

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
January 30, 2012 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**MOTION:** Nomination of Lisa Emmerich for Chair. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** None. Motion dies for lack of a second.

**MOTION:** Nomination of Richard Ober for Chair. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSTAIN:** 1 (Ober). **ABSENT:** None.

**MOTION:** Nomination of Lisa Emmerich for Vice Chair. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Ober, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSTAIN:** 1 (Emmerich). **ABSENT:** None

**1.3 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), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst), Alicia Rock (City Attorney) and Janice Heckerson (Administrative Assistant).

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

This item was removed from Consent Agenda by Commissioner Herrera.

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

Applicant requests a permit to host a mountain bike race in Upper Park on established trails on 8/25/12. Routes would be on the north and south side of the park. This application is being considered by the Commission because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**2.3. Consideration of a Permit for a Wedding at City Plaza.**

Applicant requests a permit to host a wedding in City Plaza on 6/30/12. This application requires BPPC consideration as the applicant is requesting the exclusive use of non-exclusive use area.

**MOTION:** Approve Items 2.2 and 2.3 as presented. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Ober, Brentwood, Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** None.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – IF ANY**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Herrera asked that Item 6.1 of BPPC meeting 12-12-11 contain an answer “Yes” to the question regarding impact of the disc golf course.

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of BPPC meeting held on 12-12-11 as corrected. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 7 (Ober, Brentwood, Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** None.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Consideration and Input to Internal Affairs Committee on Smoke-Free City Parks.**

The Council's Internal Affairs Committee is looking at smoking issues across the City. On 11/08/11, they referred the issue of no-smoking in City parks to the BPPC for consideration and possible recommendation. BPPC's Policy Advisory Committee accepted public input on the issue at its 1/19/12 meeting and now ask BPPC to provide input and a recommendation to the Internal Affairs Committee. If the BPPC recommends additional restrictions, staff suggests that the BPPC forward a list of considerations to help shape the policy.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff summarized current restrictions, which include state law and an Upper and Middle Park ban for fire safety reasons. Some Park lessees are excluded from the ban. The MMP does not speak much to the issue. Questions arose about personal rights, consistency throughout the Parks, covering smoking inside vehicles, and enforcement concerns.

Commissioner Craig asked how many signs would be needed and the cost. Manager Efseaff said signage requirements depend on the nature of prohibition and without that information we do not know the potential costs.

Commissioner Moravec asked for more information on enforcement and why we give warnings but few citations. Records show 9 citations and 104 warnings last month, mostly in City Plaza. Senior Park Ranger Jessica Erdahl said rangers give warnings for education. She will write a citation for repeat offenders and one who knows they are wrong. People don't always seem to know the rules but she gets good response with warnings.

Assistant City Attorney Rock said implementing a policy draft for an ordinance can create the tool to implement the final city-wide policy you choose later. BPPC could make a resolution for 12 R's that would not affect the rest of the City.

From the public;

Susan Mason, Friends of Bidwell Park, urges support of smoke free Parks because of fire hazards, litter, and health of park users.

Shelly Brantley, American Lung Association, wants to protect park users from being exposed to drifting smoke and tobacco litter.

Christina Roberts, American Lung Association, praised volunteers for picking up tobacco litter. Many other agencies have restricted smoking policies. Chair Ober asked if the other agencies have addressed litter from cars. She would like to do more research.

Elizabeth Newton, Pleasant Valley Klean, wants to protect people from smoke and the litter that is a health danger. Parks should be fun, clean and healthy for everyone.

Matt Bailey, a Klean student, showed large box of cigarette butts they had picked up in the park.

Hanna Henriksen, Klean, said they have made presentations to PTA and others and sent letters to Enterprise/Record.

Valerie Patton teaches a class for moms and babies in Lower park and they run into pockets of smoke as they walk every day. It is often not nicotine smoke. Rangers should be at Caper Acres about 9:30 am.

Jeff Glatz there is a lot of marijuana smoking going on in Park. Cost should not be an issue.

Assistant City Attorney Rock said that to establish infringement of individual rights one would have to have sufficient findings to prove your arguments such as the danger of toxins or injury to health in your specific areas. The Drug Free Zone sign at One Mile bridge was based on code that has since expired and should be removed, unless the District Attorney establishes such a zone with enhanced penalties.

**MOTION:** Recommend consideration of a smoking ban in all Parks and Greenways and forward the list of issues to the City Council's Internal Affairs Committee. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Brentwood. Chair Ober offered a friendly amendment to include greenways. Brentwood second. Herrera accepted. **AYES:** 7 (Ober, Brentwood, Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** None.

#### **4.2. Consideration of the Comanche Creek Greenway Management Plan, Comanche Creek Greenway Improvement Project, and Mitigated Negative Declaration.**

City staff have met regularly with the Southwest Neighborhood Association to develop a vision for the recreational use of the Greenway as documented in the Comanche Creek Greenway Management Plan and the Improvement Project. The documents will guide future management and improvements in Comanche Creek Greenway, making it accessible to the public as funding permits

Mererdith Williams, Associate Planner, showed the project site and explained proposed improvements. Funding is no longer available but City could produce a Management Plan for the initial public opening that could be updated during use as funding becomes available. Staff has created the vision that would be good for seeking grants. Any opening for public access cannot be addressed until funding has been resolved. Volunteer days can continue to be on the calendar.

From public

Susan Mason - The neighborhood has come up with a plan and staff has given a lot of time. She urges you to adopt it.

Steve Schuman - Adopt 12.01 and we will tread as lightly as we can.

Emily Alma – that land sat untended for many years and invasive plants got way out of hand. As approved it will be attended, funding will come along, and we will keep working.

**MOTION:** Adopt Resolution 12-01: resolution of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission adopting a mitigated negative declaration and mitigation monitoring program for the Comanche Creek Greenway Management Plan and Comanche Creek Greenway Improvement Project; and approving both the plan and project. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 7 (Ober, Brentwood, Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** None.

**Break 8:00 to 8:10**

**4.3. Consideration of demolition of current restroom and construction of new announcer box and storage area at Hooker Oak's Doryland Fields.**

In October 2011, CARD completed construction of an upgraded, accessible restroom at Hooker Oak Recreation Area. The new restroom is ADA compliant and is also connected to the City of Chico sewer line. CARD now seeks to demolish the old restroom and announcer box and to construct a new building for storage and a new announcer area. The new building materials will match the new restroom facility.

Jake Preston, CARD, said the agency is paying for the project, which is driven by American Legion baseball. They have abandoned the old restroom and built the new one. The old announcer box will be left in place until the project is ready for implementation.

From the public – none

**MOTION:** Approve demolition of Hooker Oak's Doryland Fields old announcer box and restroom and the construction of a building for a new announcer box and storage area.. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** 7 (Ober, Brentwood, Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** None.

**4.4 Consideration of the Policy Advisory Committee's revision of the Park Donations Policy**

The PAC had met four times to review and make additions to the Park Donations Policy. At its 01/19/12 PAC meeting, the Committee and staff finalized the donation policy for submittal to BPPC. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff noted that the Policy and any items brought up in discussion will go to the City Attorney's office for review.

Management Analyst Smith-Peters stated that a list of locations where benches are needed will be presented at a later date. The donations amounts will be separate on a fee schedule so it can be updated as material costs change.

From public

Susan Mason is appalled how little people donate to the park in general for basic work. Encourage annual donations and campaigns to raise support for Caper Acres, etc.

Chair Ober recommends adding an item on applications that could be checked to donate a percentage of proceeds from an event back to the Park.

No action taken. The reviewed document will come back to the BPPC for consideration.

**4.5 Discussion of Committee Assignments and the 2012 Meeting Calendar.**

BPPC members serve on the Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Tree Committees and the City's ad hoc Bicycle Advisory Committee. The Committees allow more detailed consideration of issues. Findings or recommendations are then reported to the entire BPPC. Assignments are at

the BPPC Chair's prerogative with staff recommendations. In addition, the Commission will consider the Committee and BPPC meeting schedules for 2012.

Chair Ober said if anyone wants to change his/her committee assignment, let staff know and we will confirm the change at February general meeting.

From the public

Susan Mason would like someone to attend the Bike Advisory Committee meetings because they are responsible for a large amount of money and trails in the park need an advocate to be brought to the top of the list.

**MOTION:** Approve the BPPC and Committee calendar dates for 2012 as presented. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 7 (Ober, Brentwood, Emmerich, Mikles, Craig, Moravec, Herrera). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** None.

## **5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NONE**

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1 Special Report: Urban Forest and Street Tree Annual Report**

Urban Forest Manager Britton said the division's focus is to take care of street trees through out the City and public plantings other than in Bidwell Park. Chico has been a Tree City USA for 28 years. To most citizens, the character of Chico is defined by the trees. An intern in 2011 developed a street tree inventory and put information into a data base program to define contributions to the city from the street trees. It addressed issues such as energy savings, air quality, and storm water reduction services. Street trees provide over 10 million dollars a year of benefits, which is more than the City pays to maintain them. Staff began development of an Urban Forest Management Plan and a draft could be done this year.

### **6.2 Special Report: Annual Lessee Reports**

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff attached annual reports of six individual lessees. Nature Center report has not been received yet. Presenting them side by side could help with uniformity and makes one aware of the many uses of the park.

### **6.3 Tree Committee Report – Clay Craig, Acting-Chair**

Commissioner Craig said the Committee is in preliminary process for Tree Management Plan as Urban Forest Manager Britton said in her summary. He is pleased with the number of people at the meetings. There is a list of items/potential goals and a request for an overall definition of an urban forest has been added. The focus is on an educational program to provide a variation of trees and reduce invasive trees.

### **6.4 Natural Resources Committee – Mary Brentwood, Chair**

Commissioner Brentwood said they asked the public for input on names for areas of Lower Park and insight on Monkey Face and middle trail. Future meeting will be on designated areas of the Park. There is progress on Trails Plan and Natural Resources Plan. Progress is slow but steady.

### **6.5 Policy Advisory Committee – Lisa Emmerich, Chair**

The meeting discussion was on Park Donation Policy and a presentation about smoke-free parks. Tonight's meeting went over what was done at the committee meeting.

### **6.6 Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager**

Tree City USA application was submitted and will be awarded in March. Children's Playground is being vandalized in the Bidwell Bowl area. There is need to discuss how best to reduce maintenance needs there. Plaza fountain was down a couple of weeks after Christmas due to a

faulty pump but there was no major damage to motors. Oak Root fungus was found on Plaza cherry trees so we will make changes. Highway 32 Project is out to bid and the funding is still in place to widen the road and replant the landscape. Staff is working to get a budget for maintenance of new landscape.

#### **6.7 Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efsseff, Park and Natural Resource Manager**

Report is attached and ground water monitoring report also. The annual report will be for next meeting. Staff is working on parking lots to better accommodate accessible parking needs and doing a planting at lots B and C. There will be a combined comprehensive training for Park Watch, trails, and Team leaders. Fourth Street entrance is being transformed. Volunteer weekly sessions are ongoing. CAVE will have about 27 students this semester. The Police Department will be sending young children in trouble to work for us. The native plant project at Chico High is doing well.

Public comment on Reports - none

### **7 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 10:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting on February 27 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

February 27, 2012  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
February 27, 2012 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:** Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst), Jessica Erdahl, Sr. Ranger, and Jimi Logsdon, Park Field Supervisor

**1.3. Special Recognition of Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant, to the BPPC**

Special recognition was given to Janice Heckerson's service to the City of Chico, beginning in 1985. She joined the General Services Department in 1998 and took minutes for the Park Commission meetings from June 1998 until January 2012.

**1.4. Special Presentation: Bidwell Park Rephotography - Byron Wolfe, CSU Chico. – Postponed.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.3 Consideration of a Permit Application for the Chico Artisans Faire, May 5-6, 2012.**

Applicant requests a permit to host art, craft and entertainment faire in City Plaza May 5-6, 2012. This application is being considered by the Commission because the group is requesting the use of a park area for multiple days and for more than 10-hours. **Recommendation:** Approval of the permit use application with conditions.

**2.5 Consideration of Chico Area Recreation District's (CARD) request to waive reservation and vendor fees for 2012 permits.**

CARD requests to waive reservation and vendor fees for the Spring Jamboree; 4th of July Community Celebration; and Pastels on the Plaza. **Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the CARD's request to waive the reservation and vendor fees. The applicant will pay the other required fees.

**MOTION:** Approve consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Mikles **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

## **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT –**

### **2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Moravec. Under section 1.2, Commissioner Moravec corrected the Minutes to state that he had made the motion for the nomination of the Chair.

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of BPPC meeting held on 1/30/12. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Emmerich **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

### **2.2 Consideration of a Permit for Northern California Regional Trust Hike and Run on June 9, 2012.**

Commissioner Emmerich removed this item from the consent agenda. The applicant requests a permit to host a hike and run in Upper Park on established trails on June 9, 2012. Routes would be on the north side of the park. This application is being considered by the Commission because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

Commissioner Emmerich inquired as to whether there would parking issues and if carpooling has been encouraged for participants. Sr. Ranger Erdahl stated that she is in contact with the event organizer who said there would be a shuttle for participants from Five Mile to Horseshoe Lake area. Kristina Shierenbeck, Vice President of the NCRT, reaffirmed the use of a shuttle and that they welcome suggestions. Commissioner Ober asked whether they will know when they've reached the cap of 500 registrants and Ms. Shierenbeck said that they have pre-registration online for the event. It is their first time to hold the event and and they will be pleased to get 500 participants.

**MOTION:** Approve Permit for Northern California Regional Trust Hike and Run on June 9, 2012. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

### **2.4 Consideration of a Permit Application for the 17th Annual Alzheimer's Association Walk on October 13, 2012.**

Commissioner Mikles removed this item from the consent agenda. The applicant requests a permit to host the Chico Walk to End Alzheimer's at One Mile on October 13, 2012. Set-up for the event will occur on October 12, 2012. This application is being considered by the Commission because the group is requesting the use of a park area for multiple days and for more than 10-hours. Commissioner Mikles stated that there was a change with this year's event in the group's request to set up the day prior to the event and then hire overnight security. He inquired whether there would be any expense to the Park Division. Sr. Ranger Erdahl stated that there are at least 4 annual events in which over night security are hired at no expense to the Park Division and there will be no expense to the Park Division.

**MOTION:** Approve Permit for 17th Annual Alzheimer's Association Walk on October 13, 2012. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Craig **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0



### 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

### 4. REGULAR AGENDA

#### 4.1. Finalization of 2012 Committee Assignments and Chairs.

BPPC members serve on the Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Street Trees Committees and the City's ad hoc Bicycle Advisory Committee. The Committees allow more detailed consideration of issues. Commissioners were asked to email their preferences for the Chair and staff to review. There were no changes noted via Commissioners' emails and Chair Ober asked if at this time there were any changes to the current committee membership.

Chair Ober read out the committee makeup:

1. Natural Resource Committee - Commissioners: Brentwood (Chair), Emmerich, and Moravec.
2. Policy Advisory Committee - Commissioners: Emmerich (Chair), Herrera, and Ober.
3. Tree Committee - Commissioners: Mikles (Chair), Herrera, and Craig.
4. City Bike Advisory Committee - Commissioner Mikles, and Moravec as alternate.

**MOTION:** Approve the 2012 Committee Assignments and Chairs **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Craig  
**YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

#### 4.2. Review and Adoption of Park Memorials and Donations Policy

At its 1/30/12 meeting, the BPPC considered a revised City of Chico Policy for Park Memorials and Donations. The BPPC delayed action until a revised version that had been reviewed by the City Attorney could be completed. The Policy outlines the process for a variety of donation opportunities. Donation levels will be set to cover the true costs of a Park amenity and included on a fee schedule that can be updated regularly to account for costs changes.

Staff provided an overview of the donation policy revision, which included the review of other cities' park donation programs and extending the policy to cover other City parks and greenways once they are further developed. The policy includes language for a memorial tree program to support the urban forest and street tree program and that staff will bring back a list of locations where benches are needed in the Park. Donations will be kept in a separate account from the general fund.

Commissioners then asked clarifying questions and revised some of the Policy language. Staff explained that up to 3 plaques may be placed at any bench location, thus, providing more donation opportunities. At the end of a 10 year term (the lifespan of a bench), original donors will be given the first option to renew their term for benches in need of replacement. The provision of additional donations accompanying up to 3 plaques, will ensure that benches are kept in good condition. Staff plans to use a letter explaining the term agreement for the donation toward a bench location. If staff encounter questionable wording proposed for a plaque then staff can bring it back to the Commission for review.

Donation policy wording was revised as follows:

The wording about the formulation of donations amounts will be repeated at the top of the fee schedule.

3) Plaques – Park staff will install an engraved plaque at pre-approved site locations in Bidwell Park and other City owned parks. Plaque wording is subject to approval by the Park Division and shall not promote an entity or event other than wording used for the identification of the donor. Local non-profit service organization's logos are permissible. Anonymous donations are welcome.

6). Memorial Tree Program – All donors will receive a card reflecting their gift to share with the person being honored. Donations made to support the planting and care of the City's trees may be made in several ways:

- a) To provide a memorial or commemoration in someone's honor, a donation is requested and will be used for the planting and/or care of trees within the City's Urban Forest.
- b) To support the adoption of a street tree (specific tree or one in general), a donor may provide a minimum donation, which supports the basic resources needed for caring for a new tree for its first 3 years of establishment.

Fee Schedule top paragraph is revised to read:

Donation gifts to the City of Chico Park Division maybe tax deductible, donors should check with their financial advisor. Requested donation amounts toward various Park amenities are figured based on material/equipment costs; staff or contractor labor costs; administrative costs; and a certain % or flat donation dedicated to park maintenance, new facilities, and to support other Park programs.

**MOTION:** Adopt the revised City of Chico Policy for Park Memorial and Donations. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **YES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

## 5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

Linda Cooper recounted her experience in late February of trying to save her dog, Red Dog, from drowning at Horseshoe Lake. The dog had become entangled in fishing line while in the lake. Linda and her dog were rescued by Ranger Shane Romain. Ms. Cooper presented the Park Division with a donation to help cover the costs of remedying the fishing line cleanup at the lake.

Courtney Ferrell – the new Executive Director of the Chico Creek Nature Center introduced herself and expressed her interest in working more closely with the Park staff and BPPC.

## 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 – Jim Mikles, Chair

Chair Mikles described the continuation of the initial steps in developing an Urban Forest Plan, including an online urban forest management toolkit, which the public will be able to add their input on.

### 6.2. Special Report: 2011 Park Division Annual Report – Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager

Senior Ranger Jessica Erdahl, Field Supervisor Jimi Logsdon, Volunteer Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters and General Services Director Ruben Martinez presented various highlights from the 2011 Annual Report. The Rangers have increased their education, outreach and public campaigns, including radio's Park Minute, to address needs of the community and Bidwell Park and they are more active in visitation monitoring in the Park. The Park Maintenance Crew has enjoyed being

more involved in the Park's habitat restoration efforts, and trail repairs. The Crew faces many challenges such as the constant repair of Caper Acres, which has structures that need to be completely renovated and or removed. The Volunteer Program continues to build with groups, organizations, schools and individuals returning to work in the park over several years. Several on-going partnerships with community groups have been strengthened and sustained over several years: Community Action Volunteers in Education (Associated Students); Chico High School Native Plant Project, CSUC's Upward Bound High School Summer Park program, and the Adopt-A-Park picnic site program. There were over 17,500 hours of volunteer time donated to Bidwell Park by the Chico community in 2011.

**From the Public:** Woody Elliott, CA Native Plant Society and Friends of Bidwell Park – stated that Caper Acres should be adopted and renovated by local service clubs. Peregrine falcons are in Upper Bidwell Park and he determined that they did not nest. He is interested in figuring out why they have not nested. He hopes to find out if they successfully nest this year and fledge most importantly. We should not be allowing people in a nesting area and should be part of the natural resource management. He recently discussed with Susan Mason the need to follow-up on *Arundo donax*. He plans to GPS arundo spots that may need to be retreated. He expressed thanks for keeping up with all the park work.

Rafael Evans who lives near Chico Nut stated that he had started pruning a large oak tree behind the company and had sought to remove it because it was shading other younger oaks. A City official told him to stop because it needed to be taken care of by park staff.

Break from 9:00 pm and resumed at 9:10 pm.

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

The General Services Director presented information and stated that signs again will be posted during the Peregrine falcon nesting season to warn the public to refrain from interfering with the birds. The smoking ban request from the Internal Affairs Committee will be taken back to the City Council for further discussion before the Commission works on it further.

**6.4. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager**

The Urban Forest Manager stated that a heritage tree application will be brought to the Commission at the next meeting. The tree crew continues to do formative pruning and answering service requests.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 9:15 pm to the next regular meeting on March 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

---

**Prepared By:**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst

March 26, 2012  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
March 26, 2012 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  
Jim Mikles  
Jim Moravec  
Richard Ober

**Commissioners absent:** Mark Herrera

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

**1.3. Special Recognition – North Valley Tree Service**

BPPC Chair Rich Ober and Urban Forest Manager Denice Britton presented Tom Bettencourt of North Valley Tree Service with a special recognition of the donated services to prune one of the City's heritage trees.

**1.4. Special Presentation: Bidwell Park Rephotography - Byron Wolfe, CSU Chico.**

Dr. Wolfe presented information on the use of photography in showing changes in landscapes. Mr. Wolfe utilizes photos from the 1870s taken by the U.S. Geological Survey and then returned to the location to take current photos from the same vantage point. The technique is useful as a tool for monitoring changes and noting changes in land use and management. He has a photo of Salmon Hole in the late 1800s and it shows the Bidwells visiting the area and compares it with a photo taken in the later 1900s. According to Dr. Wolfe, there are 15-20 photos in CSU, Chico's Special Collections taken in Bidwell Park during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which would serve as baseline data for the Park.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Approve minutes of 02/27/12 BPPC meeting.

**2.2. Consideration of a Permit for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Hooked on Fishing Derby, May 19, 2012.**

Applicant requests a permit to host a fishing derby in Middle Park at Horseshoe Lake on 5/19/12. BPPC consideration is needed as the applicant is requesting to host a public event at Horseshoe Lake, which is not considered an intensive use area. They will stock the lake with approximately

10,000 lbs of catfish prior to the event. **Recommendation:** Approval of the permit use application with conditions.

**2.3. Consideration of a Permit to Host a Sunrise Service at the Cross in Middle Park on April 8, 2012.**

Applicant requests a permit to hold a sunrise service at the cross near Parking Area B in Middle Park on 4/08/12. Applicant expects approximately 50 attendees for a service from 6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. This service has been held at this location for the past 14 years. This application is being considered by the BPPC because the group is requesting to host a public event in an area not designated as an intensive use area. **Recommendation:** Approval of the permit use application with conditions.

**2.4. Consideration of a Permit for a Wedding at Picnic Site No. 37 in Lower Park on October 6, 2012.**

Applicant requests a permit to host a wedding ceremony at Picnic Site No. 37 on 10/06/12. BPPC consideration is needed as the applicant is requesting the exclusive use of a non-exclusive use area. **Recommendation:** Approval of the permit use application with conditions.

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

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT** – if any

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Acceptance of Chico Community Organization Funding Requests for FY 2012-13**

The City's Community Organization Funding Program (COFP) provides applications that involve City parks or facilities to the BPPC for acceptance. Applications have been received from 1) the Chico Creek Nature Center, and 2) the CA Urban Streams Alliance (Stream Team). The BPPC's recommendations are then provided to the Finance Committee as it considers budget recommendations for the COFP. Cris Carroll, Community Development Manager, explained that both community agencies will have the opportunity to present and discuss the merit of their requests before the Finance Committee, who will ultimately decide on providing financial support or not.

Courtney Ferrell, Executive Director of the Chico Creek Nature Center, stated that their request would help cover administrative staffing costs. Commissioner Brentwood inquired about the CCNC repayment of the City's loan for the new building. Ms. Ferrell explained that she is requesting a 3 year extension on repayment of the loan so that CCNC may have the time to diversify their funding sources and become more pro-active in their marketing and fundraising so that they can cover all of their costs. She is in her second month at the CCNC and is meeting with various community stakeholders and undertaking new fundraising efforts. They will hold its first fund-drive event on April 21.

**MOTION:** Approve acceptance of CCNC's application to the CCOP. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Herrera).

Joe Gleason, Treasurer of the CA Urban Stream Team Alliance, presented information on the Stream Team's activities in Bidwell Park with four monitoring sites established from which the group has collected baseline data on Big Chico Creek for over 8 years. Commissioner Clay asked about whether the testing was a service that needed to go out to bid and how many of the

hours logged pertain to work in the Park. Mr. Gleason stated that the hours are made up of the monthly testing event and the weekly hours conducting students in monitoring Big Chico Creek. Dan explained that the work done does not fall under the current permit needs of testing at Sycamore Pool, which did go out to bid. The Stream Team is providing baseline data and education to volunteers and students. Ms. Carroll stated that this application does differ from past applications but that the education and engagement of the community of volunteers is a benefit to the City. The collection of data and analysis is more of a professional service that they provide.

Ms. Carroll clarified that the Park Commission's role tonight was to determine whether the group's activities are pertinent to the Park and thus recommend the application move to the Finance Committee. Ms. Carroll stated that the Commissioners are welcome to forward comments or questions as well to the applicant for review by the Finance Committee. BPPC will make the decision to accept the application and thus, forward it on to the Finance Committee for making a decision on funding.

**MOTION:** Approve acceptance of the Stream Team's application to the CCOP. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Herrera).

#### 4.2. Consideration and Approval of a Heritage Tree Application

In February 2010, the Chico Municipal Code (CMC) was amended to establish a Voluntary Heritage Tree Program (CMC Section 16.68.010). A 46" DBH Valley Oak (*quercus lobata*) located at 2135 E 8<sup>th</sup> St. has been recommended for Heritage Tree status. Commissioner Moravec suggested that diameter standards may need to be examined, since oak species vary in diameter. He also suggested that neighbors whose property is next to a tree being recommended for Heritage Tree status. The Urban Forest Manager stated that the ordinance does not currently require that but it is a very good idea to do so.

**MOTION:** Approve the application for Heritage Tree status of the Valley Oak located at 2135 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and forward it to City Council for final approval. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Herrera).

### 5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

Dr. Jeni Henri recounted being attacked by a teenage boy in Bidwell Park while out running around 6 pm several weeks ago. She stated that the Police had told her that the park is a dangerous area. She feels that many of these types of incidents are not being brought forward to the public. Dr. Diane Gill also spoke about the need to increase measures to make Bidwell Park safer and that she would like to work with staff on this.

Josh Pitts said that he will be vying for a World Record in walking the most dogs at one time and proceeds would benefit the Butte Humane Society. He has applied for a permit application.

### 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 Verbal Report**

Chair Mikles updated the Commission on the Committee's continued progress on drafting an Urban Forest Management Plan. They are trying out an online work planning tool. The City will serve as a pilot for creating a UFMP and a draft of the document has been placed on the City's website for public review. Urban Forest Manager Britton stated that some citizens have requested that the City post a list of trees to be removed on the website prior to their removal.

**6.2. Natural Resources Committee**

Chair Brentwood gave an update on the Natural Resource Committee's continued progress in reviewing trails and proposed management zones in Middle Park. There were suggestions made to include landmarks on the maps and to identify parking areas more clearly. The Committee will continue to meet and discuss trails in preparation for drafting a Trail Plan, taking into account user needs, attributes, and perceived problems. All of this information is a first step in the start of taking a trail inventory. A timeline and priority of needed tasks will be drafted.

Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that there will be more information located on kiosks and trailhead areas. More information will be provided at kiosks on the types of trail; slope and grade; area cultural resources; etc.

**6.3. Urban Forest Manager's Report**

Urban Forest Manager Britton reported that the Tree crew is continuing to work on formative pruning on street trees. She discussed the City's celebration of Arbor Day with Chico High School horticulture students, who work with the Volunteer Coordinator. They planted 4 Western Sycamore and 1 Big Leaf Maple at Lost Park. There will be more tree planting workshops for residents who have lost trees and would like them replaced. The citizens sign up for the training and will receive a free tree from the City to plant and care for.

**6.4. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report**

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff reported that he had just received the Peregrine Point Disc Golf blue oak analysis and will be working on the monitoring report for the next meeting. Staff will be providing follow-up session with trail volunteers on March 31. There are new requirements for the septic system at Five Mile. At this time the tank is having to be pumped and a long term solution is being sought. Commissioner Moravec asked about the PG&E encroachment and Dan reported that we are waiting on some answers and that funding for underground lines is being expedited.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:15 pm to the next regular meeting on April 30, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 W. Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst

April 30, 2012  
Date

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
April 30, 2012 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), and Lise Smith-Peters (Management Analyst).

**1.3. Special Recognition - Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE) –** Chair Ober and Management Analyst Lise Smith-Peters commended CAVE volunteers for the 2011-2012 Chico State University school year and noted the 6 year partnership between the City Park Division Volunteer Program and CAVE. Student volunteers in the Adopt-A-Park Program work 30 hours a month in Bidwell Park. Special alumni, Commissioner Mark Herrera and Ranger Andrew Verbrugge, were recognized as participating in the first Adopt-A-Park semester in the fall of 2006. CAVE Program Coordinator Ann Schwab and CAVE student staff members who work with the Park staff were also recognized.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**2.3 Approval of a Permit for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedal Powered Music Festival at Camellia Way Park, June 2, 2012.**

Butte Environmental Council requested a permit for a bicycle pedal powered music festival on 7/2/12 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm and they expect approximately 150 attendees. The event is associated with "Bike Chico Week" and will take place at three separate locations, including the Cedar Grove Meadow (application approved by the Park Division). The BPPC considered the application because the group is requesting to host a public event in an area that is not designated as an intensive use area.

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



## ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT –

### 2.2 Approval of Permit for the 2nd Annual Making Strides Against Break Cancer Walk, October 20, 2012

This item was pulled because a member of the public wished to address the Commission. According to Becky Barnes Boers, the permit application form does not address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The event will close down South Park Drive to vehicles – it will also close the ADA parking spaces at Caper Acres and Oak Grove A & B at One Mile Recreation Area's group picnic site. Ms. Barnes Boers stated that the issue is with all special events that close off accessible parking.

Parks and Natural Resources Manager Dan Efseaff stated the City makes reasonable accommodations as part of the specific use permits for event participants when requested. Vehicle access is not allowed if it coincides with the start of a race or otherwise poses safety concerns. Commissioner Herrera noted that these concerns appeared to not be specific to the Cancer Walk and encouraged the BPPC to examine the issue at a later date. Commissioner Emmerich encouraged staff to work on the accessibility issue and special events in general.

**MOTION:** Approve Permit for the 2nd Annual Making Strides Against Break Cancer Walk for 10/20/12.  
**MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Moravec).

### 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

### 4. REGULAR AGENDA

#### 4.1. Review and Approval of Chico Creek Nature Center Outdoor Seating Area Project

After a brief Staff introduction, Courtney Farrell, Chico Creek Nature Center (CNCC) Executive Director presented background information on a proposal to construct a cement outdoor seating area on the property from a CSU, Chico senior construction management student, Ryan Jasper. Ms. Farrell indicated that this project would complete an additional phase of the Center's capital campaign and added that the new building's architect Dave Schleiger would also be involved with the project.

