



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
7:00p.m.

**El Cerrito City Hall
Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Management Assistant at 510-559-7000. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the city to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFT 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

1. Roll Call:
Commissioners present: Chair Doshi, Commissioners Leslie Goldstein, Michele Jawad, Steve Lipson, Margo Takemiya, Robin Mitchell
Commissioners Excused: Commissioner Seth Kaplan

2. Commission/Staff Communications Announcements:
Commissioner Takemiya announced the start of the Spring Session of Quick Start, a youth tennis program. Signups will be this week.

Baseball and Soccer seasons have started.

3. Oral Communications from the Public: None

4. Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Lyman
Councilmember Lyman announced that at the February 7, 2011 Council meeting it was announced that the Tennis Association donated \$25,589 to the Recreation Department for tennis. The Council passed several items in opposition to the Governor's budget proposing to terminate the Redevelopment Agency. If this happens, there will be a \$1,000,000 shortfall in the General Fund.

At the February 22, 2011 Council meeting, the Council voted to include the Public Safety, Library, and Senior Center in the Redevelopment area. It was announced that El Cerrito was acknowledged as the first city in Contra Costa County to achieve the Heart Smart Community Award. One of the criteria for the award was the number of defibrillators in the City.

5. Staff Communication:
Kortz reported that at the next Council meeting Relay for Life will be requesting a fee waiver. This will allow free use of the clubhouse and Cerrito Vista field.
6. Approval of the Minutes:
Commissioner Takemiya moved, and Commissioner Goldstein seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Progress report regarding El Cerrito High School; Update of Portola Middle School at Castro Site:

Bill Savidge, West Contra Costa Unified School District. Savidge showed plans of Phase 1 of the El Cerrito High School fields, which includes baseball and softball diamonds, tennis courts and football field. He announced that public meetings are planned for the design for a new stadium.

Fairmont Elementary School will be the next renovation project under the Measure D 2010 bond. In the master plan there is a two-story structure. Relocation of the students during the construction phase is still undetermined.

Savidge thanked the City for assisting with allowing Portola students access to Cerrito Vista and the Community Center. The Portola students are in portables. Demolition of old school is now a priority.

Marcia Vallier, principal of Vallier and Associates displayed plans of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the El Cerrito High School Field Renovation.

Phase 1 includes a multi-purpose field with a baseball, soccer, and softball fields, five tennis courts, and lights along three sides, excluding the residential side. Phase 1 has been bid and is under construction. It will be artificial turf.

Phase 2 will have an international track with soccer and football fields in the center. There will be a long jump, triple jump, discus, and shotput, and will be lighted. The bleachers will be in the same configuration as the old stadium. The stadium will be lighted. There will be a retaining wall along the front of Ashbury Avenue. Commissioner Takemiya asked if there will be five courts, even though she had seen plans with six. Vallier explained that there are five to allow room for the track. The tennis courts will not be lighted. The existing lights will be re-lamped to provide more light. New lighting would have required environmental review.

Chair Doshi asked if the soccer field would be competition size, and it was confirmed that it was. Commissioner Goldstein asked if both phases were fully funded, and Savidge replied that full funding is anticipated. Completion of Phase 1 will be around August 2011.

The project architect for the relocation of Portola Middle School to the Castro site gave a presentation. Chair Doshi asked if the field area will be fenced off from the school. There will be something done with the school-age appropriate play structure. The field will be used by the Portola kids. The entrance to Castro Club house will be changed.

It has not yet been fully determined how school district will improve the park. Commissioner Mitchell asked about the garden area, which was pointed out to be on the plans. Construction will start next year.

Discussion about field usage: Chair Doshi asked if youth groups can use the high school facilities when the high school is not using the fields. Savidge replied that the high school's use of its fields will be pretty intensive, but acknowledged that the School District promotes Community usage. Commissioner Lipson recognized the City's joint use agreement asked if the City's Recreation Department could be responsible for scheduling of fields, e.g., Sundays. Commissioner Lipson asked about field protection, and was reassured that there would be perimeter fencing, gates, and surveillance cameras. Savidge said that his guess is that the high school will still want to approach the City about use, either Cerrito Vista or Harding. Chair Doshi asked if funds will be available for Cerrito Vista or Castro from the school district to upgrade fields. Savidge did not know. He said that in the Portola project there will be upgrades made to the site. He also mentioned that the school district pays for usage of facilities and fields. He said it was unknown future of the old Portola site. The old Portola gymnasium will be torn down.

Councilmember Lyman asked about lighting. Savidge explained that the high school stadium will be lighted. Lighting for the practice field is still a possibility. Neighborhood meetings have not yet begun for Fairmont.

Commissioner Jawad recommended informing the School Board that she is aware that the city would like to acquire Portola gymnasium.

8. Discussion/motion to recommend Installation of Batting Cage at Cerrito Vista Park:

Commissioner Lipson explained that the former high school batting cage and movable pitching machine will be installed along the third base line of the large field. No cement pad is necessary, and it will be locked. It will be available for rent. There will be signage about helmets and safety. Commissioner Lipson moved to have staff recommend to Council that a temporary batting cage be installed at Cerrito Vista Park. Commissioner Takemiya seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Ellen Paasch, Adult Services Supervisor, will provide the Commission with an overview of Adult Services Programs:

Paasch introduced Nousheen Chaudry, Program Coordinator. She explained that the official new name for the division is Adult Services and Programs Center.

10. Staff Report:
 - a. Day camp sign ups are picking up.

- b. Fencing around the pool cost about \$1,000
 - c. The pool has been having heater problems. The new heat exchange costs \$9,000.
 - d. The Annual Dynamo Golf tournament has been postponed. Mira Vista Country Club is replacing its greens.
 - e. Bill Driscoll, Maintenance supervisor reported on the tennis court resurfacing at Cerrito Vista. He reported that the Arlington courts has cracks and will be the next repair project.
11. Future agenda item:
- a. Huber park
 - b. Discussion changing day of week.
 - c. Community Garden
 - d. Letter to school board asking not to tear down gym

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lori Teachout
Management Assistant