

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MAY 18, 2004

COMMISSION: PRESENT: Chair Hauser, Aschwald, Blauvelt, Wall

 ABSENT: Scammell

STAFF: PRESENT: Recreation Director Wilkinson,
 Recreation Supervisor Whitley
 City Manager Bonander
 Public Works Director Shamsapour

Chairperson Hauser called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2004

M/s Blauvelt/Aschwald, to approve the minutes of April 22, 2004 as submitted.

Ayes: All Absent: Scammell

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Presentation of Larkspur Corporation Yard Site Plan

City Manager Bonander presented the staff report. She stated the Commission would be meeting tomorrow night in a Joint Meeting with the City Council and this item would be on the agenda. She stated the Twin Cities Police Facility Project was at a standstill until a decision about the relocation of the Corporation Yard was made. Public Works Director Shamsapour displayed schematic drawings of the proposal for a new Corporation Yard in Piper Park.

Commissioner Blauvelt asked about the timing of the new police facility. City Manager Bonander stated in order to figure out the cost for the new facility they need to figure out what will happen with the Corporation Yard. It would be difficult to move forward with financing figures.

Chair Hauser asked about the viability of the proposed San Quentin site. City Manager Bonander stated those discussions are moving slowly and this issue was still up in the air. The site is remote and near very busy intersections. Use of the site would not be free and there was a question about who would have to deal with the mitigation issues.

Chair Hauser asked if the Niven site had been considered as a location for the Corporation Yard. City Manager Bonander said "no". The Administrative Draft for the

CLASP EIR is due on May 21st. She doubted there would be a site on the property that would accommodate a Corporation Yard.

Chair Hauser expressed concern about the proposed location for a Corporation Yard at Piper Park due to the traffic and the inconsistent uses in that area of the park. City Manager Bonander stated this would not be a public facility and the Public Works Department was open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The facility would include a wash station and fire trucks would be using this facility. She acknowledged there would be some additional traffic and additional parking would need to be created.

Chair Hauser expressed concern with the relocation of the Community Garden to the open space area near Doherty Drive. It would be too close to the tennis courts and the volleyball courts. He asked Recreation Director Wilkinson if the Community Garden Coordinator was made aware of this proposal. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the coordinator was aware of the proposal and had concerns.

Commissioner Wall stated over the years the Commission has looked at making modifications to Piper Park and held Public Hearings. The citizens of Larkspur made it clear they do not want to see any more buildings in Piper Park. He was very concerned about the elimination of the open space area between the tennis courts and Doherty Drive. He stated this area is heavily used by the public. He would like the City to find another location for either the Police Facility or the Corporation Yard. Chair Hauser stated that open space area was very visible from Doherty Drive.

Commissioner Blauvelt asked about the concessions that would be made by the Town of Corte Madera since the Police Facility would be located in Piper Park. City Manager Bonander stated they would be working on a formula whereby the structure would be paid for by both communities through a joint bond measure. Commissioner Blauvelt asked about locating the Police Facility or a joint-use Corporation Yard somewhere in Corte Madera. City Manager Bonander stated the Town of Corte Madera was not interested in a joint use yard.

Chair Hauser stated this was a terrible proposal from a park perspective and it would be detrimental to the park. It would create more density and very unsafe conditions.

Commissioner Aschwald asked about the possibility of locating the Corporation Yard at Redwood High School. City Manager Bonander stated there could be some space issues and the School District did not seem very open to the idea of sharing a Corporation Yard. Commissioner Aschwald stated she would like to explore this option.

Chair Hauser asked why the City of Larkspur should take such a big hit by locating both the Police Facility and the Corporation Yard in Piper Park. He stated the ideal solution would be the creation of a joint Larkspur/Corte Madera Corporation Yard. City Manager Bonander stated there were limited resources and not much available land. The decision regarding the location of the Police Facility was set. Chair Hauser stated their issue was not with the location of the Police Facility but rather the impacts to the park.

Commissioner Wall stated since Larkspur was providing land for a joint Police Facility then Corte Madera should provide land for a joint Corporation Yard.

Chair Hauser asked about the timetable for getting the bond measures together. City Manager Bonander stated they were hoping to go to the voters sometime next year.

Chair Hauser stated he would like a more creative approach. Commissioner Blauvelt stated she would like to see something more modest.

The Commission thanked City Manager Bonander and Public Works Director Shamsapour for the presentation.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Wilkinson briefly discussed agenda items for the Joint Meeting with the City Council scheduled for tomorrow night, May 19, 2004.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS/OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary