

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
FEBRUARY 26, 2018  
APPROVED MINUTES**

Commissioners

Present: Fred Casissa, Chair  
Sarah Elsen  
Pam Fong  
Emily Janowsky  
Elein Phipps

Commissioners Nathan Blomgren  
Absent: Eric Engstrom

Staff Mario Fiorentini, Recreation Director  
Present: Brian Hernandez, Recreation Supervisor

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Casissa opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

3. PRESENTATIONS

- Basketball Court Renovations in Town Park

M/s, Janowsky/Fong, and approved unanimously (Blomgren, Engstrom absent) to move this item to Business Item #1.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

5. PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

5.1 Commissioners' Reports

- February Town Council Meetings

Commissioner Phipps stated the February 6<sup>th</sup> Council agenda included a discussion about Measure "B" (Sales Tax) and funds that are set aside for use by the Recreation Department. She was not able to attend the second Council meeting.

- Individual Commissioner Updates

There were no updates.

- Executive Advisory Committee

Chair Casissa reported the Executive Advisory Committee did not meet.

5.2 Park and Recreation Director's Report- Update

- Community Center

- Outdoor
- Neil Cummins Gym
- Kids Club
- Summer Playground
- Special Events
- Capital Projects
- Disaster Council
- Budget Status

Recreation Director Fiorentini reported the Community Center is hosting quite a few Neighborhood Response Group (NRG) meetings. Staff is trying to get a handle on how many NRG groups exist and how much space they might need. Staff is planning on opening up the sports fields earlier than normal due to the mild winter weather. He is working with the Public Works Department on this- they are shooting for April. The Neil Cummins Gymnasium busy season is winding down- CYO basketball, indoor soccer, etc. will be finishing up soon. Summer Playground Program Director Ashley Parrot will be making a presentation to the Commission at the April meeting. He referred to Capital Projects and stated staff was in the process of trying to iron out some structural details for the Shade Structure- the project should be completed in the next six to eight weeks. The new Finance Department software has been implemented and the Commission will be able to access more budget information on the Website. Chair Casissa asked for an update on the Age-Friendly Intergenerational Center. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated staff will be converting the east wing of the Community Center (back offices of the Recreation Department staff) into four rooms. These rooms will be designed to provide intergenerational programming for the community. Staff, along with the Age-Friendly Corte Madera representatives, are working on a schedule. The Grand Opening will be April 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. New staff offices will consist of modular buildings behind the Community Center. Chair Casissa asked if staff did any outreach to teen groups. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated “yes”- this is being done by the Mayor and the Age-Friendly group.

Chair Casissa reported the Lions Club will be donating \$1,000 to the Kid’s Club for scholarships.

## 6 BUSINESS ITEMS

### 6.1 Basketball Court Renovations in Town Park

Mr. Sean McCormick gave a PowerPoint presentation and discussed revitalizing the basketball court in Town Park. The project would include: 1) Resurfacing; 2) New hoops; 3) Lighting; 4) Artwork. This project would benefit the entire community and create diversity. The existing court is in the perfect location with parking and a north/south orientation. He discussed the different type of backboards, surfaces, court dimensions, etc. A lighted court would give bored teenagers something to do. He also discussed the need for benches. Costs by priority are as follows: 1) New hoops- \$2,600; 2) Resurfacing- between \$10,000 and \$40,000; 3) Lighting- cost unknown; 4) Seating- depends upon type and configuration; 5) Artwork- \$1,000 for design with free labor.

Chair Casissa asked if the existing court was regulation size. Mr. McCormick stated the length was regulation size for high school (84 feet long) but the width was off by about 3 feet on the west side.

Chair Casissa asked if the existing court could be resurfaced. Mr. McCormick stated he thought so- it was concrete.

Chair Casissa asked if the hoops would move up and down. Mr. McCormick stated “yes”.

Chair Casissa asked if a project that included lighting would need to go through the Planning Department. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated it would require some level of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review plus extensive neighborhood outreach.

Commissioner Elsen asked if there would be any benefit to installing a fence. Mr. McCormick stated they do not need fencing. Chasing balls is half the fun. Different style benches would provide an aesthetic appeal.

Commissioner Fong asked about funding and possible fundraising activities. Chair Casissa stated the Town contributed the bulk of the money for renovations to the Skate Board Park but there was also a fundraising effort spearheaded by a local resident and some skater boarders. Mr. McCormick stated he was willing to work towards finding a way to get the funds. He was open to suggestions.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Will Sink, San Francisco, stated he got a price of \$7,000 to \$9,000 to resurface the courts from a paving company. Standardization is very important in terms of the dimensions and the surface. The community will come and play on a really nice court- it is a good way to meet people and make connections. He presented a sketch of some possible artwork.

Mr. Joe Graff, Alameda, stated the court should have lights. They could be turned off at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Sean McCormick asked about the hurdles to getting lights (noise, light pollution, aesthetics?). Chair Casissa stated it was all of the above. Some of the neighbors would be shielded from it while others would have concerns. Commissioner Fong stated another concern would be people congregating at late hours and causing problems.

Mr. John Barnes, Mill Valley, stated he coached CYO basketball and went to Indiana University (go Hoosiers!). People would come to this new facility especially if it is done first class.

Mr. John McCormick, Fair View Avenue, stated basketball can create community and excitement. The lighting issues would need to be dealt with to some degree. The right kind of artwork could lift spirits.

Chair Casissa asked about the cost of maintenance and the project life span of the surface. Mr. Sean McCormick stated the court would need to be resurfaced in six to eight years. There are things that can be done to increase the longevity including making sure it was completely leveled and regular grooming. Some hoop companies offer life time warranties. Chair Casissa noted the project would need to be ADA compliant which would add to the cost.

Chair Casissa closed the meeting to public comments.

Chair Casissa asked Recreation Director Fiorentini about the next steps. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated there was a great deal of support from staff and the Commission. Next steps include getting cost estimates and answering, ADA questions, etc. Staff could bring the idea to the Council after that. Chair Casissa asked if staff could have numbers by next meeting. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated he would get them as soon as possible.

## 6.2 Discussion and Possible Action of Fiscal Year 2018/19 Fee Resolution- Admin. Edits

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. He briefly discussed the continued collaboration with the Larkspur Recreation Department. He noted staff recommends a change to Section II (B) to include the City of Larkspur as "residents". The introduction of the Intergenerational Center would open up more rental space and he noted the change in Section III, "Community Center" would include these additional classrooms.

Commissioner Janowsky stated she liked the idea that someone could rent out a smaller room if they do not need the Community Center. She asked Recreation Director Fiorentini if the new spaces would be booked often. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated "yes- probably from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through the week".

Chair Casissa referred to Section IX, "C", Town Civic Organizations, and asked if they should add the Neighborhood Response Groups. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated "yes, if the Commission wants". However, he has not researched the amount of time that will be needed by these groups. Chair Casissa asked if they need to add any Larkspur Civic Organizations. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated that was a good idea- he would try to get an idea of the number of groups.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting up to public comments.

Mr. Charles Shumacher asked if Larkspur reciprocated with respect to the definition of “resident”. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated “yes, but it might be worded differently”.

Chair Casissa closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Janowsky/Fong, and approved unanimously (Blomgren, Engstrom absent) to approve the Fee Resolution with the changes recommended by staff.

### 6.3 Review of Ordinance 8.04.025- Prohibiting Animals in Public Parks

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report.

Commissioner Fong stated she frequently saw dogs off leash in the park during soccer games.

Commissioner Janowsky stated she thought Corte Madera was the only jurisdiction in Marin that does not allow dogs in the park. She acknowledged there were irresponsible dog owners. She was of the opinion that a vibrant park included families with their dogs. It is worth considering amending the ordinance.

Chair Casissa asked how this aligns with the Central Marin Police Authority, the City of Larkspur, the Town of San Anselmo, and the desire for consistency. Enforcement seemed to be a low priority.

Commissioner Elsen stated she walks her daughter to Neil Cummins every morning and witnesses a group of dogs off leash in the park (near the Skate Park). The ordinance is not being enforced. She wanted to protect kids and families from “bad dog owners” while allowing for dogs.

Commissioner Phipps agreed that pets were part of a family and it seemed very unfriendly to not allow them in the park.

Commissioner Janowsky stated she would like to amend the ordinance and allow dogs in the park on a trial basis. It might not be that big of a change.

Chair Casissa agreed there were already a lot of people doing it. He asked about the penalty. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated it was “not to exceed \$1,000”. He noted not all of that money goes to the Town of Corte Madera.

Chair Casissa stated he would like to see the City of Larkspur and the Town of Corte Madera Ordinances and perhaps line up with them for consistency.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting up to public comments.

A resident stated dogs are allowed in the park, on leash, in Larkspur. He would love to see a dog park in Corte Madera. He would like to see the law enforced- it is no different than speeding on the street. Signs are not effective.

Chair Casissa closed the meeting to public comments.

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated he would return to the Commission with the requested information.

Commissioner Phipps had questions about the tennis court lights.

### 6.4 Approve Minutes of January 22, 2018 Meeting

M/s, Elsen/Janowsky, and approved unanimously (Blomgren, Engstrom absent, Fong abstained) to approve the January 22, 2018 minutes as submitted.

## 7. ROUTINE AND OTHER MATTERS

### 7.1 Future Agenda Items

Chair Casissa stated the following items would be on a future agenda: 1) Instructors Pay Schedule; 2) Program Pricing Policy; 3) Review of Roberts Rules of Order and Commissioner Responsibilities; 4) Update on the Budget; 5) Update on the Intergenerational Center; 6) Review of Ordinances from City of Larkspur and Town of San Anselmo regarding Animals in Parks; 7) Update of the Town Park Master Plan.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Chair Casissa stated the next Regular Meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018 at **6:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis  
Recording Secretary