

CORONADO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Kathy Vienna.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Kathy Vienna, Chair, Walter Heinecke, Jennie Portelli and Tim Sullivan. Also present were Linda Rahn, Director of Recreation and Sandy Goodson, Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jennie had a question about a statement made by Bob that said there should be clear direction on who has ownership in regards to the tennis issues. Kathy wondered if it referred to his earlier statements of whoever is in charge of cleaning. Jennie requested a note be made to ask Bob next time. Kathy made a correction to page 6, third item from the bottom, clarifying that where it states that 40 – 50 people were displaced, Mr. Earley was referring to 40 – 50 Masters swimmers were displaced. Kathy moved to approve the March minutes with the correction noted above. Walt seconded the motion. Motion passed all voting aye.

AGENDA CHANGES:

No Changes were requested.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Jennie brought up signage in the parks and asked about the appearance of the signs and who maintains them. Linda said that she had not check into the signage and that we will add the item to the next agenda. Kathy said she called the school Student Body Association regarding recruitment of a student representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission. She stated that the school just had elections and they would try to get someone to be part of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

ACTIONS ITEMS:

1. Committee's Findings and Suggestions Regarding Tennis Issues:

Tim had two comments. He was concerned that the children's lessons were not to start before 10:00 a.m. His second concern was that the recommendation

stated that teaching on the court is “limited to instructors working through the City of Coronado” and wondered if it should be “authorized by the City of Coronado”.

Jennie responded that a lot of times she sees parents sitting and watching their children play. She said that she doesn’t know if parents are taking their kids from one activity to another.

Linda explained that the Recreation Programs are done in conjunction with a Camp and are done later in the morning. She stated that Phil Hopkins, Tennis Pro does some lessons in the morning. The 10:00 a.m. time was an attempt to compromise so that those adults with a favorite morning time would still be able to have the same time during the summer months.

Jennie confirmed Linda’s statement and added that the committee had not heard any complaints about the hours and the committee felt that children like to sleep in any way.

Tim thought that as a working parent it might be easier to start earlier. He doesn’t want to see a total prohibition of the children’s lessons until 10:00 a.m. He stated that right now they are only talking about Glorietta and that there are 3 other courts in town for the adults to use.

Linda stated that there are also other courts that the children can use. She said that part of the compromise would be to make sure there are enough courts left open at Glorietta and that perhaps the children’s lessons could be at the Cays as well. She said that she thought that lessons were already being given in the Cays. Phil Hopkins confirmed that lessons were already being given in the Cays.

Kathy talked about the discussion of changing the tennis program. She said that it looked like the City wanted to expand the tennis program and have the recreation department hiring additional instructors. She said that she feels uncomfortable making those kinds of changes until the Commission has verification of the current contract. She spoke with the City Attorney about her concerns. She asked him who determines what the contract is and was told that ultimately it was the City Council. She wondered if we could go forward to the City Council and ask for direction. She felt that without their direction she would not be able to support any issues pertaining to the recommendations until she was certain about the exclusivity issue.

Jennie said that she talked to Mark Ochendusko and was told that our concern was not the contract but what is best for the tennis community. Jennie said that it would be nice to get more direction from the Council. She said that Kristen Kovac went before the Council with a petition and understood that Tom Smisek sent a letter to Kristen. Jennie asked Linda to make copies of the letter to be given to all the Commissioners.

Walt suggested that we give information to the City Council to see what they say.

Kathy said that she agreed that any changes we make to the program would come from the recreation department. But her question is whether the Tennis Pro has a valid contract that says he has exclusivity to teaching tennis. She said according to the City Attorney, we have to have the City Council make that determination.

Walt thought that the current contract was about to be re-negotiated. Linda told him that the expiration date is August 2003.

Tim said he felt our recommendations could go forward and the Council will make the determination. He said that the staff report could raise the issue of whether the recommendations can go forward on the exclusivity issue.

Walt says that in his experience if we don't give information with the request that Council will just send it back anyway.

Jennie said that when they had their committee it was reported that the City Attorney said there is no exclusivity clause.

Kathy said that she understood from the last meeting that Linda said the intent was for the clause to be there and that it was going to be put back into the contract.

Linda said that we could put it back in and that the committee was charged with evaluating the recommendations to see what would best serve the Coronado resident's needs and desires. She said that a staff report can reflect concern about the exclusivity clause and ask for clarification and direction and it can accompany the rest of the recommendations, as this Commission desires.

Jennie wanted to know if everyone got a copy of the committee report.

Phil wanted to know if this was the report from the committee that he was on. He stated that he was supposed to be on a committee but was never called for any meetings.

Linda stated that the direction she was given when the concern about the teaching aspects occurred was to get some findings from the committee. This particular area of concern is sensitive to Phil's position and that it would not be a good idea for Phil to sit on that particular committee.

Phil asked if that was decided by the committee.

Linda asked Jennie to help her through these issues. Linda said that Jennie was asked in conjunction with Kathy Vienna to form a committee. It was suggested that Phil could be on the committee as well as several other people. It was determined that Jennie was going to be the chairperson for the committee.

Jennie said that after the committee decided when it would be good to meet that Linda meet with Mark to see if Phil needed to be on the committee. Mark said it was not necessary, but that Phil should be given a copy of the findings of the committee.

Phil said that the Commission can do what it wants and it seems that is what it is doing. He stated that it is upsetting to him because he was asked by a member of the committee to be on the committee and he agreed. Now the committee was meeting without him and they were discussing his job. Phil stated that he agreed to be on the committee and Kathy agreed for him to be on the committee and he wondered who was running the program.

Jennie said that after the committee met amongst themselves it was decided that it would be better for the committee to meet without Phil. She said the committee was comprised of Kathy Vienna, Linda Rahn, Pat McMahon, Mary Jane Clements, and herself. As suggested by the City Manager, it was decided that after they met, they would give a copy of the finding to Phil.

Phil wanted to know why Mark was involved. Jennie told him that Mark was involved because he is our City Manager. She said that he provides the Commission direction.

Linda stated that Mark provides her direction. Jennie then commented that Linda then gives the Commission direction. She said that she wanted Phil to have a copy of the findings so that he could discuss them with the Commission.

Linda told Phil that she would get him a copy of the findings and that he was aware of most of the findings because she had discussed them with him.

Phil asked if anyone would be interested in knowing that he met with Robert Caesar and was told that his contract was exclusive, or meant to be exclusive, and anything short of that was bullshit.

Kathy said it is difficult for the Commission to make a decision about someone's contract if they don't know if the contract is valid or not.

Linda said we have direction that the contract is a valid contract and an opinion from the City Attorney and that is where the direction is taken. We can ask Council to provide definitive direction. She said they can request it in conjunction with the Tennis recommendations or separately.

Kathy said that the City Attorney told her that the contract could be read either way. She said that her interpretation is that when a major issue is removed from a person's contract without their knowledge and they sign it, there could be a problem with fraud. She said that she would feel more comfortable with direction from the City Council.

Kathy made a motion that they request the City Council to give direction as to the validity of the exclusivity clause of the Tennis Pro's contract before we decide what changes we want to make to the Tennis Program.

Walt wanted to know if that meant that the items on the list would then be discussed after the direction. Kathy said that she felt that they would wait.

Tim said that he felt Phil should have a chance to respond before any decisions could be made. He wanted to make sure that the report to the Council was as complete as possible. He also felt that if Phil had comments about the exclusivity clause that they should also be included in the Council report.

Jennie said that Mr. Ochendusko was adamant that the exclusivity clause was not in the contract. She agreed that the exclusivity clause needed to be decided before the Commission made decisions regarding the committee's recommendations.

Tim said that we should give all the information we have to the Council when we ask them to make a decision about the contract.

Jennie reiterated that the direction she got from Mr. Ochendusko was that the Commission was not to be concerned about the validity of the contract.

Tim felt that the Commission should tell the Council what issues are being raised, and what the Commission's recommendation is after the committee's report gets disseminated to the public. He wasn't sure that a recommendation needed to be given to Council before that was done.

Kathy didn't feel that the Commission needed to give all the information to Council because the Commission is just asking for direction. She said that the Council didn't need information from the Commission to decide if an employee of theirs has a valid contract.

Linda stated that Phil is not an employee rather he is under contract. His original contract was signed by the City Council and subsequent contracts were signed by Robert Caesar, Director of Recreation.

Linda said the City Attorney commented that ultimately it is the Council's decision as to what is in the contract and the validity of the contract.

Jennie said that she would like direction from the Council.

Walt was concerned that Phil's side should be given to the Council.

Jennie said that she thought Phil would discuss his issues with the Council then Council would direct the Commission on the issues. Finally, the Commission

would discuss the committee's findings with Phil before making a recommendation to the Council.

Walt was concerned how to package the issue for the Council.

Kathy suggested that the Commission request that the Council or representatives of the Council meet with the tennis pro and City Attorney to determine the exclusivity clause of his contract.

ACTION TAKEN: Jennie asked to have Kathy's motion reread. The motion was to request for the City Council to validate the exclusivity clause of the Pro's contract after meeting with the Pro and the City Attorney. Walt seconded the motion. The motion passed with Tim voting Nay.

Jennie wanted to know when this could get to the City Council. Linda said that the Council meets on May 1, and 15. She said that we should make sure it goes to Council on May 1, 2001.

Linda asked is we were going to hold on to the recommendation. Tim felt that the Commission needed to hold the committee's recommendation. Jennie agreed.

Linda wanted to know whether the Commission was going to give a copy of the recommendations to Phil, or were they going to hold the recommendations. Jennie said that if the Council got a copy then Phil should get a copy.

Tim said that he did not want it to go to Council yet, but he did think Phil should get a copy.

Linda stated that she hadn't given Phil a copy of the report because she was waiting to see if the Commission was going to receive the report.

Jennie said that Phil should have a copy of the report and that the Council should not.

Linda stated that we should indicate on the heading of the report that these are the findings of the committee as of this date. She then reiterated that the heading would say that the report is a listing of the Tennis Review Committee's findings as of this date and that it is being held for further Commission review and that a copy was being sent to the Tennis Pro for his comments. In the mean time, a request is being sent to the Council for a clarification of a request to go to Council on the Commission's area of concern.

Jennie reiterated that she does not want the report to go to Council before the Commission receives clarification. Linda said that we could state that the report is being held pending the clarification from Council.

Walt asked if that meant that the report is open ended and things could still be added. Linda responded yes.

ACTION TAKEN: Jennie made a motion to forward a copy of the committee's recommendation report to Phil for his comments. Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed all voting aye.

2. Skateboard Park; Review of Proposed Fees and Operational Hours:

Tim expressed concern over the 1:00 p.m. start time during the school year. He was also concerned that the recommended hours stated dusk and the expense and revenue report stated 5:00 p.m. He suggested moving the opening time back to try to eliminate truancy problems.

Linda said that the expense and revenue projection report had hours specified so that we could estimate the number of hours. She said that we would like to close at dark. As for the opening hours most of the skateparks open at 9:00 a.m. which would be the time the adults usually skate. Some Coronado school children have school hours that would also be conducive to a 1:00 p.m. opening time.

Walt said that it would be a subjective judgment made by someone as to what time dusk is. Linda suggested that another way to state it could be 15 minutes before sunset. She also said that we could specify specific hours, but we were trying to make it as easy as possible.

Jennie suggested that they use 15 minutes before published time of sunset in the newspaper. Walt agreed and said that the supervisor would have better control over the closing time.

Walt suggested a board to display the closing time so that when people come to the Skatepark they will know the closing time.

Tim wondered if it was going to be worth staffing the park at 1:00 p.m. since the children probably won't get there until 2:45 p.m.

Linda said that it probably would. The other parks state that they are full starting at 9:00 a.m. with adults.

Jennie suggested that we could try this and after 6 months make changes if necessary.

Tim said that he is comfortable with Linda's explanation of the 1:00 p.m. opening. He also suggested that we watch the truancy. Linda stated that our employee's know most of the kids from Coronado and will be very aware as to who is at the

park and when.

Tim suggested that the registration form could ask where the child goes to school.

Walt suggested moving some of the items on the rules and regulation around to make it easier to read.

Tim wanted to know how we are going to enforce the minimum age. Linda said that we are going to ask for a birth certificate or other proof of age and that it could be put in the rules. She explained that an identification card is issued to show that we have everything we need on file for them including the release forms.

Tim questioned the rule; "The skaters must skate safely at all times". He wanted to know if we have rules as far as how many people can go down a bowl at one time.

Linda said that staff would develop those rules. The absolute is that the skaters will have to have on safety gear. As staff starts seeing what is safe and what isn't they will add to the rules. Our draft set of rules will be forwarded to the City Attorney for review. She said that we have also said that the skater must abide by the direction of the supervisors and if a supervisor notices that a skater is skating unsafely in an area the supervisor will give direction to the skater.

Walt wanted to know if the supervisors we are going to hire would be able to do those kinds of enforcement.

Linda said that we are looking for people with skateboarding knowledge and experience, experience working with kids, ability to teach and the ability to give discipline in a fair and consistent manner.

Walt suggested that the rules be broken down into three categories of safety, hours and prohibitions.

Tim asked if safety equipment would be provided free to those who need it. Linda said that we are proposing to charge \$1.00 per item to help cover our cost of cleaning and replacing the items.

Tim wanted to know how many parks include the rental in the cost of admission. Linda said that Rob Field includes the rental in the cost of admission but that none of the other parks do. Escondido quit supplying the gear at all. She stated that we may decide that supplying the pads is a bad thing but that we want to start with them because we want to make sure that everyone who wants to use the park can.

Walt said that we should rent the gear.

Jennie said that she is happy with the recommendation.

Kathy said that we need a basis to start and if we see we need to adjust it we can always adjust it later.

Linda said that at the beginning we would have 2-hour sessions, no less. Once the attendance starts to level off we will lengthen the sessions.

Jennie asked about scholarship for children who couldn't afford the cost. Linda said that the Recreation Department does have scholarships available and would extend them to the Skatepark. She also said that she wanted to set up a mentoring type program where older children could work with younger children and earn Skatepark time. We also want to develop a leadership training program where children can learn CPR, first aid, resume writing and leadership skills. We are also looking at a program where children can earn time for community service.

Walt wanted to know the estimated date for opening. Linda said that we are looking at May 8th for a soft opening which will not be the grand opening, nor well publicized, and then a grand opening when the Recreation Commission, City Council and special guests are available later in the month.

Tim wanted to know how the enforcement of the no skateboarding on sidewalks, curbs etc. was going to happen. Linda said that she was working with Chief Hutton on the enforcement issues and that Chief Hutton said that he was very comfortable with the issue. The park has a motion sensor so lights go on when people are in it. The lights alert the police that people are in the Skatepark so they go and take care of the situation. We are going to work with the police department and thought that if children are caught in the Skatepark after hours that their park privilege would be suspended for 2 weeks. The suspension would happen the first 2 times an infraction occurs. A citation would be issued in addition to a suspension for any further infractions. We felt that suspending the Skatepark privilege would be more damaging since it was a consequence that would be the most impacting to the child.

Tim is concerned about the walkway along the bay. There will be more skateboarders on the walkway with the pedestrians. Linda said that we will be very mindful of all the areas and that if extra staff is needed in the beginning to help enforce these areas, then we will provide the extra staff.

Tim said that the recommended fees were fine. He wanted to make sure that we would have a minimum of 2 staff at all times. He was concerned about beginners being in the more difficult bowls and the mixture of skateboarders and in-line skaters.

Linda said that staff will be watching and assessing skaters to insure they are not

doing anything dangerous to themselves or anyone else. She said that there have not been any problems with the mixture of skateboarders and in-line skaters at the other facilities.

Kathy said that this is a good start and wanted to know if the Commission could vote to approve it and revisit it in 3 months. Tim suggested that we revisit it in October.

Sandy read the recommended changes to the rules as follows: closing 15 minutes before the published time of sunset, create categories of hours, safety, and prohibitions and prioritize the items in each category, add proof of age in the bullets, and correct a typing error from the last line. Also, add school attending to the application for the identification card.

ACTION TAKEN: Tim moved that the Recreation Commission adopt the recommended fees including the \$1.00 rental fee per item and the rules with the noted changes. Walt seconded the motion. Motion passed all voting aye.

3. Spreckels Park/Jumping Pits:

Linda explained that she had a call from a citizen requesting the jumping pits that people have with birthday parties get moved to different corners of Spreckels Park so the same residents are not always disturbed by the noise. She said that the jumping pits are typically set up at Sixth and D.

Tim suggested that they move closer to the restroom.

Jennie wanted to know how to word the recommendation. Linda said that it could be worded in our facility booking procedures that we indicate where the jumping pits go so that we do not always send them to the same area.

Kathy wanted to know whether we can limit what parks could have jumping pits such as Tidelands Park or Glorietta Bay Park.

Linda said that they do have them at Tidelands. She thinks that people like Spreckels Park because it is a nice venue. She said that we could try recommending that people set the jumping pits up at different locations and see how it works; if it doesn't work we can try something different.

Tim suggested that another good reason to be closer to the bathrooms would be because it has businesses across the street instead of residents.

ACTION TAKEN: Kathy moved that we provide a recommendation to the department that when people are using jumping pits we rotate where they can be located. Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed all voting aye.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Linda said we had a terrific Easter Egg-Stravaganza. We had lots of kids for the Easter egg hunt that was over in 30 seconds and then they stayed and played the life-size Candyland game.

We are working actively for our summer staff recruiting. We are looking for day camp assistants, leaders for the Skatepark and a coordinator for the Skatepark who will be the in-charge person.

She has her third budget meeting with the City Manager and Director of Administrative Services. She isn't sure where we are on the process because she hasn't gotten any feedback on her request. One of the items we are requesting is for 4 additional part-time benefited staff in order to keep people on staff who have been contributing to the program development, the planning, and ones with background and experience.

We have a jazzercise instructor who will be using the facility as a facility user that is going to generate additional revenue.

Linda said that she and Sandy are going to be doing a soft-shoe dance in the Crown City Revue.

We have been allocated \$30,000 in next year's Capital Improvement plan to do a structural assessment of the pool.

We are working very hard with the Skatepark and tennis issues.

One of Linda's goals in the budget is to develop a joint-use agreement with the school district. She is hoping to improve the joint-use between the two agencies. She has submitted for re-surfacing of the high school tennis courts in the budget. She mentioned that there is a lot of shared use of the municipal pool and that we would like more use of the gymnasium and the school's dance studios.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Prepared by:

Approved by:
