



## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of December 15, 2008**

### **2.2 Approval of Public Event Permit Application for Park Use from Ensemble Theatre of Chico - Shakespeare in the Park in June 2009 - City Plaza**

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.  
COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

## **3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**                      None

## **4. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda** None

### **4.2 Discussion Regarding Commission Committee Structure and Assignments**

Commissioners discussed the current seven committees, the issues each addressed, and possible changes to update the structure. They agreed to form the following five committees for 2009:

- Natural Resource Committee to oversee issues on vegetation and from the former Preservation/Stream Committee and the Trail/Safety Committee.
- Volunteer Committee
- Tree Committee
- Policy Advisory Committee to oversee issues on finance, art and safety, formerly the Master Management Plan Committee.
- Bike Advisory Committee, which is a City Committee that seats two representatives from BPPC

General Services Director Beardsley will put together descriptions of the above committees and send them to Commissioners before the February meeting so that each can decide on which Committees they would like to serve on.

### **4.3 Discussion Concerning the Status on the Biennial Work Plan**

This item was to make the Commission familiar with the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) Work Plan approved by Council for 2007 and 2008. Council has asked for a status report by the end of February giving an update on efforts made to implement the goals and policies within the Plan. That report will be reviewed by Council and will then serve as a basis for developing the 2009-2010 Work Plan. Commissioner Ober suggested the one of the newly formed committees could discuss the new goals for 2009-10 work plan.

From the Public: None

## 5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### 5.1 Director's Report

- a. Freezing of grant funds - Due to State budget crisis, some grant funding has been suspended temporarily. This is affecting other departments in the City as well. For the Park Division, the project to install a permanent restroom on the north side of Sycamore Pool in the One Mile Recreation Area has been put on hold, as well as the City being able to enter into any no new contracts for grant projects.
- b. Verbena Fields Restoration Project Update - This project is 3/4 done and will proceed to completion, with possible reimbursement from State.
- c. Wind Chime Project Update - This Wind chime project has been scheduled for installation in Humboldt Park along Highway 99. As part of the environmental review, a sound analysis is to be conducted with notification of the date and time to go out to neighbors.

From the Public:

Tom Haithcock asked if the sound analysis was to check for decibel levels allowed in the Chico Municipal Code or is to see if neighbors would like to have the chimes there. General Services Director Beardsley said it was first to meet the Code requirements and also to see if neighbors were OK with it there.

- d. Council Actions - Disc Golf Update.

On January 6, Council adopted Option C to allow the 18-hole course at the present site in Upper Bidwell Park off of Hwy. 32. Per Council's direction, a nonprofit organization is to take responsibility for the site through a contract, such as is given to the Chico Equestrian Association and other leasees who use the Park. Such a lease/management agreement would come before the BPPC. City staff is working with Cal Trans regarding access from Highway 32. Work to improve the course would be the responsibility of the lease holder.

There are now several candidate sites for a potential short course, some of which are located in Bidwell Park. Discussion of those sites will be held at a meeting at the CARD facility on February 4.

From the public:

Tom Haithcock asked if the Council decided to close and relocate the 9-hole short course on Hwy 32, why are plans now to develop a 18-hole course somewhere in Chico. General Services Director Beardsley said it is still being discussed. Mr. Haithcock asked about the formal rule for CARD meeting with others and is it a noticed meeting? General Services Director Beardsley said there has been an informal working group trying to find a common ground before going to a regular Internal Affairs Committee meeting.

John Merz said that there appears to be a formal endorsement of disc golf activity at the Hwy 32 site and therefore the BPPC/City is responsible for management of the site and should not assume someone else will take it over. He believes the BPPC should develop an implementation plan to develop and address the mitigation measures for the Hwy 32 site.

Commissioner Turney stated that she believes that a plan to post signs or other measures are needed to prohibit the use of the course during wet weather.

Chair Emmerich asked that new Commissioners receive copies of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Environmental Impact Report and mitigation measures concerning disc golf, and that the BPPC be notified and kept informed of all that is going on concerning this issue.

**5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report** Received and filed.

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Urban Forest Britton said funding of the grant for the tree inventory project is suspended, but she can keep one intern working for another eight weeks. The interns have made good progress on the inventory. The Heritage Tree Program will come to BPPC for review soon. Three maintenance districts have been turned over to Cal Trans. She is working with Cal Water on water conservation measures on City parks and public landscaping.

**5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report** Received and filed.

**5.5 Correspondence** None

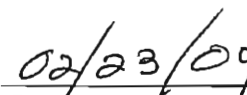
**6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** None

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 to the next regular meeting of February 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Richard Ober  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Jamison Watts  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Jane Turney  
   Mary Brentwood

Staff Members Present:      Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
   Alicia M. Rock, Assistant City Attorney  
   Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager  
   Linda Herman, Management Analyst  
   Janice Heckerson Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Special Recognition**

- a.      Susan Mason, of Friends of Bidwell Park, received the certificate of recognition for the group who has done over 8,000 work hours in the Park plus thousands of hours doing research, dispersing information, attending meeting, and other related matters.
  
- b.      Life Scout Cody Miller and Troop 32 received a certificate of recognition for 115 hours work installing a split rail fence.

**1.3 Public Comments      None**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of minutes from Meeting of January 26, 2009**

**2.2 Approval of Application and Permit for Park Use for North Valley Start! Heart Walk to be Held in Lower Bidwell Park on September 26, 2009**

**2.3 Approval of Application and Permit for Park Use for the Skyway House Fundraiser to be Held at the One-Mile Recreation Picnic Area in Bidwell Park on May 30, 2009**

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.  
COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

3. **NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

4.1 **Items Removed from Consent Agenda** None

4.2 **Request to Consider a Smoke-Free City Plaza**

Christina Roberts, of the American Lung Association of California, said the Association wants to educate community about the dangers of second hand smoke. Many parks in California are smoke-free. That is best enforced by signage and then it becomes self-enforced.

Commission agreed to send this item to Policy Advisory Committee for review and recommendation. If approved, it would go to City Council and require an amendment to the Chico Municipal Code.

4.3 **Consideration of Relocating the Disc Golf Short Course from the Hwy 32 Site**

Commissioner Ober absented himself, as his house is near an area being considered.

City Council asked that BPPC review locations for the short course and report recommendations at their meeting of 04-21-09. Three locations in Bidwell Park have received most favorable attention so far, but there is no restriction to what area might be considered. No budget analysis can be made until location is decided.

General Services Director Beardsley recommends holding two public meetings in March and report findings to full Commission at the BPPC regular meeting of March 30. Public is encouraged to attend each meeting and City will work closely with CARD.

From the public:

Steve Visconti, CARD General Manager, said the children's course at Sherwood Forest is nine holes on three acres and there is not enough space to create an adult course there.

Deni Whiting said Chico Equestrian Association leases 15 areas in Bidwell Park for their arena and are financially responsible for all on that lease. There is a user conflict with disc golf in that area and they want to be involved in the decision making process.

Equestrian Susan Taylor said they already share trails with bikes, strollers, and other users. It would be wrong to ask all of them to accommodate one faction (disc golfers) and disc golfers should be out of the Park.

Chair Emmerich set Noticed Public Meetings for Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss background and for Wednesday March 18 for discussion and recommendations. Each begin at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

#### **4.4 Consideration of Wet Weather Use at the Disc Golf Course in Upper Bidwell Park Adjacent to Hwy 32**

General Services Director Beardsley said there are now signs to show when trails are closed ( to all but pedestrians) and also signs asking that people not play when the course is wet. Compliance is voluntary and difficult to enforce.

Commissioner Ober asked for definition of recreation facilities as opposed to trails and does City close recreation facilities for weather? General Services Director Beardsley said leasees sometimes do close their facility and a lease for the course would deal with that. But what is our policy for now?

Commissioners discussed volunteer help and Ranger coverage for enforcement and possible need for new signage. Commissioner Turney asked Rangers to log what they observe on their patrols at the site. She suggested removing improvements if voluntary compliance is not observed during wet weather.

From the public:

John Merz said the City has every right to manage the course and repair things right now without waiting for a third party. Having pins concentrate the use in that area so it is not a walk in the park.

LaRae Sizer has seen people playing there when it was supposed to be closed; they pay no attention to signs. Volunteers cannot do any enforcement .

Patsy Schutz asked if Chico Municipal Code says Dennis can shut down any area being damaged. He can, but usually for an emergency.

Grace Marvin sees BPPC as important in establishing benchmarks; you need progress reports on how measures are being met. The disc golf community should be organizing themselves.

Tom Haithcock said all agree there is damage there and want it mitigated. The golf community should organize and do some work.

Yvone Hanes pointed out that the kid's course (3 acres), the short course (15- 20 acres), and the long course (30-35 acres) is a lot of land to give disc golf in the Park.

The item was sent to Policy Committee and to Volunteer Committee for further consideration.

**4.5 Review and Consideration of Changing Commission Meeting to 6:30 p.m.**

With new Commission members and their new schedules, the question of beginning meetings at 6:30 has come up.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO CHANGE MEETING TIME TO 6:30 P.M. BEGINNING APRIL 27, 2009. COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

**4.6 Confirmation of Appointment of Commissioners to the Various Subcommittees of the Commission and Approval of 2009 Calendar of Commission and Committee Meeting Dates**

Committee membership was accepted and meeting dates agreed upon. Chair Emmerich determined chairs for each committee.

From the Public: Grace Marvin said she is not on lists of public to receive notification of meetings. General Services Director Beardsley said anyone interested can get a printed or electronic notification if you give staff your address.

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**5.1 Director's Report**

- a. Wind Chime Project Update - environmental report not completed
- b. Chico Equestrian Association Annual Report - attached
- c. Council Actions - referral of Tree Ordinance for review

First and Verbena project is flooded as we intended and designed for and is working well.

**5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report** Received and filed

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Urban Forest Manager Britton reported several capitol improvement projects are going on; East 8<sup>th</sup> Street project will move forward soon; a couple of subdivisions have been reviewed; the final list of street trees are removed with stumps still in; 17,300 trees are counted and inventoried.

Chair Emmerich said the East 8<sup>th</sup> Street neighbors are impressed with the beauty of the project and working with staff.

**5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report** received and filed

**5.5 Correspondence**



**6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

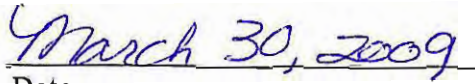
Commissioner Ober asked for an overview of the project to expand Highway 99 through the Park. He wants to get a feel for the impact on the Park. General Services Director Beardsley said there is a set of plans at the General Services office and Cal Trans is having a meeting on 02/25/09 to inform the public.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. to Adjourned Regular Meeting on March 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Richard Ober  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Jamison Watts  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Jane Turney  
   Mary Brentwood

Staff Members Present:      Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
   Alicia M. Rock, Assistant City Attorney  
   Linda Herman, Administrative Analyst  
   Janice Heckerson Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Public Comments**                      none

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**                      none

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**                      none

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Consideration of Relocating the Disc Golf Short Course from the Hwy 32 Site**

Commissioner Ober recused himself from discuss as he lives near a potential site.

City Council directed that the short course at Hwy 32 be relocated and this meeting is to discuss other possible sites. General Services Director Dennis Beardsley spoke of the history of the disc golf course and highlighted issues previously discussed. He did a power point presentation showing location of eleven sites suggested for consideration. The packet has a site analysis summary of each. Basic needs are for 15 to 20 acres for an 18-hole facility. Costs would be driven by site location and environmental issues.

Commissioners discussed criteria to consider and referred to the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) information. Some issues to be addressed are costs, roles of agencies involved, ease of access for the public, parking, restroom availability, overlapping usage, and looking at acreage within Bidwell Park or elsewhere.

