

**TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 24, 2019
APPROVED MINUTES**

Commissioners

Present: Fred Casissa, Chair
Nathan Blomgren
Sarah Elsen
Eric Engstrom
Emily Janowsky
Elein Phipps

Commissioners Alden Miles

Absent: 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 meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carla Condon, representing the Intergenerational Center, stated the staff and teachers at the center are paid through grant funding. The County of Marin included \$25,000 in its budget that will go towards the center. The County's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Program is paying for 50 memberships for seniors throughout Marin County. The center will be starting a new program, Lessons in American Mah Jong, in July and will be putting on a Holiday Show on November 22nd as a fund-raising event.

Ms. Pat Ravasio, Oakdale Avenue, stated she looks forward to working with the Commission. She discussed some Capital Projects she would like the Commission to discuss in the near future.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Old Town Square Signage- Julie Kritzberger, Beautification Committee Chair

Ms. Kritzberger stated the committee has been working with the Town on various projects and it was brought to the committee's attention that the sign at Menke Park needed to be replaced. She displayed a sketch of a sign that was approved by the committee. She noted the committee would pay for the sign and they have also gotten support from the Lions Club and the Community Foundation. Story poles were installed at two possible locations. The local businesses would like the sign located at the entrance to the park with the following wording: Old Corte Madera Square.

Commissioner Janowsky stated she liked the sketch.

Commissioner Elsen asked if there would be a picture on the sign. Ms. Kritzberger stated they did not get that far- the committee likes the look of the sign and the name as presented.

Commissioner Engstrom asked Ms. Kritzberger her preference for a location. Ms. Kritzberger stated the story poles went up last week and she has not gotten feedback from the committee. Commissioner Engstrom stated there would be more traffic driving by the first location.

Commissioner Phipps asked if there was a way to see the sign coming from both directions. Ms. Kritzberger stated that would be difficult. She asked the Commission to check out the story poles.

Commissioner Blomgren stated he preferred the location depicted on the left. He likes the style of the sign and suggested they include the Corte Madera logo (silhouette of Mt. Tamalpais and an Egret). He suggested they use a font that is easy to read.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting to public comments.

Dr. Bob Bundy, Chair of the Corte Madera Community Foundation, and member of the Beautification Committee, stated both groups preferred the location at the entrance to the park. He liked the suggestion to include an Egret on the sign and suggested an old-fashioned font. Both groups liked a natural style with natural wood as the material. The groups discussed funding some historical signage with photographs and content- the signs would be about 18" x 20"

Ms. Patti Stolier, Casa Buena Avenue, stated she loved the idea of a nice sign. It should be easy to read while driving by and should have graphics on it. She liked Dr. Bundy's idea about the historic signs.

Chair Casissa thanked Ms. Kritzberger for her presentation and asked her to return to the Commission with the final design.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar items.

5. BUSINESS ITEM

A. Skunk Hollow Rehabilitation Discussion and Direction to Staff

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. Staff received very good feedback from the public at the various community meetings.

Commissioner Janowsky asked about the possibility of installing swings even though the space is constrained. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated space is a concern but he will ask the designers.

Commissioner Blomgren stated he would like to add the following to the list of suggested amenities: A contiguous fence around the facility. He stated the Commission received a lot of feedback and he felt they had adequate input to submit to the design company. He did not think they needed another public meeting. Chair Casissa stated he would like to schedule a community meeting once they get the conceptual design. Commissioner Janowsky stated that made sense.

Commissioner Elsen stated she did not want to see the equipment focused towards the younger age groups since kids would outgrow it quickly. She is afraid that swings would take up too much space. She referred to using rubber mats as the surface material and asked about off-gassing, maintenance, etc. Sand seems to require a lot of upkeep. They might want to think about installing tan bark.

Commissioner Janowsky stated they are constrained by the budget but the community has the option to do some fundraising.

Commissioner Phipps asked about the petition that was submitted at the last meeting. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated the petition was a request for a basketball court feature. He will submit this to the Commission.

Commissioner Blomgren stated he supported the list of amenities submitted to the Commission and suggested it be submitted to the design team. He did not support consideration of a basketball court or dog park- the park is too small. Residents also expressed a desire to keep the grass.

Commissioner Elsen stated a prior schematic showed a zip line- she did not support such an amenity. Kids cannot do it by themselves and they are quite noisy. The design should include monkey bars. Commissioner Janowsky agreed- they are flexible and are used by kids of all ages. Commissioner Elsen stated they could install some features that “spin” if there is not enough room for swings.

Chair Casissa asked if tree trimming or maintenance would be done by the Public Works Department. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated “yes” but planting new trees could go through the Beautification Committee. Chair Casissa stated planting new trees should be done in conjunction with the installation of the new amenities.

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated staff was planning on including some “adapted need” play equipment- this is a priority. There are a lot of options.

Commissioner Blomgren stated he would support the design team looking at the size and location of a half-court basketball court but he did not want to spend a lot of money on this endeavor. Commissioner Phipps agreed- they need to look at this given the community input. Chair Casissa agreed and asked the design team to cost it out separately. Commissioner Blomgren asked if the courts at Granada School were available to the public during non-school hours. Chair Casissa stated “yes- there is access”.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Maddie Morgan, Madera del Presidio, discussed the petition in support of a basketball court and stated there was room for a half-court leaving a lot of green space available. There are a lot of children in her neighborhood and in Marin Estates that would use such a court.

Mr. Tyler Allman, Madera del Presidio, stated he was eight years old and would love to shoot hoops in Skunk Hollow Park.

Ms. Katie Allman, Madera del Presidio, stated a basketball court provides versatility. There are a lot of new materials that could mitigate the noise issue along with prohibiting play at certain times.

Chair Casissa closed the meeting to public comments.

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated staff would discuss the Commission’s comments with the design team, including a target age range of four to twelve. He could come back with playground equipment options and a draft conceptual design by August. He would need to work with the engineers regarding a site plan- hardscape, landscaping, picnic site with extra tables, etc.

B. 2019 Volunteer of the Year- Discussion and Possible Action

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. At the last meeting the Commission nominated Ms. Pauline Angleman as 2019 Volunteer of the Year (over the age of 60). He thanked Commissioner Janowsky for working with local schools to come up with some names for Youth Volunteer of the Year. There are two submissions- Catherine Tuag, and Ryan Clemmon. Staff is recommending a joint nomination.

M/s, Janowsky/Phipps and approved unanimously (Miles, Weingart absent) to nominate Ms. Catherine Tuan and Mr. Ryan Clemmon as Co-Volunteers of the Year.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on Updated Skate Park Rules

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report.

Commissioner Phipps asked if the youth group that worked on the skate park had any recommendations regarding age limits and supervision. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated “no”.

Commissioner Blomgren noted the McGinnis Skate Park rules indicate that children under six must be accompanied by an adult when using the facility. That seems reasonable. It was the consensus of the Commission that children five and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Commissioner Blomgren asked about the rule prohibiting bicycles and scooters. Scooters seemed like a good way for kids to learn how to use the park and get into skateboarding. They do not seem to get in the way. He never sees anyone on a bike in the park. He stated the rule could say: “This park is for skateboards, scooters, and bikes- no tricycles or motorized vehicles”. Chair Casissa asked if it was a safety issue to have skateboarders and bicycles in the park at the same time. Commissioner Blomgren stated it could be an issue. There is a way for scooters and skateboarders to peacefully co-exist as long as there are no toddlers playing on the ramps.

Commissioner Engstrom stated he did not see the need to change what the signs currently said. Commissioner Janowsky stated they were no longer banning scooters. Commissioner Engstrom stated this was a skate park and it should be for skateboarders. A bike park is something completely different.

Commissioner Phipps stated she was not against scooters in the park. Commissioner Janowsky agreed.

It was the consensus of the Commission to ban bikes, tricycles, and motorized vehicles in the Skate Park.

M/s, Blomgren/Janowsky and approved unanimously (Miles, Weingart absent) to approve the Skate Park Rules as discussed by the Commission.

D. Continued Discussion on Dog Park in Corte Madera Town Park

Recreation Director Fiorentini presented a staff report. Staff plans to include a Dog Park in the Capital Budget in Fiscal Year 2020/22.

Chair Casissa asked if the Council gave direction before sending it back to the Commission. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated “no”. Chair Casissa asked if the Commission should discuss the following issues: location, costs, ADA accessibility, environmental issues, parking, etc. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated some of those issues were pretty cut and dry and others, such as the environmental issues, would be more complex. The Commission should probably start with some community outreach.

Commissioner Elsen stated she attended the May Council meeting and they thought the Cooley Porter site was not a good option and they wanted to look at Town Park. She spoke at the Council meeting about how the Pixley Avenue site was not a good option since it was already a heavily impacted part of the park and traffic and parking would be an issue. The neighbors were not in support of this location.

Commissioner Janowsky asked if they could get a preliminary cost estimate for the Town Park site (behind Petco). Recreation Director Fiorentini stated the Public Works Department could assess the site and come up with any major “red flags”. Commissioner Janowsky stated that was the logical next step.

Chair Casissa asked if the neighbors from Pixley Avenue provided input at the Council meeting. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated he thought several neighbors spoke in opposition during Open Time.

Chair Casissa stated they need to get everything out on the table and take this one step at a time. He thought there should be a feasibility study done and he discussed the issue of maintenance.

Commissioner Blomgren stated this is a north facing, sloped site with trees that block the sun in the winter- it could turn out to be a seasonal facility.

Commissioner Janowsky noted the Piper Park Dog Park has an area for big dogs and one for small dogs and she asked staff to do some type of overlay to make sure it is going to fit in that space. Chair Casissa referred to the MIG report and stated it was less than half an acre.

Chair Casissa opened the meeting to public comment.

There were no comments.

Chair Casissa closed the meeting to public comments.

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated he would try to get an initial summary from the Public Works Department to the Commission in July.

E. Commission Goals for Fiscal Year 2019/20- Discussion

Chair Casissa stated he would like the Commission to work on a Town Park Master Plan since they tend to do projects in a piece-meal fashion. He asked for volunteers who could work with staff. Recreation Director Fiorentini recommended the volunteers work with the existing 2007 Master Plan and submit their recommendations on how to update it. They could start the groundwork in Fiscal Year 2019/20. Commissioner Phipps volunteered to help with this task. Chair Casissa asked about the General Plan. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated updating this document was a bigger task and the timeline was dictated by State Law.

F. Approval of May 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes

M/s, Janowsky/Phipps and approved unanimously (Miles, Weingart absent, Blomgren, Engstrom abstained) to approve the May 20, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected.

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 today was the first day of the Summer Playground Program and there were over 150 campers in attendance! It was a very successful day and the weather was perfect. Staff installed a tent over the back part of the Community Center to provide a sheltered, shaded space. There is a lunch program in place for the summer- the cost is \$8.00 per day. In response to the Customer Services Survey done last year that mentioned the department's office hours, he was able to promote several of the part-time staff to three-quarter positions. Starting July 1st the Monday and Tuesday office hours will extend to 6:30 p.m. Chair Casissa asked if this could be extended to other days. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated "not at this time". Commissioner Blomgren asked how this would be publicized. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated it would be on the Town Website, digital marquee, and NextDoor. He reported he had a conference call last week with the architect working on the new offices and they are putting together a spec list. The project should go out to bid the first week of August with the goal of completing the construction by the middle of November. Staff is working on the timing for the Basketball Court Project (Summer Playground Program ends, soccer begins, etc.). Construction could begin in August. Soccer registrations ended last week- over 900 kids are signed up. Staff expects another 120 registrations during the summer. Chair Casissa asked if there were a maximum number of kids that could sign up. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated "yes"- the constraints are practice space and game space (less of an issue). Chair Casissa asked if they use the Cove Field for this program. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated "yes". He reported that World-Class Softball Umpire Kevin Malone recently passed away- Kevin was a great guy and will be missed! He would present the Commission with a design for a plaque.

Ms. Patti Stolier, Casa Buena Drive, asked about the Intergenerational Center's use of the dance studio at Park Madera Plaza. She asked if staff plans to replace the picnic tables in the near future. Recreation Director Fiorentini stated repairing the picnic tables was a high priority for staff- this would be done in a phased approach. Staff took over administrative control of the dance studio at the Park Madera Plaza and is working on a fall schedule. The Yoga with Weights class will be moved from the center to the studio next week.

- Commissioner Reports
March: Town Council Update

Recreation Director Fiorentini stated there were no Recreation Department or Commission related items on the agenda. It was all about the budget.

- Executive Advisory Committee

Chair Casissa stated the committee met last Thursday to go over the agenda items.

- CMPR/IGC Programming Ad-Hoc Committee

Commissioner Elsen stated they will be meeting in July.

- Individual Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Elsen stated her daughters went to Summer Playground today and had lots of fun! A good friend of hers from San Rafael signed up her children as counselors in the program- this allows her friend to work during the day.

Commissioner Engstrom announced this was his last meeting as a Commissioner. He thanked everyone for the pleasant experience. Chair Casissa thanked Commissioner Engstrom for his years of service.

7. Routine and Other Matters
 - A. Future Agenda Items

Chair Casissa stated the following items would be on an upcoming agenda: 1) Discussion regarding Dog Park in Town Park.

- B. Items for Yearly Review

8. Reorganization of Commission
 - A. Selection of Chair

M/s, Blomgren/Janowsky, and approved unanimously (Miles, Weingart absent) that Chair Casissa remain as Chair of the Commission.

- B. Selection of Vice-Chair

M/s, Blomgren/Phipps, and approved unanimously (Miles, Weingart absent) that Vice Chair Janowsky remain as Vice Chair of the Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. in memory of Mr. Kevin Malone, the best darn umpire Marin County has ever seen. Chair Casissa stated the next Regular Meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2019 in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted
Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary