

MINUTES

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 15, 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: Clewis, Frantz, Pagliano, Pekich, Persichina, Pierson, Vullo

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Andy Clark, Community Services Director

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2000

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER VULLO

THAT THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2000, BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Letter from Mesa Palos Verdes HOA - The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the COMMISSION reviewed the Mesa Palos Verdes HOA request last year and approved their request to build a structure in the median on Whitley Collins Drive at Highridge Road, with no funding from the City. Mr. Ray Mathys, Vice President of the Mesa Palos Verdes HOA, addressed the COMMISSION requested monies from the City's Entry Beautification Program.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS stated that when this item first came before the COMMISSION, the price quoted for the structure(s) was \$6,000 and there was not much money in the Entryway Beautification Fund.

COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated that the COMMISSION voted not to provide funding for this project.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated he would like to review the minutes of the meeting that this item came before the COMMISSION. In answer to an inquiry, Mr. Mathys stated that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes has approved \$2,500 for the structure located at Whitley Collins and Crest Road.

After some discussion, it was determined that the total price of the structure at Whitley Collins Drive and Highridge was \$3,583, not \$6,000. COMMISSIONER FRANTZ requested Mr. Mathys to go back to Rancho Palos Verdes and ask for additional monies, as many of the homes in that tract are actually in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and a small number (8%) are in Rolling Hills Estates.

The COMMISSION questioned whether this item should be considered since the thoroughfare is not listed as one of the approved locations. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated that in the past, other locations have been approved for funds from the Entryway Beautification Program.

This item will be included on the next agenda (March 7).

FUTURE USES FOR ERNIE HOWLETT PARK SPORTSFIELDS

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reviewed the staff report per written material. He stated that the landscape architect, the renovation contractor, the landscape maintenance contractor and staff all concur that allowing the previous equestrian activities to use the newly renovated fields in the same manner as operated in the past will immediately cause compaction problems on the sportsfield turf.

Staff recommended that the COMMISSION recommend to CITY COUNCIL to implement a usage policy for the Ernie Howlett Park sportsfields to be limited to youth sports activities which do not require the use of heavy vehicles or equipment on the turf areas.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS stated the fields were not in good condition now, and inquired how a company could be allowed to leave this non-turf condition at the park? CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA stated comments and concerns regarding the newly renovated sportsfields will be discussed under COMMISSION ITEMS.

Mr. Hardy Zantke, representing the California Carriage Classic organization, reviewed the history of the carriage event. He stated the event needs a dressage field larger than the equestrian area provides. He stated that carriage driving (nor carriage wheels) does not damage the grass area, and has not damaged the fields.

COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated this is a City tradition and should be allowed to continue. He opposed staff's recommendation.

COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO stated that before making a recommendation, he would like a meeting between the architect, Mr. Zantke, Maintenance Superintendent Terry McConn and the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR, as he would be reluctant to approve any equestrian use at this time. COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated he would rely on the judgment of the Maintenance Superintendent Terry McConn.

In answer to an inquiry, Mr. Zantke stated no trailers, cars, trucks, etc., will be parked on the sportsfield grass area, they will only be parked in the equestrian area.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ asked whether the Carriage Classic could use the Landfill area. He stated he opposed equestrian events on the fields and would be reluctant to approve any event at this time due to the fact that the fields were still not quite up to the standards they should be. He suggested the COMMISSION postpone any decision on the field use for at least one year.

Mr. Zantke stated the area at the landfill is not big enough, and asked COMMISSIONER FRANTZ to abstain from voting as he was involved in Little League and would be biased.

CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA felt that the Portuguese Bend Horse Show should not be allowed on the sportsfield area due to the impact of large vehicles and heavy equipment that would be required to be on the fields. He would be in favor of the show being set up as last year. CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA was in favor of meeting with the architect and the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR at the field, and on a separate occasion, he would like to meet with the Maintenance Superintendent and the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR to determine what the problems were and how to resolve them.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated the COMMISSION should follow staff's recommendation to limit usage for the Ernie Howlett Park sportsfields by youth sports activities which do not require the use of heavy vehicles or equipment on the turf areas.

In discussions, it was determined that Las Amigas Horse Show had stalls located on the fields. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated Las Amigas has requested to hold their horse show in the equestrian area, but install a warm up ring on the field. COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated Las Amigas could use the dressage ring for a warm up ring, but would not be in favor of having a ring on the field.

COMMISSIONER PIERSON again reiterated his opinion that the City should consider the opinion of Maintenance Superintendent Terry McConn regarding whether or not to allow any usage of the sportsfields by an equestrian event at this time.

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reiterated that Maintenance Superintendent McConn felt that the Carriage Classic had the least impact on the fields.

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

TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL: 1) APPROVAL TO USE ERNIE HOWLETT PARK SPORTSFIELD GRASS AREA FOR ONLY THE DRESSAGE PORTION OF THE CALIFORNIA CARRIAGE CLASSIC DRIVING EVENT; THAT OTHER PORTIONS OF THE CARRIAGE EVENT BE HELD ON THE TRAILS AND RINGS; AND THAT THIS APPROVAL SHALL BE IN EFFECT FOR THE YEAR 2000 ONLY WITH REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION AFTER THE HORSE SHOW; AND

2) THAT THE PORTUGUESE BEND AND LAS AMIGAS HORSE SHOWS BE RESTRICTED TO THE EQUESTRIAN AREA AND PICNIC AREA ONLY (NO PART OF THE SPORTSFIELDS CAN BE USED).

AYES: CLEWIS, PAGLIANO, PEKICH, PERSICHINA, PIERSON

ABSTAIN: FRANTZ

NOES: VULLO

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated he has grave concerns regarding the entire nature of the renovated sportsfields and its apparent compaction, drainage and irrigation problems. ***See comments under COMMISSION ITEMS.**

TENNIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND CLUB PROCEDURES

Lead Tennis Clerk Terri Kruger addressed the COMMISSION and reviewed the staff report per written material. She stated the Tennis Club will be more consistent with present policies; i.e., no sharing of memberships, members showing identification; and collecting cancellation fees. Some proposed changes were developed after analyzing feedback from members and the Tennis Subcommittee; i.e., 7-day advanced reservation privileges for all members; Non-payment of late cancellation or no-show fees will result in denial of membership privileges until payment is received; New photo I.D. cards issued every year, with a \$5 fee for a replacement card; Residents will receive a discount on membership and court fees; Annual membership renewal to take place in April rather than February; All Marine League players must be a member of the Tennis Club and be required to show photo I.D. card; and Starter will rotate play on courts whenever the need arises and would have the final decision.

Staff recommended that the COMMISSION approve the changes in Club procedure to be implemented for the new membership year of 2000, with procedural changes going into effect beginning with the renewal process in April 2000.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ reiterated that he felt the procedural changes were of an administrative nature, and that it should be entirely up to staff to run the Tennis Club and implement any changes staff felt were necessary. He added that a Tennis Subcommittee was appointed for this reason and the administrative items should not come before the COMMISSION for approval. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR agreed.

COMMISSIONER VULLO commended Ms. Kruger for her staff report and stated that she was doing an excellent job of running the Club in a professional manner.

There being no objection, COMMISSIONER FRANTZ moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER VULLO

TO ACCEPT STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PROCEDURAL CHANGES AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING FEE CHANGES: \$4.50 RESIDENT/\$5.50 NON-RESIDENT/\$6.50 NON-MEMBER PER HOUR, PER COURT WEEKDAYS; AND \$4.50 RESIDENT/\$6.50 NON-RESIDENT/\$7.50 NON-MEMBER PER HOUR, PER COURT WEEKENDS.

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

PROPOSED ROCKBLUFF PARK HORSE ARENA

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reviewed the staff report per written material. Staff recommended that the COMMISSION table consideration of Rockbluff Park as a potential location for a new horse ring and direct staff to prepare a report for the March 7, 2000 COMMISSION meeting concerning the potential installation of a turn-out ring in the Ernie Howlett Park Equestrian Center.

The COMMISSION inquired as to the survey taken of the Rollingwood residents. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the Rollingwood HOA Board of Directors voted against the installation of a horse arena. In answer to an inquiry, the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated that the City's Traffic Engineer reviewed the intersection of Palos Verdes Drive North and Hawthorne Boulevard for potential equestrian crossing problems and found no significant safety concerns.

The majority of the COMMISSION felt that because Rockbluff Park had just been newly renovated, and because of the apparent opposition of the Rollingwood HOA, a new riding ring should not be considered at this location.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER VULLO

TO NOT CONSIDER ROCKBLUFF PARK AS A POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR AN EQUESTRIAN RING; AND DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE MARCH 7, 2000 COMMISSION MEETING CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL INSTALLATION OF A TURN-OUT RING IN THE ERNIE HOWLETT PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER.

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

NOES: Pierson

HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD MEDIANS LANDSCAPING

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR reviewed the staff report per written material. COMMISSIONER VULLO moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PEKICH

TO RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD MEDIANS AT THE MARCH 25, 2000 POLICY DEVELOPMENT SESSION.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

ADJOURN TO PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

COMMISSIONER PIERSON moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CLEWIS

TO ADJOURN TO THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, THE TIME BEING 8:50 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

NATURE CENTER TRAVELING EXHIBITS PURCHASE REQUEST

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR provided a staff report per written material. BOARD MEMBER CLEWIS stated she was in favor of purchasing the exhibits for use by the George F Canyon Nature Center staff to use when visiting schools.

BOARD MEMBER FRANTZ moved, seconded by BOARD MEMBER PIERSON

TO RECOMMEND TO THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION (CITY COUNCIL) THE PURCHASE OF TWO EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE KITS FOR USE BY THE GEORGE F CANYON CONTRACTUAL STAFF AT A COST OF \$561.00.

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

5K AND 10K CROSS COUNTRY RUN - APRIL 29, 2000

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR distributed the mock up of the Cross Country Run application. The application will be taken to the printer this week.

Chair positions for the Cross Country Run are as follows:

Chairman - Pekich

Awards - Clewis

Water Station - Pierson

Pre-Registration - Pagliano

Start/Finish -

Course Set Up - Persichina

T-Shirts - Vullo

Discussion ensued regarding the Little League games that are scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. The start location will be moved away from the Little League fields. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR will contact the Sheriff's Department to inquire whether the Sheriff's Department would direct runners/traffic "gratis" if the race route were changed to the original route, and if not, what an approximate charge would be for 2 Sheriff's Deputies and a Supervisor.

RECONVENE TO THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO

TO ADJOURN THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND RECONVENE TO THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING, THE TIME BEING 9:10 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, JANUARY 25, 2000

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2000, BE RECEIVED AND FILED.

COMMISSIONER PIERSON asked for an update regarding the Dapplegray Lane POA's current litigation regarding the closure of a portion of the Dapplegray trail. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the City was not interested in being named a co-applicant in the lawsuit.

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, JANUARY 18 AND 31, 2000

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 18 AND JANUARY 31, 2000,

BE RECEIVED AND FILED.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Park Permit Request - Sports Educators of America Clinic - April 19, 2000 - After some discussion, the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR assured the COMMISSION that Sports Educators of America will not be making any money from this clinic. He stated that the Sports Educators of America wanted only money for publicity and celebrity appearance fees (\$2,500), which will be donated by BMC (\$500) and each of the Little Leagues on the hill (4 leagues x \$500). The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated he will approve this Permit.

Park Permit Request - Congregation Ner Tamid of South Bay - May 21, 2000 - In answer to a question regarding parking and use of the park, the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR assured the COMMISSION that any problems that may arise from the approval of this permit (as the Church is anticipating approximately 200 to attend) would be handled by the Tennis Starter, and added that in the past the Tennis Starter had called him regarding a previous problem with an applicant having more than the Permit's maximum of 100 people.

Silver Spur Little League Opening Day - March 4, 2000 - The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the Little League is inviting the MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEMBERS to attend Opening Day and the MAYOR and CHAIRMAN of the COMMISSION will throw out the first game ball.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ inquired whether there was a tennis tournament scheduled for that day. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated that he does not foresee a problem, as the tournament is for overflow of the Kramer Club tournament only.

Commission Meeting Protocol - The COMMISSION reviewed the protocol for meetings.

COMMISSION ITEMS

COMMISSIONER VULLO stated that the trees that were to be removed on Palos Verdes Drive North right-of-way (Houske) still remain. The deadline for the removal of the trees is February 18, 2000. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated he will follow up on this item.

COMMISSIONER VULLO stated that Naturalist Aileen Bevan will be presented with a Proclamation at next week's City Council meeting, and invited the COMMISSION to attend.

The following discussion involves the newly renovated sportsfields at Ernie Howlett Park:

COMMISSIONER VULLO stated this was the worst job she has ever seen, and could not believe the City paid for this renovation. She felt that the City was stuck with weeds growing over the field and felt the City should not have paid the contractor.

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR explained that to save money, the City indicated it would find the soil, rather than purchasing it. Working with the landscape architect and Terry McConn, much of the soil the City reviewed and tested was unacceptable. But time grew short and bidding was to begin for the project, it was decided that a large available soil source could be leached (add soil amendments and increase watering to have the salt leech down through the soil). However, the grass did not grow uniformly, and weeds have also appeared. The soil has been subsequently sprayed for weeds, and will be again sprayed in 30 days. The architect (Katzmeier) felt that hydroseeding in the wind may have exacerbated the problem.

The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR continued that the landscape architect, Mr. McConn, and he were in agreement that with watering and the rain expected, the salt would leech down through the soil. He added that staff is also not happy with the fields.

COMMISSIONER VULLO stated that the fields are in such a bad condition that this was the reason she voted "no" earlier to the Carriage Classic being held on the fields.

COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated everyone is unhappy about the fields, and suggested a negative recommendation be given to this contractor. He added that rocks were not removed from the field and there was a potential of children falling on the rocks. He stated the soil is uneven and was not rolled, and should have been compacted more, and drainage is still a problem. He reiterated his concern regarding the carriages on the fields. COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated his concern that due to the valve covers being located in the playing field, a player could slip from running on the boxes. The final layout was not checked and the Pony field bases were originally off by 3 feet.

It was the consensus of the COMMISSION that with all the monies expended for this project from a company who claims to have laid out and completed fields for Cal State Fullerton and other colleges, the job was not done properly.

The COMMISSION questioned what recourse the City would have at this time. After some discussion, it was not clear if any recourse was possible. COMMISSIONER FRANTZ stated that at a meeting between Terry McConn, Andy Clark, BMC, and himself, all agreed the renovation was not done to their expectations and, in his opinion, were not ready to be played on.

CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA stated the same exact drainage problem is present and has not been corrected.

The COMMISSION questioned why a company would hydroseed on a windy day, knowing that the seeds were not adequately spread.

CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA requested the COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR to trace back where the dirt came from, as the weeds present on the fields were not from the immediate area. The COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR stated the dirt was brought in from a project in Rancho Palos Verdes.

CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA reiterated that the sprinklers and control boxes were not installed in the proper location, and noted the concern regarding the placement. There were too many plastic top boxes located on the playing field and were never

located in those locations. It was stated that former employee Don Schjeldahl reviewed the irrigation plans, not the Maintenance Superintendent Terry McConn. It was some of the COMMISSIONERS opinion that the control boxes were not shown on the original plans in those locations.

It was the consensus of the COMMISSION that the entire sportsfield renovation project

was not done properly, that the COMMISSION was not satisfied with any aspect of the project, and that the City should investigate some type of recourse.

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER VULLO

THAT THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING BE ADJOURNED THE TIME BEING 9:45 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA SO ORDERED.

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Ellen Shinkai Douglas R. Prichard

Minutes Secretary City Clerk