

Mr. Philip Terry, Diane Lane, stated he was representing the “Friends of Heatherwood Park”. He thanked Recreation Director Wilkinson for meeting with the group and walking around the park. The group is asking the Commission to raise the priority of Heatherwood Park on the Mini-Parks Master Plan and make the requested improvements. The group is willing to work with the Commission and staff in any way possible (obtaining cost figures, etc.). He referred to the sketch prepared by a member of the group and discussed some of the requested improvements. He noted they would like the following improvements as soon as possible: new sand and a new infant swing. He stated the price list should be made available to the neighbors so they could make a contribution. Some of the neighbors would like to know where the park property line was located. There are several landscape architects in the group that would be willing to donate their time and efforts. They would like the Commission to consider crushed granite as opposed to asphalt for the path material due to the reported carcinogenic aspects of asphalt. In addition, many of the neighbors would like to see a more aesthetically pleasing park. They would like to see the pump house landscaped. He briefly discussed the history of the park and noted it was heavily used. He stated there were some drainage issues on the north end of the park and he was concerned about standing water and muddy paths.

Commissioner McNally asked who prepared the plan. Mr. Terry stated a member of the group who was a landscape architect. The plan includes preliminary concepts that could change with input from the Commission and the public. Commissioner McNally asked if the group had any cost estimates. Mr. Terry stated “no”.

Commissioner Matteo asked if the basketball court gets much use. Mr. Terry stated “yes”.

Ms. Carolyn Lewis, Midway Road, stated the basketball court could use a “face-lift” since the asphalt was uneven and there are often standing pools of water. Commissioner Matteo stated he is at the park quite often and rarely sees it being used. Ms. Lewis disagreed and stated they would like the court to remain. She stated the Larkspur 2050 Committee Report talks about Heatherwood Park. The neighbors are opposed to the report’s suggestion of the installation of a bathroom since they want to keep it a “neighborhood” park. She had questions about maintenance of the park and stated the Public Works Department is very responsive but often uses a “band-aide” approach. The sand is very hard and almost like concrete. She also asked if the equipment could be power washed due to the graffiti and mildew. There are a couple of areas where some trees were removed and she would like some new trees planted to provide shade.

Recreation Director Wilkinson stated he would pass on the maintenance concerns to the Public Works Department.

Mr. Terry asked if the park was rented out for parties. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated “no”.

Chair Blauvelt closed the meeting to public comments.

Commissioner Hauser stated he would like to see staff work with the group to update the plan for Heatherwood Park. He noted there was community support and they should hold some hearings to get more public input.

M/s Hauser/Matteo, to accept the staff recommendation to designate improvements to Heatherwood Park as a priority on the mini-parks improvement list and to update the cost figures for such improvements. He would like the updated cost figures to take into account the recommendations from the "Friends of Heatherwood Park".

Ayes: All Absent: Wall

Ms. Lewis asked about the process for monetary contributions from the neighborhood. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated a separate fund could be created.

Commissioner McNally had questions about how the Recreation Department coordinates park maintenance with the Public Works Department. Mr. Terry stated safety was a concern of the neighbors.

Chair Blauvelt stated Magnolia Park was the Commission's number one priority at this time and they would try to bring something regarding Heatherwood Park to the public in the fall.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the Ross Valley Summer School staff was on campus for the first day at Neal Cummins to set up for the beginning of school which starts on Monday. There are over 400 students registered. The "No Limits Sports Camp" got off to a good start with about 70 to 80 campers per day this week. The Giants Baseball Camp was at Piper Park this week. He noted some of the other recreation departments in the county were reporting a drop in participant numbers and they attribute it to the competition among the various types of camps. The Tidalwaves Swim Team is doing well but will be looking for a new place to swim for one year when the Redwood High School pool gets renovated. Twin Cities Day Care is starting their summer camp with a good turnout.

Recreation Supervisor Whitley reported the "Movies in the Moonlight" will offer "Over the Hedge" this coming Saturday. He reported they will be changing to the DVD format and they no longer make movies in 16mm for rental purposes.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Chair Blauvelt thanked Recreation Supervisor Whitley for his work on the revisions to the Heritage Tree Ordinance. The Commission briefly discussed some of the revisions, including the fine issue and the use of a City Arborist. She asked Commissioner Hauser to review the revised ordinance with her as a subcommittee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary