

CORONADO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
April 14, 2014

1. PRELIMINARIES

- 1.1 Call to order: Chair Alison called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- 1.2 Pledge of allegiance
- 1.3 Roll Call:

COMMISSIONERS / STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE / STAFF

PRESENT: Alison, Little, Nichols, Chasin, McPherson, Dykstra, Rahn, Downes

ABSENT:

EXCUSED:

- 1.4 Approval of minutes from February 10, 2014 and March 10, 2014.

M / S: Little/Nichols to accept minutes of both meetings

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Alison, Little, Nichols, Chasin, McPherson

NOES: COMMISSIONERS:

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:

- 1.5 Agenda Changes: None

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3.1 Director's Report: Director Rahn reported on the following:

- 3.1.1 Introduce New Commissioner, Kari McPherson – McPherson is a native San Diegian. Her children have participated in Recreation programs.
- 3.1.2 Senior Center Project Status – Contract is going to City Council to be signed tomorrow.
- 3.1.3 Summer Brochure – Was delivered to Coronado residents last week.
- 3.1.4 Code Enforcement on the Beach – Council requested Police Department develop an RFP for a Private Security Company to provide enforcement on the beaches.
- 3.1.5 Staff Report regarding Parks and Recreation Commission Quorum – This report will go to City Council tomorrow.

3.2 Commissioners' Reports:

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Resolution adjusting the start time of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings

Rahn explained a request was received to start meetings at 3:30 p.m. Alison is in favor of the action. Little wishes support of Commissioners. Chasin is fine with change.

M / S: Nichols/McPherson to change the start time to 3:30 p.m.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Alison, Little, Nichols, Chasin, McPherson

NOES: COMMISSIONERS:

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:

4.2 Develop Recommendation to Council Regarding a Dog Park/Run AND

4.3 Consideration of Designating Off-Leash Hours for Dogs at Specific City Parks

Rahn explained last month's meeting to discuss a fenced park in Coronado and three possible locations.

Chairman Alison opened public comment.

Bette Ruzevick, 742 Jacinto Pl – Not in favor of fenced park. Offended by tone of discussion. Neighbors did not start this item. Neighbors were asked by police to call when laws were broken, but they decided not to. She wants to have this item put to rest.

Frank Goebels, 822 Guadalupe Ave - Went to visit off leash sites in San Diego. Most have off street parking, enclosed, 1 located in residential area (on one side). Coronado has more dog park per capita than most cities. All parks should allow dogs.

John Lunt, 1612 Cajon Pl - Attended last month's meeting and it was clear that no one wants parks made into dog parks. Bad idea to have off-leash hours in parks. If you do it for any park you need to be prepared to do it for all parks.

Paul Granger, 701 Guadalupe Ave - He is against Vetter Park being used by off-leash dogs. Cays is a better place because it has some natural barricades. If you have an off-leash park it would need to be fenced.

Bill Kusters, 551 F Ave - Feels off-leash park is necessary. He appreciates any time he could run his dogs. He read a statement from Barbara James, 931 F Ave, stating that PAWS needs a fenced dog park to protect the dogs. Exercised dogs are better behaved and bark less. Cays Dog Park could be fenced.

Elizabeth Conner, 551 F Ave - Supports a dog park. They need to exercise. Cays Park and beach nice but a location in town would be nice. Supports on leash, off-

leash or fenced.

Akshay Sateesh, 1510 Ynez Pl - Dog owners have stopped going to Vetter Park because the police are enforcing off-leash laws. He craves a community that can work together to create a solution for everybody. If the park is made an off-leash park, it could be enforced by animal control and police. Off-leash animals can run in street, and in parks could attack other animals and people. We can borrow enforcement ideas from other agencies.

Katy Hendrickson, 800 San Luis Rey - Most familiar with Vetter Park. She supports Coronado having options for off-leash areas and a fenced area for dogs in the Cays. She prefers not to see fenced dog parks in residential areas. Beach area is more time consuming.

Charles Disbrow, 800 San Luis Rey - Supports leashed or fenced in dog park areas.

Jeff Jakus, 735 Guadalupe Ave - Opposed fencing any parks in Coronado. They take their dog on a leash. Wants to leave the Vetter Park as it is.

Dr. Lee Wells, 114 C Ave - Animal behaviorist says animals are less destructive when they are exercised. Has lived in Coronado for 38 years. When the Landing was built, Ray Silver promised a dog run. Wants the City to honor that promise.

Stefan Simkovics, 741 Guadalupe Ave - Understands the concerns of everyone. Does not want a fenced dog park and does want off-leash hours at Vetter Park with no fence.

Peter Rahill, 1200 Glorietta Blvd - Understands abiding by codes and regulations. Hopes the decision made is not by what people say, but by what is safe. He is aware of dog bites. Not in favor of off-leash hours. Find a site that is appropriate and large enough.

Stacey, Millstein, 562 E Ave - Has dogs and they love to run. She is willing to work to get what we want.

Kathie Parish, 617 A Ave – Lived in Coronado 28 years. Has had dogs for 27 years. The dogs go to weekly classes for training to be service dogs. Has gone to Vetter Park and dog beach, and dog beach is a lot of work. Doesn't see animals in the street or cars screeching to a stop. Favors a closer place to take dogs in town.

Milad Dehghani, 930 Pomona Ave - Prefer to have a fenced area and proposes Glorietta Park. Other parks could be certain hours and not after sunset. Take a small piece of each park.

Brooke Safeesh read a letter from Susanne Popp who goes to Vetter Park with dogs. Her kids were raised going to Vetter Park. She said they moved to Coronado 3 years

ago and knew no one. She has met many of the people at the park and have become a community. She hasn't seen any issues at all. She is in favor of off-leash hours.

Jeff Millstein, 562 E Ave - In favor of a Dog Park, fenced. There should be hours at the park. He thinks Vetter Park is too small. He thinks parking needs to be looked at. He doesn't think Vetter should be fenced or off-leash. Fenced area and off-leash hours are needed.

Cathy Joy, 908 Pomona Ave - Supports a fenced dog park; lost a dog that ran into the street. Understands neighbors not wanting to see a fence.

Susan Gauthier, 930 Bay Circle - In favor of any dog park. Not familiar with any parks. She believe bay circle would be a great location. Homes face away for it. PAWS could use a roll away fence. She feels sharing the park is important.

Sara Smith, 1815 Visalia Row - In favor of fenced in park, possible Tidelands, and off-leash hours at Vetter Park. She see dogs at Tidelands and they do well. Has used Vetter and hasn't seen any problems.

Deni Herron, 1718 Visalia Row - She said parks were designated as public open space. She said that recommendations must go to Historic Resources Commission before going to Council. Vetter Park was not gifted, but was created by 2 people to create a community gathering place. PAWS is not the animal care facility. They have 200 square feet where the animals can run. PAWS people are volunteers.

Mike Keeney, 239 A Ave - Resident for 35 years with 5 dogs. Has gone to Vetter Park until the park was shut down to off-leash dogs. You can drive down the Strand or go to a park in town. He believes we can come up with a solution to live in harmony. Wants a park or a couple of parks to run dogs off-leash. Hasn't seen any accidents with dogs.

Michelle Bailey, 360 Glorietta Blvd - Owns a dog that she adopted about 5 years ago. Doesn't believe a single use dog park is good. Most places are about 10 minutes away in Coronado. She suggests dog beach for a fenced area. It is partially fenced. Would support limited unleashed hours in multiple parks.

Laura Chisholm, 871 Coronado Ave - Thinks we should come to a decision that benefits everyone. Property tax goes to maintaining our parks. She supports multiple locations for off-leash animals.

Julie Frahm, 824 Adella Ave - Does not have a dog. She supports off-leash dog parks. She takes her son to Vetter Park to expose her son to the community (dogs) at Vetter Park.

Leslie Granger, 701 Guadalupe Ave - Supports keeping residential parks for the residential community. Thinks we could find an area like the Cays where dogs can be

taken.

Monte Myers, 1710 Visalia Row - Concerned about the traffic if Vetter Park is opened up to off-leash hours. It could be really crowded and there are larger parks in town that can be used.

Milad Dehghani, 930 Pomona Ave – He trains his dogs before he takes them to the park.

Frank Goebels, 822 Guadalupe Ave - Grass conditions were not good. He went to Grape Street Dog Park and parking was bad.

Parascha Von Garenberg Slarrington, 461 D Ave - Thinks that Vetter Park works because locals go and create a “community”. She brings her dogs and children. If this gets posted as a dog park, it is going to change the atmosphere, and attracting other people to come.

Rick Shaughnessy, 610 Balboa Ave - Use to take his dog to Vetter Park, now goes to Grape St Dog Park. There is a lot of parking and the fencing is a joke.

John Lunt, 1612 Cajon Pl - Vetter Park isn't shut down, dogs are still allowed on leash.

Chairman Alison closed the public hearing.

Alison said it is important to have a place for dogs to run and socialize. The question is where.

Little said we created a pandora's box. This started with a request from PAWS. He is a dog owner and there are locations in town for dogs. He is in favor of looking into off-leash hours. He is concerned about dogs off-leash around kids.

Nichols said it makes sense if we look at Vetter for off-leash and we look at other parks also. She wants to find a fenced in area for dogs. She would like to look at Tidelands.

Chasin has attended 2 meetings with Dog Park/off-leash discussion. He is curious what residents without a vested interest think about this issue. He believes that the Commission should know the cost of making a dog park before going to City Council. Wonders if City allows dogs off-leash, is the city liable if someone gets hurt? He wonders if area on beach could be found.

Dykstra – believes that a fenced in dog park would be best.

McPherson – goal is to make a recommendation to City Council. She recommends no fence and some off-leash hours for residents only. A fenced in dog park would be good like Tidelands or golf course where it is not in a neighborhood.

Froomin (Chief of Police) – It is easy for the police to deal with the enforcement since you know who the dog belongs to. He doesn't know about the City's Liability. He mentioned the area in the Cays is unfenced.

Alison asked Froomin if he is aware of any enforcement issues. The police have gotten calls for the Vetter Park area. He likes the officers to give warnings and keep track of them.

Nichols asked if Vetter Park has been an issue in the past. Froomin said he isn't aware of anyone being hurt, only a business use.

Rahn said there is a lot of passion for and against this issue. She would love to find a spot in town but it isn't that easy. She said that we need to keep looking for other solutions no matter the recommendation to City Council.

Alison says consensus is that we need a place for dogs and most want it to be fenced. He is in favor of creating a fenced in area at Sunset Park. Wants to honor what the parks are; that they were dedicated to the community. He said whatever is proposed, half the population will be for and the other against.

Nichols sees this as 2 issues. She proposes asking the Council to propose off-leash hours at all City park.

Chasin ask what is wrong with leaving it status-quo? Rahn said that is an option.

Nichols said the status-quo has changed because of our research.

Little thinks this issue will quiet down. He said there is no magic place to put a fenced dog park in Coronado.

M / S: Little/Chasin do not recommend to put a fenced dog park in Coronado.

McPherson said she likes leaving it status-quo and believes it will quiet down. She wants to explore a dog park at a big park.

Alison feels there is no overwhelming majority either way for on or off-leashed dogs. He said there is an area that PAWS can use, but not open to the public.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Alison, Little, Chasin
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: Nichols, McPherson
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:

M / S: Little/Chasin decline to make a decision at this time for off-leash hours.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Alison, Little, Chasin
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: Nichols, McPherson
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:

4.4 Consideration to Start the May 12, 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting at 3:00 p.m. to Facilitate a Public Workshop on Universally Accessible Playgrounds

Rahn said that City Council asked the Commission to look at locations and costs for Universally Accessible Playgrounds. Play and Park Structures has done work on inclusive play. She is proposing to have a professional development symposium at the next meeting on inclusive play. It will not be an action item, but an informational item.

Alison will be out of town at the next meeting.

M / S: Little/Nichols approve the 3pm start time at the Community Center to allow for a Professional Development Symposium.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Alison, Little, Nichols, Chasin, McPherson
NOES: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:

McPherson said we had a roomful of people that wanted action, and we put it to rest. Rahn said that was the action. Rahn said we have been investigating since October and there is not a place that can fit all the criteria.

There are so many negatives about the dog park, but there are not any magic solutions.

Nichols would like to see a fenced area. Why wouldn't an area at the Port District be possible? She feels like looking into something for one citizen stirred up a hornets nest for others.

Rahn said this item did bring up a hornets nest and bringing it up in 6 months might stir things up again.

McPherson thinks this topic will be back by the Community.

Dykstra asked if dogs are allowed off-leash hours at Vetter Park. Rahn said no.

Chasin said that there was a consensus at the last meeting that didn't want a fenced dog park at Vetter Park. This meeting it wasn't quite the same on the off-leash area.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Prepared by:

Sandy Downes

Approved by:

Jeff Alison