

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 19, 2017

COMMISSION: PRESENT: Chair Blauvelt, Cimino,
Friedel, Sunshine (arrived 6:37)

COMMISSION: ABSENT: Koepfel

STAFF: PRESENT: Recreation Director Dick Whitley
Public Works Director Julian Skinner
Public Works Analyst Rita Schoch

Chair Blauvelt called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2016

Chair Blauvelt stated this item would be continued to the next meeting.

OPEN TIME

There were no comments.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Discussion and recommendation to Council of proposed improvements to Neighborhood Park by Serenity of Larkspur through the City of Larkspur.

Public Works Analyst Schoch presented the staff report. She stated the representatives of Serenity of Larkspur recently built a playground at Neighborhood Park and dedicated it to the City. The City entered into a long-term maintenance agreement with Serenity of Larkspur. They want to enter into a similar arrangement and make more improvements to Neighborhood Park. The plan includes: 1) Improvements to hardscape; 2) Improvements to the picnic area; 3) A fenced-in area for dogs; 4) An outdoor fitness area; 5) New paving on the pathways. They presented the conceptual plan to the Commission at the November meeting. Staff met with the architect and fleshed out the plan.

Mr. Steve Kikuchi, architect with Kikuchi and Kankel Design Group, made a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed plan. He noted his firm did the work on the playground improvements. The proposed improvements address the needs and uses of the residents of the apartments and the general community. The proposal includes quite a bit of diversity. They made some refinements and additions to the plan including a bike parking area, a bike rack by the outdoor gym area, a dog wash area, and some drainage improvements. They have further refined the colors of the play equipment and plan to

use natural, earth-toned colors including a forest green. They are recommending artificial turf for the dog area because that area gets very wet and boggy during the winter months. The proposal included black metal fencing for the dog area. They plan to install a contemporary custom-made table/bench in the picnic area and some shade trees (London Plane).

Commissioner Cimino asked if the five trees included in the proposal were included in the approved plant list for City parks. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated "yes"- the trees were on the approved list. Recreation Director Whitley stated he would forward the list to the Commission. Mr. Kikuchi stated they were flexible in terms of the type of tree- the London Plain is a deciduous tree that does not have surface roots. It is a nice shade tree with big leaves. It is commonly used in downtown areas, parks, etc. and is not prone to many diseases. Commissioner Cimino asked if there was room in the plan for an Oak tree. Mr. Kikuchi stated he was not sure the soil conditions would support an Oak.

Chair Blauvelt stated she was very impressed with the plan and it would greatly benefit the community. She asked about the plan to improve signage. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated staff was working with a landscape architect to come up with a more comprehensive signage program.

Mr. Kikuchi stated they hope to start construction in the summer.

Commissioner Friedel stated the perception of this park is that it belongs to the apartment complex and she asked staff to do some advertising or a ribbon cutting ceremony to let residents know it belongs to the community as a whole.

M/s Friedel/Cimino, to recommend that the Council approve the plan and a public groundbreaking ceremony.

Ayes: Cimino, Friedel, Sunshine, Chair Blauvelt

Abstain: Koeppel

2. Installation of Officers for 2017

M/s Friedel/Cimino, motion to elect Commissioner Sunshine as Vice Chair.

Ayes: Cimino, Friedel, Koeppel, Sunshine, Chair Blauvelt

Absent: Koeppel

M/s Sunshine/Cimino, motion to elect Commissioner Friedel as Chair.

Ayes: Cimino, Friedel, Koeppel, Sunshine, Chair Blauvelt

Absent: Koeppel

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Whitley reported on the status of the Piper Park Playground. Staff is waiting for one piece of equipment to be delivered before completion of the project. They are waiting for the rain to subside before they can install that last piece, lay down the fabric, and blow in the chips. The date of the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony has not been

set- he will keep the Commission updated. He reported the City Council discussed the Larkspur Library/Community Center Facility at its last meeting. Everyone is excited and things are moving forward. Staff is planning a presentation at the March Council meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Blauvelt reported the Larkspur Community Foundation has decided to help fund a new basketball court and a new bench at Heatherwood Park. The work was done by a Redwood High School student, Mr. Landon Craig, as a Boy Scout Eagle Project. Commissioner Friedel asked staff to write a letter thanking Mr. Craig.

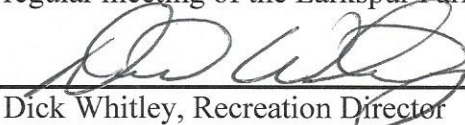
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 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