

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19
NOVEMBER 17, 2022

COMMISSION: PRESENT: Chair Friedel, Baxter, Harrison, Koeppel

COMMISSION: ABSENT: Sunshine

STAFF: PRESENT: Recreation Supervisor Nick Stone
Public Works Analyst Rita Schoch
City Clerk Alison Foulis

1. Roll Call

Chair Friedel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Chair Friedel noted there was one public comment submitted to the Commission and it is in the record.

Mr. Chuck Finney, Via Casitas, spoke on behalf of about 40 residents who play Pickleball on Tennis Court #3. They are asking for the Recreation Department to continue to prioritize that court for Pickleball play, perhaps resurface the court, and provide “rolling” nets. He suggested lining court #4 for Pickleball in the future since there is often a good number of people waiting to play. Dedicated Pickleball courts in Piper Park would be awesome !

3. Approval of the Consent Calendar

3.1 Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2022

M/s Koeppel/Harrison, to approve the October 20, 2022 minutes as submitted.

Ayes: Baxter, Harrison, Koeppel, Chair Friedel

Absent: Sunshine

(through a roll call vote)

4. Public Hearing

There were none.

5. Business Items

5.1 Future of Tree Hearings

Interim Director Stone presented a staff report. He discussed the history of the process and the discussions about the appropriate body to review Heritage Tree Removal Permits. Staff is looking for feedback from the Commission.

Chair Friedel stated the Parks and Recreation Commission has fought hard in the past to keep this process in their purview. However, it does make more sense for the Planning Commission to review these applications. She asked how often Commission rulings were overturned. Interim Director Stone stated he does not have an official count. It does not happen very often.

Commissioner Harrison stated the Commission looks at these applications as a Commissioner and also a resident of Larkspur. There is logic and value in having the Parks and Recreation Commission weigh in on these hearings.

Commissioner Koeppel stated he would be sad to see it go. The Commission does a good job in reviewing these applications and has been fair and reasonable.

Commissioner Baxter stated the Planning Department is extremely competent and could handle these applications. He will defer to the other Commissioners.

Chair Friedel stated the process gives the Commission an insight into the community. Areas of purview for the Commission are mostly park-centric and more operational.

Recreation Supervisor Stone thanked the Commission for its feedback.

5.2 Parks Update

Public Works Analyst Schoch presented a staff report and gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the following: 1) Dolliver Park- Improvement Update; construction started November, 2022; construction schedule; 2) Greenbrae School Park- Improvement Update; 3) Hamilton Park- What has happened; What is happening next; 4) Niven Park- Improvement Update; What has been completed; 5) In the Works; Piper Park.

Commissioner Koeppel mentioned there is a “For Sale” sign on the corner of Magnolia that might be on Dolliver Park property. Recreation Supervisor Stone stated he would look into this. Commissioner Koeppel asked staff to send the Commission a link to the recent Independent Journal article.

Commissioner Harrison stated the work done at Niven Park has created a nice sense of energy to the park

The Commission thanked staff for the great work.

6. Director’s Oral Report

Recreation Supervisor Stone reported staff is scheduling an upcoming event, “Night Lights at Piper”, nightly from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Trees will be wrapped in multi-colored, solid colored, and white colored lights. Sponsoring and funding is provided by

the Commons Foundation. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided! Chair Friedel thanked Recreation Supervisor Stone for making this happen. Recreation Supervisor Stone reported the After School Theater Program, Katia and Company, will be presenting “Beauty and the Beast”.

7. Commissioner’s Reports

Chair Friedel asked staff to schedule a “Park Tour” in the near future. She stated the City Council discussed the future of City Hall at last night’s meeting. The Commons Foundation has raised \$5.175 million and there is a matching State grant in the amount of \$5 million for the new Library/Community Center. Request for Proposal (RFP) discussions have started- it is very exciting!

Commissioner Koepfel reported he attended the “Larkspur Wine Stroll” which was very well attended. He was concerned that pedestrian traffic was spilling out into the street and perhaps there should be more enforcement. Recreation Supervisor Stone stated he would pass this onto the City Manager.

Commissioner Harrison suggested the City close Magnolia during the event. She agreed with the comments made by Mr. Finney- at times she has to go to another community to play Pickleball.

Chair

8. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,
Recording Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Larkspur Parks and Recreation Commission.

Nick Stone

Nick Stone, Recreation Supervisor