

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MAY 20, 2019  
APPROVED MINUTES**

Commissioners

Present: Fred Casissa, Chair  
Sarah Elsen  
Emily Janowsky  
Alden Miles  
Elein Phipps

Commissioners Nathan Blomgren  
Absent: Eric Engstrom  
Cambry Weingart, Youth Commissioner

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

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

Chair Casissa opened the Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

Chair Casissa stated he would like to rearrange the order of the agenda.

5. BUSINESS ITEM

A. Skunk Hollow Rehabilitation Community Input session

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. He stated staff plans to hold at least two more meetings for discussion on a design level. Last Saturday's community meeting was well attended.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Rich Perlstein, Vista Court, stated Skunk Hollow functions as a neighborhood "pocket park". Kids enjoy the playground and passive space and it would not be a good idea to intensify the uses and make it a more "active" park. More active uses could generate a higher noise level. The priority should be activities that are geared for passive use and young children.

Mr. Jeff Redmond, Paloma Drive, stated he moved to his home because of the park. He thanked the Town for focusing on the park- it has needed some attention for a while. He stated the neighbors were not in favor of a basketball court or a bathroom.

Ms. Rose Gardino, Granada Drive, stated she values the idea of a neighborhood park for young kids. She does not support a basketball court since it would change the complexion of the park.

Ms. Mattie Morgan, Madera del Presidio, stated renovation of this park is much needed. She was one of the individuals who brought up the idea of a basketball court (half court with a hoop) at the community meeting. She noted this has not been well received. She asked who the park serves- only the neighbors in close proximity or an expanded area. She discussed renovations that are taking place at the Madera del Presidio Park which is open to the entire community. There is a petition with over 100 signatures in support of activities for children ranging from seven to twelve years old.

Ms. Amanda Conrad, Sonora Way, echoed Ms. Morgan's question- to whom does this "mini-park" belong?

The park was partially funded by the neighborhood. They should be looking at this as a multi-generational park. She was not in favor of a basketball court because it would take away the open play area and there is no need for one- people put up hoops in driveways. The park has served the community for many years as is.

Ms. Sara Gerber, Granada Drive, stated swings would be an awesome addition with a rubber (not sand or wood chips) ground surface. She would also like to see the picnic area remain and a bathroom added.

Ms. Emily Charlie, El Camino, stated rubber mat surfaces can get “smelly” on hot days. There must be an environmentally safe, non-fuming rubber product that could be installed. She suggested a combination of a rubber mat and sand surface.

Mr. Carl Crower, Sonora Way, stated he repaved his driveway with a basketball hoop which serves as a wonderful invitation for kids to play together. He was in favor of a neighborhood basketball court.

Ms. Morgan stated the Madera del Presidio Association has made efforts to bring a basketball court to their neighborhood but the Town turned them down.

Ms. Gardino had a question about the process.

Chair Casissa closed the meeting to public comments.

Chair Casissa asked staff to come back at the next meeting with a definition of a “mini-park”. He noted staff would post information on the process on the Town Website. Nothing will be decided until September or perhaps later.

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Summer Playground Program 2019 Presentation- Director Xanat Rodriguez

Summer Playground Director Rodriguez presented the staff report. She stated the program goals included: 1) Provide a safe, fun, and entertaining environment; 2) Provide professional customer service; 3) Provide opportunities for campers to develop friendships and create new interests and memories; 4) Provide energy, enthusiasm, and fresh, exciting activities. She noted the program will have daily, weekly, and full-season registrations, along with a sibling discounts. Field trips will include Scandia, Rebounders, weekly pool days at the College of Marin pool, Cal-Skate, the Exploratorium, the San Francisco Bay Aquarium, and others. Special Events include Birthday Celebrations, the Penny Carnival, the Talent Show, and the Classic Summer Sleep-over. Theme Days include Stars and Strips Day, Disney Day, a Harry Potter Extravaganza, and others. She also plans to offer a cooking and engineering classes and a 30-minute break designated for the morning snack from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. They will be partnering with No Limits Camp on an optional Lunch Program. All staff members will be CPR certified. The Counselor in Training (CIT) Program provides teens with work experience and valuable community service experience. She stated they will be utilizing the Community Center and the Neil Cummins Gymnasium for indoor space. She displayed the daily schedule including breaks and block activities. They received fifteen scholarship requests this year and donations from the Lions Club, Women’s Club, and the Corte Madera Community Foundation totaling \$5,120. There will be a 7:1 ratio of campers to staffers- this includes the field trips and the on-site programming.

Chair Casissa asked if the Green Room would be available. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated “yes”- staff has decided to delay construction.

Chair Casissa asked about the policy for Town employees. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated the program is fee to Town employees. Chair Casissa asked staff to keep track of this number.

Chair Casissa asked about the current number of registrations. Summer Playground Director Rodriguez stated there were around 90 so far, not including the scholarship campers. There will be an influx of registrations after school is out.

Commissioner Janowsky asked how many CIT’s are signed up. Summer Playground Director Rodriguez stated she has about fifteen but she is sure she will get more. CIT’s are between the ages of 13 to 15 and are the “backbone” of the program. Commissioner Janowsky asked if they commit for the entire summer. Summer Playground Director Rodriguez stated “yes”- but there is some flexibility.

Chair Casissa asked how many counselors she plans to hire. Summer Playground Director Rodriguez stated about the same as last year- a good deal of them were CITs last year.

Chair Casissa did not open the meeting to public comments since there was nobody from the public in the attendance.

The Commission thanked Summer Playground Director Rodriguez for her presentation and good work.

#### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

#### 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

##### B. 2019 Volunteer of the Year- Nominations

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. Staff receives nominations from the public and submits them to the Commission. There are two categories- Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year. Staff received a nomination for Ms. Pauline Engleman for Volunteer of the Year.

Commissioner Janowsky asked everyone to reach out for more Youth Volunteer nominations. Chair Casissa stated they would hold this item over.

Chair Casissa asked if there was a closing date for nominations. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated it was somewhat flexible.

M/s, Janowsky/Engstrom and approved unanimously (Blomgren, Engstrom, Weingart absent) to nominate Ms. Pauline Engleman as Volunteer of the Year.

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated this item would go on the Town Council Consent Calendar for approval. He would contact the Chamber of Commerce so they could make plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

##### C. Discussion and Possible Action on Updated Skate Park Rules

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. He displayed rules from other jurisdictions including McGinnis Park, Novato Skate Park, and Moraga Skate Park. Recommended changes from the Commission would be reviewed by the Town Attorney and would ultimately be approved by the Town Council.

Chair Casissa did not open the meeting to public comments since there was nobody from the public in the attendance.

Chair Casissa stated perhaps they should defer this item since Commissioner Blomgren was absent and wanted to be a part of the discussion. Commissioner Janowsky agreed.

Commissioner Janowsky stated the youth group involved with the recent renovation to the Skate Park had the following suggestions: 1) No running on ramps; 2) No outside obstacles may be brought in; 3) No children under the age of "x". The Commission supported #1 and #2 and decided to further discuss #3.

Commissioner Miles referred to the McGinnis Park rules and stated she likes the following rules: 1) Skate at your own risk- County of Marin not liable; 2) Be respectful and courteous. Chair Casissa asked Recreation Director Fiorentini to add these and the first two suggestions from the youth groups to the current list.

Commissioner Elsen asked if the Commission still wants to ban scooters- a lot of kids ride them. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated the youth group would probably support this ban. It could be considered a safety issue. Commissioner Janowsky stated they should discuss this when Commissioner Blomgren returns.

Chair Casissa asked the Commission to email any other suggestions to Recreation Director Fiorentini.

#### D. Commission Goals for Fiscal Year 2019/20- Discussion

Chair Casissa stated the Commission should set goals on an annual basis. He suggested the following: 1) Create a Master Plan for Town Park; 2) Update the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan. He suggested forming a sub-committee of two Commissioners for each goal.

Commissioner Janowsky asked Recreation Director Fiorentini to send the Town Park Master Plan to each Commissioner. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated it was posted on the Town Website along with the Town's General Plan. He will send the links to the Commission.

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated State law dictates how often a jurisdiction needs to update its General Plan and it is a somewhat lengthy process that requires a lot of public input. The Town is planning to hold community outreach meetings during the summer and fall regarding the Park Madera Plaza property and a proposal to possibly expand Town Hall. He would recommend an update to the Park Master Plan in Fiscal Year 2020/21. This task would require the service of a consultant. Chair Casissa stated he would like to discuss this at the next meeting.

Chair Casissa did not open the meeting to public comments since there was nobody from the public in the attendance.

#### E. Approval of April 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting minutes

M/s, Miles/Phipps and approved unanimously (Blomgren, Engstrom, Weingart absent) to approve the April 22, 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 staff was working on the department budget with the Town Manager and Finance Director. There are numerous spring activities and rentals scheduled for the Community Center including weddings, birthday parties, etc. The summer schedule for the building was pared down a bit to accommodate the Summer Playground Program schedule. The fields are in great shape and being heavily used although staff had to cancel several softball games due to the recent rain. Staff had to cancel the Mother's Day Tea due to low enrollment. Commissioner Elsen suggested a Mother/Daughter Dance. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated staff was looking at the idea of a Family Dance. The Age Friendly Intergenerational Center celebrated its First Birthday with over 150 people in attendance. He spoke to the contractor about the basketball courts- they will be submitting the new plans and specifications to him soon. He is confident they will be able to get under the \$60,000 budget threshold. He discussed the latest iteration for the project- one full sized court, two hoops, and a pathway from the parking lot to the court. The lower hoops (for kids) have been eliminated. He had a productive meeting with representatives of the Larkspur/Corte Madera School District and the possibility of installing artificial turf on the east field. Staff will start doing some research on grant funding. Staff will be updating the Town Council about the Commission's discussion regarding a dog park at tomorrow night's meeting.

- Commissioner Reports
  - April/May: Town Council Update

Commissioner Miles stated there were no Commission or Department items on the Council agenda.

- Executive Advisory Committee

Chair Casissa stated the committee met with Recreation Director Fiorentini last week and went over the agenda.

- CMPR/IGC Programming Ad-Hoc Committee

Commissioner Miles stated the committee met last Thursday and discussed ways to bring some programming to the Community Center for children under the age of five. They also discussed “grandparent/kid matching”, basketball programming for younger kids (under eight), and a summer recreational league for older players. They also talked about ways to use the dance studio in the Park Madera shopping center for chair yoga classes, kids dance programs, etc. The committee will be meeting every other month.

- Individual Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Janowsky thanked Recreation Director Fiorentini and Recreation Supervisor Hernandez for the wonderful job they did running the Skunk Hollow community meeting last Saturday. It was very productive.

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) Commission Goals; 3) Nomination of Youth Volunteer of the Year.

B. Items for Yearly Review

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. Chair Casissa stated the next Regular Meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2019 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted

Toni DeFrancis  
Recording Secretary