

MINUTES – MORRO BAY RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING –SEPTEMBER 28, 2010
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – 5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Hale called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Commissioner Sidaris, Commissioner Ayoob, Commissioner Bates, Chair Hale, Staff Woods. ABSENT: Commissioner Munoz (excused); Commissioner Croley (excused).

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Hale announced this weekend is the Harbor Festival and the 'Rock 2 Rock' 5 mile run. The run starts at 8:30 a.m. and proceeds go to support Morro Bay Community Foundation youth scholarships.

Staff Woods said with the Civic Landscape Improvement Project there will be a tree planting on October 23rd. This is a volunteer opportunity in conjunction with the Tree Committee. There are 100 trees to plant. For more information call the Recreation and Parks Department at 772-6278.

PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Commission, the following items are approved without discussion.

A-1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 2010 MEETING

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-2 CITIZEN'S REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-3 YOUTH SERVICES SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2010
SPORTS AND FITNESS SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2010
FACILITIES AND PARK USE FOR JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2010 (Not Available)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-4 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

MOTION: Commissioner Bates moved the Commission approve Consent Calendar Items A-1, A-2, A-3 and A-4 for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sidaris and carried. (4-0)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B-1 REVIEW OF THE JODY GIANNINI FAMILY DOG PARK AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MORRO BAY AND THE MORRO BAY PUPS

Staff Woods reported City Council directed staff to agendize a review of the dog park by the Recreation and Parks Commission and report any findings back to the City Council. Discussion of the concept of a dog park in Morro Bay started in March 2001. City Council indicated that an off-leash Dog Park was an important City goal. After a host of meetings between MBP and staff, a revised plan for a permanent dog park at Del Mar Park was presented to the RPC and ultimately approved by City Council. Staff was directed to work with MBP to develop an off-leash dog park at the southwest corner of Del Mar Park. The partnership was solidified by two MOUs, one covering design and permits, the other covering construction and maintenance. The operation of the dog park is the primary responsibility of the MBP, acting as volunteers. There has been some opposition to the park. Neighbors living on Island Street have signed a common letter identifying noise from the park as a public nuisance. The noise includes dogs, barking and fighting and handlers yelling at their dogs. Staff has met with two Island Street residents, Jeanne McIntosh and Mike Anderson, on several occasions regarding the noise. Staff offered some potential solutions, but directed both to the public hearing process.

Chair Hale mentioned a letter with a number of signatures from the Island Street residents. She asked staff to identify and review what changes the Island Street residents are requesting. Staff said the residents are requesting a MBP member be in attendance while the park is open and be responsible for controlling the dogs barking, dogs fighting and people yelling. They would like permanent signs installed that say 'NO BARKING ALLOWED', keep control of your dog and no yelling. They would also like promotion of the park stopped stating it is a neighborhood park, not a tourist attraction.

Chair Hale opened Public Comment.

Jim Phillips, Morro Bay – Dog Park is a terrific addition to Del Mar Park. I haven't noticed a lot of noise from dogs in the park but am sympathetic to those who hear the dogs. It is annoying at times, hope you can minimize the dogs barking.

Jean Code, Morro Bay – Read a letter by Mrs. Ransom to the Recreation and Parks Commission. The dog park is a wonderful addition. Formerly participated with the Del Mar Doggie Social Club. My dog loves the park.

Nicki Hooks, Morro Bay – A recent user of the dog park. When I am there or on my way there are many dogs off leash, barking. It is frustrating when the dogs run along the outside of the dog park fence causing mayhem with the dogs on the inside.

Steven Marketello, Morro Bay – Dog Park volunteer, ask people to quiet their dogs. Read some excerpts from a log he keeps at the dog park. He summarized it is not as noisy as some people say.

Mary Stallard, Morro Bay – MBP Chair, we do want to be good neighbors. When we observe aggressive dogs, we ask them not to come back until the dog is in better control. We have been implementing a lot of things mentioned in the Staff Report. We continue to evolve with more help from volunteers; we are as proactive as we know how.

Kelly Griley, Morro Bay – Was opposed to the dog park when it first moved in. I am not as opposed now to the park, but am opposed to the barking. Have been woken up twice before 8 a.m. by aggressive dogs and people yelling. There are more dogs off leash. Great idea but in the wrong place. Traffic on the street is also an issue.

Jeanne McIntosh, Morro Bay – The dogs barking have impacted the quiet enjoyment of our neighborhood. Attended meetings and protested this location, we want some solutions. Some suggestions are to have MBP staff the park and lock it when not present; large permanent signs ‘No Barking Allowed’; sound barrier, raise fence; ban unneutered male dogs, no flyers at the campground; semi-annual reviews. Location is bad City planning.

Elaine Giannini, Morro Bay – MBP Board Member clarified the hours of the dog park were set by City Council and we agreed. Templeton and Arroyo Grande dog parks are also in residential areas. One of the people who signed the petition on Island Street allows their dog to run loose. Have been in the park and heard dogs outside the park barking.

George Bomely, Morro Bay – Use the dog park frequently. Totally sympathize with what has happened on Island Street. I do think people in the park take action to control their dogs and it has changed a lot. One recommendation, noise ordinance.

Mike Anderson, Morro Bay – Island Street resident. Have a long log from February to June, 17 pages. Twenty-three people from the neighborhood think this issue needs some serious consideration. My home and six others are within 200 feet of the dog park. Not against the dog park, most of the time okay. Awakened before 7 a.m. on Saturday a few weeks back.

Ann Calhoun, Los Osos – SLO 4 PUPS Board Member. Get the people who use the park more involved, have them buy into the park so you create a user group who takes responsibility. Encourage users to learn the rules. Dogs running loose in the rest of the park has to be an enforcement issue. Establish rules for the entire park.

Chair Hale closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Ayoob asked if Jeanne McIntosh and Mike Anderson would get together and meet with the Morro Bay Pups and Mr. Woods to see how this can be worked out. She said MBP have tried to do everything in their power. She said a lot of people bring their dogs to the park and let them run loose, not in the dog park.

Commissioner Bates stated other than educating the dog owners, talk to the Police Department to have volunteers monitor the park. Ban a dog if it is uncontrollable. Look at the hours and perhaps planting some trees to make a better sound barrier. If someone is using the dog park at 7:00 a.m. call the appropriate authority.

Commissioner Sidaris stated it sounds like there is a lot of activity outside the dog park area. The enforcement element isn't there, looks like we need to have more presence out there.

Chair Hale stated the first step is to get the groups together. There are some good ideas; sound barrier, permanent signage as a whole for the entire park, semi-annual review, park manned during peak hours. We should brainstorm with an open mind. Problem can get addressed if we go in the right direction and not escalate. Recommend teams come together and discuss the items.

Staff Woods reviewed the recommendation of the Commission to take to City Council. They include: review the hours of the dog park, evaluate enforcement, modifications of the fence on the north side, look at adding vegetation, meet with Island Street residents and MBP with staff to moderate, directed dog park rather than self-directed with a monitor to open, permanent and more prominent signage in the park as a whole, annual evaluation, evaluate rules and conduct.

MOTION: Commissioner Bates moved to forward the Commission's recommendations as reviewed by Mr. Woods to the City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sidaris and carried. (4-0)

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

D. NEW BUSINESSs

D-1 RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Staff Woods presented the program evaluation for the 2009/2010 Kids' Club. Total program costs were \$148,708 and tuition revenue totaled \$152,653 for a cost recovery of 102%. The cost allocation total was \$33,306 for a net cost recovery of 84%. This program is classified under the Merit Service category which has a target revenue goal of 70-79%.

The 2010 Estero Bay Youth Futsal program had total programs costs of \$7,000.95. The support costs were \$1,600.00 bringing total expenses to \$8,600.95. Revenues from registration fees were \$7,861.00. This program had a cost recovery of 91%. It is classified as Merit Service with a target revenue goal of 70-79%.

The 2010 Brian Waterbury Memorial Rock to Pier Run was held on July 17, 2010 and 1200 runners/walkers registered. Total expense for the run including cost allocation was \$26,404.00. Revenues from registration and sponsors totaled \$33,005.00. This program had a cost recovery of 125%.

The 2010 Labor Day Classic Softball Tournament had 24 teams in attendance, 2 from the Central Coast and 22 from out of the area. Direct costs were \$5,472.56 with support costs of \$540.00 and indirect costs of \$480.00. Total expenses were \$6,492.56. Revenue from registration fees and t-shirts was \$7,170.00 for a cost recovery of 110%. This program is classified as an Enterprise Program with a target revenue goal of 100%.

MOTION: Commissioner Sidaris moved to accept the Recreation and Parks Department Program Evaluations for file. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bates and carried. (4-0)

D-2 REVIEW AND CONFIRM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION'S NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2010 MEETING DATES

Staff Woods asked the commission to review the November and December meeting dates and recommend to staff if the regular dates should be adjusted. He mentioned the November date is two days before Thanksgiving but the December date is between Christmas and New Years and staff will be out of the area.

MOTION: Commissioner Bates moved to hold the November Commission meeting as scheduled and cancel the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ayoob and carried. (4-0)

E. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wright
Administrative Technician