

MINUTES NO. 206
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
MAY 11, 2004 7:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting
Town Council Chambers
1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Zender called the regular meeting of the Parks & Open Space Commission to order at 7:06 P.M., Tuesday, May 11, 2004, in the Town Council Chambers, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Zender, Commissioners Canter, Lindqvist, and Hermann

ABSENT: Chair McMullen

EX-OFFICIO: Town Engineer/Public Works Director Echols

II. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

There were none.

III. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFING

Director Echols noted that the Town's 40th Anniversary Celebration will kick-off with a formal dinner, the Pink Tie Ball, on Friday, May 21 at the Corinthian Yacht Club followed by Beach Blanket Tiburon, a family picnic and outdoor theatre event at McKegney Green on Saturday, May 22.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of March 8, 2004 (No. 205) approved as submitted.

M/S Hermann/Canter 4-0 to approve Minutes No. 205.

V. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Request by Rotary Club to Install Binocular Viewer at Ferry Plaza

Director Echols presented the Staff report.

APPROVED

Stephen Sanders, member of the Tiburon Sunset Rotary Club, gave a brief presentation on plans to install a binocular viewer at the downtown ferry plaza. He met with the Board of Directors for the Point Tiburon Bayside Condominium Owners Association to discuss the proposed project and it was determined that if the viewer is installed near the Zelinsky Bridge that it would be out of the Point Tiburon Bayside Condominium view area. The Rotary Club would be responsible for paying the \$450 per year lease agreement as well as maintenance costs for the viewer. The agreement can be renewed for additional terms after the initial three year term.

Vice-chair Zender asked if the project is intended to recognize the national Rotary Club's 100-year anniversary, which was confirmed by Mr. Sanders. Tiburon's Rotary Club was formed approximately 11 years ago.

Commissioner Lindqvist asked if the viewer is accessible by children. Mr. Stephens replied that two viewers are being considered, one that is accessible by adults/children and the other which is wheelchair accessible. Director Echols advised the commissioners to support an ADA compliant viewer. The commissioners and Mr. Stephens agreed that an ADA compliant viewer would be the best choice so that it benefits all residents and visitors.

Commissioner Hermann noted that the viewer should not be placed in an area of high pedestrian traffic. Director Echols commented that placement anywhere on the bridge or in the pedestrian passage area that might increase congestion would not be supported. The viewer should be set some distance away from the bridge, such as on the edge of the path. Director Echols will consult with the Town Attorney regarding ADA compliance issues pertaining to the installation of the viewer.

Mr. Stephen will return to the POSC at a later date with a detailed proposal including the exact location for the viewer. Either Director Echols will meet with Mr. Stephen to discuss potential locations or a subsequent POSC meeting will be held at the ferry plaza to decide upon a location.

The concept of installing a binocular viewer at the ferry plaza was endorsed by consensus.

B. Update on South of Knoll Tot Lot Renovations

Vice-chair Zender gave a brief update of the South of Knoll Tot Lot Renovations, including plans to install benches.

Director Echols added that Public Works Assistant Superintendent Davenport has received approval by the Town Manager to become certified as a playground safety inspector. Additionally, the South of Knoll Playground will be listed among the projects being considered by the Town Council for receiving a portion of State Parks and Recreation grant funds allocated by the Town.

Commissioner Lindqvist asked if sand will remain in the tot lot. Director Echols replied that with the exception of the sand box area, almost all sand in the tot lot will have to be removed to

comply with the ADA requirement to provide disabled children accessible pathways to playground equipment. The sand will be replaced with Fibar and Tot-turf. Echols encouraged the commissioners to visit the newly renovated Belvedere playground to see how these materials have been used there. Commissioner Lindqvist asked if any decision has been made about using concrete borders in the tot-lot. Vice-chair Zender replied that those types of concerns will be reviewed when the final plan goes to the safety consultant for approval.

Vice-chair Zender gave an update on the donation amounts received for tot-lot renovations. Zender recommended revising the tot-lot poster to solicit donations in any amount, not just the \$200 required for a tile.

C. Multi-use Path Improvement Strategies

Director Echols commented that he and Town Manager McIntyre attended a recent meeting of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Echols noted that the original mission of BPAC was to develop a bicycle and pedestrian master plan (which has been completed) so that the town would be eligible for certain funding. In an effort to move this item forward and proceed with developing a strategy at a faster pace, Echols recommended that this item be referred to BPAC to develop since bicycle and pedestrian matters are their specialty. BPAC should then be asked to report back to the POSC on their progress.

