



Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes, January 21, 2014

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm
2. Roll Call: *Ashton, Bergman, Burdo, Holtzer, Kallmeyer, Logwood, Machado*
3. Approval of Agenda: Approved
4. Approval of Minutes of 11/19/13: Approved
5. Open Time for Public Expression: None
6. Recreation Fund Report:
 - A. Fiscal Year 2013-14 Periods ending 11/30/13 and 12/31/13: Donery reported that business is good. We are now, for the first time, implementing a facilities use fee, to go to the RVSD, for use of their classrooms to hold Afterschool Enrichment classes. We have not received any negative feedback. Holtzer requested information on expenditure schedule. Donery shared that the Vista Room improvements are completed. We are testing chairs before submitting the final order for chairs and tables. It has been determined that the entrances to both Parkside and the Vista Room need updating so the starting of that project has been postponed until the funds are available. The 'kitchen' has been renamed the Mt. Tam room and an interior designer search is underway to find someone to help with the designing of that space. The signage program is active – currently, we are giving the graphic designer direction – waiting for designs. Kallmeyer inquired about unexplained expenditures listed in the budget figures. Donery explained that they were related to boiler and AC costs. Holtzer asked about enrollment at Parkside Preschool. Donery reported that they are \$10,000 above figures this time last year. Bergman mentioned that she recently read an article regarding the trend of underfunding of preschools. Donery said that he will bring up the subject in his next meeting with Supervisor Rice.
7. Old Business:
 - A. Memorial Park Skate Park Program Proposal: Donery gave a brief report, stating that the only changes from the last report were site plan and the list of rules. He proceeded to give a general history of the proposal process, explaining that back in 2000 a group advocated for a park and put money into coming up with a design with an inflated budget of \$90,000, causing a halt to the process. Then Coach Tim Musselman proposed a skate board camp for the Summer of 2011 and got approval. He built a half pipe for the camp and left it available for the community skateboarders to use after camp was over and dismantled it once it became unsafe. He repeated this scenario in 2012 and 2013. This last summer, seeing how popular it was, the community started to resurrect the idea of a skate park and a process was started to seriously investigating viability, speaking with the Director of Public Works and the Police Chief about safety issues, etc. Today a new proposal is being presented to the commission with an updated site plan, materials, budget and rules with the understanding that, along with a recommendation from them to the council, there would also need to be a presentation to the Planning Commission before final approval may be given. The final stage would be a fund raising plan and the forming of a Skate Plaza Steering Committee (similar to the Red Hill Dog Park Steering Committee) made up of community members who would act as an oversight committee, working closely with the Recreation Dept. After Donery's report, the community presented a video of various community members stating why they thought a skateboard park was important. Holtzer requested an update from Lisa Graham, the principal representative for the community. Lisa explained that it

is obvious, after much research, that SkateLite Pro components would be the best choice and recommends that it be bought and installed by California Ramp Works, who have fifteen years of experience and are known for their Nike Afterschool Programs, among other projects. One of its principal designers, Skylar Matthis, has taken on this project with great enthusiasm, understanding and working within its confines. His design places a high priority on safety. SkateLite Pro has an average shelf life of five to ten years, is woodbased and has components that would provide use for a varied age group. The components are moveable until a final design is agreed upon and then will be fixed in place. The budget for purchase and installation (by California Rampworks experts) would be \$22,575 (not including resurfacing). If the resurfacing can be piggy-backed onto an existing Town project, the cost could be significantly less than if it is contracted separately. Bergman asked if the components could be used in the new Memorial Park, should the flood detention basin project happen. Donery stated that if a Skate Plaza is a community approved part of a new Memorial Park design, we would probably invest in newer, longer-lasting equipment and auction off the old components. Bergman stated that it appears as though the resurfacing is the 'lynchpin' of the project. Donery agreed, saying that we can't confirm a budget until we receive confirmation from DPW director, Condry. In the meantime we need to get quotes from the private sector. Kallmeyer asked what if any feedback the neighborhood has. Donery explained that all have received mailings and notifications of this and the previous two meetings of which there have been no responses. Logwood asked who would be enforcing the skate park rules. Donery reported that he has recently spoken with the PD chief about that and was informed that, although they would have something of a presence there, they would not be able to enforce the rules, though he would like to conduct safety trainings at the advent of the park opening. They are counting on peer enforcement. Liz stated that they are planning on having extra helmets on site and will be looking to parents to act as "chaperones". Kallmeyer stated that the concern is not for the present group of skaters, but rather the "rogue" component of the community, who don't have respect for the rules or property. Lisa replied, stating that she agreed with her but feels that it's in large part, the community's responsibility - different parks have different methods for establishing a caring presence. Through community meetings and trainings, with an emphasis on the importance of combined effort and responsibility, we, as a community, are willing to play that role. The hope is that Drake High students can be recruited as skate plaza monitors in exchange for community service hours and we are open to lots of different possibilities for meeting the need for oversight. Jeremy, a skate boarder and college student interning as a Skate Board Camp coordinator at Sonoma State, offered that the caliber of park that we are discussing won't draw a large contingency of skaters. It'll mostly be community members. Ashton asked what kind of controls would be put in place regarding larger vs. smaller park users. It was explained that the hour of use for specific age groups would be staggered. Earlier hours for younger children not in school - later afterschool hours for the older skaters. Jeremy shared that, among the skate boarder community, there is an unspoken "code of conduct" where the older skaters look out for and protect the younger ones. Kallmeyer and Holtzer suggested humorous signage illuminating the "code of conduct". Holly, on behalf of Town business owners, stated that they favor a skate park. Nick, James Alec and Josh (White Hill Middle School students) shared that they have skated in town until recently, when their parents provided skate stuff so that they could skate at home. There are not many "legal" skating opportunities in town so they get "a lot of grief" from community members. They have observed that there is always a core group at McGinness Park that seem tight - like a family. They would like a local place to do the same. A parent shared that it would be great if there was a local park so that parents wouldn't have to "commute" their kids to other community's skate parks. Matt Sharkey, who works in the industry and is deeply involved with the skateboard community, shared that it has been painful to have to fight so hard for a park. He acknowledged that it will have to be "self-policing" and that, in his experience, the best motivator for complying with the rules is the threat of an expensive ticket such as \$200 for not wearing a helmet. He stated that there is such a great need and commended the ladies for all their homework,

acknowledging that they did a great job. Gary Klein, Fairfax business owner and father of skateboarders, stated that there has been a real shift from skateboarding as an “outlaw activity” to an accepted sport – that it is great to see such camaraderie at the parks. Burdo asked if it was true that, if we have a park, they will go there instead of the streets. Jeremy stated that, if you don’t have a park or a car to drive to one, you will use whatever is available. The White Hill students stated that they definitely wouldn’t be using the crappy surfaces if they had a nice park to skate in. Lisa stated that having more outlets for teenagers would have positive results. Burdo stated that, as a member of steering committee, he had the easier part of the job, thanking all for putting together such a great presentation. He expressed his excitement and support and shared how impressed he was with the work ethic adhered to so that this process is done right and feels confident that we’ll be able to pull it together. He agreed that Donery should include something in the rules about wearing knee and elbow pads and suggested that skaters coming from out of area might bring more business to our local merchants. Call for motion to approve the plan pending paving estimates and finalization of the rules, to be addressed by the subcommittee. Approved.

8. Action Items:

- A. Selection of Commission Officers for 2014: Floor opened to nominations. Kathleen was acknowledged as holding Vice Chair for the last two years and nominated for Chair. Erin Bergman was nominated for Vice Chair. A vote was held. Both were approved.
- B. Youth Commissions – Expanding Youth Commissioner seats from one to two for a 12-month trial period: Donery reported that both Quality of Life and Open Space Commissions voluntarily expanded their seats from one to two and proposed that this commission make a choice to do the same. Holtzer expressed some concern over the fact that the youth commissioners have voting rights and could contribute to creating a quorum where nearly half the commissioners would be youth commissioner. No one else expressed similar concern.
- C. February Meeting Date: Due to the date falling in the middle of “Ski Week” Break, it was agreed to reschedule to A) 2/12 or B) 2/26. Donery will find out when the TH Conference Room is available.

9. Commission Projects & Goals:

- A. Bingo Night: Holtzer gave an update – the space capacity has been increased from 180 to 200. Commissioners to attend - Burdo has a reservation, Ashton and a friend are volunteering, as is Machado. Although Kallmeyer will not be attending, she will be making reservations for her family. We will be provided wireless microphones. High Tech Burrito will come to the event to pass out burritos. Safeway has donated water and cookies. Cookies will be sold for fundraiser, along with chips and salsa. Peet’s Coffee has committed to doing something. It was acknowledged that the Drake Winter Formal is the same night so not expecting many student volunteers. Volunteers needed: 2 -3 greeter/ticket sellers, 2 to pass out H2O, 3 cookie sellers One volunteer for set-up. Ashton said she could probably get 2 or 3 more. Set-up at 4pm – Holtzer and Bergman. Bergman will make directional signage. Holtzer said she will do additional buying the day of the event and talked about sponsor signs and prizes. Donery volunteered staff to produce a program containing that information. Holtzer asked for cash boxes which Donery said the office can provide.
- B. 501c3: Donery reported that he met with Carter Coleman and Doug Kelly. Burdo acknowledged that it was past 9pm and he had to leave. He and Donery agreed to meet.

Adjourned: 9:17pm