

Commissioner Vaughan stated toddlers on bikes and rollerbladers actively used the blacktop area near the Day Care Center at Neil Cummins on the weekends. She asked if there would be any comparable area at Hall Middle School. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated there are no plans for that type of area. She stated this is a resource that was not there before. Corte Madera Teen Program Coordinator Fiorentini stated the Police Department has said that skateboarding was not allowed on the school blacktop area. Commissioner Scammell felt this was a safe, positive place for children to play.

Recreation Director Branch stated the contract for the new Skateboard Park in Corte Madera will be awarded at the next Corte Madera Council meeting. The bid came in at \$130,000 which was under budget. She stated it will have movable features and will be used mainly by the younger children.

B. Review of Joint Programs and Facilities

Commissioner Vaughan asked about the CYO basketball program at Neil Cummins and Hall Middle School. Recreation Supervisor Wilkinson stated the agreement was that CYO would use the Hall Gym and the Neil Cummings Gym three nights a week for three hours each night from November 1st through early March. Weekend use of the gym was extra. Commissioner Vaughan stated the Commission should know how much gym time CYO would need next year. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated CYO would be talking to both cities in April about next year's program. Chair Hauser discussed the shortage of gym space in Marin County and the large size of the CYO basketball program. He discussed the need for coordination of gym space between the two cities for all sports activities. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the two staffs plan to meet soon and plan the coordination of gym space for next year. Commissioner Scammell asked about scheduling. Chair Madden stated the issue of private use of public facilities was one that the Corte Madera Commission was trying to address. He discussed the use of facilities by children's organized sports vs. the needs of the general public in terms of time and the revenue needed to sustain the facilities. Commissioner Aschwald asked about the fee for the use of the soccer fields. Recreation Supervisor Kurniawan stated they charge a flat fee for both youth and adult soccer groups. Chair Madden stated the soccer fields get a lot of use and require continuous of maintenance. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the new gym was the first major recreation facility for the City of Larkspur and they will review the revenues and expenditures after the first year. The Larkspur Council and Commission decided to give priority to youth groups, seniors, and the disabled. Chair Madden stated Corte Madera would also be reviewing their policies for gym use after the first year.

Chair Madden stated they were in the process of renting space in the Bon Air Shopping Center to provide more space for classes. He asked about other locations in Larkspur that would be available for joint programs or classes. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the owners of the Lark Theater were planning on remodeling and using that space for private use. Chair Hauser discussed the community meeting space that will soon be available at Hall Middle School. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated there was a Music Room at Hall that may become available for classes, etc.

Recreation Director Branch discussed the following joint programs: roller hockey, an annual trip to the race track, the summer program for children, the Easter Egg Hunt, the waterslide trip, baseball games, teen dances, and other various special events. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated he anticipates joint programming for both gyms. Chair Hauser discussed Ross Recreation and the new facilities at Bacich and Kent Schools. Commissioner Aschwald discussed the open swim time at Redwood High School and the fact it is not well attended. Commissioner Scammell stated the pool would be used more often if it were more attractive- chairs, some grass, etc.

Recreation Supervisor Kurniawan stated Corte Madera would be offering a membership to the Best Western recreational facility at a reduced rate. Membership will include use of the weight room and the sauna.

Commissioner Vaughan asked if organized groups used the sand volleyball courts at Piper Park. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated they had a league at one time but now private individuals and parties use them. Recreation Supervisor Kurniawan stated volleyball leagues could use the new gyms.

Chair Hauser asked if Corte Madera offered any gymnastic classes. Recreation Director Branch stated the Gymboree and Bouncing Babies classes are held at the Recreation Center. There is a problem with storage space for the equipment.

Chair Madden stated the declining economy would cause more people to want to avail themselves of recreational programs thereby putting more pressure on the facilities. There will be a lot of demand for use and they must decide on how to allocate the space and time.

Chair Hauser discussed the portables being installed on the Jr. Varsity softball field at Redwood High School. The school district plans to build a new Varsity softball field. The former Varsity field will become the Jr. Varsity field.

Recreation Director Wilkinson discussed the highly successful Teen Program at Corte Madera and the closing of the Youth Center. He stated the disabled dances have moved to Hall Middle School. Commissioner Wall asked about the status of the Youth Center. Recreation Supervisor Branch stated the Town was deciding whether to demolish the building and replace it or enlarge it in some manner. Teen Program Coordinator Fiorentini stated skateboarding was the biggest draw and they have approximately 100 kids signed up. The dances were very popular for the middle school kids.

Commissioner Holzberg asked about the proposed turf field for Hall Middle School. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated it was a joint venture between the City of Larkspur and the Larkspur School District, with a large contribution coming from the Marin Community Foundation. A landscape architect has been hired and the bid for construction will go out in late spring or early summer. The cost will be approximately \$1 million. It will be a multi-purpose field- rugby, soccer, softball, baseball, etc.

Commissioner Wall stated a presentation was made to the Commission and they were very impressed with the synthetic “turf”.

C. Status of Resident vs. Non-Resident Registration Policy in Corte Madera

Recreation Director Wilkinson asked the Corte Madera Commission about the status of the registration policy that allows Corte Madera residents to register prior to non-residents. He stated the one-year review period has expired. He discussed the fee schedule that was recently rescinded that charged non-residents more than residents for the children’s summer program. Commissioner Vaughan stated they have resisted raising fee for many years but felt it necessary to raise them this year.

Chair Madden stated the Commission plans to review this policy in October or November of this year. He discussed the budget constraints of the Town and the fiduciary responsibility of the Commission. The Commission would like to implement a policy that is both fair and realistic. Commissioner Wall stated the philosophy of the “Twin Cities” should prevail and if money is the issue they should raise the fee across the board. He felt it was the responsibility of all Commissioners to foster this concept of the Twin Cities since the borders were virtually indistinguishable. Chair Madden stated they were responsible to the citizens who pay taxes to Corte Madera. Commissioner Scammell expressed concern with the policy because Corte Madera and Larkspur children go to school together. She was opposed to any discriminatory policies that would affect the kids. Chair Madden stated he understood the concerns and they plan to revisit this issue in the fall. Commissioner Aschwald asked if the policy was to fund some type of shortfall or to ensure that Corte Madera children were able to register for certain classes. Chair Madden stated it was a combination of both factors. He reminded everyone the Commission was an advisory body to the Council who ultimately sets policy. Commissioner Vaughan stated in the past residents were not able to use facilities and there were long waiting lists. Chair Hauser stated the policy could be seen as an impediment to joint use and cooperation between the Twin Cities and felt it was a political and not a monetary issue. He stated political decisions have ramifications on the other side.

Chair Hauser stated the two Commissions should meet more often. Chair Madden suggested they meet again in September.

ORAL REPORTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary