



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
CITY COUNCIL / PARK AND
RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 6, 2004
7:00 P.M.
Main House
Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue
Atherton, California
Special Joint Meeting

Mayor McKeithen called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council – Janz (arrived at 7:27 p.m.), A. Carlson, Conwell, McKeithen; Park and Recreation Commission – McPherson, Tonelli, S. Carlson, Davey, Bauer, Massey, Washburn

ABSENT: Marsala (excused)

City Manager Jim Robinson, City Attorney Marc Hynes, Public Works Director Duncan Jones and Park Program Manager Jean Cardona were also present.

3. COUNCIL REPORTS

None.

4. COMMISSION REPORTS

- Shirley Carlson thanked all the Commissioners for being present at the meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

6. STAFF REPORTS

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Discussion and Possible Action - Consideration of Draft Master Landscape Plan for Holbrook-Palmer Park

a. Review Concepts and Ideas Developed at the May 1, 2004 Charette

Ms. Denise Kupperman presented the ideas and concepts that were discussed at the May 1st Design Charette. Three major ideas were discussed at the meeting: spaces, trees and circulation and parking. She explained that the purpose of this meeting was to further discuss and receive comments on the circulation and spatial issues.

b. Present and Discuss in a Working Forum the Concepts and Landscape Features Developed in the Draft Schematic Plan

A discussion ensued regarding reconfiguring the Corp Yard to create two spaces on both side of the Carriage House. Other ideas discussed included building a small amphitheater at the playground location, putting in a baby carriage/pedestrian entrance, reducing the size of the creek, adding picnic areas and seeding in the North Meadow and edge of the great lawn, sculptures and formalizing garden spaces around the main house for rentals.

In response to questions, Ms. Kupperman discussed the possibility of creating a walking path behind the Corp Yard and Carriage House area. Ms. Kupperman introduced the idea of putting in a walkway from the parking lot to the Carriage House area so people would not have to walk through it, especially parents and children from the playschool. Councilmember Carlson asked if the Town could reduce the size of the creek. Public Works Director Jones stated that it is likely that the Town will be required by the federal government to reduce the creek size within the next 20 years. Councilmember Conwell asked whether the foliage and trees in the park were adequate. Ms. Kupperman stated that are some places where there are enough, not enough or the wrong type of foliage or trees.

In response to questions, Public Works Director Jones stated that there is a problem with the quality of the well water and that there might be salt intrusion from the bay. A discussion ensued regarding the testing of well water.

Regarding trees, Ms. Kupperman stated that in order to mix the trees (elms and oaks) in a more uniform manner in the main field and behind the central part of the park, approximately 20-30 non-heritage trees would have to be removed.

A discussion ensued about a hiring a traffic engineer to study the vehicular traffic in the park, especially at the west entrance/exit, and access into the park by homeless people.

Public Works Director Jones commented that the PUC informed Caltrain that they need to move the Watkins crossing gates back and extend the crossings so the Town can build a path from the park along Watkins to ECR. The Town has applied for two grants to build a pathway on Watkins and pedestrian bridge over the creek. In addition, the Town could be eligible for a third grant in December. There is a possibility that both projects could be built without using any Town funds.

Ms. Kupperman discussed the possibilities for a small stage or amphitheater to be added to the North Meadow, and the uses of the area.

Betty Ogawa, Atherton, expressed concern about the noise levels in the North Meadow by large groups over the weekend, including rental concerts in the park.

Noise concerns, picnicking and drainage for a potential amphitheater were also topics of discussion.

c. Review Next Steps

Ms. Kupperman stated that the group will take the comments back from this meeting and will refine the ideas further, then return to the Park and Recreation Commission in November to receive final comments, and then present the final plan to Council in early 2005. The group will start to explore fund raising efforts including grant opportunities and will develop phases for implementation.

City Manager Robinson suggested that they review the priorities identified in the Park and Recreation Strategic Plan to assist with the draft Landscape Master Plan.

8. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Kelly, Acting City Clerk

**Minutes Prepared By:
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