

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 19, 2015

COMMISSION: PRESENT: Chair Friedel, Blauvelt, Matteo

COMMISSION: ABSENT: Cimino

STAFF: PRESENT: Recreation Director Dick Whitley
Recreation Supervisor Nick Stone
Super Cool Summer School Director Erin Duggan

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2015

M/s Blauvelt/Matteo to approve the minutes of October 15, 2015 as submitted.

Ayes: Blauvelt, Matteo, Chair Friedel

Absent: Cimino

OPEN TIME

There were no comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Hearing of Heritage Tree Permit Application Protest at 55 Frances Avenue, Larkspur

Recreation Director Whitley stated the individual who had submitted the protest realized she had identified the wrong tree as the tree in question and subsequently withdrew her protest. There were no other objections and the permit to remove the tree was issued. There is no need for the Public Hearing.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Presentation of Super Cool Summer School 2015 Report

Recreation Director Whitley gave a Powerpoint presentation including a history and description of the program. He stated 83 unique classes were offered in the two, two-week sessions. Students chose from one to four classes to take during the course of the day running from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. New classes are offered each year along with the favorite, more popular ones. Students are taught by credentialed teachers, most of

whom choose to come back to work each year. He displayed a slide indicating the varied fees for different classes- anywhere from \$45 per session to \$250 per session. He noted the fees were not market based.

Classroom aides are interviewed and hired several months before class starts. Last year's enrollments included over 850 students. There were over 100 aides hired- ages ranging from 14 to 25 years of age.

Summer School Director Duggan discussed the scholarships available to ESL (English as a Second Language) students. Funding for these students is through the Larkspur/Corte Madera School District. She noted 24 scholarships were provided this year and she hopes to be able to offer more next year. The intent of the program is to keep the same students from the 2nd through the 8th grade. Commissioner Matteo asked if the current group of ESL students were younger children. Summer School Director Duggan stated "no"- this year's ESL students ranged from 2nd to 7th graders. A few of them will age out but the majority of them were 3rd graders. Commissioner Matteo asked how this was funded. Summer School Director Duggan stated the Larkspur/Corte Madera School District contributes some money and the City makes up the difference. Chair Friedel asked if this partnership between the District and the City would be eligible for grants and whether or not there was room for additional students. Summer School Director Duggan stated staff needs to find the right balance so they do not lose money. However, it is an open, fluid arrangement with the district. Chair Friedel stated "award winning programs" are often awarded grants. Recreation Director Whitley stated this was certainly an opportunity but they want the program to grow in a responsible manner.

Chair Friedel asked about the age of the aides. Summer School Director Duggan stated the aides are kids entering the 8th grade and above. The 8th graders work as volunteers. Chair Friedel asked if the aides got paid or if they used this work towards their mandatory community service hours. Summer School Director Duggan stated they could choose to do either. Recreation Director Whitley stated over half of the students and aides were from Larkspur or Corte Madera.

The Commission thanked Summer School Director Duggan for the wonderful work.

2. Updates regarding various Department of Public Works Projects

Recreation Director Whitley presented a staff report and gave a Powerpoint presentation. He referred to the flyer titled "Let's Play at Piper Park" and asked the Commission to fill out the survey on the Website regarding choosing a theme for the new playground at Piper Park. Chair Friedel asked Recreation Director Whitley to send the flyer to her in a format that she could post.

Recreation Director Whitley reported construction of a new play structure at Heatherwood Park was underway. The neighborhood raised over \$40,000 in donations and assisted in the removal of the existing sand. The sand will be stored for future use by Larkspur and other municipalities (sand bags, etc.). Next steps include the installation of

new header boards, steps, benches, irrigation, and a curb. The playground contractor will install swings, a play structure, and fall zone material. The work should be completed by December 19th.

Recreation Director Whitley reported the excavation of Volleyball Court #1 at Piper Park was underway. There have been no renovations to the courts for quite some time. A group of local citizens have volunteered to help install the border and then “volleyball sand” will be installed into the court. Staff plans to do the same work to Court #2 when funding becomes available. The renovations to Court #1 should be completed by February. Commissioner Blauvelt reported the Larkspur Community Foundation was helping fund this project. Commissioner Matteo noted the Commission had talked about this project several years ago and he asked why it became a priority. Recreation Director Whitley stated the USF Women’s Sand Volleyball team recently started renting the courts for tournaments thus renewing interest in the community. The Redwood High School Girls Volleyball team also rents the courts along with other groups. The sport has become quite popular.

Recreation Director Whitley reported the restrooms and ADA improvements at Dolliver Park would be completed in the next two weeks. Battery operated locks have been installed that lock the restrooms at night.

Recreation Director Whitley reported the new playground at Neighborhood Park is completed. A ribbon cutting event will occur soon- everyone is invited. This project was paid for by Serenity.

RECREATION DIRECTOR’S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Whitley reported Senior Coordinator Lisa Hess held a Thanksgiving Celebration this week. The final Town Hall meeting was held last Saturday. Three meetings were held with the intent of getting public input on the “look and feel” of Larkspur in relation to the new Library/Community Facility at Rose Lane. All of the meetings were very well attended. He reported the parcel was recently seeded and a fence surrounding the property was installed.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Matteo reported he is moving out of Larkspur and this is his last meeting. He stated it was a pleasure to have served the City of Larkspur. The Commission thanked Commissioner Matteo for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis

Recording Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Larkspur Parks and Recreation Commission.

Dick Whitley, Recreation Director