

MINUTES NO. 202
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2003 7:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting
Town Council Chambers
1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fraser called the regular meeting of the Parks & Open Space Commission to order at 7:05 P.M., Tuesday, September 9, 2003, in the Town Council Chambers, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Fraser, Vice-chair McMullen, Zender, Canter, and Lindqvist

ABSENT: None

EX-OFFICIO: Town Engineer/Public Works Director Echols

II. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

There was none.

III. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFING

Director Echols mentioned that the Railroad Marsh restoration work will begin the week of September 15. The work will be performed by the Marin Conservation Corps and take approximately 8 days to complete.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of August 12, 2003 (No. 201) approved with the following changes:

1. Page 1, paragraph 1, line 1: Call To Order: Change Vice-chair McMullen to Chair Fraser.
2. Page 3, paragraph 8, line 1: Change the spelling of "complimented" to "complemented".

M/S McMullen/Lindqvist 5-0 to approve the Minutes No. 201 as amended.

V. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Discussion of POSC goals and strategies

Chair Fraser opened discussion of the goals and objectives of the P.O.S.C. by reviewing each of the items identified at the August meeting. Following a brief recap of the main topics for each item, the Commissioners will vote on the topics that they think should be pursued.

1. New public restrooms

Kathy Larsen, Property Manager for the Belvedere Land Co., requested that the Town consider adding public restroom facilities to the downtown area. She stated that the Boardwalk Shopping Center restrooms are heavily used by patrons of the shopping center and tourists. The cost of maintaining the restrooms is continuously increasing and adding additional public restrooms would alleviate the financial burden carried by Belvedere Land Co.

Steve Sears, owner of Sam's Café, agreed that the Town should investigate adding additional public restroom facilities. Sears currently maintains the public restrooms between Sam's Café and the Angel Island Ferry Dock through a joint cost sharing agreement with the Town, Chamber of Commerce and Angel Island State Park. He commented that the facilities he maintains are used heavily by ferry commuters and feels that an additional facility should be constructed at either the Boardwalk Market or Donahue Building.

Director Echols noted that the issue to provide additional facilities has come before the Town Council in recent years and that area near the Donahue Building is too sensitive to consider.

Commissioner Zender recommended soliciting input on the issue from the business community.

M/S McMullen/Fraser 5-0 to forward a recommendation to the Town Council to consider the formation of a joint task force comprised of representatives from the P.O.S.C., Planning Commission, Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, Point Tiburon Bayside Homeowners Association, Belvedere Land Co. and the City of Belvedere to explore the possibility of adding additional public restroom facilities.

2. Playgrounds

Provide fundraising to update all of the Town's playgrounds.

3. Fundraising Strategies

Develop a fundraising strategy that can be applied to all projects identified by the P.O.S.C.

APPROVED

Director Echols and Commissioner McMullen agreed that fundraising should be a component of each of the goals identified by the Commission. McMullen requested that the development of a standard fundraising plan be recognized as a separate goal.

4. Public Education

Educate residents about the Town's parks and open space and what P.O.S.C. does.

5. Multi-Use Path Improvements & Maintenance

Development of a long-term, focused plan for what improvements should be made and how the path will be maintained. Chair Fraser would like to see that someone is appointed to oversee improvements and maintenance of the path on a full-time basis.

Director Echols noted that the path is now part of the Town's Pavement Management System.

6. Mar West Pedestrian Path

Director Echols noted that improvements to the Mar West pedestrian path would technically fall under roadway projects because it not part of a park. After discussing which entity of the Town is responsible for overseeing the path, the Commission determined that path is under the domain of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lindqvist stated the Tiburon Peninsula Club should be obliged to participate financially to any improvements that are made to the path.

Commissioner Lindqvist added that she would like to see drainage improvements made to Mar West.

M/S McMullen/Lindqvist to forward a recommendation to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to agendize discussion of the Mar West pedestrian path.

7. Water Access for Small Water Crafts

Construction of a ramp to provide water access for small water crafts and recreational public activities.

The Commissioners agreed to select four topics that the P.O.S.C. should focus on over the next 18-24 months. They were given three votes to determine which projects they felt should receive priority. The outcome of the votes is as follows:

1. Water Access (6)
2. Multi-use Path Improvements & Maintenance (4)
3. Development of a Fundraising Strategy (3)
4. Playgrounds (2)

Chair Fraser asked that each commissioner choose one of the goals and develop an outline defining the overall picture and a process that might be used to attain that goal. Topics were selected by the Commissioners as follows: Commissioners Lindqvist and Canter, water access; Commissioner McMullen, fundraising strategies; Commissioner Zender, playgrounds; Chair Fraser, multi-use path improvements and maintenance. The commissioners were asked to include how the Town's website could be utilized to educate the public about the projects. The Commissioners should be prepared to discuss the elements of their outline at the next meeting.

B. 2003 Coastal Cleanup Update

Chair Fraser gave an update on the details of the 2003 Coastal Cleanup and asked that each Commissioner participate in posting signs advertising the event. Commissioner Lindqvist will oversee the placement of a large sign in Blackie's Pasture.

C. Discussion of Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee signage along the multi-use path.

Ralph Leighton, representative of the joint signage subcommittee between the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and the POSC, presented the updated multi-use path signs. The new signs cover the essential points that the public should keep in mind while using the MUP. The objective of the new signs is to remove as many out-dated signs as possible.

The overarching rule of the signs is to encourage pedestrians to be considerate. Icons have been placed to the left of each of the following rules:

- Keep right except to pass
- Warn others when passing
- Obey leash and scoop laws

The Tiburon logo has been added to the bottom of the sign. If the signs do not sufficiently accomplish the goal of encouraging pedestrians to follow the above rules, the logos can be reproduced as very subtle stencils placed on the middle of the path as needed.

The signs will be forwarded to the Chief of Police and Town Council so that the appropriate vehicle codes and Town ordinances are cited on the signs. Once completed, the signs will be presented to the Town Council for final approval. Six signs will be posted in the following locations along the MUP: each end of the multi-use path, San Rafael Avenue, Del Mar crossing, South of Knoll park, and Reed School.

Chair Fraser asked if the icons are internationally or state recognized symbols. Leighton replied that the arrow is a modified version of one used by Cal-Trans, but that the main motivation for using the chosen symbols is that they seem relatively clear as to what actions they encourage. Chair Fraser commented that the sign appears a little cluttered.

APPROVED

McMullen suggested that the small print be moved to the bottom of the sign. He agrees that using the symbols are an effective way of making the rules stand out. Both McMullen and Fraser like that the signs highlight the fact the path is a multi-use path, not a bicycle path. McMullen added that he is an advocate of reducing sign pollution and removing extraneous signs so that a clean, concise message is conveyed.

Commissioner Canter commented that the signs contain too much information for cyclists to read as they ride past them, noting that cyclists tend to look ahead, and not to the sides where the signs would be placed. She stated that she liked the line, "PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE" and that it should be printed in a large font, but that line "KEEP TO THE RIGHT" gives the impression that the path is more like a roadway. Canter added that pedestrians have the right of way. She concluded by stating that additional signs along the MUP would be superfluous.

Chair Fraser stated that the signs should highlight the fact that the path is a multi-use path, not only a bicycle path.

Leighton informed the Commissioners that the BPAC subcommittee is trying to find ways to slow speeding cyclists, particularly at hazardous locations such as parking lots.

M/S McMullen/Lindqvist 4-1 (Canter objected) to endorse the sign presented by the BPAC subcommittee and to pass the concept to the Traffic Safety Committee for their review before it is submitted to the Town Council for final review.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Brochure on the Brownfields 2003: Growing a Greener America Conference

Correspondence was noted.

B. Notice of Funds Available: Waste Tire Track & Other Recreational Surfacing Grant Program

Director Echols advised the commission that although competition for this grant is very high, it is a potential source of funding for multi-use path improvements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

JAMES FRASER, CHAIR
Parks & Open Space Commission

ATTEST:

APPROVED

PAT ECHOLS, SECRETARY