From the Public:

Kathleen Woodard - no site within Bidwell Park is appropriate

Jan Sneed - there are constraints on all sites; one group should not be allowed to dominate influence; CARD worked well with the disc golf community at Sherwood Forest and would be interested in doing more

Bob Klang - disc golf is an aggressive sport and equestrians have concern about safety for horses and riders; beginning players would throw errant frisbees.

Greg Payne - there are lots of courses that share park space; he wants easy access.

break from 7:40 to 7:50

Present at 7:50: Chair Emmerich, Commissioners Ober, (recused) Turney, Skaggs, Brentwood, Watts, and Lucas.

Mark Stemen - use disc golf as a way to train community to work together.

Susan Taylor - everyone would be afraid to use the same area as frisbees; the environment issue has not gone away.

Grace Marvin - we could have two short courses with different vistas

Tom Haithcock - look that environmental damage does not happen again; the Park is a finite area with a growing population

Nancy Park - could play the same course twice for 18 holes; consider charging fees as golfers and baseball players pay to play, none is free

Deni Whiting - suggested California Park, Stilson Canyon, Humboldt Dump, Richardson Springs, and Butte College as possible sites

Chair Emmerich read the names of the eleven sites and took a vote to gauge Commissioners' interest in following up on each;

6-0 votes - Bidwell Park Caper Acres and Hooker Oak Recreation Area

4-2 votes - Bidwell Park Golf Course

3-3 votes - Bidwell Park North of the Five Mile Recreation Area

2-4 votes - Bidwell Park Horseshoe Lake/Bidwell Park East of Hwy 99/Airport

0-6 votes - Comanche Creek/ Bidwell Park walnut orchard

Lindo Channel is not practical at this time but kept open

Caper Acres has a good location; few environmental issues, accessibility, low potential costs to develop, less conflict with other users, and support services already there.

Hooker Oak is already a recreation area, good parking and facilities, not now a natural setting, low potential costs to develop, and has a good location for CARD to manage.

Comanche Creek and Bidwell Park walnut orchard will no longer be considered. Commissioners will visit each of the other listed sites before the next meeting and discuss them further.

Commissioners asked staff to invite any interested representatives from Sunset Hills, CSUC, the Municipal and other golf courses, and the Tree Farm to the meeting of March 18. They also request staff to provide a plot map for site 11, approximate costs of an environmental report, and rough cost analysis of developing sites at Bidwell Park Caper Acres and Hooker Oak Recreation Area.

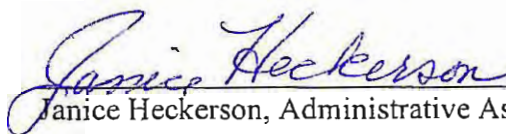
5. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS** none

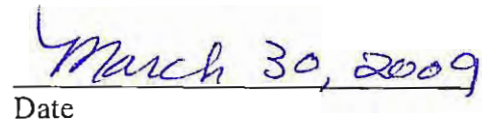
6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** none

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. to the adjourned regular meeting of March 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Richard Ober  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Jamison Watts  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Jane Turney  
   Mary Brentwood

Staff Members Present:      Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
   Linda Herman, Administrative Analyst  
   Janice Heckerson Administrative Assistant  
   Ruben Martinez, Operations and Maintenance  
   Director

**1.2 Public Comments**      none

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**      none

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**      none

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

4.1      Consideration of Relocating the Disc Golf Short Course from the Hwy 32 Site

Commissioner Ober recused himself from discuss as he lives near a potential site.

Chico City Council has instructed BPPC to move the 18 hole short course out of its Hwy 32 location to within or outside of Bidwell Park. The long course will stay where it is.

General Services Director Beardsley said Commission is taking up the discussion from where it left off at the meeting of March 4, 2009, but with some updated information. Staff had contacted Bidwell Golf Course, Mendocino Forest Research Center, CARD, the City Manager regarding Chico Municipal Airport site, and Sunset Hills Golf Course.

Chair Emmerich said that the Commission will not make a final decision for selecting the site at tonight's. BPPC recommendations will be finalized at the regular meeting of March 30, 2009 and then sent on to Council for their consideration.

**Consideration of Bidwell Park Caper Acres (site 6) and Hooker Oak Recreational Area (site 11):**

From the Public:

Susan Strachan, representing the Chico Equestrian Association – access goes through Sherwood Forest for horses riders; if more development was there, they would have no access to Lower Park

Bruce Norlie – lives on Woodland and is concerned about players driving and parking on that cul-de-sac. Restrooms at Caper Acres are not appropriate for players.

Phil Johnson, representing the Audobon Society – Caper Acres seems like a good site, but what about oak regeneration?

Greg Payne – will create overuse problems at both sites; could open up under freeway for parking.

**Consideration of Airport Site (site 1):**

Commissioner Brentwood thinks airport seems mute economically.

General Services Director Beardsley said there is already recreation there with Westside Little League; a small area is still zoned industrial, but lacks desirable features of disc golf.

From the public:

Bruce Norlie – City probably won't give up industrial zoned property

Jan Sneed – CARD Ad Hoc Committee does not support the airport site; it is too far out and would be difficult to maintain by CARD.

Denise Whiting, former President of Westside Little league- League built and paid for the facilities there and keep them locked; it would be a conflict to open these facilities to the public.

Phil Johnson – don't take the site off the table; it could hold 18 holes.

Greg Payne – airport is too wet and potentially a vernal pool; there is nothing of interest so golfers won't play there.

Break from 7:20 to 7:30 p.m.

Present at 7:30 p.m.: Chair Emmerich, Commissioners Brentwood, Skaggs, Lucas, Turner, and Watts.

**Continue consideration of Bidwell Park golf course (site 9):**

Roger Clark, President of the Board of Directors for the golf club - Said they would not dismiss entirely if there could be dual use with safety for all. But, he cannot see how it could work.

Kathleen Woodard – players should pay equal fees and disc golfers like their low costs

Kathy Fell – safety issues on a golf course are not different from equestrian's concerns; a flying object is not safe for others.

Greg Payne – they do not want to displace golfers from their course; it is a good area for both kinds of golf.

Christine Eringer – is enthused about sharing the course at Bidwell Municipal; it is being done all over the nation

Commissioner Skaggs does not see this site as a viable option. Commissioner Lucas concurs. Commissioner Brentwood wants to research how it is being done successfully. Commissioner Watts said take it off because of the time frame

COMMISSIONER SKAGGS MOVED TO STRIKE SITE 9-BIDWELL GOLF COURSE FROM CONSIDERATION AS A DISC GOLF SHORT COURSE. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-2.

YES: SKAGGS, LUCAS, EMMERICH, WATTS

NO: TURNEY AND BRENTWOOD

**Consideration of Bidwell Park north of the Five Mile Recreation Area (site 2):**

From the public:

Susan Strachan – this is equestrians' access to Middle and Upper Park; would have to remove native shrubs and potentially has cultural impacts.

Phil Johnson – don't compromise this large grove of oak woodland.

Greg Payne – this is his favorite place; is an underutilized part of the Park

Tom Haithcock – take it off the list; is a wet, sensitive area. There is more park land given to disc golf than he prefers.

COMMISSIONER WATTS MOVED TO STRIKE SITE 2-THE AREA OF BIDWELL PARK NORTH OF THE FIVE MILE RECREATION AREA FROM CONSIDERATION.

COMMISSIONER TURNEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-2.

YES: WATTS, TURNEY, BRENTWOOD, AND EMMERICH

NO: LUCAS AND SKAGGS

**Consideration of Bidwell Park Horseshoe Lake (site 4):**

From the public:

Kathleen Woodward – erosion is high already so don't consider it

Phil Johnson – erosion issue would be disastrous; development is moving from creek up to ridge and we keep compromising the area.

Jan Sneed – CARD Ad Hoc committee says "no"; maintenance would be a nightmare.

Commissioner Watts wants to strike this area because of erosion. Commissioner Lucas said the Master Management Plan designated Middle Park a transition area for future development so this activity is good for the site.

COMMISSIONER TURNEY MOVED TO STRIKE CONSIDERATION OF SITE 4-BIDWELL PARK HORSESHOE AREA. THERE WAS NO SECOND SO THE SITE WILL REMAIN A CONSIDERATION.

**Consideration of Bidwell Park East of Hwy 32 (site 7):**

From the public:

Maria Phillips – would generate even more traffic on Vallombrosa. Parking under the freeway would break up the Park.

Billie Crosby – there is nothing like Bidwell Park anywhere else; don't desecrate a rare place of wonder

Bob Kline – has concerns about horses; this would displace a lot of people

Greg Payne - there are few environmental issues in this area; the freeway is noisy; would not conflict with trails

Phil Johnson - here is a large chunk of oakwood land; not much of it elsewhere.

Gloria Benencourt – this is the heart of Bidwell Park and is supposed to be a tranquil place.

Commissioner Watts asked clarification from staff on whether the Council directed the Commission to find an 18-hole course or whether a 9-hole course would be okay. Beardsley stated that although the direction was to replace the 18-hole golf course, the Commission has the opportunity to present any and all options to the Council.

Commissioner Lucas commented that more stress will be put back up on the Highway 32 course if we don't find a comparable course elsewhere.

Commissioner Skaggs overlaid the trail map and the bottom portion shows no trails. Leave site 7 to look at in the future with site 6.

Commissioner Brentwood said the short course will be close to town and be used a lot; Site 7 is a special area and keep it for more discussion.

Commissioner Turney would like to hear from more representatives such as high schools and running clubs.

Commissioner Watts suggested 18 holes do not have to be at one site so maybe find two sites.

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMISSION TO KEEP SITE 7- BIDWELL PARK EAST OF HWY 32 AS A CONSIDERATION FOR NOW.

Break 9:15 to 9:30 p.m.

Present at 9:30 p.m.: Chair Emmerich, Commissioners Brentwood, Skaggs, Lucas, Turner, and Watts

Ruben Martinez, Operations and Maintenance Director, has talked to Tuscan Ridge. They have some interest and the space, but want to know more about design. He gave the location of Sunset Hills and referred to the letter from them in the packets. They are commercial and specified the fees they charge.



General Services Director Beardsley met with Senior Ranger at Mendocino National Forest research center. This may be a longterm solution so keep it open for a while.

Commissioner Lucas does not see using any private settings for a new course and recommended to not add Sunset Hills to the list. Commissioner Turney recommended keep Sunset Hills and the forest research center, but not Tuscan Ridge.

COMMISSION CHAIR ASKED IF THE COMMISSION WAS OKAY WITH REMOVING SITE 3 - BIDWELL PARK IN THE VICINITY OF FIVE-MILE RECREATION AREA FROM CONSIDERATION FOR THE SAME REASONS AS SITE 2 WAS REMOVED. ALL COMMISSIONERS AGREED.


Chair Emmerich asked staff to give Commissioners an updated spreadsheet on sites to consider. Commission will select three priority sites from the list and give their reasons at the next meeting.

- 5.     **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**                     None
- 6.     **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**                     None
- 7.     **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. to the next regular meeting of March 30, 2009 at Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Richard Ober  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Jamison Watts  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Jane Turney  
   Mary Brentwood

Staff Members Present:      Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
   Linda Herman, Administrative Analyst  
   Janice Heckerson Administrative Assistant  
   Ruben Martinez, Operations and Maintenance  
   Director  
   Lori Barker, City Attorney

**1.2 Public Comments**      none

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval or minutes from meetings of 02-23-09, 03-03-09 and 03-18-09**

**2.2 Review and Consideration of Fiscal Year 2009-10 Park-related Community Organization Funding Requests.**

- a)      **Chico Creek Nature Center** request for \$61,293
- b)      **Chico Cat Coalition** request for \$10,000

**2.3 Approval of Application for Public Event Permit for Park use from Cycle Production for the Artesans Faire May 1-3, 2009 - City Plaza**

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WATTS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**      None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**      None

**4.2 Review and Consideration of Request from the Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) to Build a New Accessible Restroom and Related Improvements**

This item was removed from tonight's agenda and carried over to a future meeting.

#### 4.3 Report from the March 23, 2009 Tree Committee Meeting

##### a. Chico Municipal Code (CMC) Revisions to Establish a Heritage Tree Program and Parking Lot Shade Standards

An Ad-Hoc Committee of the City Council's Internal Affairs Committee has made recommendations for improving the City's current tree preservation regulations. BPPC is to review the recommendations and report to Planning Commission, which will review the results and report back to Council by July 1, 2009

Modifications are recommended for CMC:  
Section 16.66.055 (Heritage Tree Program)  
Section 16.66 (Applicability and Sphere of Influence)  
Chapters 19.68 (landscaping standards) and 19.70 (parking standards)

From the public:

Alan Gair - broaden the ordinance to protect teenage trees (6 to 12 inches) and not just older ones.

Francine Gair - there is reason to keep trees that don't grow very big; all trees 12 inches and over would be included; trees protected in a development need to be protected after a sale of the property goes through.

Karen Laslo -City needs a diverse urban forest, not just old trees

Scott Wineland - look at the overall picture for a unique variety and age of trees; preserve some small trees

From the Commission:

Ober - ornamental trees are not native yet should be included

Watts - need a balance in preserving teenage trees for habitat and esthetic reasons

Turney - wants to leave ornamentals on the list

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO KEEP THE ORNAMENTAL TREES ON THE PROTECTION LIST OF TREES SIX INCHES OR LARGER.

COMMISSIONER TURNEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-3

YES: OBER, TURNEY, EMMERICH, AND BRENTWOOD

NO: LUCAS, WATTS AND SCAGGS

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO CHANGE PROTECTION OF ALL TREES "24 INCHES" DBH TO "18 INCHES". COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED 6-1.

YES: OBER, EMMERICH, SKAGGS, WATTS, TURNEY AND BRENTWOOD

NO: LUCAS,

COMMISSIONER WATTS MOVED TO ACCEPT ALL OF THE REMAINING AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATIONS. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

#### 4.4 Review and Consideration of Relocating the Disc Golf Short Course from the Hwy 32 Site

BPPC is still discussing six possible sites to recommend to Council: Site #1 airport; #4

Bidwell Park Horseshoe Lake, #6 Caper Acres, #7 Bidwell Park east of Hwy 99, #11 Hooker Oak Recreation Area, and #12 U.S. Forest Service Genetic Research Center.

Chair Emmerich took a straw poll of Commissioners' top three sites in order of preference:

Watts: Sites 6, 1, and 12;

Turney: Sites 1, 12, and 6;

Lucas: Course to remain at Hwy 32, a combination of sites 6 and 7, and 4;

Ober: Sites 6, 4, and 11;

Skaggs: leave course at Hwy 32, combination of sites 6 and 7, Site 6;

Brentwood: 1, 11, and 6;

Emmerich: 6, 1, and 11.

*Break from 8:20 to 8:30 p.m.*

*Present at 8:30 Emmerich, Watts, Turney, Lucas, Ober, Skaggs and Brentwood*

From the Public:

Billie Crosby - new map of site #7 shows a major trail through the middle; traffic would have to be on a paved road through that area and parking would be bad.

Maria Phillips - main reason to move from Hwy 32 is that high use is damaging to nature there; it would be in any area used; not necessary to have 18 holes in the Park

David Wilson - ten years ago area #7 was discussed and rejected because of potential damage to nature and traffic use already there

Deni Whiting - equestrian concerns regarding several of the sites, invites anyone to ride with her through Sherwood Forest; their board supports areas #1, #6, and leaving it at Hwy 32.

Suzanne Toaspern-Holm - do not pick sites #7 or #4 for vegetation reasons

Don Holm - concerned about the short trail from Bryant Avenue into the Park. It is a major access now and would get worse; there is no place for parking

Al Raitt - lives near #7 and it is one of the most used areas in the Park; don't put an activity into a heavily used area

Todd Cathers - any site has conflicts with others; it is hard to make everyone happy so it has stayed on Hwy 32.

Gregg Payne - Site #5 - at the Walnut Orchard was taken off the list to be considered, but has the least problems; Using both sites 6 and 7, with parking under the freeway would work.

Bill Ehman - he would not put other activities at #7; should talk about protecting Lower Park

Gloria Bettencourt - her neighbors on Vallebrosa think it is a bad idea; there has been a lot of drinking at Hwy 32

Cindy Mann - opposes #7; it is unique and beautiful and should be available for all users

Francine Gair - damage to trees is main reason to move it so look for a place where more trees would not be hurt

Karen Gair - this would put concrete slabs in Lower Park as well as Upper Park; don't ruin two places in Bidwell.

Josephine Guardino - Friends of Bidwell Park support five sites: airport; Caper Acres; expanding Sherwood Forest; two on opposite sides of town

From Commission:

Ober - #6 is a good size for beginner course; can bike to #6 and #7, airport hard to get to without driving; #4 Horseshoe Lake conflicts with Master Management Plan (MMP) use, but keep it on the list

Skaggs - airport and Horseshoe Lake not good for CARD to maintain; there are about ten good acres on bottom half of #7; tell public what plants to protect so they can learn  
Brentwood - airport offers 15 acres which is enough land for 18 holes; vegetation can be enhanced and has a fine vista of foothills; no impact on others  
Turney - likes airport with lots of parking and area for port-a-potties; Caper Acres is handy to town  
Watts - #6 clearly is closest to win-win; 9 to 12 holes are acceptable there and already there are 18 holes in the park; airport is bike accessible and can be improved.  
Lucas - airport would compromise the designated industrial development, which is the best use of public resources there; #6 is obviously the best choice; #4 would be manageable

Emmerich - appreciates everyone's involvement; cost is a big consideration; Site #6 is her first pick, then #1 Caper Acres and #2 airport. The objective tonight is to recommend a single site and then maybe include as many as three other options.  
Commissioner Ober suggested that the Commission provide a single preferred site recommendation to the Council, and to offer two alternative sites in case there are logistical problems with the preferred site. Commissioner Emmerich suggested that the Commission recommend that the Council continue to pursue Site #11 Forest Service Center for long-term planning option.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED BPPC RECOMMEND CONSTRUCTION OF A BEGINNER'S DISC GOLF SHORT COURSE OF NINE TO EIGHTEEN HOLES, TO BE DETERMINED BY DESIGNER, AT SITE 6-CAPER ACRES AS THE PREFERRED OPTION. COMMISSIONER WATTS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO KEEP HWY 32 SITE ON THE LIST, AS RECOMMENDED IN THE MMP AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH FAILED 3-4.

YES: LUCAS, SKAGGS, AND WATTS

NO: BRENTWOOD, EMMERICH, OBER, AND TURNEY

COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD MOVED BPPC RECOMMEND CONSTRUCTION OF A BEGINNER'S DISC GOLF SHORT COURSE OF NINE TO EIGHTEEN HOLES, TO BE DETERMINED BY DESIGNER, AT SITE #1 AIRPORT AS AN ALTERNATIVE. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-3.

YES: BRENTWOOD, EMMERICH, OBER AND TURNEY

NO: LUCAS, WATTS AND SKAGGS

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED BPPC RECOMMEND CONSTRUCTION OF A BEGINNER'S DISC GOLF SHORT COURSE OF NINE TO EIGHTEEN HOLES, TO BE DETERMINED BY DESIGNER, AT SITE #4 HORSESHOE LAKE. COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH FAILED 2-5.

YES: LUCAS, OBER,

NO: EMMERICH, TURNEY, WATTS, BRENTWOOD AND SKAGGS

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED BPPC RECOMMEND CONSTRUCTION OF A BEGINNER'S DISC GOLF SHORT COURSE OF NINE TO EIGHTEEN HOLES, TO BE DETERMINED BY DESIGNER, AT SITE #7 BIDWELL PARK EAST OF HIGHWAY 99. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH FAILED 1-6

YES: LUCAS

NO: EMMERICH, OBER, TURNEY, WATTS, BRENTWOOD, AND SKAGGS

THE COMMISSIONER MOVED BPPC RECOMMEND CONSTRUCTION OF A BEGINNER'S DISC GOLF SHORT COURSE OF NINE TO EIGHTEEN HOLES, TO BE DETERMINED BY DESIGNER, AT SITE #11 HOOKER OAK RECREATION AREA. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-2.

YES: SKAGGS, OBER, LUCAS, TURNEY, AND WATTS

NO: BRENTWOOD AND EMMERICH

COMMISSIONER EMMERICH RECOMMENDED BPPC AND COUNCIL KEEP SITE #12 , FOREST SERVICE CENTER, ON LIST TO EXPLORE FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE PLANS. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

YES: EMMERICH, BRENTWOOD, OBER, SKAGGS, TURNEY AND WATTS

NO: LUCAS

FROM THE ABOVE MOTIONS AND VOTES, THE COMMISSION IS FORWARDING THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL:

PREFERRED SITE:	SITE 6 - CAPER ACRES
ALTERNATIVE SITE:	SITE 11- HOOKER OAK RECREATION AREA
ALTERNATIVE SITE:	SITE 1 - AIRPORT
LONG TERM OPTION:	SITE 12 - US FOREST SERVICE GENETIC RESEARCH CENTER

Break from 10:20 to 10:30 p.m.

Present at 10:30: Emmerich, Watts, Turney, Lucas, Ober, Skaggs and Brentwood

Due to the late hour, Chair Emmerich moved the following agenda items 4.5 (a), 4.6 (b), 4.7 and 4.8 be adjourned to meeting set for Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

**4.5 Report from the March 10, 2009 Natural Resources Committee Meeting**

- a. Consideration of Vegetation Management Priorities for 2009

This item is carried to BPPC adjourned regular meeting of April 13, 2009

**4.6 Report from the March 9, 2009 Policy Advisory Committee Meeting**

- a. **Consideration of a Requests to Consider a Smoke-free City Plaza**  
This item was continued to next Policy Advisory Meeting

- b. **Consideration of Wet Weather Use of the Disc Golf Course in Upper Bidwell Park Adjacent to Hwy 32.**

This item is carried to BPPC adjourned regular meeting of April 13, 2009

**4.7 Report from the March 16, 2009 Volunteer Committee Meeting**

- a. **Review and Consideration of How Volunteers Might Assist with Implementing a Wet Weather Policy for the Disc Golf Course in Upper Bidwell Park Adjacent to Hwy 32**

This item is carried to BPPC adjourned regular meeting of April 13, 2009

**4.8 Review and Consideration of Request Regarding an Interim Management Planning for the Disc Facility(s)**

This item is carried to BPPC adjourned regular meeting of April 13, 2009

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**5.1 Director's Report**

- a. Verbena Fields Restoration Project - planting is completed and fence will stay up to establish the new plantings; will hydroseed this fall
- b. Wind Chime Project Update - will be doing a simulation of height
- c. Update on the Labyrinth Project for Children's Playground - moving on with fundraising efforts
- d. Kiwanis Chico Community Observatory Annual Report - filed
- e. Paragliding in Bidwell Park Update - environmental review completed; going to Council in May.
- f. Council Actions - none

**5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report** Received and filed

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Hackberry aphid control is completed  
East 8th Street reconstruction pruning is completed; some eucalyptus trees are marked to be removed.  
Landscape planning is improving irrigation systems and bringing more native, drought plants into medians.

**5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report**

There was a total of 1,182 volunteer hours in the Park for March.

**5.5 Correspondence** none

**6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Michael Reilley has been waiting to address Item 4.6 (a). During the meeting he walked to the Plaza and saw people drinking beer and smoking a joint. Existing laws are not enforced so it is a waste of time and money to propose new, such as no smoking in Plaza Park. Consider where money to change the CMC and for enforcement would be best spent.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m. to the regular adjourned meeting of April 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Herman, Management Analyst

4/28/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Richard Ober  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Jamison Watts  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Jane Turney  
   Mary Brentwood

Staff Members Present:      Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
   Linda Herman, Administrative Analyst  
   Janice Heckerson Administrative Assistant  
   Ruben Martinez, Operations and Maintenance  
   Director

**1.2 Public Comments**      None

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**      None

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**      None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda**      None

**4.2 Report from the Policy Advisory Committee Meeting of March 9, 2009**

**Consideration of wet weather use of the disc golf course in Upper Bidwell Park**

The Committee made three recommendations regarding the problem with wet weather use of the disc golf course on Hwy 32:

- 1) Contact Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) requesting help in developing criteria for determining when to close
- 2) Temporarily close both the short and long disc golf courses to allow NRCS to conduct an analysis and for recovery of existing damages



- 3) Posting signs indicating and explaining that both courses are temporarily closed for restoration.

From the public:

Patsy Schutz - wants to clarify the policy for closing trails and a report on discussions with NRCS

Josephine Guardino - good land management is based on science so is happy to be talking to NRCS; the policy has been confusing. Soil compaction happens all year but is worse under benches and when soil is wet.

Lon Glazner - current policy is based on uses for horse and bike trails; concrete pads would stop erosion from players planting a foot to throw; he would like to see an MOU that explains everything

Grace Marvin - send out data and analysis to each relevance party to review, besides staff.

From the Commission:

Commissioner Ober, Committee Chair, said they heard from many people but it is difficult to agree on actions such as determining "wet weather" and signage; must make modifications in the best order to avoid setting a flash point.

Commissioner Brentwood - NRCS is the expert on soils and City does not have the staff for that;

Commissioner Skaggs - Recommendation #2 is too broad and does not have the right wording; on-going use would impede restoration but he fears putting everyone out of disc golf if it is closed even temporarily.

Commissioner Turney - has concern for vernal pools on both courses and that benches have not been removed.

Commissioner Lucas said blending issues is confusing and there must be a specific order for things to occur:

- 1) EIR project (MOU for disc golf community) to set a base line
- 2) wet weather policy as applies to the whole Park as well as for disc golf
- 3) Restoration and mitigation; no need to close all of the course when working on one hole. Committee recommendations are premature.

Chair Emmerich read the recommendations and took a consensus  
Recommendation 1) all agreed to take this one off the table

Recommendation 2) not much relevance at this time; deal with it later  
Recommendation 3) no objections; two kiosks are going up with signs now.

Break 8:30 to 8:40 p.m.

Present at 8:40: Emmerich, Brentwood, Skaggs, Ober, Lucas, Turney and Watts

#### **4.3 Report from the Volunteer Committee Meeting of March 16, 2009**

##### **Review and consideration of how volunteers might assist with implementing wet weather policy for the disc golf course in Upper Bidwell Park adjacent to Hwy 32**

The Committee made three recommendations regarding implementation of a wet weather policy:

- 1) An expanded educational program regarding playing disc golf during wet weather conditions by additional signage and the City of Chico's web site.
- 2) Installing a temporary kiosk that would allow for the display of education/informational material, status of the site, and general appropriate information
- 3) Begin collecting information relative to use of the site

From the public:

Lon Glazner - Disc Golf community has a web site and newsletter that can give information to the public. He gave the following information on site use: busiest in spring, only in morning during the summer; 80% use is on short course; capacity about five people per hole per hour or about 400 people per day at peak period in spring.

Josephine Guardino - a problem with gathering information from players is that some don't know about the issues, especially scientific issues; use kiosk to teach about the soils and some disc golf policies.

Patsy Schutz - asked about the status of the non-profit group set to manage the course in the future. Lon answered there is a board and they are in the process of filling.

Commissioners agreed to move forward with recommendation #3 (begin collecting information relative to use of the site).

#### **4.4 Review and Consideration of Request Regarding an Interim Management Plan for the Disc Facility(s)**

Commissioner Watts wants to produce a "Disc Golf Interim Management Plan" document and then an implementation plan as a separate document.

Commissioners suggested items to be included but they wish to start after the City Council meeting of April 23 to get any instructions from Council. This item will be on the agenda for April 29 regular meeting of BPPC..

5. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS** None

6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Commissioner Brentwood said April is Earth Month and April 25<sup>th</sup> is Earth Day. She encourages everyone to volunteer to work in Bidwell Park at One Mile or on trails.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. to the regular meeting of April 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

4/28/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present	Lisa Emmerich, Chair Jamison Watts Aaron Skaggs Jane Turney Mary Brentwood
Commissioners Absent	Richard Ober Stephen Lucas
Staff Members Present:	Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director Linda Herman, Management Analyst Ruben Martinez, Operations and Maintenance Director

**1.2 Public Comments** None

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1** Approval or minutes from meetings of 3/30/09 and 4/13/09  
Removed by Commissioner Turney

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

Approval or minutes from meetings of 3/30/09 and 4/13/09 - Commissioner Turney pointed out that the motion on item 4.1 on page 5 of the 3/30/09 meeting minutes indicated that Lucas motioned and seconded the motion. This was corrected to Commissioner Skaggs and the minutes were approved as revised.

**4.2 Report from the Policy Advisory Committee Meeting of March 9, 2009**

**a. Request to consider a Smoke-Free City Plaza**  
Committee member Turney reported that this issue was continued to the Committee's next meeting to be held on 5/11/09.

Break 8:30 to 8:40 p.m.

Present at 8:40: Emmerich, Brentwood, Skaggs, Ober, Lucas, Turney and Watts

**4.3 Report from the Volunteer Committee Meeting of March 16, 2009**

**Review and consideration of how volunteers might assist with implementing wet weather policy for the disc golf course in Upper Bidwell Park adjacent to Hwy 32**

The Committee made three recommendations regarding implementation of a wet

weather policy:

- 1) An expanded educational program regarding playing disc golf during wet weather conditions by additional signage and the City of Chico's web site.
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From the public:

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Josephine Guardino - a problem with gathering information from players is that some don't know about the issues, especially scientific issues; use kiosk to teach about the soils and some disc golf policies.

Patsy Schutz - asked about the status of the non-profit group set to manage the course in the future. Lon answered there is a board and they are in the process of filling.

Commissioners agreed to move forward with recommendation #3 (begin collecting information relative to use of the site).

#### **4.4 Review and Consideration of Request Regarding an Interim Management Plan for the Disc Facility(s)**

Commissioner Watts wants to produce a "Disc Golf Interim Management Plan" document and then an implementation plan as a separate document.

Commissioners suggested items to be included but they wish to start after the City Council meeting of April 23 to get any instructions from Council. This item will be on the agenda for April 29 regular meeting of BPPC..

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**      None

#### **6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**


Commissioner Brentwood said April is Earth Month and April 25<sup>th</sup> is Earth Day. She encourages everyone to volunteer to work in Bidwell Park at One Mile or on trails.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. to the regular meeting of April 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Herman, Management Analyst

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 26, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

1.1 **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair Jamison Watts at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.  
Present at role call:

Commissioners Present: Jamison Watts, Acting Chair  
Aaron Skaggs  
Richard Ober  
Stephen Lucas  
Jane Turner

Commissioners Absent Lisa Emmerich  
Mary Brentwood

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
Linda Herman, Management Analyst  
Denice Britton, Urban Forester  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Secretary

1.2 **Special Recognition**

- a. Scott McCuller, from Home Depot, received a certificate of appreciation for work done and for donation of tools and supplies at One Mile by Home Depot.
- b. Joan Heckerson and other representatives from Keller Williams Realty received a certificate of appreciation for their efforts on a work day in Lower Park and Lost Park.

1.3 **Public Comments - None**

2. **CONSENT AGENDA - None**

3. **NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

4.1 Items removed from the consent agenda - None

4.2 Report from the May 11, 2009 Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

a. Request to consider a smoke-free City Plaza

Police Lt. Lynda Dye said the Department is not opposed to enforcing a no-smoking law in City Plaza. They patrol there and Children's Playground now.

From the public:

Michael Reilley thinks all parks, including Bidwell Park, should be made smoke-free now and save time and money in discussing each individually.

Patsy Schlutz asked the law be passed on to Council as presented.

Commissioners suggested two signs are needed for notification of a new law, the public

needs to be educated to the change, and that the wording as presented is awkward.

Commissioner Ober suggested striking the work "smoke" before cigars in the proposed language:

**"12R.04.235 Smoking - Prohibited in City Plaza**

Except as otherwise provided or permitted by these rules, no person shall light or carry in lighted matches, smoke cigars, pipes, cigarettes or any other smoking device or instrument in City Plaza."

COMMISSIONER TURNEY MOVED TO SEND THE PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENT LANGUAGE TO THE COUNCIL'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WITH THE WORD "SMOKE" STRICKEN.  
COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0-2.

**4.3 Consideration of the Commission's Draft 2009-2010 Work Plans**

All Boards and Commissions must present biennial Work Plans to City Council in June. BPPC has written its mission and seven goals to carry it out. Based on previous discussions, staff has presented a revised work plan.

COMMISSION OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE WORK PLAN WITH REVISIONS TO MOVE #5 - "IMPLEMENT THE HWY 32 STAGING AREA/DISC GOLF FACILITY" BE MOVED TO #2 PRIORITY AND URGENT CATEGORY. COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0-2.

**4.4 Review and Discussion of an Interim Management Plan for the Hwy 32 Disc Facility(s)**

Staff presented a draft plan for care, maintenance and protection of the site for discussion and to let the public know how the property is being managed. It will be an on-going communication device until there is a final plan. New ideas will be a standing item on the BPPC agenda.

From the public:

Patsy Schultz had questions regarding volunteers, use of money, working with Cal Trans, use of kiosks, and placement of benches.

Michael Reilley said this gives an opportunity to make regulations from the beginning, such as "no-smoking" and not have to come back to make changes.

Break from 8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Present at 8:30: Jamison, Skaggs, Ober, Turney, Lucas

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**5.1 Director's Report**

- a. Verbena Fields will be done before Thanksgiving
- b. One Mile Restroom
- c. Paragliding in Upper Bidwell Park goes before Council this month
- d. Council Actions - reconsider relocation of Hwy 32 disc golf short course
- e. Correspondence - Comanche Creek letter from Lulisa Garcia

**5.2 Park Crews/Ranger Report**

There has been a high level of vandalism and graffiti.  
The Pool is open and the new dam is working fine.  
The new seasonal ranger is on and lifeguards are fully staffed.

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Street trees need more attention; there is a big backlog.

Star Thistle control trial is finished; spray is not effective after it grows too large. Plan is to finish Annie's Glen will be complete before the fall.

5.4 **Volunteer Coordinator Report** - Received and filed.

5.5 **Correspondence** - none

6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Scott Gormley asked for consideration of a concession stand. He has an Italian Ice business and would like to use half of the facility at One Mile to sell products. He would give 20% of profits to the park.

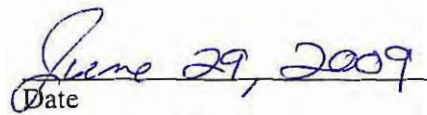
THE COMMISSION REQUESTED THAT THIS ITEM BE PLACED ON THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. to the next regular meeting of June 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 29, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Lucas at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber

Commissioners Present	Stephen Lucas, Acting Chair Aaron Skaggs Richard Ober Mary Brentwood Jane Turney
Commissioners Absent:	Lisa Emmerich Jamison Watts
Staffs Members Present	Dennis Beardsley, General Services director Linda Herman, Management Analyst Denice Britton, Urban Forester Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Public Comments**

Carla Moreno said a Park Watch volunteer's bike has been stolen and requested members of the public to please watch for it.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meetings of 04-27-09 and 05-26-09**

COMMISSIONER SKAGGS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2009 AND OF MAY 26, 2009. COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda None**

**4.2 Consideration of Request from the Chico Area Recreation and Park District to Build a New Accessible Restroom and Related Improvements in the Hooker Oak Recreation Area**

Steve Visconti, CARD Director, said the improvements will replace existing portable restrooms there. BPPC is asked to review and approve such changes because of CARD'S lease with the City of Chico.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PLAN AS SUBMITTED.  
COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

**4.3 Consideration of Request to Allow Italian Ice Concessions in the One-Mile Recreation Area**

BPPC is being asked to set a general policy regarding concessions in the Park and to state expectations for operation. City Attorney said there needs to be an open and equal selection process for all who may be interested. Any concessionaire at One Mile would have to share the space now being used by Lifeguards and Park Watch.

From the public:

Scott Gormley, of Scooters Italian Ice, said he would uphold the interests of the Park and give City 20% of his profits. He needs 150 square feet to operate but would consider bringing just his cart and not use the concession stand. He also suggested that the Commission look at more than just the lowest bidder.

Carla Moreno said Park Watch also shares space in the stand with Lifeguards. Patsy Schultz asked what happened to the last concessionaire (bankruptcy) and if the new policy would cover all of Bidwell Park.

Commissioner Skaggs is fully in support of moving forward with the bid process for a local business. Commissioner Turney is concerned about providing sweet snacks and hopes healthy snacks could be sold. Commissioner Ober said this is an intensive-use area and a permanent vender is appropriate there. He said vendors should agree to use the building as it stands and the policy should apply only to One Mile area for now.

Staff was requested to bring a draft policy and more information regarding the current use of the concession stand to the July general meeting.

**4.4 Report from the June 17, 2009 Volunteer Committee Meeting**

**Presentation and review of annual 2008 Volunteer Report**

Volunteer Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters showed a power point presentation prepared by a graphic design student at CSUC. It gave information on all that is being done by the volunteer program and showed photos of the work accomplished.

**4.5 Report from the May 28, 2009 Tree Committee Meeting**

**a. Review and consideration of Chico Municipal Code (CMC) revision to the current Street Tree Ordinance**

City of Chico does not take care of trees on private property, but the designation of a tree as City or private is sometimes a question. This revision and some education on the City web site could help the public understand the determination.

No action taken.

**b. Review and Consideration of Proposed Changes to the City's Recommended Street Tree List**

Urban Forester Denice Britton submitted revisions to the Street Tree List that reflect changes in the availability of certain tree species and their performance in the landscape.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST AS WRITTEN.  
COMMISSIONER TURNEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

Break from 8:30 to 8:40 p.m.

Present at 8:40: Lucas, Skaggs, Brentwood, Ober and Turney

**4.6 Update of the Interim Management Plan for the Hwy 32 Disc Facility(s)**

This is a continuation of the format to update this item every month. There is no date set for when the agreement with Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. (ORA) will come to BPPC. Next month staff will bring recommendations for wet weather use.

Commissioner Turney said ORA has its nonprofit status and asked if they have elected a board and can make their names and operating statement known.

From the public:  
Patsy Schultz had emailed several questions to the Commissioners regarding the Interim Management Plan but has not received any answers. She left the questions with staff for response.

## **5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **5.1 Director's Report**

- a. Verbena Fields fence came down today. Mechoopda Tribe placed their art work last week and all is now available to the public.
- b. Husa Ranch/Nob Hill has opened bids for playgrounds equipment
- c. One Mile restroom plans are proceeding

### **5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report**

City is waiting for decisions on state budget and local finances regarding summer employees. We are trying to keep the Conservation Corp and PIC workers, as they have been a great help.

### **5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

The Tree Ordinance revisions have gone to the Planning Commission, who made some changes that will go before City Council in July for their first review. Work is being done on Children's Playground design.

### **5.4 Volunteer Program Report**

Upward Bound will be working at One Mile on July 10, as well as working a few hours every morning elsewhere.

### **5.5 Correspondence/Communications**


- a. Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance- referred to Natural Resource Committee
- b. Josephine Guardino regarding aerial photography of the Hwy 32 Trailhead/Disc Golf site and response from GSD Beardsley

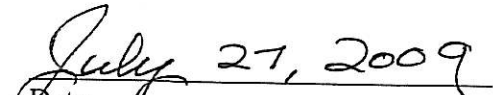
## **6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR                      None**

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. to the next regular meeting on July 27, 2009 at 6:30 in Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

  
Janice Heckerson

  
Date

**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JULY 27, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Emmerich at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Richard Ober  
   Mary Brentwood  
   Jamison Watts

Commissioners Absent:

Jane Turney

Staff Members Present

Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
Denice Britton, Urban Forester  
Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Special Recognition**

Chair Emmerich presented a certificate of appreciation to Curtis Menches, Street Tree Field Supervisor, upon his retirement on August 3, 2009 after thirty years of exemplary service to the City.

**1.3 Public Comments**                      None

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes of 06-29-09**

**2.2 Approval of Application and Permit for City Plaza use for the Community Action Agency of Butte County Inc. Pushcart Grandprix on September 20, 2009**

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**                      None

#### 4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 **Items Removed from Consent Agenda** None

#### 4.2 **Update of the Request to Allow Italian Ice Concessions in the One-Mile Recreation Area**

This item is continued for discussion from the meeting of June 29, 2009. The building requested for use of a concession was once a storage area and is now used by Lifeguards and Park Watch. It would need some work for ADA compliance and has electrical safety issues. Other possibilities to house a concession could be to bring in a building or a trailer or to expand the restroom building being planned on the north side of Sycamore Pool.

From the public:

Scott Gormley suggested a wall could be built down the middle of the existing building with a door for access on each side. He is circulating a petition saying the public favors having a concession at One Mile and they want it to be his.

Chair Emmerich said there is an open, public process required to select any concession that might be allowed in the future. The Commission adjourned their meeting to the One Mile Recreation Area for 6:30 p.m. on August 17, 2009. The public is invited to join Commissioners and staff in viewing the area for possible concession locations.

#### 4.3 **Report from the July 14, 2009 Natural Resources Committee Meeting**

- a. **Review and consideration of letter from the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (BCCWA) concerning erosion on Upper Park trails and park visitor use of the Yahí Trail.**

Committee suggests a) more surveillance along Yahí Trail to help reduce bicyclists using this pedestrian-only trail and b) holding a community forum about trail use and conditions at the BPPC regular meeting of October 27, 2009.

- b. **Review and consideration of Bidwell Park vegetation management update, January 2008 to May 2009.**

Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator, submitted a vegetation management update covering control of invasive weeds through pesticide application, hand removal, and mechanical methods. It also covers Park

restoration efforts and the programs and City support services that help sustain management efforts.

Commissioner Lucas said he is concerned about the poison oak along some trails. Ms. Smith-Peters said it has been sprayed and some volunteers have even trimmed it back.

From the public:

Grace Marvin said she sent Commissioners a letter about trail use and hopes her questions will be addressed at the September meeting.

#### **4.4 Review and Consideration of a Change in Commission Meeting Schedule**

Commissioner Brentwood requested BPPC consider changing the regular Monday night meetings to Thursday or Friday night. She is teaching at Sacramento State from August through November and her class schedule makes the commute difficult for Monday night.

General Services Director Beardsley said the current policy is that if a Commissioner misses two consecutive meetings that they are asked to resign. Attendance is considered to be very important.

Other Commissioners have schedule conflicts for Thursday and Friday. Ms. Brentwood withdrew her request.

#### **4.5 Review and Discussion of the Interim Management Plan for the Trailhead/Disc Golf Facility at Hwy 32 in Bidwell Park**

The City Attorney is reviewing the latest draft of the plan, especially mitigation and monitoring of the long course. It all should go to the Policy Committee in the next 30-45 days.

Staff is working with soil scientists in hopes that technology will aid in making informed decisions on a wet weather policy that are more objective. A draft of that policy should be ready in October.

Commissioner Watts is concerned that everything needs to be ready for a wet weather year. Commissioner Lucas said the lines of responsibility need to be made clear.

From the public: None



5. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

5.1 **Director's Report**

- a. Rod and Gun Club Annual Report enclosed
- b. CARD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)- "it is the first time in several tries that we have gotten this far" on a plan to transfer facilities between the two agencies
- c. City Council complete update, including Annie's Glen Bike Path and Bridge and Manzanita Corridor improvements.
- d. One Mile restroom construction to be completed in Fall of 2009

5.2 **Park Crews/Ranger's Report** received and filed

5.3 **Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Urban Forester Britton reported:  
Heritage Tree discussion at City Council was postponed  
There are six in-house applicants for Street Tree Field Supervisor job  
Grant funding was reinstated so Intern Scott Gregory is back  
This is summer limb drop season so there had been some overtime

5.4 **Volunteer Program Report**

Upward Bound work day had 20 teams of 8 each plus leaders

5.5 **Correspondence**

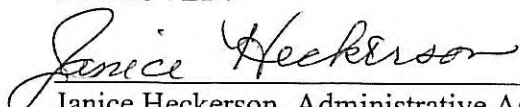
- a. Carla Moreno's letter regarding concessions at One Mile and response
- b. Grace Marvin referred to her letter about training for trail users and asked if BPPC is interested in such training. Ms. Smith-Peters said the Volunteer Committee is in favor of beginning a conversation of how people need to understand their rights and responsibilities as park users, but there is no training planned so far.

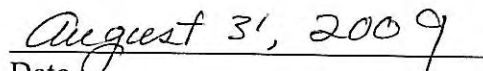
6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to an adjourned regular meeting of August 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at One Mile Recreation Area and to the next regular meeting of August 31, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Emmerich at 6:30 p.m. at the One Mile Recreation Area.

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Richard Ober  
   Mary Brentwood  
   Jamison Watts  
   Jane Turney

Staff Members Present      Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
   Denice Britton, Urban Forester  
   Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator  
   Ruben Martinez, Operations & Maintenance  
   Director

**1.2 Public Comments**      None

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**      None

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**      None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda**      None

**4.2 Update on the Request to Allow Concessions in the One-Mile Recreation Area**

The Commission and members of the public toured the current building where the Lifeguard program is located along with a utility room used by Park maintenance staff. They also viewed the small building that houses the Sycamore Pool dam computer operations and the future location of the new restroom building next to in the parking lot on the north side of the pool.

The Commission will continue discussion on this item at its regularly scheduled meeting on 8/31/09.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. to the regular meeting of August 31, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**APPROVED:**

Lise Smith-Peters  
Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst

9/13/09  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 31, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Emmerich at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber

Commissioners Present      Lisa Emmerich, Chair  
   Stephen Lucas  
   Aaron Skaggs  
   Richard Ober  
   Jane Turney

Commissioners Absent:      Mary Brentwood  
   Jamison Watats

Staff Members Present      Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director  
   Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager  
   Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst  
   Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Special Recognition**

Chair Emmerich presented a certificate of appreciation to Life Scout Gabriel Cottrell and Boy Scout Troop 2 for the rebuilding and renovation of picnic site #2 into an accessible site. It took 140 hours of work to complete

**1.3 Public Comments**

Susan Mason thanked volunteers for watering the blue oaks. Also she said there is a problem with erosion into the Creek at Manzanita at Vallombrosa that could effect the road. The item will go to Natural Resources Committee.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes of 07-27-09 and 08-17-09**

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**                      None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda** None

**4.2 Review and Consideration of a Request to Allow Concessions in the One-Mile Recreation Area**

General Services Director Beardsley reported there would be modifications involved in use of the existing building by a concessionaire. Questions would include who would do the work and who would be responsible for the cost. He suggests drawing a plan, evaluate the costs and proceed from there. He estimated it would take three months to look at proposals and sign a contract, the costs may be between \$5,000 and \$7,000, and probably no environmental review would be required.

Commissioner Turney would like a heavy emphasis on providing nutritious food. She is concerned about who might be excluded by the need to provide money up front.

Commissioner Lucas would like to have food at One Mile but at no cost to City.

Commissioner Ober asked if existing plans for restroom construction would accommodate changes for lifeguard needs; General Services Director Beardsley said the plan adds 200 square feet for storage space and that will be fine.

From the public:

Mary Lou Moore said the quality of the Park needs to be addressed; we don't need a commercial enterprise and maintenance needs to be discussed.

Tom Haithcock asked how much would City gain in revenue and maybe the City should get into the business.

Scott Gormley, of Scooters, agreed it is important to offer a variety of food. He would need a break-even analysis of how long it would take to recover \$7,000.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO PURSUE HAVING CONCESSIONS AT ONE-MILE RECREATION AREA. COMMISSIONER SCAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-1

YES: LUCAS, SCAGGS, OBER, EMMERICH

NO: TURNEY

It was agreed to send this item to Policy Advisory Committee. Chair Emmerich, and Commissioners Ober and Lucas volunteered to form a special committee if the Policy Committee is too backed up. Such meetings would be open to the public.

Break from 7:40 pm to 7:50 pm.

Present at 7:50 - Emmerich, Skaggs, Ober, Turney and Lucas.

**4.3 Report from the August 17, 2009 Policy Advisory Committee Meeting (Ober, Brentwood and Turney)**

**Review and Consideration of Lease Agreement with the Bidwell Park Golf Club, Inc (BGCI)**

General Services Director Beardsley said the current lease expires in October 2012 and this study is to address issues that are deemed problems in the current one. Now the Club receives 7% of the income and reports on that only; the vendor gets 93% and does not report. He recommends the new lease agreement be put in place in advance and then sent to Council for finalization.

Commissioner Turney asked to insert a provision that BGCI include

- 1) a report of chemicals used in Attachment G, page 5 (weed control)
- 2) "work with City's vegetation management plan guidelines" in G11
- 3) develop an approved tree list for the golf course in G12
- 4) test and report water quality quarterly in G16

Commissioner Lucas thinks the \$30,000 generated should go back to Bidwell Park. The lease should acknowledge that special events might include a disk golf tournament

From the public:

Susan Mason has mapped about 100,000 privots in the course;  
olive trees in a feral orchard draw fruit flies;  
consider reopening the Yahi and Annie Bidwell Trails through the course;  
many municipal courses give an audited financial report;  
wants a list of Board of Directors and the length of their service  
has found 20 courses that accommodate both golf and disk golf courses

Tom Haitcock said both uses were not presented at time of discussion; wait until time to review lease to fully vent.

The Committee will tour the golf course on 09-03-09 and review and consider the new lease at its meeting of 09-17-09.

**4.4 Review and Discussion of the Interim Management Plan for the Trailhead/Disc Golf Facility at Hwy 32 in Bidwell Park**

General Services Director Beardsley hoped Prop 84 would provide money for this project but new criteria does not qualify. Staff is still looking for a policy that would help public understand their decisions regarding wet weather use in all of the Park, such as one inch of rain closes trails for 24 hours. There will be a recommendation on wet weather policy next month.

Commissioner Turney said soil types are not consistent so apply accordingly; use information from weather station on line for the public to see; Benches were supposed to be removed in early summer but are still there let BPPC know who is on the board of Outside Recreation Advocacy (ORA)

Chair Emmerich thinks ORA needs to actively keep the public informed of their activities and asked if they have fund raising activities as part of the operating agreement.

From the public:

Tom Haithcock reminded BPPC they can direct the policy and information is available to make a decision. This unique area needs a unique policy - it is more sensitive and has environmental damage. Make the wet weather policy for a couple of seasons, as ORA is supposed to be looking for an alternate area. They should put together an agreement as we have with other nonprofits in the Park.

## **5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **5.1 Director's Report**

- a. **Husa Ranch/Nob Hill Park Playground** Work will start next week
- b. **Recreation Trail Grant Update** Work in Upper Park will start in spring of 2010 on projects from this \$175,000 grant
- c. **Proposition 84** New criteria eliminates this funding for trailhead.
- d. **Children's Playground** Bids due 09-17-09 for equipment.
- e. **One Mile Restroom** Bid is out for work this fall

John Copeland was recognized upon his passing for all of the work he did in Bidwell Park, on the Park Commission and for Park Watch.

### **5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report**

Caper Acres will be closed in September for restoration at Birthday Ring 1 and Bunker Hill, also vita course installation and new seeding at One Mile.

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Sr. Tree Maintenance Worker Dave Bettencourt was appointed new Field Supervisor. Scott Gregory is making good progress on inventory.

**5.4 Volunteer Program Report**

Management Analyst Smith-Peters continues to work with students from Chico High, Butte College, and CSUC in cultivating native plant seeds, mapping projects on various items in the Park, habitate restoration, and working to earn community service credit.

**5.5 Correspondence-Communication**

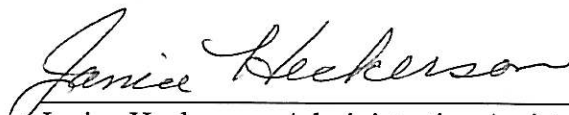
A letter from Wes Dempsey listing some historical requests from special interest groups for use of Bidwell Park and his recommendation that all such requests involve a written contract with the City, including a bond.

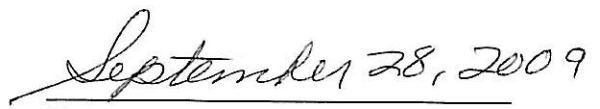
**6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**                      None

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting of September 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Emmerich at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present	Lisa Emmerich, Chair Stephen Lucas Aaron Skaggs Richard Ober Mary Brentwood Jamison Watts Jane Turney
Staff Members Present	Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst Alicia M. Rock, Assistant City Attorney Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Special Recognition**

Chair Emmerich presented a certificate of appreciation to Georgie Bellin and Anastacia Snyder of Chico Rotary for their work in planting flowers at Wildwood Park and of painting picnic sites along Centennial Avenue and Five Mile Recreation Area. Their teams donated 52 hours of labor to the Park and purchased flowers and paint for the projects..

**1.3 Public Comments**    None

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Review and Consideration of Application and Permit for Park use from Catalyst Domestic Violence Services' "Silent and Shameful No More" Public Awareness Art Demonstration October 12 through 16, 2009 at Children's Playground.**

This item was removed from Consent Agenda by Commissioner Brentwood.

**2.2 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of 08-31-09**

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 08-31-09.  
COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

### 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### 3.1 Review and Consider Action of an Appeal to Deny a Street Tree Removal Permit at 176 E. Sacramento Avenue

Staff denied removal of a Little Leaf Linden to Dick Sullivan because the tree is in healthy condition, is not a hazard, and has environmental and aesthetic value.

From the public:

Dick Sullivan said the tree is a nuisance. It drops pollen and hazardous balls in the spring and a fine, sticky mist coats his car. This street has restricted parking and, after the tree is gone, he would apply to put in a driveway so he would have his own parking spot.

Commissioners discussed alternatives to removing the tree such as changing the current restriction on parking and constructing a parking space on Mr. Sullivan's lot off the alley.

COMMISSIONER WATTS MOVED TO DENY THE APPEAL. COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-3.

YES: WATTS, BRENTWOOD, OBER AND TURNEY

NO: SKAGGS, EMMERICH AND LUCAS

Chair Emmerich would like to more information about the parking issue.

### 4. REGULAR AGENDA

#### 4.1 Items Removed from the Regular Agenda

**Review and Consideration of Application and Permit for Park use from Catalyst Domestic Violence Services' "Silent and Shameful No More" Public Awareness Art Demonstration October 12 through 16, 2009 at Children's Playground.**

Commissioner Brentwood questioned if the art at this location might be disturbing to the children.

From the public:

Lindsey Hersher, from Catalyst, said this is the optimum place for public to notice the art. Domestic violence impacts the society at large and this display would spark awareness and support discussion of the issue.

COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.  
COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

Break from 7:20 TO 7:30

Present at 7:30: Emmerich, Brentwood, Skaggs, Ober, Turney, Lucas and Watts.

#### **4.2 Review and Consideration of Wet Weather Use - Bidwell Park**

General Services Director Beardsley said staff has been using subjective methods in deciding when to close trails in Middle and Upper Park for bikes and equestrians. A new approach to decision making would be based on measurable information. The public would be informed of trail status by telephone, web access, and news media.

Staff has been working with Chico Environmental to develop a Wet Weather Use Program. The basic framework of the proposal covers monitoring, consistency, and interpreting data. The proposed plan would require occasionally diverting some existing staff and the cost of equipment is minimal. The Program is designed to be flexible and adaptive during its implementation with periodic updates to the Commission.

From the public:

Lon Glazner - there are different solutions to erosion and compacting such as using concrete pads, water bars and mulch

Eric Willkerson, a recreation major, asked how often would staff follow up on conditions and how soon would you measure after a rain?

Tom Haithcock- it is wise to gather as much data as we can, but the course is in disrepair and needs to be vacated until militations can be done.

Greg Payne - The erosion is mainly in two places; teaching people to be environmental stewards is most effective.

Commissioners discussed ways to gather information, figures upon which to base the formula, and methodology to evaluate cumulative data to see if the formula is working.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO ADOPT A CHANGE TO .75 BASED ON A CHICO STATION FOR BOTH LOCATIONS. COMMISSIONER WATT SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

Break from 8:50 to 9:00 p.m.

Present at 9:00: Emmerich, Brentwood, Skaggs, Ober, Turney, Lucas and Watts.

Chair Emmerich asked the Commission to consider Item 4.4 before Item 4.3.

#### **4.4 Report from Policy Advisory Committee Meeting of 09-01-09**

## **Review and Consideration of Lease Agreement with the Bidwell Park Golf Club, Inc (BGCI)**

City of Chico wants to give BGCI a new lease that allows them to plan how to structure their management and capital means over a period of 25 years and give the City a firm handle on cost and revenues. The Committee discussed modifications to the current lease that includes new performance standards, revising the rent structure, and sale of City's used equipment to BGCI.

From the public:

Roger Clark, President of BGCI, said General Services Director Beardsley and the Policy Committee did a great job.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BGCI AS WRITTEN. COMMISSIONER TURNEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

### **4.3 Interim Management Plan for the Hwy 32 Trailhead/Disc Golf Site**

City Council has approved developing a trailhead/disc golf facility in Upper Bidwell Park that will take one to two years to complete. An Interim Management Plan is needed until the project is completed and final requirements are fully engaged. A draft of that Interim Plan is being discussed at BPPC meetings each month.

General Services Director Beardsley said all benches have been removed. Staff reviews the site once a week and puts chips down where needed. He is working with John Lane, of Chico Environmental, on erosions issues. A grant to build the staging area is not available. There is no plan yet with Outdoor Activities Advocacy for sequencing or timing or liability

Commissioner Watts said our hands are tied with implementing mitigation; however, the site is a hot spot so needs to be more actively dealt with. Known resources are not being protected and he would like to discuss some middle ground. The Management Master Plan has some recommendations.

Commissioner Turney found a disc golf mitigation and monitoring plan done by EDAW and would like a discussion of it.

General Services Director Beardsley said early work on the area might compound problems. This area is to be treated as Bidwell Park should be treated regarding implementation of mitigation.

From the Public:

Lon Glazner suggested identifying invasive plants to the public in the spring.

**4.5 Report from the September 24, 2009 Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting**

- a. Starthistle Control Project - there is a possibility of using a beetle as well as Mile Stone in eradication.
- b. Bidwell Park Vegetation Management Priorities - discussion continued to next meeting
- c. Creek bank erosion on Big Chico Creed adjacent to Vallombrosa Avenue downstream from Manzanita Avenue - City would like to work with CSUC and may have a hydrologist look at water flow to consider more options.
- d. Commission 10-26-09 agenda item on trail use in Bidwell Park - staff will welcome questions and comments.

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**5.1 Director's Report**

- a. Ad Hoc Committee for concessions at One Mile Recreation Area is scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 1, at 5:30 pm.
- b. Husa Ranch/Nob Hill Playground Construction - proceeding
- c. Children's Playground - closed October 5 - 7 for major maintenance
- d. Ceres/Highland Park - transferring the Park to CARD
- e. Iron Canyon Update - project stalled for funding
- f. Smoking policy to Council - regarding City Plaza
- g. Fall Trail Program - there is a grant for two to three years' work

**5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report**

There is a joint project with CARD this fall to remove old telephone poles around Sycamore Field and replace them with a split rail fence.

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Urban Forest Manager Britton said review of the Heritage Tree Program was pushed back one more Council Meeting. The tree inventory is moving along and she is working to keep service requests up-to-date. Crew is working with PG&E to reduce areas of limb breakage. A new Landscaping Act has potential to change how irrigation is designed and built. CCC did great work in Verbena Fields. Mitigation trees are going in at Annie's Glen.

**5.4 Volunteer Program Report**

Management Analyst Smith-Peters reported there will be a record program with groups from CSUC this fall, including 30 people from CAVE. Seven students from Chico High did their first field day in the Park to get cuttings for their greenhouse.

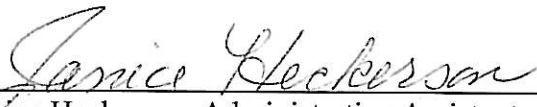
**5.5 Correspondence-Communication - None**

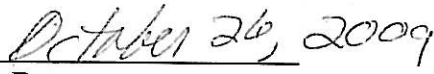
**6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting of October 26, 2009 at Council Chambers.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 26, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Emmerich at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present	Lisa Emmerich, Chair Stephen Lucas Richard Ober Mary Brentwood Jamison Watts Jane Turney
Commissioner Absent	Aaron Skaggs
Staff Members Present	Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst Alicia M. Rock, Assistant City Attorney Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Public Comment**

Susan Mason has observed an increase in cats in Bidwell Park and requested that the problem not be allowed to get worse again.

Linda Hamilton, Emily Alma and Nani Tevis asked the BPPC for guidance with the Southwest Neighborhood restoration project to improve the area at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hazel Streets adjacent to Little Chico Creek.

Chair Emmerich requested that the issue of cats be taken up by the Volunteer Committee and the 9<sup>th</sup> and Hazel Restoration project to the Natural Resources Committee for further consideration.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of 09-26-09**

Commissioner Brentwood asked to change Item 4.5 to say "City would like to work with CSUC" not that it "is working" with CSUC on the project.

COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED  
COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

### **3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **3.1 COMMUNITY FORUM ON UPPER BIDWELL PARK TRAIL CONDITIONS AND USE**

General Services Director Dennis Beardsley and Management Analyst Lise Smith-Peters provided a power point presentation showing the trails and maintenance projects that have been completed and are planned for fall 2009 and spring 2010. Subject matter included Bidwell Park Master Management Plan trail objectives, the general conditions of trails, The Trail Manual, The Adopt-a-Trail Program, and the possibility of forming a Trail Ambassadors program. The Wet Weather Policy will be explained more in depth as an agenda item of its own.

The presentation was followed by comments from the public:

Alan Gair - a trail near Lindo Channel has been blocked for months by construction

Josephine Guardino, Friends of Bidwell Park - would like to place a kiosk at Monkey Face and make a brochure of trail information

Susan Mason -asked if Middle Trail would become available to bikes in all weather. The answer is "yes".

Tom Haithcock - public needs a policy that recognizes need for different considerations for different trails

Hyland Fisher - he has lived in Nevada City, where work on trails is all by volunteers, and in Portland OR, where the big park has no bike trails at all.

Dave Garcia, chair of Sierra Club Yahi group - thanks to City for being progressive in their work on the trails.

Commissioners and staff had no recommendations for changing the current trail use policy.

### **4. REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda    None**

It was agreed to move Item 4.4 to be heard at this time.

#### **4.4 Reconsideration of the Commission's Action Regarding a Street Tree Removal Permit - 176 E. Sacramento Avenue**



At it's September 25, 2009 meeting, BPPC denied an appeal for removal of a tree at the above location. Commissioner Watts asked Commissioners to reconsider that decision.

COMMISSIONER WATTS MOVED TO RECONSIDER DENYING THE APPEAL TO REMOVE A TREE AT 176 E. SACRAMENTO. CHAIR EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION.

From the public;

Patsy Schulz - lives near that address and thinks removal might not be the answer but parking issues need to be looked into further at that location.

Alan Gair - challenges the whole idea; the appellant has a parking space and drive marked out.

Tom Haithcock - this would be setting a bad precedent

Commissioner Watts withdrew the motion and asked to put it on the next agenda when all commissioners would be present.

Commissioner Brentwood may not be present for the November meeting.

Break from 7:45 to 8:00 pm

Present at 8:00 p.m. - Emmerich, Brentwood, Ober, Lucas, Turney and Watts. Absent: Skaggs

#### **4.2 Update and Discussion of the Management of Hwy 32 Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead**

City Council has approved developing a trailhead/disc golf facility in Upper Park Bidwell Park that will take one to two years to complete. Staff has drafted an Operating Agreement which will first be reviewed by the Policy Committee and to the full Commission for consideration. A draft of the Interim Plan is discussed at BPPC meetings each month.

General Services Director Beardsley stated that the City Manager has put a hold on \$50,000 on funds anticipated for minor expenditures to keep the project moving ahead. As a result, the Director has been using discretionary funds from the Park budget for minor expenditures analysis.

From the public:

Josephine Guardino - identify the problems on hole-by-hole basis and take out what we cannot afford to fix; she wants to see some action take place at the site.

Greg Payne - make an attempt to open channels again between people who have common intention to have it work well. Patching tone poles could be a positive example of doing a project well.

Lon Glazner, President of Outdoor Activities Advocacy (Chico Outsiders) - they

have been focusing on building their organization and now can move on to more site oriented projects.

Commissioner Ober suggested scheduling a time to tour the site again with Commissioners and all interested parties.

Commissioner Turney is glad discussion is moving toward doing something that does not violate current policies. Closing the long course during the coming wet weather season is an option, even if it is unpopular.

Commissioner Watts said need to be realistic about the time line, things take longer than hoped. Do more mulching around Blue Oaks, put fencing around areas with spring flowers, and keep people using only one path between holes.

Chair Emmerich said the kiosk is showing the public that something is happening. The Operating Agreement between the Outside Recreation Advocates, Inc. and the City will go to the Policy Advisory Committee soon and perhaps to Natural Resources Committee later for vegetation management issues.

General Services Director Beardsley said the proposed Operating Agreement with Outside Recreation Advocates, Inc. is prepared for Policy Committee review and requested that the process be allowed to continue. Once the Agreement is approved, work on specific aspects of the disc golf course can begin which will address the concerns of erosion, soil issues and course realignment according to the approved plan. In the meantime, work is proceeding in specific areas. For example, the two large areas with erosion problems are receiving staff and volunteer attention now.

#### **4.3 Update of Wet Weather Use Plan - Bidwell Park**

In October, staff began using new methods to determine closure of trails to bicycles and equestrians in Middle and Upper Park. They took a field trip to monitoring areas east of Parking Lot E in Upper Park and at Hwy 32 disc golf site and will continue to check soil moisture with a gauge, by walking the trail to check for soil moisture, checking rain gauges, measuring depth of foot impression in the soil, and viewing precipitation data at Cohasset and Paradise weather stations on the internet. Results of tracking that information will be available to the public via telephone and web site 24/7.

From the public:

Lon Glazner - the success of the plan is not by the numbers but by how well the public responds to it.

Josephine Gaurdino - expressed concerns about the reported existence of vernal

pools at the disc golf site. She will send a letter to follow up on that point.  
Tom Haithcock - absent the ability to mitigate, the site should be closed at least in most damaging times.  
Greg Payne - City and Outsiders are working on an operating plan, not a lease. He invites more communication with Tom H. and Friends of Bidwell Park.

Commissioner Turney suggested discussions be at Natural Resources Committee meetings so public can have access to the information.

General Services Director Beardsley will check that all procedures are followed and there will be follow up information regarding vernal pools.

Information only.

#### **4.5 Review and Recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Concessions at One Mile Recreation Area**

The request for proposal (RFP) for a concession vendor at One Mile outlines what information a proposal must give to City and the scope of services the vendor must agree to provide to City and public.

From the public: none

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AS WRITTEN. COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-1-1.

YES: OBER BRENTWOOD, EMMERICH, WATTS, AND LUCAS

NO: TURNEY

ABSENT: SKAGGS

Commissioner Turney wants to create a more creative program as an example of how to serve wholesome food in a sustainable manner, so she cannot support this RFP.

## **5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **5.1 Director's Report**

- a. Update on Verbena Fields - interpretive signs are beautiful and appreciated
- b. Restroom at One Mile Recreation Area - going out to bid in November
- c. Arundo Donax Project Restarts - good news

The two parts of Bidwell Park are now connected; it is fun to go through the

connection from Annie's Glen.

**5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report** Received and filed

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Urban Forest Manager Britton said the last storm was not as bad as expected and clean up went well. Trees are being planted along East 8<sup>th</sup> Street and some trees along the bike path were removed as there was not enough room and no system to water them.

**5.4 Volunteer Program Report**

Management Analyst Smith-Peters said about 150 people worked at "Make a Difference Day" cleaning up the Creek and some trails. About 60 volunteers worked in the Park the Sunday before for "Love Chico".

**5.5 Correspondence/Communication** None

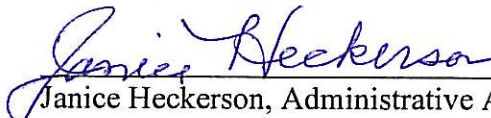
**6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

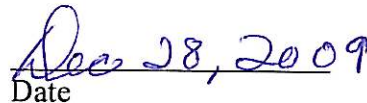
Carlo Moreno, Park Watch, wants to see the specifications for a vendor at One Mile and suggests no use of Styrofoam containers.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting of November 30, 2009 at 6:30 p.m .in Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 30, 2009

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Emmerich at 6:30 pm in Council Chamber.

**1.1 Roll Call**

Commissioners Present:	Lisa Emmerich, Chair Arron Skaggs Richard Ober Stephen Lucas Jamison Watts Jane Turney
Commissioner Absent:	Mary Brentwood
Staff Present:	Dennis Beardsley, General Services Director Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager Alicia M. Rock, Assistant City Attorney Lisa Smith-Peters, Management Analyst Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

**1.2 Public Comments (regarding items not on the agenda) None**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of 10/26/09**

Minutes from the meeting of 10/26/09 will be on the agenda for 12/28/09.

**2.2 Approval of a Request from Rabbi Mendy Zwiebel of the Chabad Jewish Center to Place a Menorah at City Plaza from December 11, 2009 to December 15, 2009**

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO PLACE A MENORAH IN CITY PLAZA. COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda None**

#### **4.2 Report from the Natural Resources Committee Meeting of 11/12/09**

**a. Review and consideration of the 9<sup>th</sup> and Hazel greenway restoration project**

City staff from Department of Neighborhood Services and from Planning Department met with the Committee to answer questions on how to proceed with the project. Zoning in Use Permit will be addressed in the General Plan update but there are no objections to moving forward now.

From the public: none  
No action required.

**b. Review and approve the 2009-2010 Bidwell Park Vegetation Management Plan priorities**

A list of vegetation management priorities was formerly developed through meetings of interested parties. Many of the earlier projects have been implemented and the updated program is submitted for approval. Such information will come before BPPC each year for review.

Commissioner Turney would like staff to host a public form to discuss vegetation management. It could coincide with mailings to Lindo Channel residents sent out before June 1 each year.

Commissioner Watts would like to have every cell on the table be filled.

From the public: None

COMMISSIONER WATTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PRIORITIES AS PRESENTED.  
COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0

#### **4.3 Report from the Volunteer Committee meeting of 11/18/09**

**Review and discuss Chico Cat Coalition's current activities**

Chico Cat Coalition was established ten years ago to address the problem of an increasing feral cat population in Bidwell Park. The coalition has removed, neutered, fed and placed approximately 800 cats but now is limited in its work by its lease that requires no more cats at the barn and by a lack of volunteer help. It has set up feeding stations in locations where cats are easiest to be removed and removes all other feeding stations found.

Commissioner Ober said it is a community problem and wants a public form in February or March to re-establish interest and support in solving the cat problem.

Chair Emmerich asked staff to set up a form and give the dates for it at the BPPC December regular meeting.

#### **4.4 Report from the Policy Advisory Committee meeting of 11//19/09**

##### **Review and discuss the proposed Operating Agreement with Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. for the development and management of the Hwy 32 disc golf courses**

Commissioner Ober, Committee Chair, said they would provide an opportunity for comments on each line of the document and may need two more meetings to get through all of it. Then it goes to City Attorney for review.

Commissioner Watts will email his comments to Committee before next meeting. The Committee's next meeting is 12/03/09 and all are invited.

From the public:

Greg Gibson said the course has been a good thing for him but is surprised to hear about studies being done after ten years of use.

#### **4.5 Update and Discussion of the Management of Hwy 32 Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead**

General Services Director Beardsley said Army Corp.of Engineers has determined there are no wetlands on the site and reference to such has been deleted. Staff is still collecting data on a wet weather closure formula and will present more at December meeting. So far the data has not been user-friendly and he has received many comments that indicate we need to take a better look We are still learning. For now the Ranger can make a call from observation and without the formula data.

From the public:

Don Hansler heard the Ranger say her moister readings did not reach a specific limit so she could not open the course last Sunday, though he picked up some dust and left no foot print. We are tired of not being able to play on our course. Greg Payne said he is trying to educate the public but there are conflicts between observation and formula.

5. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

5.1 **Director's Report**

- a. **Report on Verbena Fields** 99% completed; waiting for seeds to grow
- b. **Update on Husa Ranch Playground** done and in operation
- c. **Children's Playground** work on playground put off to March 2010 and bid going out this week
- d. **One Mile Concessions Request** will be distributed soon
- e. **Bidwell Golf Course Lease Update** approved by City Council
- f. **Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project** still working on funding and approval of Mitigated Negative Declaration

5.2 **Park Crews/Rangers Report**

Twice the beavers have clogged up the weir at Five Mile to divert as much as 3/4 of Big Chico Creek into Lindo Channel. The number of dams built is amazing and have been cleared twice.

5.3 **Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report**

Heritage Tree Ordinance to Council on 12/15/09

The department has received a \$100,000 grant.

Commissioner Lucas is concerned a flower bed was planted in Annie's Glen without BPPC review.

5.4 **Volunteer Program Report** Received and filed

5.5 **Correspondence Communication**

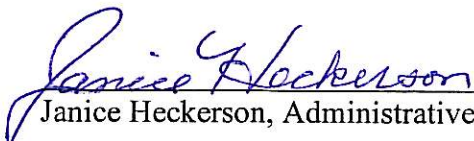
Letter from Lloyd Andrade, former Park employee, suggesting maintenance at Salmon Hole and response from General Services Director Beardsley.

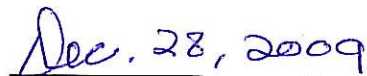
6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting of December 28, 2009 at 6:30 pm in Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

  
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

  
Date



**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 28, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Steve Lucas at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present	Stephen Lucas, Acting Chair Mary Brentwood Aaron Skaggs Rich Ober Jane Turney
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Commissioners Absent	Lisa Emmerich Jamison Watts
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**1.2 Special Presentation**

Commissioner Lucas accepted a check for \$3,106 from Lon Glazner of the Nico Project for maintenance and upkeep of the Nico play area in Caper Acres. Mr. Glazner presented the background of this project and its dedication to young Nico Cardoza.

Commissioner Lucas reported that Commissioner Aaron Skaggs was leaving the Commission in order to pursue an internship with the CA State Legislature in Sacramento. Commissioner Skaggs received a "Certificate of Honor" for his service on the BPPC.

**1.3 Public Comments (Regarding items not on the agenda)**

Josephine Guardino expressed concern over the erosion problems that have developed on a non-official trail that visitors use between parking Lot B east to Horseshoe Lake.

Scott Huber of Altacal Audubon Society thanked the Commission for looking over the materials on protecting wildlife and information provided by his organization on the trap, spay/neuter and release programs.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meetings of 10/26/09 and 11/30/09**

COMMISSIONER BRENTWOOD MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 10/26/09 AND 11/30/09. COMMISSIONER SKAGGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0-2.

3. **NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

4.1 **Items removed from the Consent Agenda** None

4.2 **Report from the Policy Advisory Committee 12/14/09 Meeting**

Commissioner Ober, Chair of the Policy Advisory Committee, gave an update on the progress made throughout three committee meetings between the City of Chico and Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. (ORAI). ORAI and Friends of Bidwell Park members have each contributed to the discussion.

Commissioner Ober discussed the new proposal from ORAI, which includes using Proposition 40 funds of \$52,000 toward building the long course, implementing mitigations and installing 18 tone polls in area parks while closing down the short course for at least 2 years and begin looking for a new short course site.

General Services Director Beardsley stated that the Committee's decision to offer a motion to the BPPC is in accordance with the Chico City Council's directive for building the long course. He also stated that Proposition 40 is to be used primarily for developing recreational activities and some funds could be used incidentally for restoration efforts at the Hwy 32 site. The funds must be expended by March 2011.

Commissioner Turney asked if Proposition 40 funds could be used for bike trails and General Services Director Beardsley stated in the affirmative and also that some of the Proposition 40 funds would help with Children's Playground.

From the Public:

Lon Glazner of ORAI stated that fundraising has been on-going and that this proposal would allow the group to search for an alternative site for the short course and provide disc golf players alternative sites to practice. He stated that ORAI had already been working on the development of 8 of the holes with mitigation plans.

Josephine Guardino of Friends of Bidwell Park requested to see a project list for the Proposition 40 funds. She said that there is support for mitigation as

reflected in the EIR. Josephine felt that the Council's original directive could lead to the closure permanently of the short course after 5 years.

Commissioner Turney felt that the ORAI proposal for Proposition 40 funds was presented to the Committee without enough lead time to consider the matter fully. She also questioned what Park projects that Proposition 40 funds had been allocated to.

General Services Director Beardsley stated that other Proposition 40 funded projects include consideration of a restroom at the Observatory; the One Mile Restroom on the north side and some elements of Children's Playground.

Commissioner Ober stated that time is critical and that the ORAI proposal should move forward so that progress in implementing the Hwy 32 Disc Golf long course could continue and a search for an alternative site for the short course could be found.

Commissioner Brentwood stated her desire to see the project move forward and was pleased with ORAI's decision to stop playing the short course and to take it out, letting the land recover more quickly while the group looks for another site.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED THAT

1) THE CITY PURSUE \$52,000 IN PROPOSITION 40 FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE DISC GOLF LONG COURSE PROJECT AT THE HWY 32 SITE INCLUDING ALL MITIGATION MEASURES CALLED FOR BY THE EIR APPROVED AS PART OF THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN. A PORTION OF THESE PROPOSITION 40 FUNDS WILL ALSO BE USED TO PLACE 18 DISC GOLF TARGETS IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS IN EXISTING PARKS/FACILITIES OUTSIDE BIDWELL PARK;

2) THAT ALL TONE POLES/ TARGETS (AND ANY OTHER DISC GOLF COURSE "AMENITIES" SHOULD EXIST) BE REMOVED FROM THE "SHORT COURSE" AT THE HWY 32 SITE AS SOON AS FEASIBLE PURSUANT TO THE MOU (OPERATING AGREEMENT). SIGNAGE INDICATING THAT THE "SHORT COURSE IS "CLOSED" WILL BE PLACED IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS AT THE SITE. THIS "SHORT COURSE" CLOSURE WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR TWO YEARS WHILE POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE SITES ARE IDENTIFIED AND EVALUATED;

3. THAT THE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THE SHORT COURSE BE INITIATED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE GOAL OF IDENTIFYING AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION FOR THE SHORT COURSE WITHIN TWO YEARS. COMMISSIONER SKAGS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-1-2

COMMISSIONER LUCAS OFFERED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT THAT THE MOTION SHOULD INCLUDE "PURSUANT TO THE OPERATING AGREEMENT."

#### **4.3 Update and Discussion of the Management of HWY 32 Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead**

The General Services Director gave an update to how the interim management plan has been proceeding, including the repair of some areas of trails that were eroding.

From the Public:

Josephine Guardino asked that the restoration for the Disc Golf site be agendaized to the Natural Resources Committee. She also feels that the restoration and trail work projects should be discussed with the Commission prior to proceeding with them. No action was taken.

#### **4.4 Update on Wet Weather Use Plan – Bidwell Park**

General Services Director Beardsley stated that this is an adaptive measurement plan. The Park Rangers have been gathering data and park staff has worked with Chico Environmental to refine the measurements to take into account different types of soil, and locations of where measurements are taken and observations in the field.

Ranger Jessica described some of the challenges in measuring the moisture differences found at Horseshoe Lake and the Disc Golf course and the inconsistency of when to re-open these different locations. She stated that the Rangers are trying to educate park users about the wet weather policy and its role in protecting the park's resources.

General Services Director Beardsley also explained that currently if the soil readings are measure saturation then the trails and disc golf site are closed for a full 24 hours after the rain event.

Commissioner Lucas asked clarification of the phrase "event." General Services Director stated that an event is considered enough precipitation, using all of the measurement gauges, to trigger a closure.

Commissioner Turney requested more specification on what constitutes a rain event.

From the Public:

Josephine Guardino asked if there was a fine for being on a bike on an officially closed trail and how often tickets are given. Ranger Jessica stated

that citations are approximately \$105.00 and that if caught, Rangers typically utilize the experience to educate visitors unless there is continued non-compliance. She said they have written only 2-3 this year and tend to rely on warnings. Ms. Guardino stated that the bicycle ruts are very deep on the unofficial trail from parking lot B toward Horseshoe Lake and that pedestrians are causing erosion damage as well.

**5.1 Director's Report**

- a. **Update on One Mile Concessions Walk through** – Park staff and committee members met with interested vendors for a walk through on 1/17/09. Building Inspector Scott Arcoraci explained Americans with Disabilities compliance.
- b. **Public Forum on Feral and Abandoned** – scheduled for 2/24/10 in the City Chamber. This is not an official Park Commission meeting.

**5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report** – Received and filed

**5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report** – Tree Preservation Ordinance will go to Council on 1/19/10. The City of Chico received a \$100,000 federal stimulus grant for pruning trees along South Park and Petersen Drive.

**5.4 Volunteer Program Report** -- Received and filed

**5.5 Correspondence Communication**

**6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** None

Demi Whiting of the Chico Equestrian Association stated the new equestrian crossings are very difficult to cross and pose some safety issues. She also stated that the horse mounting blocks were put in backwards. General Services Director Beardsley said that blocks would be corrected.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting of January 25, 2010 at 6:30 pm in Council Chamber.

APPROVED:



Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst

