

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 21, 2016

COMMISSION: PRESENT: Chair Friedel, Blauvelt, Cimino

STAFF: PRESENT: Recreation Director Dick Whitley
Recreation Supervisor Nick Stone
Public Works Director Mary Grace Houlihan

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2015

M/s Blauvelt/Cimino, to approve the minutes of December 17, 2015 as submitted.
Ayes: Blauvelt, Cimino, Chair Friedel

OPEN TIME

There were no comments.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Election of New Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Recreation Director Whitley presented the staff report.

M/s Friedel/Cimino, to elect Commissioner Blauvelt as Chair.
Ayes: Blauvelt, Cimino, Chair Friedel

M/s Blauvelt/Friedel, to elect Commissioner Cimino as Vice-Chair.
Ayes: Blauvelt, Cimino, Chair Friedel

Commissioner Blauvelt thanked Chair Friedel for her service as Chair. Commissioner Friedel stated it was an honor and a privilege- and a lot of fun.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Various Facility-related updates from Public Works/Engineering Director

Public Works Director Houlihan passed out some information to the Commission. She discussed the Hillview Greenway Project and stated it has been challenging. It was torn up as part of the Ross Valley Sanitary District (RVSD) project and was used as a

staging area for the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) work done in the downtown. This area is designated to handle stormwater filtration as part of the Bon Air Bridge Project. In addition, new storm drain structures will be installed to handle the storm flow that inundates the Hillview area. The consultants are working on the design and it would go out to bid soon. Construction would begin mid to late summer. A community meeting is being scheduled. The plant palette would include the removal of the old Pine trees and replacement of them with native trees. There will be a 12' wide multi-use path going through the area with a nice buffering of plants. Magnolia Avenue will go through what is called a "road diet" which would include the widening of the median. There will be one lane of traffic with a separated bike lane. These "road diet" measures would encourage people to drive slower. Commissioner Cimino had questions about the drainage system. Public Works Director Houlihan briefly discussed the swale/infiltration system that would include grasses. This, along with several other projects, are mitigations for the addition of several hundred thousand square feet of concrete on Bon Air Road (the newly constructed bridge).

Public Works Director Houlihan discussed the Marin Rowing dock and stated the design team was almost finished with the plan. The dock is being reconstructed to be ADA compliant. It will be a kayaking dock (close to the water) and will include ADA parking. The new dock will have the same dimensions as the original- 9' wide and 45' long. Commissioner Cimino asked if the material used would be aluminum. Public Works Director Houlihan stated "yes"- it would wear well and last a long time. Commissioner Cimino asked if the new dock would be in the same location. Public Works Director Houlihan stated "yes" since the piles could not be relocated. Commissioner Blauvelt asked if it would be affected by the tide. Public Works Director Houlihan stated they could not extend it further out without going back to BCDC. It will continue to be in the mud during a very low tide. This project would be paid for through the mitigation fund for the Bon Air Bridge- 80% of the design costs and 89% of the construction costs. This project will go out to bid in the spring with construction starting in the late summer.

Public Works Director Houlihan discussed the Bon Air Landing Park project which would bring the dock into ADA compliance. The park has to be renovated in order to make the access from the dock to the street ADA compliant. Staff met with the community and got a lot of good input. The landscape architect is working on the plans which include: a new configuration for the lawn (same square footage); a decomposed granite area with a couple of picnic tables and a seating wall; and an ADA ramp. The perimeter trees will remain but the front of the park (near the street) would be replanted with natives. Commissioner Cimino asked if there would be a new sign. Public Works Director Houlihan stated "yes". This new dock would also be a kayaking dock and similar to what is being constructed at the Marin Rowing Club. This one is a little smaller- 10' wide and 35' long. Commissioner Cimino asked if both docks would have a railing on the gangway. Public Works Director Houlihan stated "yes". Commissioner Blauvelt asked if staff was using the same project manager for both dock projects. Public Works Director Houlihan stated "yes".

Public Works Director Houlihan discussed the Piper Park Dog Park Project. She noted bathrooms in that area would be remodeled to make them ADA compliant. The "Woofy

Rumble” (recent community meeting) resulted in a lot of feedback and positive comments from the public. She has maximized what can be done in the plan based on the funding. The plan includes a small dog area and a large dog area, both with shade, benches, and other amenities. The walkway in front of the tennis courts will be changed from asphalt to concrete and the ADA parking stalls would be refurbished. Commissioner Cimino asked if the edge of the Dog Park had been moved back 5’ from the high tide mark. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “yes” at the request of Fish and Wildlife Service. Commissioner Cimino asked if this resulted in a reduction of the square footage. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “no”. Commissioner Cimino asked if the grass would remain as the surface for the Dog Park. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “yes” but there would be a transitional area made of decomposed granite pavers. The Public Works Department would monitor the condition of the grass. Commissioner Blauvelt stated dog park users prefer grass. Commissioner Cimino stated the plan looked great.

Public Works Director Houlihan discussed the Tidal Marsh Restoration Project and stated it would not be started until the completion of the new Dog Park. This is a banner project and the various regulatory agencies are very pleased with the plan. It is a mitigation project for the Bon Air Bridge Project and requires relocation of the current Dog Park. Commissioner Blauvelt noted representatives of the Coastal Conservancy were out in the marsh yesterday removing some of the non-native plants. Public Works Director Houlihan stated this is also one of the first projects that deals with providing a habitat relative to sea level rise. Commissioner Blauvelt asked about the square footage of the restored wetland area. Public Works Director Houlihan stated the graded area was about ½ acre. They would be removing about 2,900 cubic yards of material and bringing in bay mud. The piers would be drilled in the summer of 2017 and then the bulk of the other work would begin. Work will occur during the summer when Hall Middle School is on summer break. Commissioner Cimino referred to Sheet C-4 and asked if it indicated some dredging. Public Works Director Houlihan stated no dredging would occur but there will be some excavation. Commissioner Cimino had a question about the project area/property boundary. Public Works Director Houlihan stated the upland area would be the interpretive overlook. Commissioner Cimino asked if anything would happen to the parking lot for the Boardwalk residents. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “no” since that was quite a distance. Commissioner Blauvelt asked if the palm tree would remain. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “no”. Commissioner Blauvelt asked if the entire project area was owned by the City of Larkspur. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “yes”.

Public Works Director Houlihan stated the tennis court deck restoration project is almost finished. The project is being done as an Eagle Scout project by Mr. Jono Chu. KLA Landscape Architects donated their time in developing the plans. The concrete was also donated.

Public Works Director Houlihan stated staff was working on the punch list for the recently renovated bathrooms at Dolliver Park. The screen for the front of the building will be installed tomorrow. There are a few more ADA ramps that need to get poured as weather permits. Both bathrooms are now unisex and have timed locks that would lock

at night. The climber structure is ordered and would replace the last non-compliant structure.

Public Works Director Houlihan stated staff was scheduling the next meeting with the Heatherwood Park neighbors who are ready to start fundraising for the second phase of the renovations. They are interested in installing a bocce ball court and she has asked an architect to do a concept plan. They also want to sell pavers that would go around the perimeter of the picnic area and help raise the next round of funds. She asked the Commission if they would support this idea. The Commission stated “yes”. There is one more play structure slated to be replaced and she is recommending funding in Fiscal Year 2016/17 with Measure “A” money.

Public Works Director Houlihan stated the Greenbrae School Park structure needs to be replaced. The Niven Park play structure is adequate but she would recommend installing some fencing around it since the park is used as an informal dog park. Some of the Measure “A” money could be used for this.

Commissioner Blauvelt asked how next year’s Measure “A” money should be spent. Public Works Director Houlihan stated she suggested the funds be used at Greenbrae Park, Niven Park, and Heatherwood Park. She stated the City gets about \$71,000 per year. This year’s funding went to the big play structure and fall zone material at Heatherwood Park and the small play structure at Dolliver Park. There is some money left that could go towards a picnic table or bench at Heatherwood Park. Commissioner Cimino asked if another dog bag dispenser could be installed at Niven Park. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “yes”. They are usually installed at the entrance/end of the trails/paths. Commissioner Blauvelt asked if the City maintained this path. Public Works Director Houlihan stated “yes”- it was recently slurry sealed. Commissioner Cimino asked if the area from the blacktop trail to the creek was City or County property. Public Works Director Houlihan stated it belonged to the City.

Public Works Director Houlihan stated Hamilton Park needs some pavement work and some ADA improvements. The Public Works Department could do some of this work.

Public Works Director Houlihan stated a dedicated water meter was recently installed at Centennial Park. The City is no longer paying a portion of the bill for Joe Wagner Field (Twin Cities Little League). The irrigation meters are on a vapo-transpiration computer system and are maintained from an iPad. They are also set up to shut off any leaks and makes adjustments to the irrigation to coincide with what is going on in the atmosphere. The City received a \$20,000 rebate from MMWD for installing this system.

Public Works Director Houlihan stated staff has done a lot of outreach for the new play structure at Piper Park. She will be making a presentation at the next meeting with the landscape architect. Results from the survey indicated there was a tie between the natural theme and the creative play theme. The landscape architect will be blending these two themes and working with the playground equipment company on concepts to present to the Commission in February. The budget for this project is \$219,000. The landscape architects are identifying a plan that includes things that people could sponsor or items

that could be taken care of as money becomes available. Fi-bar will be used as the fall zone material. After the play structures are completed they need to focus on redoing some of the walkways in the parks.

Commissioner Blauvelt asked about the possibility of dredging the creek. Public Works Director Houlihan stated she has been attending the Flood Zone 9 meetings and this is still on their list. They are looking at doing a geomorphic dredge which removes materials in certain critical areas.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Whitley reported the January 9th "Grand Re-Opening" of Heatherwood Park was well attended and a wonderful event. He displayed a photograph of the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. He reminded the Commission that Ethics Training needs to be completed every two years- they will receive information from City Clerk Huisman very soon. The City Council appointed two new Commissioners at last night's meeting. Ms. Lisbet Sunshine was appointed to the 6-month position but was given an option of accepting a 4 ½ year term and Michael Cappell was appointed to a 2 ½ year term. The Council decided to re-activate the Larkspur Library/Community Center Advisory Committee with a new format. Commissioner Blauvelt is the Commission representative. He reported the Larkspur Fire Department would be willing to offer CERT training for Boardmembers and Commissioners on a Saturday.

Recreation Supervisor Stone reported the afterschool classes at Bacich Elementary and Kent Middle School started this week and they are mostly full. He attended a monthly Management Leadership meeting yesterday in Sausalito and will be able to do some networking with other government professionals.

Chair Friedel asked staff if they had been contacted by the Super Bowl Host Committee. Recreation Director Whitley stated "no".

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Friedel asked the Commission to discuss the possibility of starting the meetings at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Blauvelt stated they could discuss this at the next meeting when the new Commissioners come on board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary