



**A Regular Meeting Of The Park And Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Thursday, September 20, 2007  
Albany Community Center  
Edith Stone Room  
1249 Marin Ave.  
7:15 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:23p.m. Commissioners present: Vice Chair Pilch, Como, Piller, Trout and Wilmsen. Excused Commissioner Mullarkey and Chair Linden would arrive late. The call to order was performed by Vice-Chair Pilch until Chair Linden arrived.

Staff present: Penelope Leach and Robin Mariona

- 2. Approval of Minutes: July 12, 2007:**

**Motion:**

Motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2007 made by Commissioner Piller and seconded by Commissioner Wilmsen. Motion carried 6-0 all in favor.

**Motion:**

Motion to revise the order of the meeting items to accommodate audience members made by Commissioner Trout and seconded by Commissioner Piller. Motion carried all in favor.

- 3. Public Comment:** Albany resident and tennis coach Susan Ford asked that the Commission consider installing three row bleachers for tennis at Memorial Park. Ms. Ford was asked to bring up her request when item 6-6 came to the floor
- 4. Announcements/Communications:** Commissioner Pilch stated that October 3<sup>rd</sup> was Alameda County Walk to School Day.
- 5. Director's Report:** Commissioner Pilch welcomed Director Leach to her first Commission meeting as Director of Recreation and Community Services. Director Leach announced that there would be a training session for Commission/Committee/Council members on Monday October 29 from 6:30-9pm. All Commissioners were encouraged to attend. Director Leach also stated that staff was beginning the planning process for the Albany Centennial celebration in 2008.
- 6. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:**

**6-1. Norman Friedman: Request to make presentation to the Commission re: his past field use.** Mr. Friedman distributed a handout to the Commission members. Mr. Friedman stated that he had been using Albany playing fields for twelve years for non-competitive sports programs and leasing them since 2000. Mr. Friedman further stated it was his understanding that his lease had been terminated due to posting signage of his programs on City fences, use of City water for his programs, and setting up a table for his programs at a Memorial Park event without having paid the fee to participate. He stated that he paid the City \$8000-\$9000 per year to use the fields, and for that amount he should have been allowed to put up

signs and use water, and the Memorial Park incident was a misunderstanding. Mr. Friedman stated that Recreation Supervisor Chelle Putzer had made changes and disregarded his contract when she became the supervisor of field use in 2004.

Chair Linden asked Mr. Friedman what he wanted the Commission to consider. Mr. Friedman stated that he wanted his contract with the City reinstated. Chair Linden stated that considering the Commission had just received Mr. Friedman's packet and they would need time to look at it. Chair Linden stated that the item should be tabled for the next meetings agenda, but the reinstatement of a City contract was most likely not in the Commission's authority to grant.

**Motion:**

Motion to table Norman Friedman's field contract issue until the October meeting made by Commissioner Piller and seconded by Commissioner Pilch. Motion carried all in favor.

**6-4. Update on Urban Forestry position- Interviews for the new Urban Forestry position conclude on Monday, September 24, start date TBA.** Director Leach stated that the top three candidates for the position had been chosen and part of their job description would be overseeing IPM and the Urban Forest in the City. Director Leach requested that the Commission chose a member to meet with the top candidate before the selection was finalized. Chair Linden questioned if a representative from the IPM Task Force would also meet with the candidate. Commissioner Piller stated that the IPM Task Force had no authority in personnel selection and as such the Task Force had not taken any action when it came up at the IPM meeting the previous night. Chair Linden stated that she thought it would be helpful and beneficial for a member of the IPM to meet with the candidate due to the complexity of IPM and Urban Forest issues, but a compromise had been made to send a member of the Commission. She stated the importance of interweaving citizens into political issues for community building and harmony.

**Motion:**

Motion to have Commissioner Trout represent the Commission in meeting the Urban Forest candidate made by Commissioner Piller and seconded by Commissioner Pilch. Motion carried all in favor.

Director Leach stated that she would compile any questions that were sent to her by the Commission for the candidate by Monday September 24th and send them on to Commissioner Trout. She further stated that the complexity of IPM and Urban Forestry issues had been taken into consideration in the choice of the candidates.

**6-5. Tree Task Force- Establish next steps for recruiting volunteers to serve on the Tree Task Force.** Commissioner Trout updated the Commission on the status of the Tree Task Force. The Task Force would be comprised of three Commissioners and four members of the public and they would be updating and consolidating the outdated tree policy in the City. Chair Linden stated that volunteers should be solicited through advertisements on the website, the newspaper, e-trees and posted at all City posting locations.

Director Leach asked for a description of the basic parameters of the volunteer duties. Commissioner Piller stated that applicants would fill out a standard City application forms and they would be chosen by their qualifications.

**Motion:**

Motion to create a four week response period for Urban Forest Task Force volunteers applicants and to consider the applications for choice at the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, made by Commissioner Piller and seconded by Commissioner Trout. Motion carried all in favor.

**6-6. Park Renovation Project Update and Grand Openings- Updates on Ocean View Park, Memorial Park and Terrace Park projects as well as Terrace Park picnic changes. The Terrace Park grand opening is scheduled for October 11 prior to the P and R Commission Meeting.** Manager Cunningham stated that the Terrace Park project was functionally complete according to specifications and would be opened after the 90-day contractor warranty in early October.

**Public Comment:** Albany resident and Terrace Park neighbor Craig Hendrickson stated that he had a letter signed by 40 neighbors requesting that the number of picnic tables be reduced to four and barbeques to 2. He further stated that he had a letter dated November of 2005 requesting that this be the number of grills and tables. Mr. Hendrickson had a schematic drawing that he handed out to the Commission to make clear which tables the neighbors wanted to keep.

Commissioner Como stated that he recalled picnics in the past of 80 to 100 people without problems. Commissioner Piller stated that there had been tension between the neighbors and the community with regard to the small amount of park space in Albany and the needs of the neighbors for privacy. The current configuration was the balance struck between the issues of the two groups.

Albany Terrace Park neighbor Dave Guthrie stated that the renovations to the Park were great, but noticed that the placement of some of the picnic tables were too close to the fence line, and the neighbors would prefer to keep the Park capacity the same as before the renovations. He further stated that he would request added trash cans, signage of park rules and noise regulation.

Albany Terrace Park neighbor Belinda Lesser showed the Commission a picture of the fence near her home and expressed concern about the closeness of picnic tables to her property, crowding, safety of the neighborhood children, parking and trash. She encouraged the Commission to consider taking out some of the tables. Neighbor Bill Cooper expressed concern over limited parking, tree maintenance and informational signage. He questioned what appeared to be a disconnect between the plans and what the actual outcome had been. Mr. Cooper also questioned whether there was to be a limit on picnic reservations and the bathroom lighting policy.

Manager Cunningham stated that the bathrooms were currently programmed with a 6am to 6pm locking device, and would eventually be programmed according to usage needs when that was determined.

**Motion:**

Motion to table the removal of grills and tables until consulting with the architect John Cahalan at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting made by Commissioner Piller and seconded by Commissioner Pilch. Motion carried 3 to 2.

Chair Linden stated that the size of the park should determine the number of tables and grills in place, and the numbers should be reduced in Terrace Park due to it's small size. Commissioner Pilch agreed with the neighbors that there seemed to be a disconnect between the plans and what the park outcome was, but felt that it would be prudent to wait and consult with the architect before making any recommendations to Council regarding removal.

**Public Comment:** Belinda Lesser reiterated her concern for the safety of the neighborhood children and the exposure of her property. Bill Cooper questioned whether it was possible to delay the installation of some of the grills. Commissioner Piller stated that there would be discussion at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at which time the Commission would decide whether to make a recommendation to Council at their first

November meeting. Manager Cunningham stated that it might be possible to relieve the contractor of the obligation to install the grills and have staff install them later, but it would also delay completion of the park.

Commissioner Pilch stated that he agreed with the signage issues and questioned if it may be possible for the City to work with homeowner Belinda Lesser on the fence issue.

**Public Comment:** Craig Hendickson stated that the neighbors wanted a decision on the tables and grills and would relate to the neighbors the decision to table the issue.

Manager Cunningham stated that Memorial Park renovation was proceeding cleanly, but had been delayed by six days due to the crews shifting to Ocean View to prepare the fields for fall sports. After Ocean View was completed the crews would shift back to Memorial.

**Public Comment:** Sue Ford presented the Commission with a proposal and plans to install three rows of aluminum bleachers opposite the tennis courts in Memorial Park.

**Motion:**

Motion to approve the installation of the bleachers made by Commissioner Piller and seconded by Commissioner Como. Motion carried all in favor.

Manager Cunningham stated that the school district needed to complete the fencing at Ocean View Park, but that the community garden was a masterpiece. He further stated that there was still work being done with regard to the lights on the field. Director Leach stated that there were mechanisms being put in place by the lighting company to create ways to turn the field lights on and off remotely. Commissioner Piller stated that geese abatement might need to be addressed in the future on Ocean View field. The opening of the park was being done in stages and there would be more information in October.

Director Leach stated that the opening ceremony for Terrace Park would take place on Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup> before the Commission meeting at 6pm, and all were encouraged to attend for a ribbon cutting and potluck.

**6-3. Update on the IPM Policy- Status report on the IPM Policy and Ordinance.** Commissioner Piller stated that Ann Chaney and the City attorney were reviewing the draft ordinance and policy, and it was hoped that it would come before the Commission in November.

**Tabled items: 6-2, 6-7 and 6-8**

**7. Announcements/Communication**

**8. Future Agenda Items**

**9. Adjournment: 9:55pm**

