

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 17, 2015

COMMISSION:       PRESENT: Chair Friedel, Blauvelt, Cimino

STAFF:               PRESENT: Recreation Director Dick Whitley  
                          Recreation Supervisor Nick Stone

Chair Friedel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2015

M/s Blauvelt/Cimino, to approve the minutes of November 19, 2015 as submitted.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Cimino, Chair Friedel

OPEN TIME

Mr. Bob Matteo, former Parks and Recreation Commissioner, stated the Commission did a great job this year and he looks for wonderful things to happen in the upcoming year- the future is bright !

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Discussion of Heritage Tree Ordinance

Recreation Director Whitley presented the staff report. He discussed a recent Heritage Tree Removal application that the Commission reviewed that included a Heritage structure with a retaining wall that was being impacted by one of the Heritage trees. At that time he was unaware of anything in the Heritage Tree Ordinance that would allow the Commissioner to take this circumstance into consideration. He spoke to the Planning Director who noted that Section 2(b) of the Findings allow the Commission to consider the history of the development of the property including what was built on the property (retaining walls, etc.). He reminded the Commission to specify which findings they are making when reviewing future applications.

Chair Friedel asked for clarification on what constitutes a “heritage” wall. Recreation Director Whitley stated it pertains to a wall that was built when the Heritage structure was built. In the application he referred to, the Heritage Preservation Board had determined that the wall had historical significance.

2. Updates regarding Various Public Works Department Projects

Recreation Director Whitley presented the staff report. He displayed some photographs that were taken around town by the Public Works Director. The Public Works Crew, along with 20 members of the USF Dons Sand Volleyball Team and about 10 members of the public, recently removed the residual sand from volleyball court #1. There is another workday scheduled for January 15th. New “volleyball quality” sand will be installed in several months. The USF Dons, along with several other groups, use these courts vigorously. Staff is attempting to make this a “world class” facility.

The next photograph showed Recreation Director Whitley and Commissioner Blauvelt at the Neighborhood Park Playground Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. The ceremony was wonderful and the kids were very excited about the new facility.

Recreation Director Whitley reported the residents around Heatherwood Park have been very busy removing the sand at the playground and doing other work. The plan is to install “fi-bar” (engineered wood chips) as a fall zone material as soon as the weather allows. Commissioner Blauvelt stated the official “Playground Opening” would be announced soon. Chair Friedel had a question about the location of the wood chips. Commissioner Cimino asked if the new facility included a climbing wall. Recreation Director Whitley stated “yes”.

The final two photographs shown were of Dolliver Park- the new play structure and the almost completed restroom. Chair Friedel asked if the final version of the restroom would include a wall in the front. Recreation Director Whitley stated “yes”.

Commissioner Cimino asked where the volleyball quality sand would be purchased. Recreation Director Whitley stated staff would get it online and it should be delivered sometime in March. Volleyball court #2 would receive the same treatment next year. Commissioner Cimino asked if there were tournaments planned for the summer. Recreation Director Whitley stated they were planned for the spring and summer. The Piper Park courts are the home courts for the USF Dons team. Recreation Supervisor Stone stated staff was planning on scheduling a clinic for kids in the community. Chair Friedel asked if staff could put out a press release about the new courts. Recreation Supervisor Stone stated “yes, that was a good idea”.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR’S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Whitley reported the Public Works Department posted a Survey Monkey asking people for his or her opinion about a new play structure proposed for Piper Park. People were asked to choose from five or six design themes. Recreation Supervisor Stone sent an email blast that got a very good response to the survey. Recreation Director Whitley stated two of the themes were the most popular- “In the Woods” and “Modern Free”. Commissioner Blauvelt stated she liked the “Cozy Cocoon” design. Chair Friedel noted the “In the Woods” design would require the removal and replacement of some trees. Recreation Director Whitley agreed. He reported the Larkspur Larks held their Annual Holiday Lunch on Tuesday and it was well attended. He recently met with Corte Madera Parks and Recreation Director Fiorentini, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, and a representative of the Central Marin

Police Department to discuss the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fun Run. The run will start prior to the parade and the route would be from Piper Park to Town Park. Chair Friedel asked about the length of the run. Recreation Director Whitley stated it would be about 2 ¼ miles. The event is part of the Corte Madera Centennial Celebration.

Recreation Supervisor Stone reported the Hall Middle School performance of “Cats” finished up two weeks ago and was a huge success. Katia and Company is planning on another performance starting in January with an off-site performance at the San Anselmo Playhouse. Registration for Bacich After School classes started on December 7<sup>th</sup>- several of the classes filled up in one day. The Glass Fusing Ornament Class that occurred last Saturday was well attended. It was set up as a Mother-Daughter class. Commissioner Cimino asked if this would be an annual event. Recreation Supervisor Stone stated “yes”- he received some very positive feedback. The class fee was \$80 (for two) but each participant came away with four to five self-designed ornaments.

### COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Friedel reiterated her request that Councilmembers, Boardmembers, and Commissioner attend Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) and/or “Get Ready” classes. She noted the classes often conflict with night meetings. Commissioner Cimino stated he attended the Flood Zone 9 meeting last night and a lot of residents from Ross and San Anselmo complained that there was no advanced notice during the last flood and they did not know where to go. Chair Friedel noted she was basically stuck in her home during a high tide and heavy rains. Recreation Director Whitley stated he would contact Acting Fire Chief Shurtz about holding a CERT or “Get Ready” class on a Saturday morning specifically for City officials.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis  
Recording Secretary