

MINUTES

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

OCTOBER 3, 2000

A regular meeting of the Park and Activities Commission of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 7:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Frantz, Pagliano, Pekich, Persichina, Pierson, Vullo

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Clewis

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Andy Clark, Community Services Director

Linda Fitton, Equestrian Services Supervisor

Terry McConn, Maintenance Superintendent

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 19, 2000

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER VULLO

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2000, AS PRESENTED

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

HOWLETT PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reviewed the staff report per written material.

The COMMISSION and staff reviewed the calendar with minor notations. It was the consensus of the COMMISSION that the calendar for events held at Ernie Howlett Park be posted at the park and at the General Store, in calendar form.

The COMMISSION noted that the testimony heard at previous meetings that Howlett Park was reserved every weekend in July and August was not correct. Testimony revealed that there are usually one or two rings available for public use during scheduled clinics. COMMISSIONER VULLO stated it was her initial concern that the public park was being excessively used by outside entities, but testimony revealed that during most of the horse shows and clinics, Peninsula residents participated.

It was the consensus of the COMMISSION that a quarterly calendar of events for Ernie Howlett Park be included in the scheduled meeting packets monthly. The Equestrian Services Supervisor schedules events three months in advance on the

calendar.

In answer to an inquiry, COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated when the park was designed in 1980, the location of the stables, the anticipated use of the stables and the park were considered. The City set up their own horse shows at first, and now there are many organizations wishing to use the park, and would not be in favor of changing anything.

COMMISSIONER VULLO asked staff to investigate the possibility of an informal survey as to how many Rolling Hills Estates residents have horses on their property.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ suggested limiting events to two per month, not in consecutive weekends, with the following exceptions: Las Amigas Horse Show, Portuguese Bend Horse Show, California Carriage Classic, and the City Celebration.

After some discussion, it was noted that Portuguese Bend Horse Show utilizes the entire park the full three days of the show, plus approximately seven (7) days set up/break down, which impacts the park, and that similar approximates were noted for the Las Amigas Horse Show (seven days) and Carriage Classic (six days).

Pam Schachter, Rolling Hills Estates resident and incoming President of Las Amigas, concurred with the suggestion of limiting events to two per month. When a dressage clinic is run, the clinic only utilizes the dressage ring and one ring for warm-up only. She stated that during the clinics, two rings are available most of the day and would not want the dressage clinics considered an event.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ asked whether the dressage clinic only uses the dressage ring and whether two rings were open the rest of the time.

THE EQUESTRIAN SERVICES SUPERVISOR stated there is a small number of residents using Howlett Park. She added the root of the conflict is that someone wants to ride and someone wants to turn his or her horse out. The City does not promote the rings at Howlett Park as turnout rings, only as riding rings.

Cathy Gardner, Rolling Hills Estates resident and representative of the Pony Club, stated that she was at the park on September 24 for a Pony Club function, using the dressage and large oval ring, and observed the rings at Howlett being used as a turnout ring, riding ring and lesson ring, all the in the same day. She added that everyone gets along and no one complained. In addition to the Parelli Clinic and Pony Club use, a dog show and little league game was going on at the same time at the park. She felt that the present Howlett Park scheduling works well and that the Pony Club would like to utilize the small oval ring once a month.

Hardy Zantke, Torrance resident and Carriage Classic Event representative, stated that during the rest of the year, he uses the facility and does not have a problem with other shows. If an event is held at the park, many residents are using the facility, and when no event is scheduled, there is just a handful of people using the park. He does not feel clinic use should be restricted, only major events should be restricted as suggested.

Caroll Harrison, Torrance resident, stated ETI shows are held five times per year. He concurred that everyone gets along regarding the use of the rings. He stated he

would also like the COMMISSION to consider allowing ETI to store a container at Ernie Howlett Park. CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA stated there is not a problem with this item being agendized for a future meeting.

Terry Griggs, Rolling Hills Estates resident, concurred with the suggestion by COMMISSIONER FRANTZ to restrict events to twice per month, not in consecutive weekends, and to allow clinics and the Pony Club the use of Ernie Howlett Park. She added that she does attend the shows that are at Ernie Howlett Park.

COMMISSIONER VULLO questioned whether the COMMISSION was under the impression that residents reported not being able to use the rings at Ernie Howlett Park due to excessive scheduling of events, and that was the reason this item was on the agenda. The COMMISSION concurred that was their understanding, however, after tonight's testimony, it appears there are rings available more times than not, with the exception of September (City Celebration and Portuguese Bend Horse Show in consecutive weekends).

Jan Ball, Western Riding Instructor, stated Western ETI utilizes the park four times a year, only using the dressage ring for 15 minutes, and using the smaller ring only till noon. She stated there are usually two rings open for public riding.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ asked Ms. Griggs if there was a problem using the rings during ETI shows. Ms. Griggs stated that English ETI shows utilize all the rings, but when there is a Western ETI show, she can use the ring for lunging or turnout. She added that some residents would like to turn their horse out in the ring every day. COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated that there originally was concern from the Masongate area and other equestrians regarding the usage of Ernie Howlett Park; however, from tonight's information, there doesn't seem to be a major problem.

COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated that lunging could take place at the Pepper Wood Park ring and Chandler Park ring. He did not see a shortage of rings in the City for lunging or turn out purposes.

COMMISSIONERS PAGLIANO and PIERSON stated it would be their preference to allow the scheduling of events at Ernie Howlett Park to remain the same as in the past, as there doesn't seem to be a problem, and to allow the EQUESTRIAN SERVICES SUPERVISOR the latitude to schedule events as she sees fit.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER VULLO

TO ALLOW A MAXIMUM OF TWO (2) EVENTS PER MONTH AT ERNIE HOWLETT PARK; THAT THESE EVENTS NOT BE ON CONSECUTIVE WEEKENDS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEPTEMBER (PORTUGUESE BEND HORSE SHOW AND CITY CELEBRATION); AND THAT DURING THE NON-SCHEDULED WEEKENDS, THAT AT LEAST ONE (1) RING BE AVAILABLE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

AYES: Frantz, Pekich, Persichina, Vullo

NOES: Pagliano, Pierson

ABSENT: Clewis

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated he would like to acknowledge audience member Deborah Davis, and thanked her for handling the equestrian events at the City Celebration and a job well done.

PROPOSED HORSE ARENA LOCATION IN HOWLETT PARK

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reviewed the staff report per written material. He stated the current site approved by the Equestrian Committee and PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION was next to the dressage ring. He stated that Ms. Terry Griggs suggested three possible alternate locations for the proposed ring, however, none of the alternate locations were feasible to build a ring.

CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA and COMMISSIONER PIERSON agreed that the location of the ring had been considered by both the PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION and the Equestrian Committee, and during those deliberations, the proposed location next to the dressage ring, was deemed the most appropriate.

The EQUESTRIAN SERVICES SUPERVISOR noted that any ring being located near or above the tennis courts would put dust and dirt on those courts; and any ring located near the Maintenance Yard would put direct access to horses onto the ballfields. She added that the fences and the berms of the current equestrian part of the park, restricts the horse activity to the horse area.

The MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT stated that there will be problems with any of the suggested locations near the Maintenance Yard, but the location next to the dressage ring would be an ideal location.

Pam Schachter agreed that the best location would be the area next to the dressage ring. In answer to an inquiry by COMMISSIONER FRANTZ, Ms. Schachter stated that there is a possibility of Las Amigas and Portuguese Bend Horse Shows helping to fund the proposed ring.

Mr. Zantke stated he actively uses the proposed area near the dressage ring and opposes the suggestion to construct a ring in that location.

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated that Ms. Griggs had suggested another ring be constructed, in addition to the ring proposed next to the dressage ring, at a location northeast of the Maintenance Yard at the beginning of the slope. The COMMISSION requested the MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT to evaluate whether or not a ring could be constructed, the maintenance of that ring, and the costs associated with a potential ring at this location.

It was the consensus of the COMMISSION that the proposed ring at Ernie Howlett Park be located next to the dressage ring, as specified in previous meetings, and that the suggestion for an additional ring located near the Maintenance Yard be investigated by the MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT and reviewed at a future meeting.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ suggested staff look into the possibility of the Pepper Tree Foundation "loaning" the City of Rolling Hills Estates the money needed to construct the ring (next to the dressage ring) at Ernie Howlett Park. Said money to be paid back into the Pepper Tree Foundation fund on July 1, 2001, when the funds are available.

The funding aspect of this discussion was tabled, and this item will be agendized for the next meeting.

IMPACTS OF MAJOR EQUESTRIAN EVENTS AT ERNIE HOWLETT PARK

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reviewed the staff report per written material. He stated that the compaction tests considered were not conducted. He added that representatives of Las Amigas and Portuguese Bend Horse Shows informed him that their horse shows did not wish to use the sportsfields for their events in the future.

The MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT stated that with the Carriage Classic Driving Event, there will be compaction of the fields with a heavy animal. He also noted that the soil was silt clay which lends itself to compaction automatically and the weeds that will sprout up with compaction. He added that experts in the industry could not believe horses would be allowed to utilize a sportsfield.

COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated the Carriage Classic should be allowed for the year 2001, with the ultimate idea of reconstructing the fields again.

In answer to an inquiry, the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated all the horse shows carry insurance for any damages to the park.

COMMISSIONER VULLO stated that if the MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT states there will be compaction to the fields, she would recommend the Portuguese Bend Horse Show and Las Amigas Horse Show not be allowed on the field; however, the staff report implied there was no measurable impact to the fields by the Carriage Classic and therefore would be in favor of the Carriage Classic using the area for their 2001 event.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated he had a concern with the MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT'S remarks that the Carriage Classic would cause damage to the fields. Since the Portuguese Bend Horse Show and Las Amigas Horse Show informed the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR they will not use the sportsfields, the only decision is whether to allow the Carriage Driving event.

There being no further discussion, COMMISSIONER PIERSON moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER FRANTZ

TO ALLOW THE CALIFORNIA CLASSIC CARRIAGE DRIVING EVENT TO UTILIZE THE ERNIE HOWLETT PARK SPORTSFIELDS IN 2001; AND NOT TO ALLOW USE OF THE SPORTSFIELDS BY LAS AMIGAS AND PORTUGUESE BEND HORSE SHOWS.

AYES: Frantz, Pagliano, Pekich, Persichina, Pierson, Vullo

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2000

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2000, BE RECEIVED AND FILED.

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 18, 2000

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2000, BE RECEIVED AND FILED.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reminded those on the Adhoc Nature Center Subcommittee, that a meeting will be held October 11, at 6:00 p.m.

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reminded those on the Parade Subcommittee that the next meeting will be held on October 17, at 5:00 p.m.

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the Debriefing Meeting will be held on November 7, at 6:00 p.m., at Giorgio's Restaurant.

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the tennis locker rooms are 80% done, and should be opened within the next week.

COMMISSION ITEMS

COMMISSIONER VULLO stated the 3-rail fencing along Rolling Hills Road near where the trees were removed on private property, is in poor condition.

She inquired as to whether there were still two paid naturalists present at the Nature Center and questioned the need for volunteers.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ suggested that at any future calendar photo session, the COMMISSION meet directly after the photo session.

CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA inquired whether the container at Highridge was properly landscaped as noted in the minutes. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR will investigate and report back to the COMMISSION at the next meeting.

In answer to an inquiry, the date of the next Cross Country Run is April 28, 2001.

COMMISSIONER PIERSON asked for an update regarding the status of the bid of the golf course, specifically the trail around it.

COMMISSIONER PEKICH stated his concern of the fencing along the reservoir near his property, and questioned why the entire length of fencing was not removed and replaced. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the area COMMISSIONER PEKICH was referring to include approximately 5 posts and could be done in-house.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Nature Center Requests for Pepper Tree Foundation Funding

Funding for Ring Approved at Ernie Howlett Park (near dressage ring)

Feasibility Study of Additional Ring Location near Maintenance Yard

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER PIERSON moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER VULLO

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED, THE TIME BEING 9:35 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Ellen Shinkai Douglas R. Prichard

Minutes Secretary City Clerk