

**MINUTES
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
CITY OF MORRO BAY
JUNE 5, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Solu at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Munoz, Vaughan, Wenger, Hale, Mahan, Hensley, Chair Solu; Staff Woods.

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IN REGARD TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2008 MEETING

It was moved and seconded to accept the Minutes of the May 1, 2008 meeting for file. M/S/C (Hale/Munoz).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Solu said the Recreation and Parks Department is taking registration for the Fall Soccer Program. The program needs coaches, team parents, and help to stripe the fields. Call the Department for more information. She also thanked the City and Mayor Peters for their support of 'Ride of a Lifetime' which happens on the last day of school.

Staff Woods reported the Rock To Pier Run is July 19th and registration is at the Recreation Department as well as online. The Girls Coast Summer Slam Softball Tournament is being held June 21st and 22nd at Lila Keiser Park. The Junior Lifeguard Program still has openings for Session II, however, Session I is full. Session II begins July 21st.

A. NEW BUSINESS**A-1 DISCUSSION ON HOLDING A RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE FAIR**

Staff Woods reported on the Open House Fair that was suggested by Commissioner Mahan. He spoke with staff and the following suggestions were provided: 1. Registration Fair – a one-time registration day/evening for a series of programs. 2. An Open House Showcase of existing programs and special session classes and camps. Instructors could be introduced and perhaps have a series of demonstrations. 3. We could bring in other agencies/organizations such as the Morro Bay Yacht Club. 4. Spotlight the Childrens' Outdoor Bill of Rights and identify existing programs and summer programs and camps that fulfill Bill of Rights.

Commissioner Mahan suggested we could invite businesses that offer activities we don't offer to attend and perhaps pay a minimal fee to participate. She mentioned having musicians and food but it is probably best to start small and build on what we have.

Staff Woods stated April is 'The Month of the Child' and is a good time to start to plan for Summer activities.

Commissioner Hale asked if any thought had been put into offering incentives. Perhaps we could have a raffle or offer a free class. It is something to think about.

Commissioner Munoz suggested contacting different groups and businesses to see if they would donate a door prize.

Commissioner Wenger said the event should not just target youth and seniors, but the entire community. An event that will let people who are new to the area know about the things that are going on in the community. She inquired where it would be held.

Staff Woods said we previously held an event in City Park, but it doesn't necessarily have to be an outside event. It can be advertised through promotional email, banners, flyers and signs. We would like to bring in as many activities as we can.

Chair Solu suggested forming a committee to get some ideas together and come back to the Commission. Commissioners Mahan, Munoz and Hale volunteered to be on the committee.

Staff Woods reminded the Commission that City resources should be minimized. Any funds allocated need to be watched carefully.

No action required.

A Motion was made and seconded to address Item E-1, Morro Bay Pups Off Leash Dog Park at Del Mar Park at this time. M/S/C (Munoz/Mahan)

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS – TO START NO LATER THAT 5:30 P.M.**E-1 MORRO BAY PUPS OFF LEASH DOG PARK AT DEL MAR PARK**

Staff Woods asked the Commission to review the proposed revision of the Off Leash Dog Park. He reviewed the background information and timeline regarding the dog park that outlines the sequences of events and illustrates the progress of the dog park to date. Most recently, the City Council approved the MOU between the Morro Bay Pups and the City of Morro Bay and directed Staff to present this project to the Commission as part of the Master Plan revision process. Staff and the Morro Bay Pups representatives met in April 2008 to discuss the project. Morro Bay Pups began working on a new design for the off leash dog area and are presenting their proposed design to the Commission for review.

Chair Solu opened the public hearing for comment.

Steve Eckis, Morro Bay Pups Board Member and City Liaison – Hope this is the time, place and plan for a dog park. Drafted the MOU along with the City Attorney. Jeff Meyer of Ecotone Environmental Design prepared the plan for the dog park. It is oriented east west more than north south and located as far away from the Island Street residents as possible. Modifications also avoid going across the top of the knoll to access the entrance. The knoll is not included in the dog area. Asked the Commission for a recommendation for approval of an amendment to the Master Plan for the Dog Park, reserve the area where the tennis courts are proposed if that project does not become feasible and to send their recommendation directly back to the City Council.

Jeff Meyer, Ecotone Environmental Design – Working with Morro Bay Pups and the City Parks Department. The proposed area for the dog Park is 35,000 sq. ft. enclosed and has both a large dog area and a small dog area. The area is within hilly terrain and trees so as not to impact the other areas. We have maintained a 50 foot creek buffer, a 45 foot buffer from the volleyball courts and a 20 foot buffer from the tennis courts. The proposed fence is 5 feet high.

Steve Marketello, Morro Bay – Morro Bay needs a dog park. Visitors approach and ask if there is a fenced area in Morro Bay to let their dogs run. Legitimize what has been going on for years.

Joe Hoeflich, Morro Bay – Co-chair and original founder of Morro Bay Pups. A dog park can bring benefits to the community, I hope you support us.

Anita Ayoob, Morro Bay – Treasurer of Morro Bay Pups. We work very hard to raise money for the dog park. Most people go to the Ironwood site or the Meadow site. The area we are talking about is usually not used. Please let us have it for our dogs.

Chair Solu closed the public comment hearing.

Commissioner Hensley likes the dog park and thinks it is necessary. Liked the idea of the fence and areas for large and small dogs.

Commissioner Vaughan also liked it. It has been needed for a long time and hopes it gets well advertised.

Commissioner Hale fully supports it. It is great to see that area of the park utilized. It is a good compromise and solution.

Commissioner Wenger approves the plan as well and hopes we get it back to the City Council right away.

Commissioner Munoz agreed and likes it is using a part of the park that isn't being used.

Commissioner Mahan also in full favor of the dog park, the sooner the better.

Chair Solu also thinks the dog park is a good idea and particularly the space it will be utilizing.

Chair Solu asked who would be responsible for paying for the walkway if the tennis court are not funded and if the double gated entrance would be ADA compliant.

Mr. Eckis said the path would probably be their responsibility if the tennis courts are not funded and it would have to be an all weather access path due to handicapped access. Jeff Meyer said the gated entrance would be ADA compliant. The plan before you is to amend the Master Plan to designate the area. There are a number of other permits that need to be completed and everything will be ADA compliant.

Commissioner Mahan inquired about the managing of the dog area, cleaning up and rules and regulations in place. She also asked about the waste and the proximity to the creek.

Mr. Eckis said there will be some sharing of the responsibility and that will be addressed in the second MOU. The water issue has been discussed with the City Attorney and the creek is a good deal farther than 50 feet from the fence line.

Staff Woods mentioned the funding for the tennis courts. The project is funded through March 2012 and staff is working on getting the necessary permits to move forward with the project.

A motion was made to amend the Master Plan for Del Mar Park and approve the design concept for an off leash dog park in Del Mar Park. Additionally to direct staff to continue working with Morro Bay Pups through the Memorandum of Understanding. M/S/C (Munoz/Wenger).

A second motion was made to direct staff to forward the Commission's recommendation to amend the Master Plan for Del Mar Park and approve the design concept for an off leash dog park at Del Mar Park directly to the City Council. M/S/C (Mahan/Wenger).

Chair Solu called for a break at 7:15 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 7:20 p.m.

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**B-1 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT**

Staff Woods reviewed the Recreation and Parks Department Status Report. He added that the trees at City Park are scheduled to be removed in mid July. He added that due to a large number of lights being out on Lila Keiser West Field, MUSCO is coming on June 11th and 12th to replace all the West Field lamps as well as refurbish and clean the fixtures.

Commissioner Mahan asked about the status of a community pool.

Staff Woods reported there is a group in the community trying to spearhead a project. He will try to get current information and bring it back to the Commission at their August meeting.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Recreation and Parks Department Status Report for file. M/S/C (Munoz/Mahan).

C. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**C-1 CITIZENS' REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

None

D. REPORTS**D-1 YOUTH SERVICES SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2008****D-2 SPORTS AND FITNESS SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2008****D-3 FACILITIES AND PARK USE SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2008**

It was moved and seconded to accept the following reports for file: Youth Services for April 2008; Sports and Fitness for April 2008; Facilities and Park Use for April 2008. M/S/C (Munoz/Wenger).

D-4 SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Commissioner Vaughan the Seniors donated \$250 to the Kids' Camp Program. They are planning a trip to Chuckansi and Yosemite in September. She mentioned the children's programs offered by the Natural History Museum and asked if the schools are notified of the programs. Chair Solu suggested Commissioner Vaughan contact the Museum to see if they would notify the schools of the programs they offer.

It was moved to accept the Senior Representative Report for file. M/C (Mahan).

D-5 COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Hale reported she had met with staff regarding the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. She has made some modifications and will be sending it back to staff for their review. Staff felt the emphasis should be on programs offered through the City.

DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. M/S/C (Hale/Hensley).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**BARBARA WRIGHT
ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICIAN**