

CORONADO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
October 15, 2001

Commission Chair Kathy Vienna called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners: Kathy Vienna, Bob Breglio, Walt Heinecke, Jennie Portelli and Tim Sullivan.

Absent:

Student Rep: Thomas Hopkins

Staff: Linda Rahn, Director of Recreation and Sandy Goodson,
Administrative Secretary

INTRODUCTION: Kathy Vienna introduced our new Student Representative from Coronado High School, Thomas Hopkins. He is a senior at the high school and is the school's Commissioner of Athletics. Thomas is on the school's water polo, soccer, swim and tennis teams. Three of the teams were in the CIF finals last year. Thomas was chosen to be on the National Youth Water Polo team last year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jennie said that on page 5, the second to the last paragraph, she had asked if we had enough time to do a survey, and no answer was recorded. Linda explained that we were doing a lot of theorizing during that time of the meeting and no real answer was given. Kathy said on page 3, second to the last paragraph, it should say, "...a committee that he and Ed sat on about a year and a half ago..."

Motion: Sullivan – Accept the Minutes of the August meeting as corrected.

Second: Heinecke

Motion passed all voting aye

AGENDA CHANGES:

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ed Chapman, 1111 Coronado Ave., commented on the Employee Recreation Program. He said that the Golf Course is paid for by the golfers 100%. He was concerned that if we allow the City employees to golf for free during twilight hours, that the Port District will want the same benefit for their employees since they are responsible for the property. Walt said that he thought we had approval from the golf course. Ed said we have approval from the Director of Golf Course, but not the committees. Kathy said that we were given misinformation because we asked to receive feedback from both the men and women's golf club. Linda clarified that the question we asked was if it would limit the public access or the Men or Women's Club access of the golf course.

Ed explained that there is a committee that is made up of the President of the Men's and Women's Club, an additional member of each club, and that Dave Jones is the Chair. The committee meets once a month.

Motion: Portelli – Pull the recommendation from the Council Agenda, and submit it to the Golf Course Improvement Committee for their review and comments regarding allowing City Employees to golf for free during twilight hours.

Second: Heinecke

Motion passed all voting aye

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Community Center Design Development:

Margaret Richardson, 435 G Ave., said that she understands the word “gymnasium” was used in the original plan and wants to know when the word was dropped from the discussion of the Glorietta Bay Master Plan. She said that she understood the Commission was directed not to discuss the uses of the facility. Linda said that the commission could discuss the uses of the facility such as programming and equipment.

Margaret said that most of the people she has spoken with are not even aware that a Community Center is being built and asked how would we recommend getting the word out. Kathy said that we will be discussing a survey later on, and that she hopes that is a way to get the information out to the public. Margaret asked if they (the public) should communicate with the City Council. Kathy said that it is always good to communicate with Council.

Margaret said there was an article in the San Diego Union on September 30 that talked about a gymnasium being an asset to a community.

Carrie Downey, 319 D Ave., said that she reviewed the entire Glorietta Bay Master Plan. She said that the plan didn't use the words basketball court/gymnasium, but in her heart she felt that it would include a basketball court/gymnasium. She said that she was the only person arguing for a basketball court/gymnasium and was opposed by the Shores' residents. She said that we do need to be resorting to any method that we can that would allow the Park and Recreation Board to make recommendations to the City Council so they can make a better reasoned judgment as to what the community really wants.

Carrie continued to say that if the community gets their wishes and the Community Center does include a basketball court, it would be necessary to do a supplemental EIR. She said that it doesn't have to be a large, huge, expensive endeavor, because it would only be to raise the height. She said that she would volunteer her service to assist in the process.

Carrie said that she believes it is very important for communities to have gymnasiums. She has visited other facilities and they are always in use by the community. She is concerned that we are being too short sighted in our vision for the Community Center. She said that she would hate to see money thrown away by us having to remodel the Community Center after it is built to make room for a gymnasium.

Kathy asked Carrie what kind of a time frame would we be looking at if we did a supplemental EIR. Carrie said the timeliest part of the process is getting someone to say exactly what it is we want, for example, we only want to look at raising the roof 5 feet. Carrie said that it could be done in 60 to 90 days depending on staff. Jennie asked if we dug down 5 feet instead of raising the roof 5 feet if a supplemental would be required. Carrie said that she wasn't sure.

Carrie said that she has talked to many people and they are all very excited about the possibility of having a basketball/volleyball court. She said that she is going to start a petition to give to the Council to show how many people are interested in a gymnasium. She said that she is going to start the petitions with the committees she is on.

Ed Chapman, 1111 Coronado Ave., said that he thinks a full-scale gymnasium is what this community needs. Ed said that he visited the new Encinitas Community Center that is nearing completion. He wasn't able to get in and take pictures because it is a hardhat area. He did go by the building department and got a floor plan. He said the complex is about 40,000 sq. ft. with 10,000 being used for a gymnasium. He said that he believes it is about the size of our proposed Community Center.

Ed said that many people are not aware of the Community Center. He said that even members of our own Chamber of Commerce are not aware. Ed said that it is the Commission's responsibility to let the Council know what the people want. He said that he is convinced that if it isn't done right the first time, there won't be enough money to make changes later.

Margaret Quackenbush, 440 Pomona, said that she had not heard about the Community Center and that she had been here for 25 years. She said that she is interested in physical education. She said that she was in Albuquerque and they just built a beautiful Community Center/Gymnasium. She said that the Gymnasium was full of people. She hopes that we don't let this opportunity pass.

Linda Stanton, 855 C Ave., said that she wants to encourage the Commission to use the survey to really find out the needs of our community. She said that she believes the Commission really needs to be involved every step of the way during the review process. She believes the Commission needs to make educated decisions.

Tim asked where we are in the process. Linda said that the EIR has been accepted by the City Council. The Community Center subcommittee is working with the architect, engineering department and herself. She said the architect is in the information-gathering phase. They are working on both the City Hall process and the Community Center process at the same time. They are also working on a third side project, the municipal pool refurbishing.

Linda explained that there is capital funding set aside separate from the Glorietta Bay Master Plan, for working on refurbishing the pool infrastructure. She explained that we are currently doing an analysis of the pool's "integrity" to see if it could handle the improvements.

Linda summarized that there is a City Hall Council subcommittee that consists of Mona Wilson and Patty Schmidt, and that they are working with the City Hall departments on their needs.

City Council Community Center subcommittee is working with Recreation on our office needs, and items such as adjacencies. She explained that the subcommittee went on a tour of 3 facilities, the Aztec Recreation Center, San Marcos Community Center, and the almost-completed Encinitas Community Center. Aztec Recreation Center is exclusively a sport/fitness gymnasium complex. The largest function is a fitness room with rowing machines, weights, bicycles, climbing wall. There are large aerobic rooms, 2 basketball courts. San Marcos Community Center is much more meeting and recreation based. They have a preschool room with a licensed childcare on site. They have a dance room and an aerobics room, and a large meeting/banquet room. They have a full kitchen. Finally, the Encinitas Community center is scheduled to open in January and we obtained copies of their floor plan.

Linda said that we are not as far ahead in the Glorietta Bay Master Plan process as we planned, and that the state of the Union has put us a little behind. Linda said there is not an actual floor plan at this time; the architects are still gathering information.

Walt asked if the letter to the Council was delivered to the Council. Linda confirmed that there was a letter given to council. Jennie asked if the letter was part of a public record. Linda said the minutes are part of the public record, but needs to confirm whether the letter is public record or not.

Tim wanted to know when the public meetings would be held. He wanted to know if the meetings would be held when there were only preliminary drawings or later on. Linda said she wasn't sure.

Linda reiterated that the architects are in the design phase and there will definitely be community meetings on the Community Center in the future.

Margaret Quackenbush, 440 Pomona, said that maybe we could ask people to prioritize the items they want in the Community Center using the items in the study, but leave blanks to be added by the people.

Tim asked if the Commission could ask if they could meet with the Community Center subcommittee. Linda said that the subcommittee is like a staff meeting and does not have to be publicized. She said that the Commission could request a meeting, but she doesn't know what the answer would be.

Motion: Sullivan – Invite Mayor Smisek and Councilmember Monroe to our next Commission meeting to discuss the Community Center.

Second: Heinecke

Motion passed all voting aye

Bob said he feels like we are running into a buzz saw, that we are in the middle of a political issue. He got the feeling from Jim Benson's talk a few months ago.

Kathy said we are in support of council, but we are also advisory and as such, we need to tell council what citizens tell us.

Tim said it depends on what the role of the Commission is. He feels the role of the Commission is to promote recreation in Coronado. He said that the Council approved the EIR in February and he doesn't think any of the Commission knew it was going for a vote and the vote will definitely affect recreation in the community. He said if the Commission has questions regarding the community center, then the Commission needs to address those questions with the Council. He believes that the Commission needs to get information to the Community Center Subcommittee.

Walt said he agreed that the Commission is advisory to the Council and to provide recreation in the community. Jennie agreed that the Commission is the "ears" of the Council, and as such, should not so much push their own ideas forward, but to bring the Community's desires to the attention of the Council.

Linda commented that the audience might want to stay for a little more of the meeting because they might find it educational.

2. Community Survey/Needs Assessment:

Linda explained that she has talked with SANDAG regarding the community survey. She will make an appointment with SANDAG when she gets the survey a little more refined. She said that she has been allocated \$6,000 - \$7,000 for the survey. She explained the survey should contain other information that is beneficial to Recreation Services, not just specially the Community Center. Linda said there are a lot of things she needs input into and to develop the responses she needs. She wants to assess the effectiveness of our current services, hear what the opinion is about Recreation in the community, and determine what is the awareness level of the benefit of recreation in the community.

Linda said that the Commission package included a sample survey. She explained the survey has some questions good for phone surveys, and other for mail-out surveys. She asked the Commission to let her know what type of questions they like, and to remove any they feel might be abrasive. She said that she would be asking use-type questions such as what the community wants to do in the community center or other city facilities.

Walt asked if we are going to have professional assistance in the process since there is a great chance for bias. Linda said that SANDAG would be helping us to ask the questions properly and helping to administer the survey.

Walt said that he did not see the word “basketball” or “volleyball” in Linda’s survey. Linda explained that the question is referencing what is proposed in the new Community Center plan. She said then you ask if there is anything else you would want in the Community Center.

Kathy said “indoor multipurpose sports/activity area” is too vague and should be specific basketball/volleyball.

Carrie Downey, 319 D Ave., made a couple of suggestions. One suggestion is to put an ad in the Eagle asking people to take the time to complete and return the survey. Second, she suggested asking the Coronado Hospital what response they received from their mail-out survey, and what they did to get them returned. Third, she said that there are businesses that specialize in the Web based surveys and that maybe we could have it posted on the City’s Web Page.

Jennie said that question 11 says gymnastic/dance/aerobics room, and that nothing is said about basketball.

Bob said you could bias a survey by omission or inclusion. He was concerned that by omitting the word gymnasium, basketball or volleyball, that we would be biasing the survey.

Kathy asked if the Commission is supposed to give Linda direction. Linda explained that what is going to be in the rooms is already done. She said that the process is well beyond asking, “what do you want in a Community Center”. There is another area of the survey that is called “areas for improvements”. That section could be expanded to include the Commission’s desire to address basketball and volleyball.

Bob asked if the Community Center is defined in the EIR. He said if the Commission is not dealing with the needs of the community, then why are we discussing the issue. He said that he thought the Community Center was undefined.

Linda said the Community Center has been defined and the process has included community surveys. She said the Commission has copies of the results of the surveys and the process of what would be desired in the Community Center. She explained that the process has been long and some of the demographics may have changed, but at this point the base is set. She said that she feels there is some flexibility to what goes in the Community Center. The community input is desired to validate what goes in the Community Center, and if the validation shows that some of the items proposed for the Community Center are not desirable any longer, there might be some room for change.

Kathy said that some of the items such as basketball and volleyball should be discussed. She said she feels like we can’t talk about those items because we are on a time line and it might set us back. She wants to know what is the rush. This facility is

going to last us for the next 50 years.

Ed Chapman, 1111 Coronado Ave., explained the original survey asked about what was important to the community. The most important item was a fitness center. He explained they talked about an outside basketball court. He reviewed the Glorietta Bay Master Plan and it gave a list of examples. Ed feels that a survey that doesn't list basketball courts and volleyball courts would lack integrity. He said this Community Center needs to be done right the first time and that it needs to last 50 years.

Linda Stanton, 855 C Ave., said that she is the Chairman of the Public Arts committee and asked to be included in the beginning phases of the planning of all new municipal facilities.

Carrie Downey, 319 D Ave., really believes that the Commission is giving the Council the voice of the people. She said we might look at other options to include a basketball court such as lowering the floor, or not having NBA regulation courts. She said those ideas need to be revisited.

Linda explained that the likely opportunity to get into the High School gymnasium occurs in the evening hours and on the weekend.

Margaret Richardson, 435 G Ave., said not to underestimate their influence. She believes that the Council will listen to the Commission since they are bringing information forward from the community. She does not remember the survey from 1993 or 1994. She encouraged the Commission not to give up.

Jennie asked when the needs assessment was done. Linda said 1994.

Motion: Heinecke – Add to the #III section of the survey basketball and volleyball.

Tim suggested changing #III to facility use.

Jennie suggested also asking the questions under “areas of improvement”.

Kathy clarified that Tim suggested not saying, “in a community center”, but rather “what facilities would you use”.

Bob suggested leaving #9 alone and break out a section for people to define what is an indoor multi-purpose/sports facility. Kathy asked if you would put basketball court under that question. Bob said that basketball court questions would be separate.

Motion: Heinecke – Leave question #9 general in term where multi-purpose room can be defined and add basketball/volleyball to question 11, and delete question 10. He motioned to change III to “New Programs Needed”.

Second: Tim

Motion passed all voting aye

Tim asked if Linda wanted comments on questions. Linda said yes.

Tim said that question 2 should be eliminated. He said that he did not understand what “opportunities for personal enrichment” were. Linda explained that it is a term used by recreational professionals. It shows that Recreation is more than someone to check out balls. It explains that the purpose for having recreational activities is to help develop healthy life styles, reduces crime, prevents vandalism and strengthens the family. She said she is asking the question to see if the community feels the same way, and if not, it gives her a level of awareness to work on.

Tim said on page 3, number 5 lists some activities. Linda explained they were the results of the previous survey and would not be included so we don't lead the community.

Tim said that with questions 5a, he believes that we will get complaints about soccer and little league coaches. Linda said that we do get some of those calls and we forward them to the appropriate league.

Tim said we talked about long-term plans for a golf course on the military land on the Strand.

Jennie said that the Commission could take home the survey to look at it. Tim asked when Linda wanted their comments. Linda said as soon as possible.

Kathy said we also talked about water sports.

Linda said that she did have rowing/kayaking facility boathouse, but if they want to be more specific, they can.

Walt said we forgot skateboarding. Linda said it was under activities they used.

Linda said that she would pursue the web posting. She said that once we have the survey developed, it would be easy to post it to the web.

3. State Grant Funds: Consideration of Proposed Uses

Linda explained that she supplied the Commission with the basic grant funding parameters. She would like the Commission to prioritize the suggested projects she gave to them. She put the first item as number 1 because she believes it has the best chance of being accepted.

Tim thinks that the Cottage is #1, and developing Crown School parking lot into fields should be #2. Linda said that the School District is looking into changing Crown School fields and asphalt lot into sports fields.

Jennie thinks the teen center should be number 2. Kathy asked if the Community Center would address the needs of the teens. Linda explained there are places teens will use in the Community Center, but not specifically a teen center.

Bob thinks the sports fields are more important than a teen center. He wasn't sure what a "teen center" is.

Jennie said if there isn't going to be a nice teen center at the Community Center then she wants Teen Center as # 2.

Walt asked if you could combine 1 and 2. Tim said we would need to look at the money. Linda said she believes the money will fund only one project.

Linda suggests we start some real strong programs for teens out of current facilities. Perhaps we designate times for teens. Kathy said that with the Recreation Department's involvement in the Middle School, that gives us more direction also.

Tim confirmed that the Roberti grant needs to have the City anti up also. Walt asked if the school district donated land, would that meet the requirement of the City's share. Linda said yes, but she would need to read the wording that addresses donated land.

Tim wanted to know if we could do more if we had more money. Linda said yes.

Bob suggests that we remove item 2, Municipal Pool Restoration from the list since it is being taken care of in the budget. Bob suggests combining 3 and 4, Teen Programs and Teen Center. Linda explained that the reason they are separate is because one grant is for activities and the other is for facilities.

Bob suggested a priority order of 6, 4, 1 and 5.

Linda explained that the Cottage is not in the Glorietta Bay Master Plan.

Jennie suggested 1, 6 and 3.

Kathy agrees. Walt agrees, he thinks the Community would be more likely to support restoration of the cottage.

Tim said 1, 6, and 4.

Motion: Portelli – Project list should be Cottage, Sports Field, Teen Program, Teen Center and Transportation, with the Municipal Pool refurbishing project removed.

Second: Breglio

Motion passed all voting aye

4. Next Meeting Date:

Linda explained that the next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2001, which is a holiday for the City.

Kathy suggested the 19th.

Motion: Sullivan – Have the next meeting on November 19, 2001.

Second: Vienna

Motion passed all voting aye

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Director's Report:

A. Teen Program: Linda said she has some handouts to share. The flier she passed out is posted prominently at the Middle School. She passed out a color brochure regarding the teen programs. The Teen Program has been named Island Adventure and has a logo. Staff is wearing a shirt with the logo and nametags. We have a web site called MyIslandAdventure.com that is up and running. It has links to different events in the community, community service, after school activities, etc. The Middle School loves us, the parents, administration, and kids think we're great. We are doing hip-hop dance, arts and crafts, supervising a game room and leading sports to 400 – 500 Middle School children each day. We are doing monthly special events. The kids are helping out developing the haunted house for our Annual Halloween Happening. Staff was introduced to the Coronado High School PTO. Staff will be organizing activities for the high school, and breaking it into 2 main age groups, those who drive and those who don't. The only time we might combine the different age groups would be for classes such as photography. One of the specialists has a proposal for a team leadership development program.

Walt asked if Team Safe is able to contribute to this program. Linda said no, that at budget time, Team Safe was transferred to the Recreation Department along with a \$30,000 budget. We are using the budget to fund the Teen Coordinator position that we will be recruiting for in the near future. Linda explained that she has about \$30,000, allocated to teen programs, and can adjust that.

Walt commented on our outstanding Teen Specialist, and wanted to know if we can pay them enough to keep them. Linda explained that they would both be eligible to apply for the Teen coordinator position when it becomes available.

B. Joint Use Agreement:

Linda explained that the City Council approved moving forward with the development of a joint use agreement. She has been asked to speed up the process. She is hoping to have the Joint Use Agreement done within 2 to 3 weeks. Everyone is very receptive and supportive, and Linda believes this will really enhance things. She knows we will get more time in the gymnasium, but probably no afternoons. Cooperation is at a very high level.

Walt asked how are things at the Skatepark. Linda said the Skatepark is doing great. Fall attendance is lower, but the adult attendance seems to be carrying it. We are looking at getting some programs or clinics once a week, or having fun games on Friday afternoon. Linda said that her neighbor went to the Skatepark and had a wonderful

time. She said that the staff gave the kids a mini lesson and the kids can't wait to go back. We have had some break-ins in the evening and we are working on a solution.

6. Commissioner's Report:

Jennie said the Tennis Committee is going to be meeting November 1, 2001.

Jennie asked whether we received an answer from the City attorney regarding two issues. First, does the Tennis Review Committee fall under the jurisdiction of the Brown Act, and as such, do they need to post their meetings. Second, can the Commission state what the make-up of the Committee should be, for example can they limit the number of Committee members who are active in the Coronado Tennis Association. Linda said that we have not yet received response from the City Attorney.

Kathy said that she believes the Commission needs to send a letter to the Council with the minutes from the meeting, but this time ask for a response.

Walt, Tim and Jennie said they didn't think they should ask for a response.

Tim agrees that the Commission needs to send a letter with the minutes to the Council.

Kathy will word the letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Prepared by:

Approved by:
