand reported the pool was partially closed during the School District's spring break due to its proximity and conditions associated with demolition of the Alan Harvey Theatre on the high school campus. The pool remained open in the early mornings and evenings for lap swimming and for swim team practices but closed during construction hours, and PRD was not able to run a Lifeguard Training class.

Ms. Lillevand described needed pool repair projects, stating she will return with a more thorough report to present to the City Council later this year.

Ms. Lillevand indicated that interviews will be held tomorrow for the vacant Aquatics Coordinator position. She also indicated that alternative methods of lifeguard training are being reviewed in an effort to speed the training process. She suggested that those interested in a lifeguard position can contact staff or apply on-line.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

2018 Betty C. Howard Award

Ms. Lillevand provided background about the Betty C, Howard Award, as well as the selection criteria and process. She indicated that there are two categories for the award, one for employees and another for volunteers. For the employee award, she recommended preschool teacher Joanna Wood, describing her many qualifications. For the volunteer category, she recommended volleyball coach Zach Jones, describing his contributions to the city.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

Commissioners voiced their support for Ms. Wood and Mr. Jones and thanked staff for continued recognition of individuals in the award program.

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission nominates Preschool Teacher Joanna Wood for the 2018 Betty C. Howard Award under the ‘employee’ category.

Moved by Dorman, Seconded by Graham Lee
Ayes: Burge, Carter, Dorman, Graham Lee, McCarthy, Roland
Noes: None
Absent: Fisher

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission nominates Volleyball Coach Zach Jones for the 2018 Betty C. Howard Award in the ‘volunteer’ category.

Moved by Burge, Seconded by Dorman
Ayes: Burge, Carter, Dorman, Graham Lee, McCarthy, Roland
Noes: None
Absent: Fisher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Dorman requested an update on the Schoolmates program, which Ms. Lillevand indicated would occur in the fall/winter timeframe.

Commissioner McCarthy announced that the CIP Tour will be at 8:00 a.m. on May 4th; CIP recommendations will be made to the City Council on May 11th.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Roland adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

**Piedmont Recreation Commission
Skate and Scooter Sub-Committee Report
5/15/2019**

Sub-Committee Members - Vincent Fischer, Carrie Graham Lee, Glyn Burge, and John Wilk (PRD Liaison)

Purpose

Review current skating and scootering options in the City of Piedmont including the Piedmont Skate Park and explore ways to expand and improve opportunities.

The Recreation Commission has received numerous comments from the public about the poor functionality and deteriorating condition of the Kennelly skate park as well as the lack of skate friendly areas in the city. In addition, the recently approved Beach Field Master Plan excluded any skate friendly features from its design.

The committee elected to focus on the following two issues:

1. Kennelly Skate Park usage and functionality
2. Alternate locations in Piedmont for an additional skate area

Kennelly Skate Park



Committee members met on several occasions at the Kennelly Skate Park and also visited several other skate parks in Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley. The committee reviewed a 2016 evaluation of the Kennelly Skate Park completed by Sean O'Loughlin, Skatepark Coordinator for the City of Berkeley.

The committee solicited feedback from the community via an online user survey and received 42 responses.

Survey observations:

1. The majority of park users are 18 or younger and are from Piedmont.
2. The majority of users are beginner or intermediate skill level.
3. The majority of users do not feel a park monitor is helpful and would like park hours to be expanded.
4. The majority of users feel the park is too difficult and that easier features and a better flow throughout the park would be helpful.
5. The majority of users do not feel parking is a problem.

Committee observations:

1. Access is difficult and limited and irregular hours of operation frustrate users. Some park users end up climbing the fence.
2. The park design is not functional for beginner and intermediate skaters who are the majority of users. Many features are simply too difficult to use. And the flow from one feature to another is poorly laid out and create congestion. For example, the bowl at the bottom is a very difficult feature that is rarely used and is located where errant boards can run into it creating a dangerous situation.
3. There is no water fountain.
4. Park concrete is cracking in many areas creating safety concerns.
5. The current access through Coaches Field requires users to walk up to the parking lot and back across the field to the park access gate. As many skate park users walk to the park from Piedmont, having a direct sidewalk connection below the baseball backstop on Moraga would greatly improve access.
6. There is no shade or spectator area or picnic tables. Families and groups can't really use the park for events and lack of a meeting area makes programming (such as summer camps) difficult. The park has a spectacular view of the bay which is not currently taken advantage of.
7. Due to the lack of gathering space and infrastructure and difficult nature of the features, programming and rentals are virtually non-existent. For several years the Cal Skate Camp rented the park for summer camps. Cal no longer uses the park and indicated part of the reason is that it is simply too difficult for beginners.

Recommendations

1. Redesign the park to make it more attractive to beginner and intermediate skaters.
2. Add a meeting or spectator area to facilitate group use with shade.
3. Consider opening the park without a monitor.
4. Add pedestrian access off of Moraga below the baseball diamond.

5. Add a water fountain.

Alternate Skate Area Locations in Piedmont

The committee discussed whether it would be practical to locate another area in town for a skate park. Many residents have concerns about noise, property damage, and the potential nuisance factor and, as a result, the committee felt this would be a daunting task beyond its capabilities.

As a potential alternative to a full sized skate park, the committee came up with the idea of a skate spot. A skate spot would be a micro skate park with perhaps 2-3 skate friendly features (such as a rail, a short ramp, or a box) that can fit into a small area. Similar parks have been built in Oakland and Berkeley with success. All are different sizes and have different features. The unifying theme is that they give skaters a thoughtful well designed area for skateboarding that is not disruptive to neighbors.

One possible location for a skate spot in Piedmont is next to the Piedmont Recreation Department offices at 358 Hillside. The PRD building has a long driveway on its west and south sides that is rarely used for vehicles and, according to Director Lillevand, is not a required maintenance or fire access road. Also importantly this location is screened from residences by the PRD building itself and is well located for use by youth ages 12-18 due to its proximity to PHS and PMS. A photo of the proposed skate spot location is below.



The committee believes that building a skate spot next to PRD would be relatively inexpensive. Features might include a slide rail, a box, and perhaps a small ramp. The asphalt roadway would likely need to be leveled and smoothed out. And possible a few benches and signage added.

The committee recommends that a design and budget be developed for the skate spot at PRD. If the PRD skate spot is successful, the features and concept could be applied to other areas in town where appropriate.

///