



MINUTES
CITY OF NORCO
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS-2820 CLARK AVENUE
MARCH 10, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:34 PM
2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Bash, Boyle, Holder,
Wagner, Director Petree,
Superintendent Anglin, Supervisors
Kennedy, Ridge - Executive Secretary
Jo Ann Dickson
Commissioner Hallam – Arrived at 6:45
p.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Commissioner Boyle
4. PRESENTATION/S
A. None
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Compton thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for allowing the Conservancy to participate in the 12th Annual Western Art Show. He was very impressed by the quality of art and the entire event and very pleased with the questions and interest from the community with regards to the Norco history. The Director also thanked the Conservancy for presenting their information to the public and how important it is to save the Norconian Hotel and the historic aspects of the City of Norco.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Fourth of July Jamboree Change of Venue – Superintendent Anglin

Superintendent Anglin stated that based on discussions with the Norco Fire Department, the location of the annual Fourth of July Jamboree has brought cause for concern for safety of the activity in proximity to the staging area and the crowds. After reviewing options, staff has determined the Jamboree should be relocated to the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center and Pikes Peak Park. She noted that the City of Norco's Fourth of July Jamboree has been a community celebration held at the Community Center Park for the last 27 years. The fireworks display is held within a 4 to 5 acre area located on the ball diamond bordered by Alhambra Street and Cedar Street.

Superintendent Anglin informed the Commission that staff has received recommendations from representatives of the Riverside County Sheriff's Hazardous Materials Team, Norco Sheriff Department and Norco Fire Department in which

concerns were expressed regarding the safety of the pyrotechnic fire works display. The concern is primarily with the proximity of the public during the firework portion of the event in relation to the minimum separation from the staging area to the spectators. Currently, the California Health and Safety Code, California Fire Code requires a minimum mortar separation distance. The current set-up calls for a 2" shell which requires 140' circumference around the display which has dramatically decreased the spectator area at Community Center Park.

Another issue that has been identified in post event meetings is that immediate streets surrounding the Community Center Park over the past few years have become increasingly overcrowded with spectators, thus not allowing safe vehicle traffic movement. In the event of an emergency, the response time of emergency personnel would be delayed.

According to Superintendent Anglin, after site reviews by staff, the Norco Fire Department and the pyrotechnic company, Pyro Spectaculars, staff is recommending the Jamboree be relocated to Pikes Peak Park. This new venue will provide the public its traditional day-long event as well as provide a safer and improved aerial show visible from the festivity area and surrounding neighborhoods. New revenue producing activities such as a Battle of the Bands are being discussed to help defray the cost to the General Fund. Additionally, staff is recommending a parking fee at this event, similar to those found at the Norco Valley Fair and annual rodeos approximately \$20 per carload.

Superintendent Anglin stated that the staging of the fireworks will take place in the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center lower parking lot which will allow for a 3" inch size mortar shell and provide a minimum 210' feet circumference around the display area. This footprint of the event provides safer conditions which is endorsed and manageable by emergency personnel. The annual direct cost associated with this event is approximately \$27,000. Traditionally, donations of approximately \$3,500 have been obtained to help defray the cost of the annual event.

Discussion from Commission:

Commissioner Boyle asked which direction the fireworks would be shot off. Superintendent stated it will be shot off to the North. The Director noted that the red circle denotes the fallout of the shells/fireworks. Director Petree informed the Commission that he has spoken to several residents who live in the area of Pikes Peak Park and Ingalls Park, and stated they felt this is the best place and would not be bothered by the City hosting the day's events at these locations.

The Director asked the Commission for their opinion on the possible change of venue. Commissioner Wagner stated that the residents that live in the area need to be notified of this change of venue to make sure they are aware of the events. She feels the residents will not resist the change, but the City should have the courtesy to inform the them.

Superintendent Anglin stated that the expenses may be higher this year due to the possibility of fencing the entire park, and other added events or expenses that could be incurred.

Commissioner Holder asked the staff if they thought the public would really pay a \$20 fee for admission. Commission does not feel that charging fees to the public who is used to paying nothing is going to work since there has never been a fee charged for this event in 27 years. Discussion continued.

M/S Boyle/Wagner to change the venue for the 4th of July Jamboree along with a cost associated for the entry or participation of the event.

Commissioner Bash stated that he does not like the idea of charging the event when staff members are getting raises, and that he has no control on the City budget and he is frustrated by the possibility of charging anyone for this event.

Commissioner Boyle noted that this event is a drain on the budget and unfortunately there comes a time when a charge is necessary.

Commissioner Hallam stated that the public may go somewhere else if a fee is charged. He noted that if we only get 1,000 attendees we will not reach our goal to cover the expenses.

Commissioner Hallam asked if a fence and gate is put up for the event to restrict the public, how many people will park along side the road to watch the event. The Director stated that the area/streets will be blocked off as they are for the rodeo and fair. Director Petree also stated that a partnership with a local organization could possibly be worked out, but the organizations being based on volunteers would be in the same situation as the City as they do events to raise monies for their organization.

AYES: Bash, Boyle, Hallam, Holder, Wagner

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. A. None

CONSENT CALENDAR

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 11, 2008
9. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT – ITEMS 9.1. – 9.9

COMMISSION INFORMATION

10. CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL ITEMS
 - A. None

M/S Holder/Bash to approve the Consent Calendar

AYES: Bash, Boyle, Hallam, Holder, Wagner

11. COMMISSION ONGOING BUSINESS
 - A. Ingalls Park
 - B. Animal Shelter Expansion
 - C. 122 Acre Development

- D. Lot "H"
- E. Cultural and Fine Arts Programming
- F. Teen Programming and Teen Center
- G. U.N.L.O.A.D. Program
- H. Norco Hills Conservancy

Commissioner Bash asked to add the Teen Advisory Sub Committee to the ongoing business section of the agenda.

12. DISCUSSION OF REMOVED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

13. OTHER MATTERS

A. Silverlakes

The Director informed the Commission that he met last week with the EIR consultant and Somis with regards to Silverlakes and the site plan and how things will work. He noted that we are looking at the possibilities of six lighted fields for practice during the week. Belstarr is also working on a marketing plan that will draw hotels and restaurants that will help with the development and cohesiveness of the total project, along with a business plan which is a benefit to the City. Their goal is to provide county equestrian shows to the top rated national shows. Also to have national sporting venues that would draw significant economic venues with not only the City, but the region.

Commissioner Hallam asked the Director if he foresees any snags with the EIR. The Director stated he doesn't except for the traffic study portion of the plan ie: does Hamner get widened, the off ramp (probably 8 years off) and the bridge.

The Director noted that Belstarr is very excited for this project to happen.

Commissioner Boyle stated that he has had several people approach him regarding the Animal Control Shelter, that it is being stalled by the City. The Director noted that this is not the case, but certain elements have to happen before the second arena is built and before certain facilities can be demolished. The Director informed the Commission that due to budget problems, the roofs at the 4-H barns will not be repaired.

Commissioner Bash congratulated the Commission on the Western Art Show and the grand opening of the snack bar/restroom facilities. He stated that his wife is involved in many art shows, and he felt this is far beyond any art show they have attended.

Commissioner Hallam informed the Commission that the snack bar worked. He was in the snack bar cooking for hours and about 10-12 people were in there at one time, and no one stepped on eachother. He feels the facility is spectacular.

Commissioner Boyle discussed with the Commission the program at the golf course "Get a Grip". He feels it is an excellent program, which is free for the kids, and he knows it is very controversial. Commissioner Hallam stated is should be quite a City Council meeting on Wednesday night, as there are flyers around town and a crowd is expected to attend the meeting for some lively discussion.

Commissioner Holder asked if the Little League snackbar is ready to be open. Superintendent Anglin stated it is ready and keys have been issued. The Director

informed the Commission that Little League was offered to move in last Wednesday, and they declined to move in that day.

Commissioner Holder noted she received a phone call regarding fields while staff was at CPRS. She is curious about the field usage because she was told by the person on the phone that the fields are in terrible condition. She also noted there were no complaints from Little League, but there was from Norco Girls Softball.

The Director informed the Commission that all fields after football is conditioned seeded and aerated. He also stated that the infields are done by the organizations at their request. The City does the mowing of the fields, but also noted that the organizations want to do the infields themselves and does not want the City to touch the infield area. The Director did note that there were ruts on the field by the Landscape Contractor have backfilled the ruts on the field.

Commissioner Bash stated that the fields on the Softball fields did not look that good from what he saw, but also stated that the organizations did not get their man power out on the fields to have them ready and in better condition for opening day. He noted that the grass should be ripped by the third baseline to remove the lip that can be dangerous for the players. The organization needs to be trained on how to maintain and care for the fields.

Commissioner Holder noted that a board member from NGSL was the one who has stated that the fields are in bad shape and also called Mayor Hall about him not being able to attend the grand opening ceremony in the morning for NGSL. Commissioner Holder also stated that this board member also stated that it was the City's fault and liable for the fields that are in their opinion disarray.

Commissioner Boyle stated that when there is a change of board members for the organizations, that the new members are informed of obligations and duties as far as the fields and the usage and maintenance of the fields.

The Director spoke to the Commission about involvement of the organization's volunteers. He noted that sometimes it is important to find parents/volunteers that have an expertise in certain areas that could contribute to the maintenance of the fields as it has been done in the past.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S Bash/Hallam to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. to the April 14, 2008 PRC meeting.

AYES: Bash, Boyle, Hallam, Holder and Wagner