

**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
Council Chambers, 990 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Lemieux called the meeting to order at 7.00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Chair Jill Lemieux, Vice Chair Bob Wolf, Commissioners: Craig Kincaid, David Hensinger, Don Dollar, Rick May and Kylie Hatch

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Director Betsy Kiser, Marti Reynolds, Christine Wallace

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**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

*MOTION:* (Kincaid/Dollar) Approve the December 5, 2007 minutes as corrected.

**Approved: 7 yes: 0 no: 0 absent**

**1. Public Comment**

Stephen Lamb of 1251 Buchon commented on the Mitchell Park Proposed Parking Lot. Mr. Lamb wanted to clarify the large neighborhood response to the subject. Hopes the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) will listen to neighbors, consider how the park is used, and think carefully about the parking lot issue. He stressed the value of a social support network, and feels resources need to be safeguarded now for future generations. Concerned the process violates the Master Plan and stressed importance in keeping its integrity. He referenced the recent meeting and views of the Cultural Heritage Committee and the personal feeling that a healthy commission functions based on long term vision and being open to continual community dialogue. Mr. Lamb asked the Commissioners to consider placing the topic on the agenda for the March PRC meeting.

**2. Volunteer of the Month – January**

Marilyn Darnell was named the volunteer of the month. Marilyn has been a Jack House Docent since 1998 and more recently completed the book *The House that R. Jack Built*. Marilyn began work on the book in January 2007 and presented the rough draft to the Jack House Committee in April. After hearing about the book, Chuck Crotser began to produce sketches of the house and items within the house that would be used throughout the book. In the fall Marilyn and Chuck approached the Cal Poly University Graphics Systems to ask that the book be printed. With the overwhelming approval of the Jack House Committee to fund the printing, the first run of books was delivered just before the Christmas Open House. It is now available for sale at the Wash House and will be made available soon at the Novel Experience in downtown San Luis Obispo. During the writing of the book, Marilyn lost her husband Robert to cancer. Writing the book became her refuge during his illness and is truly a labor of love. Marilyn and her family moved to San Luis Obispo in 1992. She has two sons, Craig and Brian. Marilyn has been a freelance writer having

pieces published in the Journal, PLUS magazine and The Tribune.

Marilyn expressed the sentiment that dreams do come true and that when opportunity knocks you must take it which is what happened in 2007. She credited Chuck Crotser with putting on paper what she saw in her head and that they had a perfect collaboration. Marilyn's dream is for the book to be in shops all over the City of San Luis Obispo and that decent numbers grow and students and teachers use the information.

### **3. Joint Use Agreement Between the San Luis Coastal Unified School District and the City of San Luis Obispo**

Director Kiser explained that this was the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the original agreement and an opportune time to look at the agreement and identify any necessary changes. The agreement was brought before the Joint Use Committee on January 22, 2008. The Director pointed out the proposed modifications listed in the staff report which include 1) incorporating Addendums 1 and 2 into the master document, 2) the option for a rolling extension has been eliminated, 3) the Maino Batting Cages have been added to the joint use facilities, 4) section 6.5 and 6.7 of addendum 1 have been combined to reflect \$30,000 provided to SLCUSD each year through the Youth Sports Association (YSA) and the City for field repairs in return for field use fees, and 5) fees have been adjusted to reflect 2007-08 rates. The School Board reviewed and approved these amendments on February 5, 2008. Staff is asking for the PRC's endorsement before taking to Council on February 19.

Commissioner May clarified that the Joint Use Committee gives \$20,000 to YSA not the school district. YSA then identifies projects, funds the projects, and completes them under the supervision of the school district. YSA decides on projects for the year at their annual meeting in January and will inform PRC on financial spending details in the future.

Commissioner Wolf questioned if there are any staff concerns; only the electronic key system, which seems to function well for the school district and therefore will remain unchanged.

Commissioner Dollar asked about payment from SLCUSD for patrol services of park rangers under Section X of the agreement. He asked if the payments went toward hiring additional rangers to keep up with the additional tasks. Director Kiser clarified that there is no direct exchange of funds for the ranger services, rather the facilities bill from the school district is reduced accordingly. However, the ranger workload is manageable with current staff as the sites involved are all enroute to parks included in regular patrol.

**MOTION:** (Wolf/Kincaid) Endorse the Joint Use Agreement between the San Luis Coastal Unified School District (SLCUSD) and the City of San Luis Obispo for joint use of facilities and provision of programs and forward a recommendation to the City Council for final approval.

**Approved: 7 yes: 0 no: 0 absent**

#### **4. California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR)**

Director Kiser explained this “feel good” proclamation. The amount of time children are outdoors has decreased significantly in the last 20 years with the advancement of technology being a contributing factor. In turn this can affect a generational appreciation of the need to conserve the environment for the future. Governor Schwarzenegger passed a proclamation in June of last year which the San Luis Obispo County Association of Parks and Recreation Administrators (SLOCAPRA) has endorsed. Proclamations are being taken forward by SLOCAPRA members for passage by respective cities. The PRC’s endorsement of the proclamation will ensure it goes to Council on February 19. The concept of COBR is what the Parks and Recreation Department naturally embraces and provides.

Commissioner Dollar suggested the age of 14 may not be ambitious enough and that 11 may be better. Director Kiser explained the age was already part of the COBR program.

Commissioners Wolf and Lemieux discussed examples, such as the Jack House, of the “celebration of heritage” being connected to the outdoors.

There were no additions to the proclamation.

**MOTION:** (Kincaid/May) Endorse the California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights and forward a proclamation to the City Council recognizing the bill.

**Approved: 7 yes: 0 no: 0 absent**

#### **5. Staff Report**

Recreation Supervisor Christine Wallace of the Special Events division provided a presentation highlighting filming and the film permit process within the City. Before the Visitors and Conference Bureau’s Film Commission (VCB) was formed in 2004 there were no real policies regulating filming in the city limits. Once formed, policies were developed cooperatively with the City for the City process. This year we received 11 applications. Application fees are reasonable at \$106, the 3-page form is simple to complete, and repeat customers are occurring more frequently. There is no application fee if the commercial is tourism based. Insurance information is collected with a mandatory \$1 million minimum coverage contract, adding to that as needed on a case-by-case basis. Parking or street issues are kept as low impact as possible; a 30-day notice is required for permits involving street closure. For the most part, the local public and business owners have been cooperative and realize the benefits of filming.

There has recently been a huge influx of vehicle commercials. A portion of Higuera and Marsh are apparently perfect at a certain vantage for vehicles to do laps around a small area with the finished product appearing as though it were filmed in San Francisco. (This type of filming usually occurs during the middle of the night). As a side note, the County’s Turri Road in Los Osos is also a particular favorite of that industry.

Also, with San Luis Obispo being only three hours from Los Angeles, reality shows come up to stage situations at Farmer’s Market and MTV has even done some filming at Bubblegum Alley. Other films

include B rated “teen” movies and student projects.

## 6. Director’s Report

Director Kiser briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- The dedication for the new Bocce Ball Courts and reinstalled Community’s Bridge benches public art will be March 7<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will be sent soon. In the meantime the benches have been tagged by vandals twice already.
- The Skate Park needs assessment had its first workshop on January 19<sup>th</sup> with 22 attendees. The vote was for a new in-ground skate park. The next meeting will be March 1<sup>st</sup>. PRC will review results of study and if necessary, forward a mid-year capital improvement project request to Council for design.
- Roller Hockey Rink Renovation – Stakeholder’s Meeting February 13<sup>th</sup> will be a smaller more focused group. Engineers now determining cost of recommended improvements. Can do a certain amount with our funds and more if users can raise additional funding.
- There was a meeting with the seniors on the proposed interior renovations for the Senior Center Remodel. Construction will start on or around June 8<sup>th</sup> through approximately September 9<sup>th</sup>. Programs in building will be relocated, but use is slower during the summer months.
- February 23 is the Commissioner’s Training at Hearst Castle. Commissioners Lemieux and Hatch will be attending with the Director.
- Chair Lemieux expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Hatch who will be attending the California SW Parks & Rec Training Conference at the end of the month in Long Beach. Eight Parks and Recreation staff members will also be attending.
- Director Kiser gave Commissioners each a copy of the new “Prescription Trail Brochure” - a collaborative effort between the cities involved in SLOCAPRA.
- The Amgen Tour of California will return on February 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be an advertisement in the Tribune February 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are still needed and should contact Sports Supervisor Rich Ogden. Team High Road made SLO their “permanent home” and will have a publicity event this Saturday at Art’s Cyclery.
- The synthetic turf study session was cancelled for February 12<sup>th</sup>. Council requested a cost benefit analysis. Review of parkland development funding and SLO Stadium versus Stockton field. Director Kiser explained that staff felt we should step-back to review the needs of the community rather than the product itself. Proposing to hire a consultant to complete an in-depth needs assessment, taking into consideration options such as the interest expressed at the last Joint Use Committee meeting on use of Holt field; the needs of user groups; alternatives to synthetic turf. If synthetic turf appears appropriate after the assessment, will proceed with that recommendation to PRC and Council.
- Director Kiser explained that since the Mitchell Park Master Plan amendment was reviewed by the PRC, the project has taken a new direction due to input from a Councilmember and subsequent outcry from the community.” Although the issue won’t be returned to PRC as was suggested by Mr. Lamb, the PRC’s recommendation with caveats will be presented to Council (1-to-1 land replacement, return to parkland if no longer a Senior Center). The

proposed amendment was taken by Community Development to the Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC) for review from an historical perspective. The CHC evaluated solely on historical and cultural aspects and denied. The ARC will review architectural perspective on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm. Report to go to Council March 18<sup>th</sup> for final decision taking into consideration PRC, CHC and ARC input. Invitations to the meeting at the Senior Center in October were sent to neighbors within 500 square feet of the center as well as advertised in the news and website. Historical documentation is being gathered that will soon be posted to the website for public viewing.

Commissioners said they welcome the public expression of opinions and views and that perhaps more advertisement of PRC meetings would encourage that as well as their own effort to “get the word out.” Commissioner Kincaid reminded also that sometimes people “vote” by not showing up. Commissioner Hatch felt it unfortunate that complaints are heard after the fact.

- Little Rec’ers staff recently discovered that licensing is needed when providing 12 hours or more of childcare per week for preschoolers, rather than the 15 hour limit for school-aged children. Therefore there is an immediate need for licensing which will require a special meeting of the PRC to approve a resolution supporting the licensing. Commissioners agreed to meet at 4pm this coming Wednesday.
- The annual Advisory Body Recognition Dinner will be March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ludwick Community Center from 5:30 to 8pm.

## 7. Committee Reports

Commissioners provided the following reports:

- Tree Committee – Kincaid
- Mayors Youth Task Force – Wolf
- Open Space – Dollar
- Joint Use Committee – May
- Jack House Committee – Hatch
- Golf – Lemieux

Commissioner Kincaid reported on the Tree Committee which will have a full board by April. Allen Root will be transitioning from the ARC and there are four applicants. The new sign at Laguna Lake looks good. Neighborhood planting on Higuera was done by a private group with their own funds. Arbor Day will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at Laguna Lake. There is a new brochure. Nominated two heritage trees (by the Jack House and end of San Luis Drive). Updating tree ordinance and policy on planting and trimming trees within the City.

Commissioner Wolf had nothing to report for Mayor’s Youth Task Force; the next meeting will be March 13th.

Commissioner Dollar reported on the Open Space Committee. There are three proposed development projects with potential for open space and the potential to connect to existing open space. Discussed Chevron proposal for Tank Farm property. Will see more trail maps this summer at trailheads showing open space.

Commissioner May reported on the Joint Use Committee. There were two main discussions last month, that being the joint use agreement between the City and the School District and a review of

usage at Sinsheimer and contracts between both pro baseball teams. Individual agreements will go to Council in March between City and each team.

Commissioner Hatch reported on the Jack House Committee meeting and promoted the new book *The House that R. Jack Built* as a great gift idea. The Jack House remains closed until April 1<sup>st</sup> (since January). Currently Rotary is replacing the picket fence. Fire sprinkler repairs starting next October may cancel the Christmas Open House which was attended by 193 people this year.

Commissioner Lemieux reported on the Golf Course. Play numbers were down by half in January due to rain. Now experiencing drainage issues and need to ask Council for funding approval for a drainage system. New circuit breakers are also needed for charging the new golf carts. Cost estimated at \$2,000. Winds blew down the poles and netting by Hole 5. Engineering feels all netting needs to be replaced and that new netting should be 40' in height (as opposed to 30' of existing). Cost may be up to \$50,000.

## **8. Communications**

Commissioner Wolf mentioned \$3,000 was donated by a disc golf member.

Commissioner Dollar spoke on public participation at PRC meetings and desire to see more notices such as advertisement in the paper (more than the agenda notice), staff reports available ahead of time and notices at affected areas themselves.

Commissioner Hatch is still getting comments on Damon Garcia from coaches regarding rugby problems playing on fields. Director Kiser informed Public Works and Parks and Recreation are putting together a project plan and aware of situation but also mentioned Saturday the soccer fields were in great shape.

## **9. Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. to the Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting on February 13, 2008, at the Parks and Recreation Office.

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on March 5, 2008.

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Martha M.S. Reynolds  
Supervisory Administrative Assistant