

MINUTES NO. 209
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
February 8, 2005 7:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting
Town Council Chambers
1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McMullen called the regular meeting of the Parks & Open Space Commission to order at 7:06 P.M., Tuesday, February 8, 2005, in the Town Council Chambers, 1505 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair McMullen, Vice Chair Zender, Commissioners Canter, Lindqvist and Wand.

ABSENT: None

EX-OFFICIO: Town Engineer/Public Works Director Echols

II. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

There were none.

III. ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

M/S Lindqvist/McMullen (4-0) to appoint Margo Zender as Commission Chair.

M/S McMullen/Lindqvist (4-0) to appoint Christopher Wand as Commission Vice Chair.

IV. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFING

Director Echols noted that Lynn Skillings had been hired as Administrative Aide. He reported that he has been involved in hazard mitigation plan meetings that may ultimately provide an opportunity to apply for broom suppression grant funding.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of September 14, 2004 (No. 208) were approved unanimously.

VI. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Blackie's Student Brigade

Larry Smith, President of the Tiburon Peninsula Foundation, provided background information and a brochure. He noted that the Brigade's objective is to focus on developing ways to engage Tiburon's children in taking ownership of the environment. The plan is to begin with the Primary School grades. He reported that the fundraising targets had been met by January 2005. He indicated that a large part of the money is slated to hire a student teacher majoring in environmental studies who would work for the Audubon Center in conjunction with the schools.

Smith pointed out that the steering committee includes long time nature enthusiast and Belveron resident, Brooke Halsey, as well as the principals and the Superintendent of the Reed Union School District, the Audubon Center, St. Hilary's, Strawberry, and the Romberg Center. Everyone is very excited about the prospects of this endeavor.

A recent site analysis noted that 20,000 salmon fingerlings can be placed in Blackie's Creek and that spawning salmon can be accommodated up to Tiburon Boulevard. Emphasis will be placed on eradication of invasive non-native plants.

Mr. Smith noted that there are a number of environmental activities on the peninsula which the steering and development committees are taking into consideration when developing the Student Brigade concept. The goal is to be successful in completing the project and to make it self sustaining.

He assured Commissioner Wand that State standards would be followed.

Chair Zender inquired about the starting date and the amount already raised. Mr. Smith reported there was a 2-1 matching basis for the fundraising and they now have \$90,000. The expectation is that the project will begin in Spring 2005 when the kickoff event of salmon dumping occurs.

A discussion ensued regarding the number of fingerlings the creek could handle, the decline of frogs seen in West Ditch, and the probable attraction for the children of the frogs and tadpoles. Vice Chair Wand suggested that Muir Woods Ranger, Mia Monroe, be contacted for her expertise in establishing such an infrastructure.

Commissioner McMullen urged that school parents be involved. To his question about any anticipated obstacles or opponents to the project, Mr. Smith mentioned the "Mud People" who want to preserve the mud flats. This group is very concerned about the Oyster Restoration Project because of the toxins emit into the mud.

Several other helpful organizations were discussed as was teachers' time constraint problems for developing these types of science projects. However, it was noted that teachers would be very good

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promoters of this program and that a possible resource would be the Science Teacher Council of Marin. The wide range of enrichment possibilities emanating from this project were extolled. Mr. Smith is to meet with the Audubon Center on February 9, 2005 to review this proposal.

B. TOT LOT

Pam Bonnie gave an update on the South of Knoll Renovation Subcommittee's fundraising commitments which presently totals just over \$75,000. It is comprised of Tile Sales of \$33,000, Tiburon Peninsula Foundation \$5,000 pledge, Rockey Foundation \$5,000 matching pledge, \$5,000 pledge, Belvedere Community Foundation \$2,500 donation, and Town \$9,800 (matching pledge to be requested). A Bay Area foundation which must remain anonymous until \$60,000 is received for the project at which time they will issue a challenge grant for the lot.

Derice Tao pointed out that while the hard part of the fundraising has been completed, it still will be necessary to solicit money indefinitely. They will continue with the finalizing of the drawings with the consultant, have a "walk through", meet regarding Safety issues, order equipment, and seek approval from POSC at the April 12th meeting and then at the April 20th Town Council meeting. Then there will be a 30 day window for project bids. The expectation is for a groundbreaking in June.

Chair Zender explained that the artist's work on the tiles had been delayed and that the December 1st deadline had been extended. She emphasized that incorrect tiles will be sent back and remade. A new batch of tile requests will soon be submitted to the artist.

C. MULTI-USE PATH

Councilmember Alice Fredericks noted the Council often receives complaints about the usage of the path particularly along Shoreline and at Blackie's Pasture. She reported that the Dogs Must Be On A Leash signs are not readable due to fading. Other examples of complaints are about rollerbladers, cyclists versus pedestrians, and "not keeping to the right" issues. She suggested this may be an opportunity to introduce further signage or to communicate appropriate rules via the Ark, Homeowners Associations, and/or the Tiburon Newsletter. She posed the question to the Commission as to what they thought would be a good way to handle the matter.

Commissioner Canter wants to preserve as much of the surroundings as possible; she doesn't want to have a super wide multi-colored path.

Director Echols explained that the Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee is more focused on the physical mechanics of path use such as striping and to keep the users separate. Their initial feedback is they prefer that different surfaces be used for the bicyclists versus the runners; i.e., paved versus gravel.

He went on to report that we have been meeting with the Marin Municipal Water District during the last several months due to the water main break and the flooding of the McCart Court area where the lines are 40-50 years old and decrepit, often pass under homes, etc. MMWD wants to install a new water main underneath the multi-use path from the South of Knoll playground to past San Rafael

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Avenue. MMWD states there is not enough room (need at least a 6 feet wide pedestrian access path) beside the path where the trench will be placed. This temporary path outside of the construction area will need to provide ADA compliant access. He expects approximately 75 % of the cost of widening the path will be picked up by MMWD with Tiburon being responsible for the final surface. However, the compaction, clearance, and grading costs are not yet known. The Director sees this as an opportunity to enhance/widen the path. An easement needs to be negotiated with MMWD and they still have to submit details as to location of their trench. He wants to partner with them. MMWD would have to restore the multi-use path, restore the 6 foot work area and the landscaping.

Commissioners noted the many conflicting recreational uses and the need to being courteous rather than have many signs forcing behavioral changes. A long discussion ensued regarding developing separate paths for different uses. Many spoke of the desirability of the Melbourne Path. The temporary MMWD path would be used in the rip-rap at the shoreline and into the landscape.

Director Echols reminded the Commission that the whole idea is in the embryonic stage and the time line is uncertain. There are BCDC permits, etc. needed. It was suggested that an article be put in the Town newsletter. BPAC representatives should be contacted.

D. WATERFRONT ACCESS

Commissioner Lindqvist reported on her and Bill Lindqvist's survey of possible accesses to the waterfront. They pointed out that the Richardson Bay area may pose too many potential liability problems and that Blackie's Pasture is very muddy. Subcommittee member McMullen and Lindqvist recommend consideration of either the Shoreline Park (which would require building steps at the Donohue Building) or the Corinthian site (requiring the club's participation).

The Commissioners tended to prefer the Shoreline Park at the Donahue Museum because the area is visible, attractive; and below the sight line. It would present no liability problems and can accommodate handicap and regular parking.

Some concern was expressed regarding the Pt. Tiburon Bayside Homeowners Association and it was urged that they be contacted immediately. Commissioner Lindqvist noted that waterfront access was part of the Point Tiburon site development plans.

There was also a discussion about the possible need of a berm being mitigated by locating the installation of the stairs behind the Donohue.

Director Echols reminded the Commission of the Downtown Revitalization Group which includes the Chamber and the Town Manager and suggested that they also be apprised of the Commission's considerations of this matter.

It was agreed that contact the Downtown Economic Development Committee by two POSC Commissioners might be appropriate. Commissioner Lindqvist is to contact Jim Hermann who earlier had expressed support for Shoreline.

The Director suggested that some consideration be given to dovetailing the Gallows Wheels

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relocation effort with the Shoreline/Waterfront Access project. He suggested that it should be mentioned to the Landmarks Society

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

MARGO ZENDER, CHAIR
Parks & Open Space Commission

ATTEST:

PAT ECHOLS, SECRETARY