

**CARMICHAEL RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES: ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 17, 2011 REGULAR MEETING**

Directors: Borman, Brown, Rockenstein, Safford, and Younger

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Advisory Board of Directors was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chairman Younger.

ROLL CALL:

Directors Present: Borman, Brown, Rockenstein and Younger
Directors Absent: Safford (excused absence)
Staff Present: Harrison, Kerth, Maddison, Penney and Yarber

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Boy Scout Troop 55 led the Pledge of Allegiance

Jerry Eppler presented letters of recognition and thanks from the Advisory Board and the District to two Eagle Scouts – Joey Chima and Kevan Johnson. Joey Chima from Troop 55 removed the old split rail fence and installed a new one at Jensen Gardens. Kevan Johnson from Troop 737 removed old bollards and installed new ones at Del Campo Park. Jerry Eppler said they did a great job and thanked them both for choosing to do their Eagle Scout projects in District parks.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN DISTRICT JURISDICTION ON ITEM(S) NOT SCHEDULED ON THE AGENDA – None

CONSENT ITEMS:

1. **MINUTES**
February 10, 2011 – Budget Committee Meeting
February 14, 2011 – Facility Committee Meeting
February 17, 2011 – Regular Meeting
2. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**
January 2011
3. **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**
February 2010
4. **ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**
March 2011

Motion 1

M: Borman S: Brown – The Advisory Board voted to approve Consent Items 1 through 4. **Unanimous vote of those present**

CORRESPONDENCE: Received and filed

- February, 2011** – John and Patsy Errington, Charles and Welcome Beard
- March 1, 2011** – Carmichael Park District Senior Softball League – Letter of Appreciation thanked the District Board of Directors, administration, office personnel and maintenance for support of their program.
- March 3, 2011** – Patrick Sahota – email regarding Schweitzer grove
- March 4, 2011** – David Thomas, Elizabeth Brodskaya, Lyric Anderson, Edward Galom – letters regarding Schweitzer Grove.
- March 4, 2011** – Mike Guerrero, Kathy Allen – emails regarding Schweitzer Grove
- March 6, 2011** – Kris Johnson, Greg Doucette, Charlie Callahan – emails regarding Schweitzer Grove
- March 7, 2011** – Colleen Butler, Jason Butler, John Butler, Robert White, Jessica Sewell, Howard Schmidt, Beverly Salmond, Brian Lafferty – letters and emails regarding Schweitzer Grove
- March 8, 2011** – Ryan Beck, Nate Tucker, Ed and Sue Keefer, Hank and Nell Stuit, Anthony Leventon, Mrs. Walter B. Collette, Kimbodia – letters and emails regarding Schweitzer Grove
- March 9, 2011** – Stephen Anderson, Joan Komaromi, Richard and Pauline Spangenberg - letters regarding Schweitzer Grove
- March 10, 2011** – Albert Schweitzer PTA, Aaron Leventon, Glenda O'Rourke and Gary Steere, Jen Komaromi, Gina Capra and Vic Jacinto, Renato Consolini – letters regarding Schweitzer Grove
- March 11, 2011** – Mike Langley – email regarding Schweitzer Grove

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

1. SCHWEITZER GROVE NATURE AREA (SGNA)

Presentation:

Administrator Harrison said that last fall Staff was asked to conduct a study and return to the Advisory Board with a recommendation regarding appropriate use of Schweitzer Grove Nature Area (SGNA). Two public meetings were held, one in January and the other in March, 2011. About 80 people attended the neighborhood meeting in January and about 40 attended the March meeting. Neighbor concerns expressed at the meetings included:

- The nuisance of street parking
- Alcohol and drug use in the nature area
- Lack of security within the nature area
- Lack of protection for wildlife and plants within the nature area
- Potential development of a parking lot within the park
- Conflicts between disc golfers and other nature area users

Staff has done research back to 1971 when SGNA was established. The District received 81 communications from people about these issues, mostly from people not from the District. Adam Bragg, Park Ranger from Fulton El Camino Park and Recreation District, was asked to appear at this Advisory Board meeting to answer any questions regarding park security.

District recognized disc golf as a valid recreation activity that is growing in popularity. Staff found disc golf is not compatible with a nature area but more suitable for a community park with support facilities such as parking and restrooms.

Proposed Alternative 1 would remove disc golf activity from the SGNA effective May 1, 2011 and if possible accommodate it at a community park within the District such as Carmichael Park.

Proposed Alternative 2 would move to consider revising the District Master Plan to designate SGNA as a Community Park, which would require a public participation process and Board of Supervisors approval. A new Site Master Plan would be prepared to determine how the park would be developed and operated, including support facilities such as parking and restrooms.

Staff recommended Alternative 1, allowing disc golf activity to continue until May 1, 2011. Staff would work with interested parties to determine the feasibility of a disc golf course within Carmichael Park.

Public Comments:

Patrick Sahota – his home faces the back side of SGNA. Has seen many problems with the park the way it is, including problems with child safety and street safety. He is constantly picking up trash. The trash can at the disc golf launch pad right next to Schweitzer School has alcohol in it. He supports adoption of Alternative 1.

Charles Beard - Resident for 28 years. SGNA supposed to be a neighborhood park, but there are problems with traffic and drinking due to disc golf. He said disc golfers could use other parks elsewhere. He supports Alternative 1.

Adam Lane – lives about a mile away from SGNA. He plays disc golf and said SGNA is one of the oldest disc golf courses in the nation. He said he loves the course there. Del Campo PE plays disc golf there and gives kids positive things to do.

Kim Knecht – said she listens to neighbors and supports the “no glass containers” and “no alcohol” rules in SGNA. She goes out there every day. She recently cleaned out the creek in the park. She wants to keep disc golf in SGNA.

Nate Tucker – lives near SGNA and wants everyone to be able to enjoy the park. He said removing disc golf will allow more negative and transient activity. He supports Alternative #2.

Mke Guerrero – lives 2 miles from SGNA. He said some of the neighbors complaining about the disc golf activity in the park have only been in the neighborhood for a few years. He wants to keep disc golf in the park.

Glenda O'Rourke – a neighbor to the park, living near SGNA for 33 years. Neighborhood traffic started escalating when someone advertised disc golf being played in SGNA. There have been two major traffic accidents in the area and big problems with disc golf players driving in the area. She supported Alternative #1.

Tim Griffin – disc golfer, member of Mutha Putter's club. He wants a natural community park. 60 cars could park on Sumter near the church to avoid traffic problems. Even if SGNA is made a community park, he doesn't want disc golf baskets installed. Their club has been playing in SGNA since 1995 and he has never had any problems with the park neighbors. He supports Alternative #2.

Gary Steere – said he supports Alternative #1.

Ray Hopkins – said the needs of the few don't override the needs of the many. Many people enjoy disc

golf in SGNA and it should not be taken away.

Greg Doucette – member of disc golf club. He is concerned the decision has already been made. SGNA is the only natural disc golf course in California. He asked the Advisory Board not to close SGNA to disc golf.

Jami Kimura – has lived right by SGNA for two years. Three to four times a week she walks her dog in SGNA and meets friends there who play disc golf. Disc golf is a free activity. Not everyone out there is doing bad things, and it would be sad to lose disc golf in Schweitzer Grove.

Jack Kraft – lives near SGNA. Not everyone who lives near the park is against disc golf. He believes those wanting disc golf removed from the park are not representative of the entire neighborhood. He supports Alternative #2.

Eric Rasmussen – lives in the community and plays disc golf. If disc golf is gone, the District will get riff-raff in the park. Disc golfers are there all the time. Disc golf is a free, cost-effective family activity.

Dave Estes – grew up down the street from the disc course. It would be a tragedy to take it out. The District needs a solution for everyone to use the park. He supports Alternative #2.

Scott Miller – neighbor of SGNA. He represents the PTA at Schweitzer School, neighbor to the park. The PTA adamantly opposes change of use in park and supports Alternative #2. Doesn't want disc golfers removed from the park.

Jeff Myler – plays disc golf, which he said helps him stay sober and have a good life. He wants to keep disc golf in SGNA.

Steve Anderson – lives near SGNA. He was In favor of Alternative #1.

David May – resident concerned about drugs and alcohol in SGNA and traffic in the area due to disc golf.

Ed Keefer – resident lives near park. There is a lot of enthusiasm about "Frisbee golf" but doesn't think this activity is compatible with SGNA. He is in favor of Alternative #1.

Mike Tonkin – used to play disc golf at Del Campo, but now plays at SGNA. More people are playing the sport now. He supports Alternative #2. It's not easy to put a disc golf course in an established park. He enjoys SGNA as it is.

David Ranking – came in support of the skate park. He supports free access for kids to play disc golf or skate in skate park. Parks should be used for recreation.

Robert Warner – supports SGNA as it is now – in current configuration . The park is in great condition. He lives near the park and would be sad that there could be a reversal of disc golf use there. Eucalyptus forest has not been hurt by current use. Adding parking would be good, but he wants park left as it is otherwise.

Anthony Leventon – doesn't live in Carmichael, but plays disc golf in SGNA. The park needs to be policed. The needs of the few should not override the needs of the many. Schweitzer is a great disc golf course. He wants no changes made.

Colleen Butler – neighbor near park. SGNA was intended for a nature area from day one. The nature of the game of disc golf takes people off the trails to retrieve discs. SGNA should remain a nature area.

Joan Komaromi – neighbor near park. She doesn't like either alternative presented. She would like to see more disc golf courses developed. That might cut down on the impact of her neighborhood.

Kyle Rasmussen – plays disc golf and lives near SGNA. He wants to keep the disc golf course in the park. Thousands of people play disc golf. They try to keep the park clean.

Steve Revering – has been going to SGNA since mid 70's. The best use of the park is to let people use it, but to fix the parking situation.

Dave Pickett – doesn't live in the area, but has been playing disc golf at SGNA for about 6 years and likes playing there. He said he wished that everyone would respect the neighborhood. He was in full favor of Alternative #2.

Matt Rainey – grew up near SGNA and plays disc golf there. He believes most residents want disc golf to stay. He said he was sorry about the problems, but he tries to keep the park clean. He wants to keep disc golf in the park.

Welcome Beard – lives across the street from SGNA. Every day there are people taking loads of beer into the park and urinating in the park. She can see this every day from her house happening in a place that was set up as a nature area. She asked the Advisory Board to please consider the Grove when making their decision.

Public comment closed

Discussion:

Chairman Younger asked why the date of May 1 was picked to end disc golf in SGNA for Alternative 1. Administrator Harrison said the District needs time to put up signs and look into relocating disc golf to Carmichael Park.

Director Brown asked when SGNA was designated a nature area. Administrator Harrison said this was done in 1971, but was not officially named as a nature area until May 2, 1984.

Director Borman asked if disc golf was already there. Administrator Harrison said disc golf was installed in 1982.

Director Rockenstein asked if there was a Master Plan done after SGNA was declared a nature area. Administrator Harrison said yes, latest Master Plan was 2008.

Chairman Younger asked what the Master Plan says about Schweitzer Grove. Administrator Harrison read from the Master Plan: "Schweitzer Grove Nature Area is a 17.2 acre nature area. A large portion of the site is covered by a eucalyptus grove. There is also an area with an oak restoration project underway. The setting and mature trees make it ideal for passive uses and nature areas. Recommendations for Maintenance: Improve drainage in places, clear diseased and dead vegetation, maintain the native oaks. Recommendations for Improvements: Provide directional signage at San Juan and Sumter Drive. If signage results in excessive parking on Sumter, consider adding a small parking lot somewhere within the Nature Grove. Add dog walking features (dog drinking fountain and pet waste station), add park signage, build soft-surface, multi-use trails for walking and jogging, add benches or boulders for sitting."

Chairman Younger said one of the things that came up during the Master Plan was putting in parking. There was a lot of resistance to putting in or adding parking. The church near the park was opposed to using their lot for parking.

Director Brown asked if the parking lot was opposed by the neighbors. Chairman Younger said yes, it was.

Chairman Younger said that for years disc golf has been played in the park, but now disc golf has grown so dramatically that the park cannot handle it. District finances are such that they cannot afford to put in parking. He said he believes leaving it as a nature area is the proper use of the park.

Director Rockenstein asked if the question had been addressed as to reducing the number of holes in the SGNA disc golf course. Administrator Harrison said the District had not received any proposals from disc golfers that they wanted fewer holes.

Chairman Younger asked about the prospects of installing a disc golf course in Carmichael Park. Administrator Harrison said this would be looked into as part of Alternative #1. In terms of area, there is space that might work. Carmichael Park does not have 17.2 acres (as Schweitzer Grove has) and could not accommodate eighteen holes, however, fewer holes could be accommodated.

Director Brown commended the disc golfers for picking up the park and working with the park district, but Advisory Board must also listen to the neighbors.

Chairman Younger asked what if they take the next step, but not prevent disc golf from ever returning. Director Rockenstein said as to parking, he respects neighbors and their right to a safe street. There's the trash issue, drug and alcohol issue. There is also a possibility of vagrants and others moving in to trash the park. He said he was struggling with this decision. Disc golf is a valid activity but hard to resolve the problems. District could have a ranger out there to evaluate the situation.

Chairman Younger said this is a tough issue. Staff has worked with the neighbors and the disc golf players and the situation doesn't seem to be getting any better. The number of people using the park for disc golf is an issue.

Director Borman said there are so many disc golfers.

Director Brown said it is a neighborhood park. She said she loves that the activity is happening, but it's not a good fit for SGNA. Once the other park closed to disc golf, the traffic increased in SGNA and on the neighborhood streets.

Director Rockenstein said disc golf is a valid, free activity, and they need to find a home for it in the District. Chairman Younger asked if he meant at SGNA or at another park. Director Rockenstein said Carmichael Park as an alternative. Keith Maddison said Carmichael Park is the best alternative because of parking and restrooms. La Sierra is locked up with sports fields.

Director Brown asked why Del Campo closed. Administrator Harrison said it closed in 2002. Records show there were problems impacting the neighborhood. Lee Ann Yarber added that they were all the same problems that they are having now at SGNA.

Director Rockenstein said District should have disc golf within the park district as a valid activity. Why at some point didn't this discussion happen a long time ago? There is a strong constituent for disc golf, but the neighbors have a right to live there. How many holes could Carmichael Park support? Administrator Harrison said Carmichael Park could not support 18 holes. The space available would be more in line with a small course. Director Rockenstein asked what about using Del Campo Park? Administrator Harrison said that is a similar situation to Schweitzer. It's surrounded by the neighborhood.

Motion 2

M: Brown S: Borman – The Advisory Board voted to approve Alternative #1, allowing disc golf to continue in the Schweitzer Grove Nature Area until May 1, 2011 and to work with interested parties on the feasibility of a disc golf course in Carmichael Park. Prior to May 1, Staff will provide signs regarding Nature Area rules and designated trails. Staff will arrange for a ranger patrol program on an as needed basis.

**VOTE: Ayes, 3 – Younger, Brown, and Borman
Noes, 1 - Rockenstein
Absent - Safford**

2. PRELIMINARY FY 2011-12 BUDGET

Presentation:

Administrator Harrison said the District is required by the County to submit a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year this time of year. Staff has projected a shortfall and has been working on alternatives to fill the gap. Working together, they came up with a program of reductions – mostly affecting District staff. This was presented to the Budget Committee on March 11. On March 14, Administrator Harrison and the managers met with District employees. All staff will be affected in some way, effective beginning about July 1. He said it has been very painful to make these changes.

Ingrid Penney said this process has been very difficult. Two years ago the District lost a major tenant at La Sierra, but they didn't know how badly the economy would also affect the situation. There has also been diminished participation in recreation programs and rentals. Garfield School closing affected the Bridges program. The projected shortfall for FY2011-12 is \$472,133. There is no cost of living involved with the shortfall. First priority is always to provide services to the public. The only area that would not affect the services we provide is staffing – mostly administrative staff.

Among reductions effective July 2011 will be salary freezes and reductions in pay for management and employees. Also effective in July will be reclassifying 3 regular full time employees to regular part time, reduction in salary of Administrative Services Manager by 50%, RIF one position (MWII), reclassify one Regular PT to Seasonal (recreation division), drop funding for Skate Park personnel, reduce contingency fund by \$34,118, and reduce services and supplies by \$20,000. Contingency fund will be reduced from \$200,000 to \$165,882. It is usually advisable to keep at least 10-15% of budget. Beginning January 2012, the District will be offering only the lowest HMO health plan to employees (this will be effective 1/1/2012 – open season is fall 2011). Total reductions come to \$472,133.

Staff recommendation is to approve and recommend the Preliminary Budget for FY 2011-12, as presented, to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, a total of \$3,213,886.

Public Comments:

Robert DeLaCroix – heard the Skate Park could be closed. This would be a serious mistake. He would rather his kids were out there than elsewhere.

Bob Kerr – District employee, runs the La Sierra Skate Park. Thanked the Board and the District for everything he has been allowed to do at the Skate Park. He wants to work toward making it self-sufficient – possibly with a snack bar and skate camps and the like. It is currently a supervised skate park. He asked the Board to please keep it open.

Lee Ann Yarber – District employee, Administrative Analyst. She said she feels humiliated and embarrassed because of being designated non-essential, but understands how hard the decision was to make these reductions. She does not plan to stay with the District next fiscal year at 20 hours per week. It is not a good idea to reduce the staff who have the most skills. The plan to reduce staff is a good idea, but wrong people, wrong way. She recommended keeping Ty Campbell, the District bookkeeper, full time to help with the District Foundation after she is gone. She said she was proud of the grants and progress she felt she contributed to as the Admin Analyst.

Public Comments Closed

Discussion:

Chairman Younger said they had a really crummy job to do. He asked Staff if all the alternatives had been exhausted.

Administrator Harrison said they believed they had. Employees have known District was having issues since mid-year. These recommendations are scheduled to go into effect the beginning of the next fiscal year. If something changes, Staff will come back to the Board with changes. He said he doesn't believe anyone is non-essential; however, they had to prioritize. They do feel they have to deliver services first

and foremost. District has to have maintenance and recreation personnel, and admin there to support them. Any new recommendations would be brought back to the Advisory Board. He said Staff believes this was the best plan. This is the Preliminary Budget. If the Advisory Board or Staff has other recommendations, he asked that they please let him know. If the recommended plan is approved, it will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Ingrid Penney said the District must have a game plan to present to the Board of Supervisors. Between now and the final budget District can make changes if warranted. They must present staffing levels as part of the budgets.

Chairman Younger asked if there are any new rentals at La Sierra. Administrator Harrison said there is some possibility. They are talking to a school, but they want space a current tenant occupies. If this lease happens, it would change things.

Chairman Younger asked if something happens after the budget is approved can they change to give more to staff? Administrator Harrison said the Board of Supervisors would have to concur that the circumstances warrant changes.

Director Brown asked if District had considered charging a fee for using the Skate Park. Tracy Kerth said District had tried before, but it didn't work well. District is looking into sponsors, possibly fundraisers, and maybe not having Skate Park open full time.

Director Brown asked if these will continue to be pursued. Tracy Kerth said yes, they will be.

Chairman Younger asked Administrator Harrison to talk to Lee Ann Yarber about the options she presented.

Motion 3

M: Borman S: Rockenstein – The Advisory Board voted to approve and recommend to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors the proposed Preliminary Budget for FY 2011-12, as presented, a total of \$3,213,886, as follows: Revenues: Estimated Carry-over Fund Balance of \$222,544; Taxes \$1,562,000; Use of Money/Property \$600,110; Aid-Gov'n't Agencies: \$97,000; Charges for Services \$700,000; Other Revenue \$32,232; and Expenditures: Salaries & EE Benefits \$2,038,367; Services & Supplies \$820,854; Interest & Assessments \$94,236; Capital Budget \$94,547; and Contingency \$165,882.

Unanimous vote of those present

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

1. BENEFIT ASSESSMENT SURVEY UPDATE

Administrator Harrison said District hired consultants to conduct a survey regarding support for a benefit assessment. There is no final report yet. Consultants called him March 16 with a preliminary report. The final report will be April 1 and will be presented to the CEC at their April 7 meeting. Overall, looks like responses are not strong enough to proceed. Single family homes were 60% in support; but when other properties were factored in, those numbers were not close to what they have been told is necessary to proceed. The recommendation from the CEC will be presented at the April 21 Advisory Board meeting. This is not encouraging news, but this did generate information into the community about the need for repairs. The timing is difficult to ask people to support it.

Chairman Younger said this is good and bad news. It would not be good to have a decision to move forward and not have the money to do it.

REPORTS

1. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER REPORTS –

Chairman Younger said he attended the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners & Board Members award ceremony the previous week where Administrator Harrison was presented the Outstanding Professional Award and Vern Chang was given a special award for work on O'Donnell Park. Director Borman is now treasurer of their Board.

2. STAFF REPORT

Staff Presentation:

Tracy Kerth - Recreation is gearing up for spring and summer. The new Activity Guide is now out. She participated in the CPRS conference. District Recreation department did events for the conference as well. They were successful with that and the participants enjoyed them.

Keith Maddison – He has been working on the Jan Park construction drawings with the consultant. They should be 75% finished by March 21. He said an RFP was put out for play equipment. The provider was chosen and presented to Jan Park Committee, who approved.

He said they now have an idea of what Montessori is looking for in rental space at La Sierra. His staff has been inspecting rooms and getting quotes for costs to renovate if District does lease the space. It will

cost about \$200,000 plus to renovate.

Maintenance has been dismantling the old heaters at La Sierra for recycling. They also repaired a large main leak in the main hallway at La Sierra.

Ingrid Penney – She and her staff have been working with the County auditors for the last month. She said District is looking at loan funding sources if a lease from Montessori comes through. The addition of Clearwire installation on the T-Mobile cell tower has been tabled indefinitely.

Administrator Harrison – For about a year, District has been working with other park districts on getting an increase in construction contract authority from \$250,000 to \$500,000. There was a County delay. Staff is still working on this. County now has a consent item increasing the contracting authority to \$370,000. Once approved, this would cover working on Jan Park. The vote will be March 22. No opposition is expected.

NEW BUSINESS – None

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. **Creek Week** – April 8 – 15, Celebration on Saturday, April 16 at Carmichael Park
2. **Community Garden Spring Cleaning Day** – Saturday, April 16 at Sutter Community Garden
3. **Spring Break Camp** – April 18-22 at La Sierra Community Center
4. **Easter Egg Hunt** – Saturday, April 23 at Carmichael Park
5. **Chamber Sponsored Community Forum regarding homeless issues** – April 28, La Sierra Community Center
6. **Jan Park Groundbreaking** – May 21, 2011 at Jan Park

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Benefit Assessment Election**

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

1. **Regular Meeting**
Proposed: Thursday, April 21, 2011, 6:00 pm, Community Clubhouse #2 at Carmichael Park

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Phillips
Administrative Secretary

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

DAVID YOUNGER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

BETTY PHILLIPS
Administrative Secretary
Clerk of the Advisory Board of Directors