

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARCH 25, 2019
APPROVED MINUTES**

Commissioners

Present: Fred Casissa, Chair
Nathan Blomgren
Sarah Elsen
Eric Engstrom
Emily Janowsky
Alden Miles
Elein Phipps
Cambry Weingart, Youth Commissioner

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

1. CALL TO ORDER, 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 public comments.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

5. BUSINESS ITEM

A. Reintroduction and Discussion of Future Dog Park in Corte Madera

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. The Town Council approved the Commission's recommendation to allow dogs in the parks on-leash. They will adopt the Ordinance in April and then there is a 30-day waiting period before the ordinance goes into effect. The Council would like to see some options for a dog park and would like recommendations from the Commission. He gave a brief report on the Commission's previous work on a possible dog park. The Town engaged a consultant (MIG) in 2016 that explored locations and developed a report. Staff also performed a survey. In 2018 the Commission did not feel strongly about any one location. The Council tabled the item in 2018.

Commissioner Elsen stated there were previous discussions about a piece of property on the west side of Town that was going to become available. Chair Casissa stated that was the Golden Gate Bridge District property. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated it was not going to become available.

Commissioner Engstrom stated there were residents who pushed hard for the site near the tunnel. Chair Casissa stated the County of Marin deeded the land to the Town but reserves the right to put in a bicycle path.

Commissioner Phipps asked about the gravel lot. Chair Casissa stated the Town built a parking lot on that site.

Chair Casissa stated the three recommended sites were: 1) the grass strip off of Pixley; 2) the Porter Cooley site (across from the DMV); 3) the area behind Petco. He stated there were discussions about Cove Park,

the gravel path across from the CHP offices, and Bayside Park. He thought these sites should be revisited. Recreation Director Fiorentini agreed.

Commissioner Engstrom stated one of the Councilmembers discussed carving out a part of Town Park. Commissioner Janowsky stated the Commission discussed this previously. Chair Casissa stated there was resistance to taking “green space” in Town Park. Commissioner Engstrom stated there were also concerns about parking and proximity to the creek. Chair Casissa suggested they come up with a list of five to seven sites including the pros and cons.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Patricia Jacoby stated she was in favor of a dog park and strongly opposed a “no-leash” ordinance in Town Park. She acknowledged that people want a place where dogs can run off-leash. She stated the Commission should take into account areas with a lot of birds- she did not want dogs chasing birds. She asked if the Town would consider working with Larkspur on a joint dog park. Chair Casissa stated they already have one.

Chair Casissa closed the meeting to public comments.

Commissioner Engstrom stated the Council discussed having two dog parks- one for small dogs and one for large dogs. Chair Casissa stated it would be an all-encompassing park. He asked staff to come back to the next meeting with the MIG report and a list of some suggested sites. He would also like staff to think about a survey. Commissioner Janowsky stated the Commission should send ideas about possible sites to staff.

B. Discussion of Commission and Staff Work Plan for Skunk Hollow Mini Park

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. He asked the Commission for comments about timelines, community meetings, coordination with Ross Recreation, conceptual drawings, etc.

Commissioner Elsen stated she would like a Ross Recreation representative to be present at one or more of the community meetings. Feedback from the community would be beneficial. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated the representatives would be happy to attend but they were not consultants. Chair Casissa stated they could provide perspective.

Commissioner Phipps asked if staff did a survey to see what the community wants. Chair Casissa stated this would happen during the community workshop similar to what was done for the Skate Park. Commissioner Janowsky stated a Saturday morning would work well.

Commissioner Engstrom asked if they could do it as a part of a Regular Commission meeting. Chair Casissa stated he would like to schedule a Saturday workshop that is separate from the Regular meeting. He asked if the workshop could be held at Skunk Hollow Park as soon as possible. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated they could schedule something for May. Commissioner Janowsky asked if staff would do an email blast. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated “yes” along with a posting on Nextdoor, the digital marquee, etc. He asked if Saturday, May 4th or 11th would be good dates- 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Commission said “yes”. Chair Casissa stated they could gather more public comments at the regular June meeting.

Commissioner Janowsky asked if there was a budget for this project. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated it was included in the 2019/20 Fiscal Year Capital Project. He wants to start the conversation early. There are no budget figures at this time.

C. Approval of February 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

M/s, Blomgren/Phipps and approved unanimously (Janowsky abstained) to approve the February 25, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted.

6. Director of Recreation and Leisure Services and Commissioner Reports

- Director of Recreation and Leisure Services
 - Community Center
 - Outdoor
 - Neil Cummins Gym

- Summer Playground Program
- Special Events
- Capital Projects
- Corte Madera Age Friendly Intergenerational Center

Recreation Director Fiorentini reported the Community Center was very busy during the months of February and March with a lot of community and weekend events. The last dinner dance is this coming Friday. The dinner dances have been very successful and people loved the “sock hop” theme. The Persian New Year event was a huge success and the organizer, Ms. Smiley, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Council. There have been several memorial services, birthday parties, and other parties held at the center. He reported Little League is in full swing. Staff is looking at opening the soccer fields soon with try-outs happening in May. Summer Playground Program registrations are pouring in. The summer brochure will be in mail boxes by the end of the week. The Age Friendly Intergenerational Center has been very active and is coming up on its One-Year Anniversary. There will be a celebration! Staff continues to work with them on scheduling classes, etc. He reported the Recreation Department will be programming classes at the Inner Rhythm Dance Studio at the Park Madera Center. They will use the space for some existing classes and to offer some new ones. It is a great opportunity for the department!

Commissioner Janowsky asked if there has been any headway working with the school on the east field. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated he would be meeting with them soon.

- Commissioner Reports
 - March: Town Council Update

Chair Casissa stated the Town Council approved the Fee Resolution as recommended by the Commission. They also introduced the ordinance to allow dogs off-leash in Town Park and discussed the concept of a dog park in town.

- Executive Advisory Committee

Chair Casissa stated the committee did not meet this month.

- CMPR/IGC Programming Ad-Hoc Committee

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated they met recently and talked about the new dance studio and other issues. Commissioner Elsen asked if the committee could schedule a regular meeting date.

- Individual Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Janowsky stated she, along with Chair Casissa, Recreation Director Fiorentini, Sean and Will (advocates for the Basketball Court Renovation Project), met with representatives from the Public Works Department. They walked the site and looked at some drawings. They are looking to maximize the site to allow as many age groups as possible to play. Chair Casissa stated they are talking about possibly having three courts, one length wise and the other two with shorter hoops. They will continue to talk, lock down a design, and come up with some costs. Chair Casissa stated the Lions Club has committed \$2,500 to the project. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated this outdoor court is not currently programmed but this is a conversation that the Commission could have.

Commissioner Elsen stated she signed her daughters up for the Chess at Neal Cummins and they are very excited.

Commissioner Phipps stated she attended the Night of Blues event and it was fabulous.

Commissioner Blomgren stated he took his daughter to the Daddy/Daughter Dance and they had a great time. It was a very well run event!

7. ROUTINE AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Future Agenda Items

Chair Casissa stated the following items would be on an upcoming agenda: 1) Skate Park Rules; 2) Skunk Hollow Park Renovations; 3) Discussion on possible Dog Park.

B. Items for Yearly Review

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Chair Casissa stated the next Regular Meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 22, 2019 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary