

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of January 31, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Oath of Office for New Commissioners – City Clerk Debbie Presson and Vice-Mayor Jim Walker

Mark Herrera, Jim Moravec, Clay Craig and Rich Ober were sworn into office as Commissioners for the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission.

1.2. Call to Order

Acting Chair Richard Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Vice-Mayor Jim Walker welcomed the Commissioners and said he has done nothing more important than to serve as a Bidwell Park and Playground Commissioner.

1.3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

After a brief discussion the following motions were made.

MOTION: Richard Ober for Chair. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Mikles. **AYES:** (6) Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera, Ober. **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** (1) Brentwood.

MOTION: Lisa Emmerich for Vice-Chair. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** (6) Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera, Ober. **NOES:** (0) **ABSENT:** (1) Brentwood

1.4. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Clay Craig
Jim Moravec
Jim Mikles
Richard Ober
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera

Commissioners absent:

Mary Brentwood

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst/Volunteer Coordinator), Jessica Erdahl (Senior Ranger) Martin Whitehead (Field Supervisor), and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant).

1.5. Special Recognition – Love Chico Volunteer Event in Bidwell Park

Ryan Schaffer, Amy Waldlow and Andrew Burchett from Neighborhood Church received a certificate of appreciation for their work in Bidwell Park and the city bike path as part of the Love Chico Volunteer event, held on September 26, 2010.

2. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

From the Public: Richard Gittelson has reviewed past minutes of the BPPC and found that "Public Comments" appeared at the beginning and "Business from the Floor" came at the end. "Public Comments" was not often used but has now disappeared from the agenda. Mr. Gittelson also noted that at the December 2010 regular BPPC meeting, the naming of the disc golf course involved very little public and commissioner input and in the future should receive much more open and transparent involvement. Mr. Gittelson requested a return to public comment at the beginning and business from floor at the end of BPPC meetings.

Considerable discussion ensued among Commissioners and questions asked of Staff. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said this change was made last year for a number of reasons, including that items on the regular agenda are priority items that often require urgent BPPC attention and public input. No action can be taken on items raised during Business from the Floor, yet having it before regular agenda items, potentially distracts the BPPC from action on priority items. Opportunity for public comment are possible in a number of ways, including public comments during meetings, but also by letters, phone calls, and email. Staff suggested that this issue be considered as a future agenda item for additional discussion.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

3.2. **Consideration of a Permit Application for the 32nd Annual Endangered Species Faire.** Butte Environmental Council requests a permit to host an educational faire at Cedar Grove on May 7th, 2011. This will be the 32nd year the organization has held this event and they anticipate approximately 3,000 participants.

3.3. **CARD request to waive reservation and vendor fees for the Spring Jamboree; 4th of July Community Celebration; and Pastels on the Plaza**

Item removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Emmerich.

MOTION: Approve items 1 and 2 of Consent Agenda **MADE BY:** Emmerich **SECOND:** Mikles **AYES:** (6) Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera, Ober **NOES:** (0) **ABSENT:** (1) Brentwood

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

Item 3.3 – CARD request to waive reservation and vendor fees for the Spring Jamboree; 4th of July Community Celebration; and Pastels on the Plaza

Commissioner Emmerich asked if waiving fees for these events was traditionally done in the past. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said that it appeared that they were considered separately. Staff bundled them together for efficiency.

MOTION: Approve CARD's request to waive reservation fees for above events. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** (6) Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera, Ober. **NOES:** (0) **ABSENT:** (1) Brentwood.

4. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1. Consideration of Chico Rod and Gun Club Park Gate Request

The City of Chico implemented earlier gate closing hours during the months of October through March as a cost cutting measure and to concentrate our staff time during hours when users are most active. The shortened hours at the gate in Middle Park limits the hours of operation for the Chico Rod and Gun Club (CRGC) and therefore the services they provide to the community.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said the CRGC notes that winter night classes and clean-up often go to 11:00 p.m. and earlier hours for gate closure may be a problem. The municipal code states that it is unlawful for cars to remain in the Park after hours so this issue will need to be reviewed by the Commission. Staff recommends continuance of the current temporary solution (an issued key and/or installation of an inline lock) while a long term solution is explored and reached by the start of the next Fall/Winter hour change on October 1, 2011. Considerations include security issues and staff time. Resource Manager Efseaff introduced Ranger Erdahl and Field Supervisor Whitehead, who are here to answer any questions.

From the public:

C. Bryan Graves is an instructor for the Rod and Gun Club. He is often last to leave and locks the gate. He knows Park rules and member owned cars; any others are reported. There are about 20 keys to the Rod and Gun Club building issued out to members.

Blair Snyder, CRGC President said the Club is willing to work on a solution. They have adjusted the hours on most of the programs but participants come from other towns in the area and do stay late.

Neil Potts, past president of the Club, would like to work with BPPC for long-term solutions. He recommends the in-line lock solution.

Bruce Gray said public shooting sessions start at 7:00 pm on Wednesday nights but some programs have very flexible times. Even locking up at 9:30 would be better.

BPPC members concurred with Staff's temporary recommendation and work toward a long term solution before the next winter season. No action taken at this time.

5.2. Tree Planting Program

Urban Forest Manager recommends a new citizen tree planting program to enhance the number of trees currently planted, while saving crew time on tree planting. Tree crews will continue to focus on young tree pruning during the spring months.

Urban Forest Manager Britton said adopting a citizens' tree planting program would educate the public and encourage property owners to take more ownership in caring for the trees planted. She will develop a program where citizens can apply for a permit to plant a free tree from the approved list. Staff would review the application, help with planting instructions, and follow up with help on any questions. City would take over maintenance after three years.

Commissioner Mikles thinks it is a great program and encourages support. Commissioner Moravec established that property owners would be signing the permit request and that it is not exclusively for residential properties but may include businesses.

From public: none

MOTION: Approve two workshops and develop a citizen tree planting program. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** (6) Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera, Ober. **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** (1) Brentwood.

5.3. Discussion of Committee Assignments

Current BPPC Committees include the Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Street Trees and Volunteer Committees. The Committees allow for more detailed consideration of issues, with findings or recommendations reported back to the BPPC. Commissioners will provide Committee preferences to Staff. Staff will work with Chair Ober to make preliminary recommendations at the February meeting.

Break from 7:50 to 8:00 pm.

Present at 8:00: Herrera, Emmerich, Ober, Mikles, Moravec and Craig

6. REPORTS

6.1. Policy Advisory Committee Report – Rich Ober, Committee Chair

Chair Ober reported the Committee met with ORAI and Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) to discuss issues regarding mitigation on the disc golf project, some of which were outlined in their letter dated 12/08/11: oak tree mitigation, access road, fencing and Butte County Checkerbloom.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef stated that many of the mitigation measures and site issues will be improved upon and or resolved once use of the course is in use and can be observed. Site management will be on-going and changes will be made as needed to protect the site.

6.2. Special Report: Review of Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course Implementation

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef reported on issues and observations regarding the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course implementation. Progress has been made in defining trails between holes and pads and on a primary pathway in the fairway. Some signage is in place, including one with general information, one giving directions, and another giving the name "Peregrine Point". Most of the course features are in place.

A monitoring plan was submitted as part of the supplemental packet for the meeting, and will be implemented soon to document mitigation performance. Monitoring would focus on established mitigation measures outlined in the mitigation include tracking any impacts on the area trees, water runoff, and a wet weather policy. The plan will come to BPPC for review.

From the public:

Lon Glazer said the name of the volunteer group (ORAI) working at Peregrine Point could be referred to as the "Chico Outsiders". The group has been busy with a number of tasks and hopes that the course will be open in February.

6.3. Special Report: Annual Park Division Reports

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef gave an overview for the public and Commissioners on the work of the Park Division including management of greenways, street trees, leases, operating equipment, native plants and vegetation management, Ranger program, reservations, citations, and volunteer programs. Current issues include park transfers, recent personnel changes, biannual work plan priorities, the assessment of trails and update to the Trail Plan and Manual as well as the Natural Resources Plan and the wet weather policy.

6.4. Urban Forest Manager's Report

Urban Forest Manager Britton said the tree crew is now doing formative pruning of young trees and answering high priority service requests. Staff will present an annual report at the next meeting.

6.5. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report

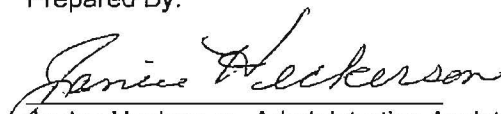
Manager Efsaef read from the Staff Report on activities for the month. The report provided activities and updates on Maintenance, Ranger and Volunteer activity. It included a copy of *Bidwell Park Pulse*, the quarterly newsletter.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m. to the next regular meeting on 02/28/11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California)

Date Approved: 02/28/11

Prepared By:


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date: 3/1/11

Distribution: BPPC packet.

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CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of February 28, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent: Lisa Emmerich

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst) and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant).

2. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Thomas Wahl said there has not been adequate creek flows in recent years, but there is more now. Chico Creek needs to be flushed out instead of so much water going down Lindo Channel. He would like to have BPPC address not having One Mile dam up all year long. That creates an algae problem and hinders salmon run.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

3.2. Approval of Permit for the Chico Police Department Mounted Equestrian Team's annual training at the Horse Arena (August 5 - 7, 2011).

3.3. Approval of Permit for the Chico Artisans Faire at City Plaza (April 29 - May 1, 2011).

3.4. Approval of Permit for the "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" fishing derby (May 21, 2011). Commissioner Brentwood removed this item from Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Approve items 1, 2, and 3 of the Consent Agenda. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Herrera. **AYES:** (6) Ober, Brentwood, Mikles, Herrera, Craig, and Moravec. **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Emmerich.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Item 3.4 Approval of Permit for the "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" Fishing Derby (May 21, 2011).

Commissioner Brentwood knows this event has been going for a long time but questioned putting 10,000 pounds of catfish into the lake. What happens to the fish that are left? Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said there is a lot of fishing on the event day and for several days after. He recalled that a CSUC study did not see any detrimental effects from catfish in the Lake.

Commissioner Moravec noted the lake was cleaned four times in one week and asked why. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said that it is such a popular event with many participants. The extra cleaning is to ensure the lake is back in the original condition regarding any debris.

MOTION: Approve permit for "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" fishing derby. **MADE BY:** Brentwood.
SECOND: Moravec. **AYES: (6)** Ober, Brentwood, Mikles, Herrera, Craig, and Moravec. **NOES:** 0.
ABSENT: Emmerich.

4. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1. Update on BPPC Committee Assignments

At the BPPC meeting on 01/31/11, staff provided information on the various BPPC Committees and requested that Commissioners submit their committee choices in the order of preference. Chair Ober and staff worked together to develop the preliminary Committee rosters as presented. Staff recommended that the Volunteer Committee be dissolved as volunteer issues are usually in the realm of policy and can be taken up by the Policy Advisory Committee or the full commission.

Commissioner Brentwood understood each commissioner was to be on two committees but she is no longer on the Policy Committee. She is OK with this.

Commissioner Mikles asked if three people per committee is a mandated number. Several weighty planning decisions will be made by the Policy Advisory Committee and Natural Resources Committee this year. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said the Brown Act dictates that a quorum cannot be on a commission. Important issues, even when taken up by a committee, do come before the BPPC in an open discussion.

Commissioner Craig asked about appointing an alternate to each committee.

From the public:

Josephine Guardino said Friends of Bidwell Park has worked thousands of hours. With budget cuts volunteer work is even more important. Staff needs to help encourage the volunteer program so requested that the Commission consider keeping the Volunteer Committee. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff explained that most policies for the program have been developed and now staff just keeps them moving along.

Chair Ober and Commissioners agreed to leave the assignment structure in place as it is and if a need arises for the volunteer committee, it can be reconstituted as an ad-hoc committee or the issue heard by a different committee or by the full Commission.

5.2. Consideration of the Placement of the BPPC agenda item "Business from the Floor."

This does not require BPPC action, but is at the prerogative of the staff and Chair. Based on 1) consistency with the City Council, and other Board and Commission agendas, 2) prioritizing regular agenda (action) items, and 3) availability of other avenues for communication, staff recommends that Business from the Floor be placed after the regular agenda items. Priority business items agendaized for the meeting may be taken up in a timely manner and acted upon. This keeps the placement of the item consistent with the other City Commissions and Boards.

From the public:

Josephine Guardino asked that "Business from the Floor" not be placed at the end of the agenda so that the public can come to meetings and participate.

Tom Wahl said City Council had him wait for many hours to speak about water in Chico Creek. He thinks putting this item late on the agenda is a political idea to keep people quiet.

Commissioners agreed to have “Business from the Floor” placed between the regular agenda items and reports as recommended by staff. “Public comments” will continue to be called for after each regular item.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Report on the City of Chico’s Downtown Couplet Project - Bob Greenlaw, Project Manager.

Bob Greenlaw, Senior Engineer for Capitol Projects, introduced the City’s staff team for this project design. They are Fritz McKinley, Building and Development Services Director, Tom Varga, Capitol Project Services Director, Jeff Jukkola, Associate Civil Engineer; Tracy Roemer Bettercourt, Senior Planner, and Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager. Engineer Greenlaw gave a brief overview of the project, the status, a description of work that will occur this summer, and some ideas for future phases. They have created 40 new parking spaces and are directing pedestrian traffic to be safer for students that use the area. A landscape architect and an artist are working on esthetics and will be rolling out those concepts after this summer.

Project details have been presented at public meetings and workshops. To learn more, the public also can go to capitol project services on the City web site.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said designers are trying to connect Lost Park with other areas of downtown and this is an opportunity to do so. Engineer Greenlaw has looked at this issue and found there are all kinds of opportunities, but they cannot be achieved with the budget for this phase.

Urban Forest Manager Britton reminded commissioners to keep an eye on the fence at Children’s Playground. It is being recommended by the Art Commission and will be part of this phase one. This serves as an example of how there could be some coordination between Park and Art Commissions.

From the public:

Tom Wahl recommends painting the asphalt green to look better and be cooler during hot weather. He wants to include heritage and beauty in the design, and hopes it handles the present traffic flow.

Bob Jones likes the idea of increased bike access downtown but wonders about the specific route to his bank on First Street after the project is finished. Mr. Greenlaw explained the route.

Break from 8:20 to 8:30

Present at 8:30: Ober, Brentwood, Mikles, Herrera, Craig, and Moravec.

6.2. Special Report: Review of Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course Implementation.

The Course opened February 12 with 150 to 200 people in attendance. A walk-through tour is scheduled for next Thursday, March 3 to educate public in the care of the area. The wet weather protocol is in use utilizing soil probes and other objective measures. The monitoring plan for the Disc Golf site is being revised and will come back to BPPC next month.

Chair Ober said this plan is a model for a non-profit and the City working together and letting an organization take responsibility for a project.

From the public:

Josephine Guardino gave information about peregrines. They are no longer threatened but they are very rare. Human disturbance near the nests can cause mortality and breeding pairs have protected status. Ms. Guardino recommended that the issue be taken up by the Policy Advisory Committee and share the information to all users.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff has received a letter from Fish and Game with some suggestions on this issue. He is collecting more information on the birds in the area now. Construction projects have mitigations only during nesting season.

Lon Glazner said the EIR addressed peregrines. They have been there for as long as players can remember. This challenge was brought up all along and is not new. Consider that there are fewer holes there now than in the earlier years.

Gregg Payne has watched the area peregrine falcons and taken photos. Their nests should be inaccessible under the cliffs. He suggests not monitoring them too much.

Bob Jones thinks the plan looks like planners tried to keep everyone they could out of the area, but ORAI members are there to help.

Renee Johnson said the Peregrines have been around for a long time and we don't need to take action now.

6.3. Special Report: Annual Street Tree Report.

Urban Forester Britton's report gave a description of the division and some history. Accomplishments of 2010 include a citizen tree planting program, and establishment of a Heritage Tree Program. The City's tree inventory is 95% completed and covers species, location, conditions and recommended maintenance. Chico has been designated Tree City USA since 1984.

Commissioner Herrera had questions from community members asking about certain tree removals; how does the bid process work, and could prices be low because bidders will be making money elsewhere from City trees. Urban Forester Britton's said there are many professional considerations made prior to removing a tree. The reuse of wood is not a problem.

6.4. Urban Forest Manager's Report.

Urban Forester Britton gave away the first tree today for the new citizen's tree planting program. She told Chair Ober that the caution tape in the Plaza is to protect new sod.

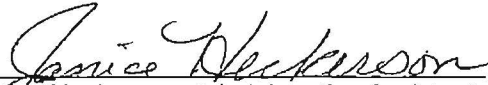
6.5. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Dan Efseaff briefly read from the report in the packet. Highlights included that Highway 99 will soon be expanded through the Park. Tom Varga, Capitol Services Project Director, has some visuals on how it will affect the Park. Staff has installed some split rail fencing around Parking Lot D to protect trees at the Rod and Gun Club. A gateway project is underway to beautify park entrance areas. A culvert for drainage is planned for an area near Parking Lot B. Sensors are monitoring users in the park with traffic counters. A Park Talk on trails is scheduled for March 25th from 2 to 4 pm at Parking Lot E. A Proposition 84 grant through the CA Conservation Corps will make crews available to the Park for one or two weeks a month all year.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 10:10 pm to the next regular meeting on March 28, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved 03/28/11
Prepared By:


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant
Distribution: BPPC Packet

March 29, 2011
Date

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of
March 28, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager) Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst) and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant).

1.3 Special Recognition – CA Urban Streams Alliance – The Stream Team

The Stream Team organization was recognized for the work it has done monitoring water quality at Big Chico Creek. They have given over 3,000 volunteer hours.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2011.

MOTION: Approve minutes of BPPC held on 02/28/11 as submitted. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Mikles. **AYES:** (7) (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** None.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – NONE

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Chico Community Organization Funding Requests for FY 2011-12

The City's Community Organization Funding Program (COFP) provides applications that involve City parks or facilities to the BPPC for consideration and comment. Applications have been received from 1) the Chico Creek Nature Center for \$55,000 for personnel costs, 2) the Chico Cat Coalition for \$7,000 for insurance and veterinary services/medications, and 3) Elizabeth Kuiper for \$2,000 for an arts mini-grant to paint gold leaf on trees. Following acceptance, applications and comments are forwarded to the Finance Committee then to the City Council.

Mary Gardner, Art Projects Coordinator, and Cris Carroll, Community Development Manager, answered questions from Commissioners and the public.

From the public: Christina, volunteer for Cat Coalition, said they presently have 60 cats, and the house at their current location is for sale. The group will work with new buyers if the property is sold. They hope to remain on the property or find a new facility.

MOTION: Approve acceptance of the application from Cat Coalition for \$7,000. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood **AYES:** (7) (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** None.

Tom Haithcock, Manager for Nature Center, said funds would be used to help cover costs for paid staff to run the Center.

MOTION: Approve acceptance of application from Nature Center for \$55,000. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** (7) (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** None.

Applicant Elizabeth Keiper could not attend this meeting but has met previously with Park and Natural Resource Director Efsseff and Urban Forest Manager Britton to discuss the application. Her plan needs more information on such ideas as location of trees, height of painting, and insurance on possible use of a cherry picker on City property. If the amount is approved, BPPC would have a chance to look more closely at the application if the location selected is to be in the Park.

MOTION: Do not support application of gold leaf to trees in any public park. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** (6) (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** (0). **ABSTAIN:** (1) Herrera **ABSENT:** None.

4.2. PG&E Request to perform tree work in Bidwell Park and Verbena Fields.

Urban Forest Manager Britton was contacted in January by a consultant for PG&E regarding potential tree removals and pruning near PG&E lines in Upper Park and Verbena Fields for fire safety. She has reviewed the potential trees and concurs with the removal or pruning of the grey pines in Upper Park, a grey pine in Lower Park, and cottonwoods at Verbena Fields. She recommends against the removal of blue oaks in Upper Park.

From the public: Jim Brobeck has been a firefighter and understands the danger of fire from high voltage lines. He thanks staff for preventing PG&E from being over zealous in their pruning and for defending vegetation.

MOTION: Approve the removal or pruning of the grey pines in Upper Park, a grey pine in Lower Park, and cottonwoods at Verbena Fields. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** (6) (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** (1) Herrera. **ABSENT:** None.

4.3. Consider a Memorial/Dedication/Recognition/Plaque for the One-Mile Restroom.

A member of the public has made a plaque donation for the new facility at the One-Mile Recreation Area in Bidwell Park. Because of current rising costs for building benches and installing plaques, staff is preparing an update of the present Memorial/Dedication/Recognition Policy for plaques and bench donations. The revised policy will come before BPPC for review later this year. There are six benches to go in during 2011 and a long list of requests for future installations. However, there will be a moratorium until the new policy is provided.

From the public: none

Commission agrees that this plaque request be reviewed once the updated plaque policy is adopted.

4.4. Installation of Welcome Signs at the Manzanita Bridge Undercrossing.

The Bidwell Park Master Management Plan distinguishes between Upper, Middle, and Lower Bidwell Park. Middle and Upper Park are also defined in our City Code, yet many park users are uncertain about the actual location of these areas. To help users identify Middle Park, Staff proposes welcome signs that identify Middle and Lower Park at the undercrossing of the Manzanita Bridge.

Park and Natural Resources Director Efseaff said the signs are aluminum with standard printing and a City logo in a lower corner. They cost under \$100 each.

From the public: Jim Brobeck is glad signage will be posted on existing infrastructure. Staff could figure ways to enhance entry ways for such information.

MOTION: Approve the installation of two welcome signs at Manzanita Bridge. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** (7) (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** None.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Michael Cannon was here a year ago to introduce the idea of constructing public bocce ball courts and wants to reintroduce the idea to the current BPPC. He had done a lot of research on what other cities have done and would love to show what information he has. He is asking BPPC to give him conceptual approval and invited commissioners to two tournaments he will be holding in May. Commissioner Brentwood would like to see a written proposal.

Jim Brobeck of Agua Alliance said recent application of pesticides has reignited his interest in use of pesticides on public land, particularly at Bidwell Golf Club. He has posted some information of this issue on YouTube. Farms are monitored but urban runoff of chemicals is a big problem also.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Special Report: Peregrine Point Disc Golf Long Course Implementation

Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff said a lengthy report is attached. Staff is doing more monitoring and preparing more signage since Peregrine Point opened. There is some unhappiness with our wet weather policy and the protocol will be refined. The report contains a summary of mitigation items and their status. Much of this mitigation work will stay around for a long time but some jobs, such as signs, are completed for now.

6.2 Urban Forest Manager's Report

Urban Forest Manager Britton reported storm activity has kept the tree crew very busy dealing with approximately 75 tree incidents including 12 that went down. There was 32 hours of overtime for this work. Tree planting was covered in the newsletter. PG&E has authority to prune or remove trees because of potential danger from fires and we take on liability if we don't agree with their recommendations. City has a good relationship with PG&E. She wants to set a tree committee meeting this month. A systemic insecticide will be applied to Hackberry trees soon to treat woolly aphids. Monthly records on applications are kept by California Agricultural Commissioner and the golf club submits records to them also. Staff is writing a contract with Sierra Landscape and Maintenance for City's landscape and maintenance services.

6.3. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef said we had a significant weather event that did some damage and closed part of the Park. However, all was open for an event on Saturday. The report includes an update on Peregrine Falcons, which are coming back from near-extinction. They are mobile and can find many places to nest. It is best to see them in Bidwell Park from Upper Park Road.

Commissioner Herrera asked about details on the unauthorized spraying along Upper Park Road. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef said the contractor had a misunderstanding on what spraying was allowed in that area. He will provide the dates several applications were made in Upper Park, as contained in the reports to the Agriculture Commission. Commissioner Herrera asked about weather conditions at the time of spraying, which were as required on the label. Also he asked about posting spray programs on the City web site.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 9:15 pm to the next regular meeting on April 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved: 04/25/11
Prepared By:


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

April 25, 2011
Date

Distribution:

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of Minutes of April 25, 2011 Regular Meeting
CITY OF CHICO

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denise Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst) and Janice Heckerson, (Administrative Assistant).

1.3. Special Recognition – Chico High School Native Plant Project – students were absent.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2011

MOTION: Approve minutes of BPPC held on 03-28-11 as submitted. **MADE BY:** Emmerich.
SECOND: Moravec. **YES:** (7)(Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** (0) **ABSENT:** none

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT agenda – NONE

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1. Consideration of a Permit for the Bidwell Bump Mountain Bike Race.

From the public:

Kyle Hughes, race coordinator, said there are several races going on at this event. It was held earlier last year because that was the date CSUC assigned for it, but his team is doing it themselves this year to establish their own event. The number of participants

is capped at 175 and they will not all be using the same area. He does not think there will be more. Several course marshals will be monitoring the race course..

Commissioner Brentwood said there was a good evaluation on last year's race. Commissioner Mikles believes the mountain biking community is very responsible so he would leave it to them to deal with what needs to be done in the event there are any problems on the course. Chair Ober asked if there could be some system developed to establish safe capacity on the trails. He suggested asking the trail marshals for their observations about what to be aware of to improve the safety of the trails and racers.

MOTION: Approve permit use application with conditions as submitted. **MADE BY:** Emmerich
SECOND: Craig. **AYES:** (7) (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** none. **ABSENT:** none

4.2. Adoption of Heritage Tree Plaque Design.

The Tree Committee reviewed potential designs for the Heritage tree plaque and requested that the designs be submitted to the entire Commission for approval or for additional direction on design and mounting. Commissioner Brentwood asked if there are existing guide lines for use of the City logo. Commissioner Mikles said it is at Commission's discretion.

Chair Ober wants to consider both financial and aesthetic issues. Urban Forest Manager Britton said the recommended plaque costs about \$40 each. They could not be mass produced because the species are different each time.

From the public: none.

After a discussion, Staff agreed to put a draft of the Committee's favorite designs and cost estimates on the next agenda so the public can give more input.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1. Natural Resources Committee Report – Mary Brentwood (Committee Chair)

Commissioner Brentwood said the committee met to get public input for Middle Trail improvements and they heard some good suggestions. The project is coming from a grant of \$175,000, not City money.

Park and Natural Resource Director Efseaff said the new trail design will use new aggregate material in areas of erosion, construct grade reversals and rolling dips, and utilize topographic features to be sustainable. Staff is working on design now and trail work will start in June. There will be another session in fall for a second half of the trail improvements.

6.2. Urban Forest Manager's Report

Urban Forest Manager Britton said her crew continues to focus on cleaning up the March storm damage with a total time of 241 hours worked. The report includes service requests and tree permits for the month of March.

Commissioner Herrera asked if staff would develop guidelines for tree maintenance as well as for planting and pruning. Urban Forest Manager Britton said that is part of some handouts now and is on the website. Also she is speaking to groups on that subject in the fall and hosts an annual workshop for the public and arborists. For further help, there is a list of certified tree services on the website.

6.3. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report

Park and Natural Resource Director Efseaff reported the north One Mile restroom will open Wednesday morning, April 27. Peregrine Point will be gearing up in May for monitoring. Signs are up in three locations giving information on Peregrine Point to the public. The next Park Talk will be during the third week of June. One Mile concession stand, the Dog House, is opened. They proposed to do some modifications that will come to BPPC next month. When inspecting vandalism at Caper Acres, staff discovered the underlying structure was in poor condition and requires more work. Lifeguards are being recruited for summer. Earth Day last Saturday was very successful. Volunteer Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters thanked many organizations and individuals who participated.

Commissioner Emmerich asked what is happening with the trailhead at Peregrine Point. Park and Natural Resource Director Efseaff said funding is the limitation in providing restrooms, signs, etc. Current work is on improving the trail itself. It is a simple trail where volunteers could do a lot of the work. Staff is now looking at some grants that may be coming up, though state funding is problematic.

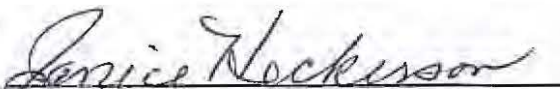
Commissioner Herrera asked about discussing such issues as mowing, spraying herbicide, encroachments, training programs, etc. in Policy Committee meetings. Urban Forest Manager Britton said the amount of herbicide applications is decreasing. She gets a report on each one. Mowing is a large part of weed abatement, such as along roads. There are very specific people involved in this work for the City with strict standards applied. The reports to the Agriculture Department are available.

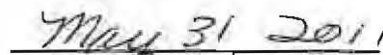
Commissioner Moravec said Audubon Society monitored Peregrine Point for sightings. He would like to know what they found.

Chair Ober said the newsletter looks great. He is interested to hear from The Dog House on what their plans are.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 8:15 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant
Distribution:


Date

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of
May 31, 2011

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober
Mark Herrera (arrived at 6:40)

Commissioners absent:

Lisa Emmerich

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager) Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise-Smith-Peters (Management Analyst), and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant).

1.3. Special Recognition of Girl Scout Troop 70228 for weeding and flower planting at Caper Acres

Chair Ober and Management Analyst Lise Smith-Peters presented certificates of appreciation to six members of the troop and their leader, Loren Blunkall, for adopting the flower beds in front of Caper Acres. Over 112 hours have been donated and they plan to continue the work this summer.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Approve minutes of April 25, 2011 meeting as submitted. **MADE BY:** Moravec.

SECOND: Brentwood. **AYES:** (5) (Brentwood, Mikles, Ober, Craig, Moravec). **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** (2) (Herrera, Emmerich)

Commissioner Mark Herrera arrived at 6:40.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA - none

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1. Consideration of a Permit for the "Almond Bowl 5K, ½ Marathon and Marathon"

The Chico Running Club requests a permit to host a race that starts in Lower Park and extends into Middle and Upper Park on November 6, 2011. Applicant has held similar events for the past 35 years and anticipates approximately 1200 people. This event is adding a new route that will go into Upper and Middle Park. This application requires BPPC consideration as the group is requesting the use of non-intensive use areas in Middle and Upper Park.

From the public

Tracy Hannigan, treasurer of Chlco Running Club, answered questions. Runners are not using trails.

Chair Ober confirmed the Upper Park entrance gate would be opened only for runners and no vehicles would need to be involved. Signs and gate keepers would keep other traffic out of Upper Park.

MOTION: Approve permit with conditions as submitted. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** (6) (Brentwood, Mikles, Ober, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** (1) (Emmerich)

4.2. Proposed Concessionaire Changes to the One-Mile Recreation Area Concession Stand.

On 06/23/10, The Dog House signed an agreement with the City of Chico to provide refreshments at the One Mile Recreation Area Concessions. The Concessionaire officially opened full-time for business on August 14, 2010. Recently, the Concessionaire proposed changes for BPPC discussion and review.

Commissioner Ober noted the Concessionaire was asking to discuss three items and determined Commission will discuss each separately.

Picnic tables be provided, in the vicinity of the concession by the City, for Park goers. Management Analyst Smith-Peters said some tables are available now and that table design standards are in MMP. Staff recommends bistro-style tables that can be put away for the night to be paid for by the concessionaire.

From the Public:

Karen Laslo said there are nice tables only a few feet away from the snack bar, so more are not needed.

Chuck Averill, Concessionaire, said his chairs and tables would be used by others besides his customers and may be moved away from the site. Storing his tables would be a question. His service draws people to the Park but lack of tables is a big complaint. He inquired about the possibility of having a picnic table donated. The donation policy will be reviewed and updated in August so no decisions about the picnic tables could be worked out this season.

Commissioner Moravec thinks the concession is a value to the Park. Commissioner Mikles thinks seating would be a good thing and agrees people would be moving the tables and chairs. However, the contract was clear up front and he is disappointed about these requests for changes. Commissioner Herrera also thinks the City should not be paying for the extra tables. Chair Ober would support the bistro table but City cannot pay.

MOTION: Direct staff to precede working with Concessionaire to identify the style and number of tables to be placed on the cement pad (does not need to come back to BPPC.) **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** (6) (Brentwood, Mikles, Ober, Craig, Herrera, Moravec). **NOES:** (0). **ABSENT:** (1) (Emmerich)

Peripheral signage approved by the City and produced by the Concessionaire to be allowed in three or more areas.

Commissioner Brentwood cited the park policy of no advertising. Staff recommends developing appropriate informational signs for the kiosks and easily movable signs for other locations.

From the public:

Chuck Averill said peripheral signs are not advertising but are for giving directions, hours of operation, and product information. A sign can be put on the building.

Karen Laslo wants to go with MMP that says no words for advertising, especially for a for-profit business. Post a small informative sign when the building is closed. Other signs in the Park are usually for safety.

MOTION: Direct staff to work with concessionaire to craft informative signs for existing kiosks, and others on west side of building, keeping consistent with park sign design and using tradition letter style. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** none. **Withdrawn**

MOTION: Direct staff to work with Concessionaire on creation and placement of simple signage for directions at key locations and for information at existing kiosks. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Mikles. **AYES:** (5) (Mikles, Ober, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** (1). (Brentwood) **ABSENT:** (1) (Emmerich).

Reduce compensation percentage (rent) as follows: 8% for year 2011, 10% for year 2012, and 12% for every year thereafter.

Staff recommends that the compensation rate to the City be temporarily reduced to 12% for 2011. That is based on the mean between existing 15% and 8% requested.

From the public:

Chuck Averill said the contract contained issues and other changes not contained in the original agreement. They caused higher expenses than he had been working from. He moved forward as quickly as he could and then found more work to be done than expected. All the preliminary costs were followed by a very short season and now he would like to recover during the first full year. He spent over \$40,000 to set up for that first season of six weeks. Karen Laslo never thought a concession would not make any money and she still does not think it can.

Commissioner Mikles wants to help The Dog House recover, but the vendor got the contract on certain conditions that all were aware of. Park Director Efseaff said the building was in worse condition than the City thought, but that point was left open for the applicants to assess.

Commissioner Moravec said it is not fair to the other four unsuccessful applicants to make changes now. He still wants City to receive 15%, but maybe defer 3% to a later time.

Commissioner Brentwood feels bad for Concessionaire but wants to be fair to other applicants.

Commissioner Craig wants more details on why to reduce the compensation percentage to 8%.

Chair Ober thought recouping expenses was something talked about originally and he does not want to change what was said originally. City wants the service to be successful but does not support a permanent reduction.

MOTION: Reduce compensation rate due to the City to 12% for 2011 and return to 15% in 2012. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** (4) (Herrera, Brentwood, Craig, Ober) **NOES:** (2) (Mikles, Moravec). **ABSENT:** (1) (Emmerich).

Break from 9:05 to 9:15

4.3. Consideration of the Heritage Tree Plaque Design

The BPPC asked staff to present plaque designs and obtain estimates for various materials and styles of signs. The style presented is aluminum with a printed, colored vinyl decal over it, and then covered over by a clear plastic UV film.

Urban Forest Manager Britton presented photos of various posts and plaques available for the Commission's consideration. Chair Ober asked about including the name of a person who nominated the tree on the plaque. It is something to consider at another time.

From the public; Karen Laslo thinks this is a wonderful program.

MOTION: Adopt use of metal post with wooden plaque in a style that includes wrapping letters. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Mikles, Ober, Moravec, Craig, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Emmerich)

4.4. Introduction to the 2011-2013 BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities (Informational Only).

Staff will provide an update on past priorities and discuss the overall process for the development of the BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities for 2011-2013.

Management Analyst Smith-Peters said this two-year work plan was adopted in June 2009. Commission's priorities for the next plan will go to Council in August. Some items from this list are completed and a lot of others are still in progress and can be carried forward to the new plan. Give your ideas for a priority list to staff by June 10 and a revised report will be compiled for review and discussion at next meeting.

From the public:

Karen Laslo asked how long does she have to give her comments. Give the public as long as you can.

Urban Forest Manager Britton would like to have a urban wood recycle plan included.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR -

Karen Laslo sent out some photos regarding leaf blowing in the Park. Only Commissioner Herrera replied that he got them. Please put on agenda to see if a gigantic leaf blower is really needed. They pollute badly. Also tell people the freeway will be expanded this fall to save a lot of outrage.

Woody Elliott often went out when the disc golf course was closed to players and ended his walk at the parking area. All but one time when the course was closed, people were playing. He requested a Ranger each time. He would like the closure to be more effective.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Natural Resources Committee Report – Mary Brentwood, Chair

Chair Brentwood reported that staff has a long list of invasive plants that Committee will narrow down to those in Bidwell Park. Committee discussed use of herbicides being used in small amounts as part of the plan to rid Park of invasive weeds. They also discussed an upcoming prescribed burn in Middle Bidwell Park.

6.2. Urban Forest Manager's Report

Urban Forest Manager Britton reported the tree planting program is basically complete for now. Tree crew removed a street tree from East 5th Avenue project to accommodate installation of the new curb and gutter pan. A list of authorized permits and service requests is provided. She is working on the landscape contract.

6.3. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report

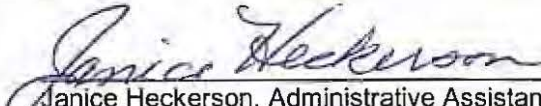
Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef said staff has recently received several vandalism and graffiti reports and staff will implement new ways to combat the activity. It has been difficult to remove graffiti at Monkey Face. He provided a revised monitoring plan for Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course. A field trip for commissioners is set for June 23rd to look at recent vegetation management efforts. Staff is looking into a plan for greenways.

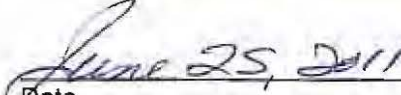
Chair Ober requested public input on any of the above reports. There was none.

7. Adjournment

Adjourn at 10:30 pm to the next regular meeting on June 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant


Date

Distribution: BPPC

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of
June 27, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent: Clay Craig and Lisa Emmerich

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst).

2. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

2.1. Approval of a Permit for the "Hot Half ¼ and ½ Marathon. (10/9/11)"

2.2. Approval of Permit for (City Sponsored) National Night Out at Caper Acres (8/2/11).

2.3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Herrera. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Craig and Emmerich.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – if any

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Ober asked that the informational update on the City of Chico's Downtown Couplet Project (under the Urban Forest Manager's Report) be moved to this point of the meeting. Denice Britton introduced the project and the City Engineering staff of Bob Greenlaw, Tracy Bettencourt and Jeff Jukola. Bob Greenlaw presented the update with an emphasis on stating the number of trees and their location to be removed and the number of trees to be planted and their work with our Urban Forest Manager to keep the Urban Forest healthy. Mr. Greenlaw described that the new roundabouts would also contain mature trees and that there would be more trees in the new medians. He reported that the Engineering Department appreciates working with the Park Commission on the urban forest issues and that they have also been working closely with the Art Commission on some of the art projects targeted for some of the medians.

Commissioner Mikles asked about the process in selecting the type of trees to be planted for the project and Mr. Greenlaw said that they had been working with the Urban Forest Manager on recommendations

based on location and whether the area had pavement or landscape nearby. Commissioner Herrera asked if the policy guideline was for a 1 to 1 replacement of trees for those removed and the Urban Forest Manager stated it was an overall requirement established by the Environmental Impact Review.

Brian Firth, landscape architect from Land Image, was also on hand to explain some of the design elements.

Mr. Greenlaw stated that they were in phase 1 of a community driven project and that they have presented information to the public several times as well as to several city commissions. They have got out to bid on the project and expect to start construction at the end of July and will have construction crews working double shifts to get the work done by the end of October. They are aiming to get Phase 1 completed before students return to campus. He stated that the Engineering staff would give another update as they start Phase II, which is the roundabout creation phase. Tracy Bettencourt stated that slides of the presentation would be put on the Capital Project City webpage for the public to view.

4.1. Discussion and Approval of the 2011-2013 BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities.

Management Analyst Lise Smith-Peters presented a brief introduction to the Biennial Work Plan Priorities, stating that staff received input from Commissioners and the Tree Committee and that many items already in progress were carried over on the newly compiled priority list.

Parks and Natural Resources Manager Dan Efseff added that new priorities had been added outside of the staff recommendation. After some discussion, the Commission reviewed and considered the Work Plan ideas submitted by Commissioners first and then proceeded to discuss the Work Plan priorities recommended by staff. Staff has compiled the priority list, which will be included in the July Reports for the BPPC to review and approve.

Some issues of discussion include: Chair of the Tree Committee Mikles request to incorporate measurable outcomes and reflect the Urban Forest as a whole into tree-related priorities. The Tree Committee added extra language to more precisely spell out the management needs of the City's street trees, urban forest and landscape areas.

Chair Ober requested that the BPPC then take up the issue of a Lost Park connector plan. He believes that if included in the Work Plan then community involvement might get started. Commissioners Herrera and Mikles suggested that it be placed under the Trails section or under Management Concepts for the City greenways. All agreed that listing Lost Park in the Plan as well as other greenways that need would keep them on the radar screen as areas of focus as resources become available. After further discussion, the Commission agreed to list Lindo Channel, Bidwell Ranch and Lost Park under the development of management plan concepts for greenways.

The group discussed briefly the existing priorities still underway and the need to continue their progress: a) develop and implement a priority list of projects and programs based on the BPMMP that will include adaptive management strategies (Trails Plan and Manual, Natural Resource Management Plan, Park Inventory; b) finalize wet weather plan; c) continue development of the volunteer program; and d) continue trail work priorities. The Commission will review and approved the proposed Work Plan Priority list for 2011-2013 at their July 25, 2011 BPPC meeting.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NONE

6. REPORTS

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

6.1. Tree Committee Report – Verbal Report - Jim Mikles (Chair)

Chair Mikles gave report during the discussion of Work Plan Priorities for the Urban Forest Management Plan.

6.2. Urban Forest Manager’s Report

Urban Forest Manager reported that an additional tree removal at 15th and Salem Streets due to construction of a new sidewalk and PG&E has placed a guywire to it. She conducted herbicide training for Park Division staff and over 25 CCCs. City tree crew worked with Butte County tree crew on aerial rescue practice, which is a required safety event.

6.3. Park and Natural Resources Manager’s Report

Parks and Natural Resources Manager stated the Middle Trail Plan for this summer had been posted on our website and sent out to interested trail users. Trail crew will work with CCCs on the project over the next month. The wildflower survey for checker bloom and Bidwell’s knotweed has taken place and the Park Division will share that report once it is submitted. Blue oak monitoring will take place soon. He also reported that the prescribed burn scheduled for Middle Park to control for Medusa Head and yellow starthistle is quickly reaching the end of this season’s timeline for the plants. The Fire Department is committed to having a prescribed burn at the airport prior to the Park.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 9:20 pm to the next regular meeting on June 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

Lise Smith-Peters
Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst

8-12-11
Date

Distribution: BPPC

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of July 25, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Lisa Emmerich called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec

Commissioners absent:

Mary Brentwood
Richard Ober

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant).

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Item removed by Commissioner Moravec

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

Commissioner Moravec noted Janice Heckerson was absent so her name should be removed from the minutes of June 27, 2011.

MOTION: Approve minutes of June 27, 2011 as amended. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Mikles. **YES:** 5 (Emmerich, Craig, Herrera, Mikles, and Moravec). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 2 (Brentwood and Ober).

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

4. REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Emmerich reminded the public that BPPC has adopted Council rules so each person is asked to fill out and turn in a speaker card and will be allowed three minutes to speak on each item.

4.1. Labyrinth Installation and Memorial Signage

Consider a request to allow a temporary construction sign (24x36) and a permanent installation of a stone with a brass plaque near the entrance to the labyrinth honoring significant contributions to the project.

General Services Director Martinez gave some background and an update on the project. He also showed the proposed design and location.

From the public: none

Chair Emmerich would like to know more about the permanent plaque, especially the dimensions and wording, and vote on it at August meeting.

MOTION: Approve a temporary construction sign honoring BPPC and contributors, and hold off on approving a permanent stone-mounted brass plaque. **MADE BY:** Craig. **SECOND:** Herrera. **YES:** 5 (Emmerich, Craig, Herrera, Mikles, and Moravec). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 2 (Brentwood and Ober).

4.2. Final Approval c Park Plan Priorities

Staff revised Work Plan Priorities based on the BPPC discussion and review at the June 27, 2011 regular meeting.

Park and Natural Resource Director Efsaef said each commission may establish its own work plan. There are seven proposals recommended for adoption, which can be prioritized as BPPC wishes.

From the public: Doug Fogel is in favor of looking at Lost Park becoming part of our park system. It would be a wonderful addition. The book Thrive named San Luis Obispo as one of the happiest places in the country. Chico has a similar setting and the same potential.

Commissioner Moravec would encourage continued involvement from the public regarding Lost Park because there are unique features to deal with.

MOTION: Approve the 2011-2013 Biennial Work Plan Priorities for submittal to the City Council on September 6, 2011. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Herrera. **YES:** 5 (Emmerich, Craig, Herrera, Mikles, and Moravec. **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 2 (Brentwood and Ober).

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Crews have been handling service requests and downed limbs. North Valley Tree Service has volunteered to prune two heritage trees and to install Heritage Tree plaques. A list of trees to be removed in fiscal year 2011-2012 is attached. PG&E will remove gray pines under the transmittal lines in Upper Park tomorrow. Staff met with Cal Water regarding water use and tracking locations where there could be improvement by replacing old sprinkler heads.

Commissioner Herrera asked about reasons to remove a Valley Oak at the entrance to the Park. Urban Forest Manager Britton confirmed it has crown rot infestation from years ago and is decayed by oak root fungus. In this condition, the tree is a hazard to Park users.

6.2. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efsaef, Park and Natural Resource Manager.

Park and Natural Resource Director Efsaef updated information on middle trail work, the prescribed burn of 60 acres in Upper Park, Park safety efforts coordinating with Police Department, and is asking for volunteer help removing puncturevine. An event for National Night Out will be at Caper Acres. Incidents of violence, theft and vandalism have increased at One Mile. Rangers and maintenance crews are getting additional training from Police Department regarding gang awareness. Park staff is two members short. Sycamore Pool cleaning is being changed from every week to every other week and life guards are doing some brushing for algae removal.

Commissioner Craig asked about E-Coli testing. It is now done daily and results are quite variable, though always within accepted limits. Park staff is looking at a new program based on adjustment for current readings and for investigating sources as well. Commissioner Herrera asked about unauthorized spraying in the park. Park and Natural Resource Director Efsaef said staff have observed evidence of no other incidents.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:30 p.m. to the next regular meeting on August 29, 2011 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved: / / .

Prepared By:


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

August 29, 2011
Date

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of August 29, 2011
Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent:

Jim Moravec

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst), and Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant.

1.3. Special Recognition of the Summer Park Interns: Susan Beeler, Peter Phillips and Heather Smith and a commemoration of Bidwell Park Volunteer Gene McKenzie who passed away on July 25, 2011.

Susan Beeler, Heather Smith, and Peter Philips were awarded Certificates of Recognition for their work in the Park as summer interns. Ms. Smith was present to accept her certificate.

Gene McKenzie, who recently past away, was recognized for volunteer work he has done in the Park over many years.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approved minutes of BPPC held on 07/25/11.

2.2. Consideration of a Permit Application to Place a Menorah at City Plaza during Chanukah.

The Chabad Jewish Center requests City approval for the installation of a Menorah on top of the City Plaza restroom. The Menorah would remain lit from December 20 to December 28, 2011. The Commission approved the same requests in 2007 to 2010. A public lighting ceremony of the Menorah will occur December 20.

2.3. Consideration of the Cross Country Fun 1 mile, 5k, and 10k Permit Application.

Applicant requests a permit to host cross country fun run and races in Middle and Upper Park on November 12, 2011. The CSU, Chico Department of Kinesiology has held this event in Upper Park for the past 12 years and anticipates approximately 100-200 people.

2.4. 15th Annual Pumpkin Head Contest in City Plaza

Applicant requests a permit to host the annual pumpkin head contest at City Plaza on October 27, 2011. Results Radio has held this for the past 15 years and anticipates approximately 50-100 people.

MOTION: Approve consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **YES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1. (Moravec)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – None

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Consideration of the wording and the dimensions for the commemorative plaque for the Labyrinth Project for Children's Playground.

The Labyrinth Project was approved for Children's Playground by the BPPC in October 2007. The project is ready to break ground and proponents have requested approval of permanent signage to honor significant contributions to the project. At its meeting on 07/25/11, the Commission approved temporary signage language, and additional information was requested on the permanent commemorative sign.

General Services Director Martinez showed slides of the proposed plaque as it would be placed on a granite stone. He also showed several other plaques already in the Park to demonstrate the variety available.

From the public: Cheri Prior of the Labyrinth Community Project, said they would like to give the project a name and make a dedication.

MOTION: Approve installation of a stone-mounted brass plaque honoring contributors. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **YES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Moravec).

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Brentwood thinks the name "Bidwell Park and Playground Commission" could be changed to "Bidwell Park Commission". Since CARD now oversees the playgrounds, the name change might be more appropriate. Park and Natural Resources Director Efseaff said that to agendaize items, staff would receive a written request from a Commissioner and the BPPC would make a determination on whether the item should be on a future agenda. Commissioner Mikles is not interested in making this change. Commissioner Herrera thought it may be a limiting factor in the future. Commission agreed to go no further with the suggestion.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Annual Review of Paragliding Activities in Bidwell Park

Management Analyst Smith-Peters presented the annual review of paragliding activities in Bidwell Park, permit rules and guidelines, and a map of launch/landing sites in the Park.

From the public: Jon Stallman, site coordinator for Bidwell Park paragliding, had just come in from a flight and, for the first time this year, was able to remain up a long time with the thermals and flew with many birds. Chico's population of qualified pilots was reduced from four to two this year, when two moved away. Other budding pilots will need years to qualify. There are about 150 pilots in the bay area and 50 in Sacramento, but Chico has had only four visitors this year due to strenuous access and hot temperatures. Two sites on the south side have been used historically but nesting peregrine falcons are now of concern

6.2. Policy Advisory Committee – Lisa Emmerich, Committee Chair

Commissioner Emmerich said the Committee is reviewing the current, formal policy for memorial/dedication/recognition opportunities within Bidwell Park. They are reviewing the goals set forth and considering issues such as costs, placement and styles of benches. Other communities provide good models for dealing with number of issues. The public is invited to the next Committee meeting on September 15.

6.3. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Urban Forest Manager Britton reported there is a lot of limb drop in August each year, including several in Bidwell Park over the weekend. Heritage Plaques have been installed. Staff is working on tree protection measures for landscape designers to better understand City policy. PG&E is currently working at city hall. The East Fifth Avenue Project is complete. Final landscape bids are due September 29. She is planning to hold four workshops for tree planting this fall.

Commissioner Emmerich asked about CalTrans construction coming up for Hwy 99. Denice reported that she had talked to the CalTrans generally about protecting trees and walked the site last week with the project director. Park and Natural Resources Director Efseaff said they are removing a minimal number of trees. This is ultimately a CalTrans project on a CalTrans easement. There is a workshop on August 31 for public input and work starts in a few weeks.

Commissioner Herrera said BPPC is charged to "preserve and enhance". This project seems inconsistent with that but he feels helpless about it. Could it be a new policy of "mitigate and enhance"? Chair Ober appreciates the street tree species report and the work involved in compiling it.

6.4. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.

Park and Natural Resources Director Efseaff said there is an attachment to the report on Bidwell Ranch with more technical and financial information. This is a Council directed project but he will give updates of Council action to BPPC. Discussion of the disc golf short course will go to Council next month. Lost Park now has three weekly sweeps for maintenance and safety. Rangers work with race organizers, such as Bidwell Bump, to educate participators in recognizing vegetation management but there is some concern about follow-up.

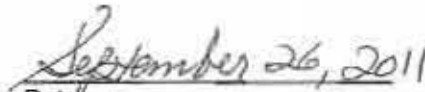
7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 8:10 p.m. to the next regular meeting on September 26, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved: 09/24/11

Prepared By:


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant


Date: September 26, 2011

Distribution:

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of September 26, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent: None

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst), and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant)

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Approve Minutes of August 29, 2011 as submitted. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, Craig, Ober,). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – none

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

4. REGULAR AGENDA - NONE

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Eric Chisler is promoting picking fruit from public trees for the good of the public and asked BPPC to bring more fruit and nut trees into the City's planting plans. The idea was supported by Julie Butler, Leslie W. Corsbre, Meagan Fischer, and Mark Stemen and asked if it could be put on an agenda. Max Key is from "Grub" and picks several pounds of fruit from City trees every week. He would be glad to work with others to help the City have more food.

Commissioner Herrera asked if Commission was interested in agendizing this issue. Commissioner Emmerich would like it to be part of a larger discussion on food planting. She suggested having an informational meeting to get a feel from the public about interest on this item.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said this cannot be discussed too much tonight. A member of the BPPC can ask for an item to be put on an agenda by written request. An email will do. It would be considered at the next meeting and then could become a formal agenda item. This particular item might

fit as a part of the work plan. Commissioner Mikles thinks it should not have to wait two months before discussion. Commissioner Brentwood would like it to be on the next agenda.

Commissioner Herrera asked for input about the potential removal of the planter at 5th and Main.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Tree Committee – Jim Mikles, Chair

Commissioner Mikles said this Committee met last week to produce a draft document regarding tree memorials in the Park. It is to be presented to the Policy Committee for further consideration. Committee agreed the concept of memorial trees is a good one, but putting specific plaques on individual trees would be difficult. It was suggested a person could contribute to overall tree care at \$25 and up and receive a card recognizing their help for the urban forest of Chico.

6.2 Policy Advisory Committee – Rich Ober, Chair

Chair Ober said this Committee knew recommendations regarding memorial trees would be coming from the Tree Committee so they continued their conversation on how memorial policies would work with Master Management Plan and other programs. Contributions to the Park could be honored in a number of ways. Tom Barrett would like to see the endowment fund started up again.

6.3 Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton

The Department is focusing on service requests in the downtown area and will move toward planned pruning. Plaques have been installed for Heritage Trees. Cal Trans has started the project to add lanes to the freeway over Lower Park. The first thing was removal of trees from the middle of the lanes and it has gone well. Tonight they will start working east of the freeway on their easement right-of-way and later will do the west side also.

Commissioner Herrera said BPPC did not talk about this project enough to learn if the community really wanted it. He asked about how park projects like this would be handled in the future. He would like to read minutes of BPPC meetings in which it was discussed and wonders if this decision is right for today. Urban Forest Manager Britton said the process takes so long that, when the work begins, the public often does not remember that a discussion was held. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseff said the City does not have much information on it as it is a CalTrans project and they have a website for the public.

East 5th Avenue landscaping is completed. The damaged airport landscape has been repaired, including broken irrigation lines. October 22 is the first tree planting workshop. Urban Forest Manager Britton is talking with interested persons about the proposed gleaning project

Commissioner Moravac asked about follow up to maintain landscaping required on new buildings. Financial institutions do not want to put more money into some properties left vacant.

6.4 Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report – Dan Efseff

The new Field Supervisor for Park Maintenance is Jim Logsdon. The crew is down two workers. The water quality testing contract has been updated and bids will open shortly. The connecting trail at the Petersen Drive gate has been rerouted to avoid possible damage from falling tree limbs. A new portable restroom will be added to that area. A report due to City Council on disc golf 6 pins at Hooker Oak was delayed to the October 4 agenda. There are questions about development and environmental inspection costs. Staff monitored gate closings for after hour access to Upper Park as requested by Chico Rod and Gun Club. Now we are waiting for interested stakeholders to provide additional information and suggestions for future BPPC consideration and action. There are 57 culverts along Upper Park Road. Replacement costs would be great so staff is looking to reduce that number. Interns are evaluating, mapping, and photographing the culverts

to provide data on prioritizing maintenance and on road redesign as part of Friends of Bidwell Park intern program.

There will be a Ranger-led bike tour for Park Talk on Oct 29.

Management Analyst Smith-Peters showed photos of volunteers at work in the Park, including Love Chico teams out yesterday. Make-a-Difference Day is coming up on October 22. Chico High horticultural program continues to grow. Rangers will be working on educating the public on pet etiquette in the Park. New signs are up for Middle and Upper Park. Park Concessionaire at One Mile has not been in touch with the Park Division regarding the signage question so no action has been taken.

Chair Ober would like to ask the Head Lifeguard for a report on affects of the changes made in their office this year from the new concession stand being open. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff will make that part of his year end report.

Jessica Erdahl, Senior Park Ranger, reported that bike warnings are lower this month and bike violations are mostly for not riding one way in Lower Park. Animal control issues are down and are mostly about the off-leash law.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners questioned meeting on October 31 (Halloween) and asked to consider other dates. Management Analyst Smith-Peters will check availability and do a press release if there is a change. Commissioners asked that the next meeting be held in October if at all possible.

Continue the meeting at 8:20 pm to a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California) on a date in October to be set.

Date Approved: 11/28/11
Prepared By:


Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Nov 28, 2011
Date

Distribution:

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
Minutes of October 26, 2011
Special Meeting

1. SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He explained the meeting date was changed from October 31 to October 26 to avoid Halloween events.

Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst), and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant).

2. MEETING AGENDA

2.1 City Clerk Presentation of Board and Commission Overview

City Clerk Debbie Presson explained the procedures for guiding Commissioners and the public through commission meetings. The Brown Act is a California law that sets our guidelines in order to insure the public has a clear idea what will be discussed at each meeting. At a Special Meetings such as this, "Business from the Floor" cannot be on the agenda and there is no way to add an item. The City has several other established procedures for guidance as well. No action can be taken on an item brought up under "Business from the Floor" or mentioned in a staff report presented as information only. Upon a written request, an item can be put on the agenda for discussion and consideration. Upon Commissioners' agreement, it can then be put on the next agenda as an action item.

From the public:

Jeff Glasz thinks the policy seems odd and is disappointed his question cannot be dealt with tonight.

Dale Hutchings thinks the policy takes too long to get an item on an agenda. Urban Forest Manager Britton said staff deals with simple and emergency issues as soon as possible, but policy issues that may change the City Code take longer and should be more deliberative.

2.2 Consideration of Commissioner Herrera's Request to Agendize the Discussion on Public Fruit Trees

Commissioner Herrera would like to have a full discussion on developing fruit trees on public lands. He has written an email to the BPPC with that request.

Urban Forester Britton said this issue falls under the Urban Forest Plan. Commissioner Herrera is asking about a much broader issue than would be covered for street trees. Staff suggests sending it to the Tree Committee for discussion.

From the public:

Dale Hutchings said the budget is so constrained that current trees are not cared for now. More trees would not be cared for so there needs to be more consideration.

Leslie Corsbie wants to promote fruit and nut trees. She and many friends are working on a plan to make them an asset and not a liability. Permaculture designers would offer a plan to have a sustainable city.

Max Kee has been picking grapefruit on private land and delivers juice to the owners. He prunes their trees and wants to educate people. He would be happy to help with any complaints and use the droppings for compost to feed chickens.

Urban Forest Manager Britton said she regularly gets requests to remove fruit trees because of the fruit drop. Natural Resources Manager Efseaff said that staff can often address issues that may come up during business from the floor as part of manager's reports at a following meeting.

MOTION: Send the discussion of planting fruit trees on public land to the Tree Committee.
MADE BY: Brentwood. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Ober, Mikles, Moravec, and Craig). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

2.3 International Mountain Bicycling Association's (IMBA) Subaru Trail Care Crew Request for a Trail Workday.

Subaru has sponsored a \$2,500 grant to bring a crew to Bidwell Park for an educational trail workshop on November 12. There would be a mandatory class at Sierra Nevada Big Room in the morning and work in the Park during the afternoon to apply what has been learned. No financial obligation is requested from the City.

From the public:

Renee Johnson said her goal is to bring in a third party to provide clear ideas for trail care in Bidwell Park. She wants to be a harmonizer and bring together City staff and bike riders for designing sustainable multi-use trails. She works in partnership with Chico Velo.

MOTION: Move forward with accepting the proposal to schedule a workday with Subaru trail care crew. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Craig. **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Ober, Mikles, Moravec, and Craig). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

2.4 Review and Consideration of the Wet Weather Management Plan

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff reviewed and discussed data collected in 2010-2011 in preparation for a revised "Adaptive Wet Weather Management Plan" to be presented to BPPC at a future meeting. Measureable information was tracked and evaluated to determine closure of trails in Upper Park or the Disc Golf area and procedures outlined. Staff will continue to evaluate and monitor designated site conditions, but there will be times when a judgment call has to be made based on observation. Staff will prepare a follow-up report with recommendations.

From the public:

Woody Elliott wants a pragmatic approach to get out the word that trails are appropriately closed. Have a specific trail to walk to make judgments. Make closure more effective with more signs and chain barriers. Have CalTrans put in gates.

Renee Johnson agrees with having more signage and better explanation of the decisions made. More information could be put on social networking sites like Twitter or Facebook.

MOTION: Adopt changes to the assessment protocol as presented. **MADE BY:** Craig
SECOND: Emmerich. **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Ober, Mikles, Moravec, and Craig). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 9:40 p.m. to the next regular meeting of November 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved: 11/28/11
Prepared by:

Janice Heckerson Nov 28, 2011
Janice Heckerson Date

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)

Minutes of
November 28, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Mary Brentwood
Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent: Jim Mikles

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst), and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant)

1.3. Special Recognition of Alpha Sigma Phi, Friends of Bidwell Park and Chico Rotary for their work on Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park – Lost Park Cleanup!

Chair Ober and Management Analyst Smith-Peters presented certificates to members of CSUC's Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, Susan Mason and Steve Overlock for Friends of Bidwell Park, and Todd Kimmelshue and President Melanie Bassett of Chico Rotary Club in appreciation for the work these organizations did on Make a Difference Day. Raul Gonzales, Code Enforcement Officer for City of Chico, received a surprise award for all the help he provides to the Park and greenways in many ways.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of regular BPPC meeting on 09/26/11 and minutes of special BPPC meeting of 10/26/11 are presented for approval.

2.2. Consideration of a Permit for the "Frost or Fog 5k and ¼ Marathon"

Under the Sun Events requests a permit to host a race in Middle and Upper Park on January 14, 2012. Approximately 500 people participate in the 8-year old event. The route will be modified if trails are closed. This application requires BPPC consideration as the group is requesting the use of non-intensive use areas.

2.3. Consideration of a Permit for the 33rd Annual Endangered Species Faire.

Butte Environmental Council requests a permit to host an educational faire at Cedar Grove on May 5th, 2012. This will be the 33rd year the organization has held this event and they anticipate approximately 3,000 participants.

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:**Emmerich . **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Mikles).

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – NONE

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1. Bidwell Park Flyers South Rim Paragliding Launch Proposal

In 2009, the City Council allowed paragliding to occur at designated launching and landing sites in Bidwell Park. The proponents request two additional launch sites, located on the south side of Big Chico Creek at Peregrine Point, with limitations as to launch dates. Staff provided a recommendation (revised and supplied as part of the supplemental packet) for conditional approval for one year with launching allowed at the alternative launch site only between August to January, acceptance of educational signage, and an annual review.

Commissioner Brentwood asked for more information regarding annual BPPC review and reports from flyers. She also expressed concern about allowing additional uses in that area. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efsseff said for now there is no monitoring program on the impact on peregrines, but volunteers are watching them. Monitoring would occur on the activity.

Commissioner Craig asked about how BPPC would know for sure whether there will be an active nest on site. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efsseff said flights would be prohibited in this area from January to July to avoid disturbing any possible fledglings and to not interfere with the nesting season. Commissioner Herrera asked what has been learned from other cities about possible impact of paragliding on other birds. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efsseff stated that Peregrine falcons are adaptable but that the information is mixed and is a gray area. The most applicable study on Paragliding and Peregrine falcons comes from a study in Europe that indicated no impact after 30 years of use, but also cautioned against new impacts to birds in more remote areas.

From the public:

Jon Stallman pointed out that peregrines successfully nest in busy urban areas. There are few flyers with the qualifications to fly from this area. There is a long, extensive screening to get a license to P-4 advance level. Few flyers can read that site well enough to fly from it although paragliders have been using the south side since the 1970's. Any visiting pilot must also have thorough education on Bidwell Park from Jon or one other administrator. He studies air patterns and birds' actions while he flies thermals with them and has never had a close call with a bird.

Phil Johnson, with Altacal Audubon Society, stated his knowledge of bird life of Bidwell Park. In 1989 it was hard to find a peregrine in the area. Now they are there but disc golf and flyers are a risk to the birds of this area. Woody Elliott is a volunteer who monitors a pair of birds for their nesting activity. We cannot be sure flights are not affecting them during any season. He is monitoring peregrines in Butte Creek Canyon and Bidwell Park cliffs. The pair there did not nest last year. He appreciated the challenges of balancing park use with the limited information that is available. Marilyn Gamette, of Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation, does lots of work with raptors. She stated that it is important to consider what disturbances can do to these prey species and that the south cliffs should be left alone.

Commissioner Emmerich appreciates paragliders coming to talk, and noted that the discussion on impacts and monitoring of disc golf went on for a long time. The guidelines of the Master Management Plan determine our policies for the Park. Decisions here could be a precedent for additional activities on the south rim. She recommends this issue go to Policy Committee or Natural Resources to get more information and for further review.

Commissioner Craig said presentations are without a solid scientific basis so he would tend to need more information. Commissioner Brentwood needs more time to see how it fits into MMP. Commissioner Herrera suggested both sides are here now and could meet for further discussion. Commissioner Moravec thinks it is reasonable to gather additional information. Chair Ober agrees to send it to a committee and he suggests Natural Resources. Impact on wildlife might be significant but accordance with MMP must also be considered.

MOTION: Direct the question of developing take off sites for paragliding from the south rim to Natural Resources Committee. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Mikles)

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Susan Mason, who participates in the Bicycle Advisory Committee, noted the absence of BPPC representatives at the meetings. This Committee handles a lot of money and she hopes anyone who chooses to be on the Committee will attend. It is one hour four times a year

6. REPORTS

6.1 Tree Committee Reports, Mark Herrera, Committee Member

Committee member Herrera said the Tree Committee discussed several aspects of growing fruit trees on public property. The committee acknowledged that citizens currently are allowed to glean from City street trees and that the City does not have the resources to pick the fruit. At this point, the City should not change its current policy of not planting fruit trees along City streets. If an organization would like to formally glean from public trees, that they should approach the Urban Forester and develop an agreement for an encroachment permit, submit a holders harmless agreement and certificate of insurance naming the City as the additionally insured. Additional issues should be examined if an organization wishes to develop a proposal.

6.2 Natural Resources Committee Report, Mary Brentwood, Chair

This Committee has not met since last general meetings so there is nothing new.

6.3 Policy Advisory Committee Report, Rich Ober, Committee Member

The Committee continues its work on draft language for an updated park donations policy. The last meeting of 11/17 failed to have a quorum so will be rescheduled, probably in January.

6.4 Urban Forest Manager's Reports - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Both the September and October reports are included. She has met with CalTrans and Butte College about landscape issues. Two contracts are out for pruning trees, including a tree service to prune City trees on private land. The CSUC parking lot at Second and Normal/Chestnut is not up for City review, but it is nice to be working together with CSUC on the landscaping. A smaller First Street project contract is going out for bid again.

6.5 Park and Natural Resources Manager's Reports - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager

Park Manager Efseaff, covered a number of items from the reports that covered the October and November time periods. The 2011-2012 work plan is attached. There is a change in the Middle Trail scope to improve ADA access around Horseshoe Lake. We had good feedback on the Ranger-led bike tour. Roger Cole submitted a monitoring report on Verbena Fields. A ten-acre burn is completed and native grass is being planted. We have an application from Occupy Chico that has not been completed.

Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff noted that the Park reservation system will soon be updated to an online system. Staff is looking at a software program to accommodate the smaller staff and hoping for early 2012 implementation.

Public comments on reports – None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 8:15 pm to the next regular meeting on 12/12/11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

_____/s/

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

December 12, 2011

Date Approved

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)

Minutes of
December 12, 2011 Regular Meeting

1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Clay Craig
Lisa Emmerich
Mark Herrera
Jim Mikles
Jim Moravec
Richard Ober

Commissioners absent: Mary Brentwood

Staff present: Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant)

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes of BPPC regular meeting held on 11/28/11. **MADE BY:** Emmerich.
SECOND: Craig. **AYES:** 6 (Emmerich, Mikles, Ober, Moravec, Craig, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Brentwood)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – NONE

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1. PG&E Request's Public Utility Easement (PUE) in Lower Bidwell Park for Support Pole Installation.

PG&E requested a PUE to support a utility pole at the southwest corner of the intersection of Centennial and South Park Drive. The pole is currently leaning to the south and PG&E would install a support pole and guy wire. The City Council would have to grant an easement before the pole could be installed. Staff seeks a BPPC recommendation on whether to support the easement. If the BPPC supports the granting of the PUE, the GSD Director recommends additional conditions be added to the recommendation forwarded to Council.

Dan Blair, Government Relations Representative for PG&E, explained that the utility pole was originally supported by a tree that is no longer there, and that over time several

additional lines have been added from other utilities that rent from PG&E. Because of the tilt of the pole, the clearance under the utility lines has dropped down to 14'4", creating a potentially dangerous situation. PG&E has done a temporary wedge fix but must soon make it safe permanently or be fined. They want to work inline with BPPC policy.

PG&E offers two alternatives to correct the problem. Option One would install a 35 foot pole with a 15 foot lead guy and would need an encroachment into the Park. PG&E offered that this is most cost effective solution. Option Two would include the addition of two poles to reroute existing wires on an easement along the Centennial right of way. Mr. Blair opined that it may have more impact on Park usage.

Chair Ober said that the BPMMP guides us away from granting an easement, and this sets an undesirable precedent. Commissioner Emmerich asked how long the process would take or would it be expedited because of public safety. General Services Director Martinez said the shortest initial study is about three months. Commissioner Mikles suggested installing the line underground. Mr. Blair said underground is very expensive and applications take 4 to 6 years.

From the public - Ryan Brown asked if PG&E had thought of replacing the existing pole. Mr. Blair said they had, but any replacement pole would lack needed support for lines other utilities have added.

Chair Ober said there are already undesirable issues in that stretch of the Park. We would be creating a new policy so maybe neither option is good for either side. We either approve option 1 or deny it. PG&E could appeal BPPC's decision to take it to the Council.

MOTION: Option One not be allowed. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:**Craig. **AYES:** 6 (Emmerich, Mikles, Ober, Herrera, Craig, Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1(Brentwood).

Chair Ober thinks this may be the time for the Policy Committee to develop an encroachment policy.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton

Urban Forest Manager Britton said staff has been working on service requests and down limbs and hangers in addition to setting up the Christmas tree in City Plaza. They have reseeded the area around the labyrinth. There has been an increase in vandalism at Bidwell Bowl.

She discussed removal of some trees on the Bidwell Golf course with the course supervisor. Chair Ober asked if trees are dying as a result of other practices and use issues. Urban Forest Manager Britton said yes, two oaks are dead. One adjacent to Upper Park Road died of root loss and another oak died from road alignment as well as too much irrigation and some improper pruning a while ago. Managing a golf course in a blue oak area is difficult. They are now redirecting irrigation away from trees, removing ivy from trunks, and adjusting other management issues not just at the golf course but also at Five Mile and One Mile. Golf course is responsible for any work to be done on the course. Commissioner Herrera asked if this course has been found to have more impact on habitat than the disc golf course. The answer was "yes."

6.2 Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff reported that the proposal for an additional paragliding launch from Peregrine Point has been withdrawn and will not be going to committee. He noted that the BPPC will be getting an agenda item on Comanche Creek management plan for

