



groups that use the gymnasium and the community room.

Commissioner Friedel referred to the photographs of modular buildings distributed to the Commission and asked if they were comparable in terms of square footage. Recreation Director Whitley stated “no” and added they were intended to give the Commission an idea about potential architectural styles.

Commissioner McNally stated the Commission had stated in the past that they wanted the Public Works trailer removed from the park and that area reinstated to passive use. Recreation Director Whitley stated the proposal would be a wonderful opportunity to expand the Recreation Department. Commissioner McNally asked if that area would provide enough programmable space/rooms for the department. Recreation Director Whitley stated “yes”.

Commissioner Friedel asked if the department would continue to use the existing office space. Recreation Director Whitley stated “yes”.

Commissioner Friedel stated she was the Commission representative to LARC (Library And Recreation Community Planning Committee) and she thought that a new library/community facility on the Rose Garden community parcel would not happen in the near future. She was not concerned about redundancies and was in favor of pursuing this idea. Chair Blauvelt acknowledged that this could be a “bird in the hand”. She added the new space could be programmed all day long as opposed to the current spaces that need to be shared with Hall Middle School. Recreation Director Whitley agreed and stated some of the current programs would remain in the existing location along with some new programs for teen/tweens. The Recreation Department sponsored “Lounge” program has recently been asked to move from classroom to classroom on a daily basis. The existing space could become its permanent home. Commissioner Friedel noted the teen/tweens population was underserved.

Commissioner McNally reiterated the Commission’s previous desire to convert this area to open space. Chair Blauvelt stated this was a new proposal and something that should be considered. Commissioner Friedel stated this is a new opportunity for the department to grow and serve the community. She was in favor of exploring the idea.

Recreation Director Whitley reminded the Commission that the current office space was on Larkspur/Corte Madera School District property and the area where the Public Works Department trailer was located was on City property.

Commissioner Matteo asked how important it would be to maximize that proposed location. Recreation Director Whitley stated it would be very important.

Commissioner Matteo asked if the extra space and extra programming would require adding staff to the department. Recreation Director Whitley stated he would like to add staff since it would enable the department to better serve the community.

Commissioner Matteo asked how the space would be used in the early part of the day. Recreation Director Whitley stated staff would like to provide classes for toddlers and moms, etc.

Commissioner Friedel noted this additional space would generate more revenue. Recreation Director Whitley agreed.

Commissioner McNally asked how the new building would be funded. Recreation Director Whitley stated the City Manager has talked about obtaining a loan similar to the one obtained for the synthetic field.

Chair Blauvelt stated it was important to get more information about how this area would be effected by the proposal, what the building would look like, how it would be financed, cost per square footage, etc. Commissioner Friedel stated the photographs submitted to the Commission were helpful. She asked staff to create a computer generated photograph of several building types in that location. Chair Blauvelt asked for an aerial photograph of the proposed footprint.

Commissioner Matteo stated he was more concerned about what the building would look like as opposed to its size. Commissioner McNally stated an important piece of information would be why the department needs more space. He was also concerned about the aesthetics. Chair Blauvelt stated she would like to know what the department could offer in the new space that could not be offered in the existing space.

Recreation Director Whitley stated the public would certainly have a chance to weigh in on the proposal at a Public Hearing. He noted the Piper Park Master Plan would need to be amended and the City Council would ultimately approve the proposal.

Chair Blauvelt stated there was consensus to pursue the proposal.

#### RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Whitley reported the ad hoc committee (LARC) recently met and he distributed some sketches of possible building footprints. He stated the Commission would be reviewing the landscape plan for the park space. Chair Blauvelt asked if the group was still discussing a café on the site. Recreation Director Whitley stated "yes". He stated the Commission would be holding a joint meeting with the Library Board possibly in March. Group Four would facilitate the meeting. He distributed a copy of Rosenberg's Rules of Order that were recently adopted by the Council.

Recreation Supervisor Clegg reported she recently met with a group of teens/tweens and a teacher from Hall Middle School to get some input about programming. They provided some very good suggestions and feedback. Staff is discussing some programs during the summer including some outdoor activities, camping, etc. Chair Blauvelt stated she would like to see more teen/tweens programming. The other Commissioners agreed.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Matteo asked about the recent event at Piper Park. Recreation Director Whitley stated it was called Friday Night Live which included playing “capture the flag” in the dark. It was organized by a Redwood High School teacher and Central Marin Police Officers Patty Monge and Ernie Schwartz.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis  
Recording Secretary