Commissioner Canter questioned if BPAC currently has plans to improve the path. Echols replied that no plans have been developed at this time. Rather, a strategy to deal with the problems associated with the current condition of the facility may be developed by performing a constraints analysis. Echols added that the path has grown more popular over the years and solutions are needed to address the problems that have risen out of increased usage.

Commissioner Hermann said that he endorsed the idea of giving BPAC the responsibility of identifying the issues and solutions associated with the multi-use path. Hermann will remain to be the POSC appointed liaison to BPAC.

M/S Lindqvist/Canter 4-0 to refer the development of the Multi-Use Path long-term strategy to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee with the understanding that there will be participation from a representative of the Parks and Open Space Commission and that the Commission will expect to receive regular updates from BPAC to allow input from the Commission.

D. South of Knoll Restroom Facility

Director Echols presented the Staff report and added that if a reasonable power source for the facility cannot be secured, passive lighting through the use of a skylight or photocells are being considered to provide a light source. The facility will be ADA compliant.

Commissioner Canter asked if the facility would be more discreet if it were located closer to Pine Terrace. Echols replied that the selected location would be the most discreet.

Director Echols informed the Commission that the plans will go before the Design Review Board and Town Council.

Commissioner Hermann asked if it was possible to move the facility closer to the tennis courts to mitigate problems with the lack of restrooms in that area. Commissioner Zender replied that this location is the closest public space available to the Belvedere-Tiburon Recreation Department tennis courts to place a restroom facility. Echols concurred that the Town doesn't own any other land near the tennis courts that would accommodate a restroom facility.

Commissioner Canter said that the proposed facility is a wonderful idea.

Commissioner Hermann asked if there would be any odor problems associated with the facility. Echols replied that new facility would allow flushing and that the existing portable facility poses a bigger potential odor problem than the permanent facility would.

E. Irrigation Upgrades for Blackie's Pasture

Director Echols presented the Staff report and distributed copies of a map indicating the proposed location of the irrigation well.

Commissioner Canter said that she was under the impression that drought resistant vegetation was to be planted and maintained by the group who initiated the beautification of Blackie's Pasture Grove. Director Echols replied that an irrigation well is the most cost effective method of providing irrigation to that area. He said that the Town currently has a problem with their dependency of potable water supplied by the Marin Municipal Water District to maintain the Town's landscaping. The irrigation well represents both a cost effective and energy efficient solution to irrigating the Grove. Echols added this project is in the spirit of environmentally responsible alternatives that the Town Council is encouraging. It was noted that reclaimed water is used to irrigate McKegney Green.

Commissioner Hermann asked if it would be cheaper to change out the current vegetation to drought resistant vegetation. Vice-chair Zender replied that it takes three years of regular irrigation to establish new plantings. Director Echols said that the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation voted to pay for one half of the costs to provide the well, resulting in a nominal cost to the Town. Additionally, if good water flow conditions are present, future landscaping plans presented to the Town may be also be accommodated by the water acquired by the well.

Commissioner Herman asked what the Town currently pays to irrigate the Grove. Echols replied that the meter used for irrigating the Grove is also used for other facilities, including the nearby restrooms. He will consult with Assistant Superintendent Davenport to ascertain irrigation costs.

Director Echols noted that that this item has been brought before the Commission as an informational item and will go before the Town Council.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Letter from the Belvedere-Tiburon Recreation Department Regarding the Need for Restrooms at Point Tiburon Tennis Courts

Correspondence noted. Commissioner Hermann inquired if State Parks and Receptions Funds could be applied to this project. Echols replied that given the number of identified projects that could be funded by those grants, competition for those funds is very high. Additionally, the Recreation Department charges membership fees for the use of the tennis courts. Echols believes that it would be more appropriate to use program fees rather than the State grant funds towards the restrooms. Commissioner Canter agreed. Echols encouraged the Commission to review the Staff Report that will address the use of State Park and Recreation Grants and attend the May 19 Town Council meeting when the Council will provide input on how those funds should be used.

B. Memo from Town Engineer Echols regarding the request for restroom facilities at Point Tiburon Tennis Courts

Correspondence noted.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

MARGO ZENDER, VICE-CHAIR
Parks & Open Space Commission

ATTEST:

PAT ECHOLS, SECRETARY