

CITY OF PLACERVILLE
RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
August 21, 2019
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Recreation & Parks Commission: Jerry Barton, Kristin Becker, Andrew Mathews, Jackie Neau, and Peter Nolan.

Recreation & Parks Staff: Terry Zeller and Matt Lishman.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Mr. Barton made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Nolan seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Barton made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2019. Mrs. Becker seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ken Shippero lives by Lumsden Park and there was another fire yesterday. Mr. Shippero says there is a big drug problem. Mr. Shippero says the Police says there is nothing they can do. They cut the locks off the gate. His wife and son have been verbally abused for years. Homeless go to the bathrooms in the park, people are living in the park and nothing is being done. They have propane and open fires all the time. Insurance is now a problem for people. Have more events and do something about the restrooms.

Dale Gomes with Hangtown Little League shared with Commission that they already have an agreement with the City to use City Park. They would like to expand the league a little by using Lions Park. They need a 50/70 field. There are not a lot of fields around this size. Mr. Gomes is hoping we can work something out for next season. The same bases would be used but a portable mound would be used for the pitcher.

Todd Barker with the disc golf club is hoping to get some kind of maintenance within the budget. Many of the golfers did the maintenance over the years but it's getting harder to keep up on it. Looking for basic clean-up to make it more playable. Todd spoke to Chelsea to find out how much the county budgets for Pioneer Park. They budget approximately \$3,000.00. Mr. Mathews suggested contacting the Lions Club and 20/30 clubs.

Mrs. Zito shared with the Commission that since our last meeting they have the quilt in hand. They picked a lonestar quilt. Once they are done with their fundraising season they will work on getting it installed.

ACTION ITEMS:

Disposition of Lumsden Restrooms: *Mr. Zeller shared with commission that over the past several years, the Community Services Department has dealt with continuous vandalism of the Lumsden Park restroom. For over a year, the damage to both the gates and the fixtures in the restrooms has happened on almost a daily basis, causing the restrooms to be unusable by the general public and causing daily staff time to clean up, repair and re-secure the restroom. This damage is being caused by a locally entrenched homeless population that fluctuates from a few to as many as a dozen individuals. This population uses the restroom for filling water jugs with broken water lines, sleeping in, and for drug use activities out of public view.*

Mr. Zeller stated that the Placerville PD has been stepping up their patrols of the park and restrooms, but has been unable to disperse the homeless population in the park. Damage occurs at night, and to date no one has been caught doing the damage. The restroom has steel gates on the door frames, and these gates have had their chains cut dozens of times. The toilets and sinks have been replaced dozens of times, and the water lines and plumbing have been repaired too many times to count. Other activities by the homeless population around the restroom include using the irrigation system as an open air shower, and almost daily defecation around the perimeter of the restroom, which is a health hazard.

Mr. Zeller also stated the restroom building cannot be left open and clean for general public use, and the daily damage cannot be stopped or thwarted, Community Services is faced with a couple of options to limit the cost of daily repairs. Options include demolition of the exterior privacy walls that allow a hiding place to damage the gates, or demolition of the entire building to remove a hiding place and asset to damage on a daily basis. Removal of the restroom is an extreme action, but would eliminate the cost of staff repairing one restroom that cannot be left open for the general public because of the daily damage. Removing the privacy walls would allow PD to easily see activity from the roadside while on patrol, and may reduce damage. The short term fix being tried at present is welding the gates shut to see if this stops attempted access and damage to fixtures. I am expecting that a big effort will be made to break these gates, if the past is any clue to what will happen next.

Mrs. Zito likes the idea of demolishing the building. It has been a problem for 35 years. The park is very close to fast food places on Broadway. No one would even let their children use the restrooms. Mr. Zito stated if there is nothing that can be enforced regarding camping laws if the restrooms are removed you are at least getting rid of one attractiveness to the park. Taking the wingwalls off could be a good options but taking it down would be better. Mr. Shippero said he agrees that taking it down would be best. It's an oddly shaped park. The playground itself is ok. Mrs. Zito mentioned putting in a dog park in the lower section.

Mrs. Becker stated demolishing the wing walls is a must. She went yesterday at 1:00 p.m. and the restroom was locked. In talking with 4 homeless people they said there

are no drinking fountains. They are camping and have to go to the restrooms so if the restrooms are closed they will go anywhere. Mrs. Becker did think it was dirty and depressing.

Mr. Barton thinks demolishing the entire building is a fine idea. If defecating outside is a problem maybe a portable could be a solution to that. Mr. Barton feels it's a neighborhood park and doesn't need a restroom. Mr. Barton feels a drinking fountain should be installed.

Mr. Mathews says taking out the restroom is a start but is not gonna stop people from staying in the park.

Mr. Nolan is 100% supportive of taking out the restroom and eliminate all the water. It may help the situation and they may leave.

Mrs. Neau stated her concern is if we remove the restroom we may never get it back. The main problem is a transient problem. Mr. Zeller stated there have been several instances where there was shampoo bottles on the lawn because they were turning on the sprinklers on to shower. They have also found a way to turn the sprinklers off so they can sleep on the lawn. Mrs. Zito said turn off the water and let the park go brown. Mrs. Neau asked if there could be repurposing the park and put in other amenities. Mrs. Zito thinks it should just be passive. Mr. Zito said somehow repurpose the park. Mrs. Zito said it would be perfect for a dog park. Mr. Nolan said until the homeless problem is fixed, we should not spend a dime on the park. Mrs. Becker said it is a nice shady area and attractive for the homeless.

Mr. Nolan made a motion that we recommend to City Council that we demolish the restroom and remove all water at the park. Mrs. Neau seconded the motion. Motion approved. Mrs. Becker abstained.

Adult Basketball, Volleyball and Softball Fee Increase: Mr. Lishman shared with commission that minimum wage will be increasing by \$1.00 to \$13.00 per hour on January 1, 2020. In addition to minimum wage increasing, Folsom Officials Association fees will be increasing for our Adult 5x5 Basketball and Adult Softball League Officials. The increase in the Adult 5x5 league increases \$1.00 from \$25.00 to \$26.00 per official. These games require two officials. The increases for Softball is \$2.00 from \$28.00 to \$30.00 per official. One official is used in regular season games and two during playoffs.

Mr. Lishman stated these increases will have a financial impact on the Recreation Division's annual operating budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. In order to offset the additional expenditures in the Adult Sports League, Staff is recommending the following fee increases take effect January 1, 2020:

Adult 5x5 Basketball \$18.00 from \$451.00 to \$469.00 per team.

Adult 3x3 Basketball \$5.00 from \$127.00 to \$132.00 per team.
Adult 4x4 Volleyball \$10.00 from \$165 to \$175 per team.
Adult Softball \$17.00 from \$509 to \$526 per team.

Although these increases may not be popular this will put the City's league fees in-line with similar agencies as shown in Attachment A.

Tonight staff is requesting that the Commission support Staff's recommendation establishing Registration Fees for our Adult Sport Leagues.

Mrs. Becker made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. Mr. Mathews seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Gold Bug Tour Fee Increase: Mr. Lishman shared with commission that minimum wage will be increasing by \$1.00 to \$13.00 per hour on January 1, 2020.

These pay rate increases will have a financial impact on the City's Gold Bug Park tour program which includes Rock N Water and Guided Group Tours.

Rock N Water Tours are offered Mon-Thursday from April through May. Rock N Waters tour program includes a tour of both the Gold Bug Mine and the Priest Mine and they are led by Rock N Water Staff. In addition, Rock N Water uses hiking trails and has a dedicated site within the park for their temporary seasonal pavilion consisting of a large tent and hay bales.

The City's Guided Group Tour Programs are offered Monday through Thursday two times a year, February through June and September through October. Tours are guided by staff members and volunteers. Tours feature Gold Bug Mine, the Stamp Mill, the Blacksmith Shop, and include an opportunity to visit the gift shop, see the museum, and go gem panning. A Guided Group Tour takes approximately two and a half to three hours depending on the size of the group. The primary focus of the Guided Group Tour is the 4th grade curriculum for the state of California; however tours are available to all ages and groups.

In order to offset the additional expenditures, staff is recommending the following fee increases take effect January 1, 2020:

Increase Rock N Water \$2.00 from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per person. Staff has spoken with Rock N Water and they feel they can absorb the \$2.00 per person increase.

For the City's guided group tour rate staff recommends keeping the Guided Group Tour minimum rate at \$100 but reducing the number of people from 15-10. This way each additional person over 10 will be required to pay the additional \$8.00 per person rate.

Tonight staff is requesting that the Commission support Staff's recommendation establishing Gold Bug's Group Tour Program fees.

Mr. Mathews made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Mrs. Becker seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Youth Assistance Fund: Mr. Lishman reported that since the last meeting there were 5 requests for funding in the amount of \$122.50. We received \$0.00 in donations. The projected fund balance is \$6,613.27.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.