

CITY OF PLACERVILLE
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
July 17, 2013
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Recreation & Parks Commission: Jerry Barton, Andrew Mathews, Jackie Neau, Richard Zito and Ryan Gray, High School Representative.

Recreation & Parks Staff: Steve Youel and Matt Lishman.

ABSENT: Peter Nolan, Commissioner.

GUESTS: Sue Rodman, Michael Drobesh, Evelyn Veercamp.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Mr. Zito made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Barton seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Barton pointed out a typo under Potential Dog Park Development. The word “reactions” should be “recreation”. Mr. Mathews made the motion to approve the minutes of May 29 with a typo correction. Mr. Zito seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

STATUS REPORTS:

Youth Assistance Fund: Mr. Lishman reported that there were 42 requests since our last meeting in the amount of \$1,174.50. There was \$20.00 received in donations. The projected fund balance is \$3,156.32.

Potential For Future Park Development (Caltrans Property): Mr. Youel spoke to the City Engineer and the property may become available to the City within the next six months. There doesn't seem to be any reason the City could not develop that site. There are some concerns with ADA requirements and line of site entering and exiting the property. Mr. Barton suggested a potential site along the El Dorado Trail close to Schnell School Road.

ACTION ITEMS:

Park Rules Ordinance: Mr. Youel reported that the Commission has been asked to make a recommendation to City Council on revisions to the proposed Park Ordinance. City Council is seeking direction on two conditions. The first is in regards to supervision of dogs and animals in the park and the second condition relates to the possession of firearms. Mrs. Neau stated that at the last City Council meeting, there was a discussion regarding taking the trail out of the ordinance. Mrs. Neau stated that she opposes the idea of moving the trail out of the ordinance. Mr. Barton stated that he does not support the idea of closing the trail after dark as the trail can be used as a way of travel. Mr. Youel supports Council's decision to take it off the list of recognized parks and address trail rules separately.

Public comment to the trail – Sue Rodman suggested taking the trail out of the ordinance. Michael Drobesh also suggested the trail portion be taken out.

Public comment on the leash law – Michael Drobesh said he doesn't like it to reference a City code and that it should just say all pets should be on a leash. Sue Rodman said she disagreed that some animals should not be required to be on a leash if they sit on their shoulder. It should read that the animal should be under your control. Ms. Veercamp stated she has been breaking this ordinance forever because she does have her dog off leash. She is responsible and is aware of her surroundings. Could responsible dog owners contract with the City for a fee to be allowed to have their dog off leash? Dogs that are trained to be off leash need to have a place to work so they don't forget their training. Mr. Zito understands letting dogs run wild but people don't know how other dogs will react. Ms. Veercamp uses Rotary Park three or four times a day. She has never seen a problem with a bad dog or an irresponsible owner. Mr. Drobesh suggested that it may be ok for people to apply for a permit. Mr. Drobesh suggested that he would like to see a sign that says to report any problems to the Parks Department. Mr. Zito stated that the ordinance is written very well. He was very surprised to see this come back. His concerns are that he does not know someone else's dog and how they are going to react. Mr. Zito has no problem with a public leash law. He sees it as a public safety concern. Mr. Zito does not agree with allowing voice command. Mr. Barton stated he agrees with Mr. Zito and believes the leash law needs to be in place. Mr. Barton stated it would be really nice to have a dog park in town for people to take their dog somewhere off leash. Mr. Mathews stated he believes there should be a leash law. Mr. Mathews stated that rule enforcers could have discretion. Mrs. Neau stated she would like to see the leash law stay as it is but would like to look at a potential dog park as a long term solution to the problem.

Mr. Zito made a motion to keep "c" in but remove the language that says "and shall comply with City Code Section 6-3-1". Mr. Barton 2nd the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Firearms – Mr. Barton made a motion to keep #6 Firearms with the exception of removing the last part of the last sentence that says "who, while utilizing the park, leaves a firearm in a locked vehicle within the parking area of the park". Mr. Mathews 2nd the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Sue Rodman suggested that the closing times of the park should be more specific or just say from Dusk until Dawn. Mr. Drobesh stated he does not like a specific time as the seasons do change. Mr. Mathews stated he doesn't like specific times because of the time changes through the year. Mr. Youel recommended we don't have parks open when it's dark if they are not designed for that type of use. Mr. Drobesh stated he wanted the trail taken out because of the time constraints. Sue Rodman stated she feels there needs to be some language added in the smoking section that it is there "to prevent wild fire and for the comfort of other park users smoking is only allowed in designated areas with trash receptacles."

Mr. Mathews suggested that we keep everything as is for now.

Mrs. Rodman suggested alcohol 1 and 2 get reversed. Mrs. Rodman suggested that some language should be added under #8 fire - that stated if someone starts a fire they will be held liable.

Mrs. Rodman suggested letter “h” under ejection be moved to the end of item “c”.

Mr. Youel stated staff will go through the comments and share them with City Council for consideration.

Potential For Future Dog Park Development: Mr. Youel stated that staff has a couple ideas for a potential dog park. Mr. Youel stated there is additional land at Lumsden Park. Parking is an issue at Lumsden Park. There is room to add more parking if necessary. This would come at an expense to the City. The City’s Master Plan shows that the park is not ADA compliant. The Caltrans property below Kentucky Fried Chicken could be another potential site. Another idea is to try and partner with the County to see if they have any property that could be developed. Mr. Zito suggested the old baseball field by the race track as a good location. Mr. Barton suggested maybe the property along the El Dorado Trail near Schnell School. It would be convenient for people already walking their dogs. Mr. Zito suggested the Old Mill site by Jacquier road.

Mr. Barton suggested that staff pick three sites to concentrate their efforts on; Jacquier Property, El Dorado County Fairgrounds, and the El Dorado Trail.

Mr. Youel stated it might be worthwhile to make contact with the County Recreation and Park Commission.

Mrs. Neau proposed we have a joint meeting with the County Recreation and Park Commission along with the public. It was suggested to direct staff to set up a meeting with the County Recreation and Parks Commission.

Mr. Youel will talk to County Staff to set up a joint meeting between the two Commissions to discuss potential dog sites.

The Commission supports the Council having discussions with the County if necessary.

Mrs. Neau adjourned meeting at 7:38 PM.