Commissioner Emmerich asked about the timeline for the construction and the participation of volunteers from CSU as well as Parkview Elementary. Ms. Farrell stated that they originally thought the project would have been approved and started by now and that the approval process has been a learning opportunity for the student as well as herself. The project has changed so that the current student will be passing the project on to another student with construction slated for the fall of 2012. Park staff stated that the City does have volunteers sign a Declaration of Assumption and Release of Liability for all work in the park. Commissioner Brentwood asked if there will be any budget impacts to the Nature Center. According to Mr. Jasper, all the materials and supplies will be donated. Ms. Farrell stated that additional costs will be very minimal.

Commissioner Craig asked for clarification on whether the structure would be sunken. Mr. Jasper said that the structure would lay flat on the ground and no digging would be needed. City Senior Planner Bob Summerville reviewed the proposal and the site between the old and new CCNC buildings and deemed that no environmental clearances would be necessary. Park and CCNC staff were encouraged to use the opportunity for educating all involved by including the Mechoopda Tribe's input on care of the site during construction.

Commissioner Brentwood inquired about the Urban Forest Manager's report recommended cabling the tree to protect it and reduce the likelihood of limb drop in the vicinity of the outdoor seating area.

From the Public: Woody Elliott states that cabling is not the best method for protecting the tree and that it can make it more rigid.

Ms. Farrell stated that the CCNC Board had not given approval of the current design yet and that with Mr. Schleiger's input that the product may change. Commissioners Herrera and Mikles requested seeing the final design before moving ahead.

Commissioner Brentwood moved to approve the conceptual design of the outdoor seating area since the Commission is supporting the project. Commissioner Herrera offered a friendly amendment to bring the "final" design back before the BPPC for review. Commissioner Brentwood withdrew the original motion to clarify the directive further.

**MOTION:** Approve conceptual design of the above ground, outdoor seating area, located between the two CCNC buildings with the final design to come back before the BPPC for approval. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Herrera. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Moravec).

## 5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

Citizen Becky Barnes Boers addressed the Commission on American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues in the park and recommended work on an ADA transition plan for the City's parks. She has discussed city wide issues with the City's ADA Coordinator. She stated that a number of facilities in the park and City are not ADA compliant. Ms. Barnes Boers recommended the formation of ADA transition committee for the City.

Commissioner Brentwood welcomed Ms. Barnes Boers to participate in committee meetings. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff noted that Parks has recently replied to Chico ADA Coordinator Tom Varga's request on questions about ADA compliance in a listing of City-wide ADA issues.

Chair Ober noted that examination of ADA issues within City parks could be appropriate for one of the BPPC's committee's after looking into ADA, Master Management Plan, and other pertinent information. He pointed out that staff could then look at the calendar and develop the necessary background information.

## 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. Special Report: Draft 2011 Year End Monitoring Report for the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Long Course.

Parks and Natural Resources Manager reported that the 2011 Year End Monitoring Report provides the framework from which the City and the Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. can actively monitor the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course. It incorporates the botanical surveys required by the Operating Agreement and provides updates of the 77 mitigation measures. The oak woodland monitoring looked at priority 1 trees located in the fairway; and then priority 2 and 3 trees further away from the fairway and a long-term study with aials over 10 years or more. Some major follow-up recommendations include:

- Course improvement with the installation of City of Chico sign spelling out disc golf etiquette; basic game rules; park rules; and stewardship;

- The placement of a physical barrier, such as a chain across the tee pad for Hole 1, when the wet weather closes that hole;
- Photo monitoring has shown that Grey pine saplings are thriving. We will explore the idea of planting these this species to serve as a screen to protect wildflower areas or blue oaks from disc impacts;
- Some of the pathways need to be examined further and refined; the snake rail fencing is working well to keep visitors out of sensitive areas and narrowing trails;
- The trail between Hole 16 & 17 will be rerouted;
- Add to the data collection the identification of trees that appear to be most susceptible to disc impacts and explore alternative trunk protection.

Commissioner Brentwood asked about how identified impacts to priority 1 trees would be mitigated. With adaptive management, the Parks and Natural Resource Manager explained that replanting is one of the remedies but that monitoring provides an early warning system so that tree protection measures can be instituted as soon as the problem is identified. As an addition to the next monitoring plan, the number of impacts to a tree will also be noted. This first monitoring year is in many respects providing baseline data for future impact studies – five years from now.

The Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. (ORAI) has been meeting the conditions of the lease.

From the Public: Woody Elliott, who serves as conservation chair of the Mount Lassen Chapter of the CA Native Plant Society commended the staff on this first draft monitoring report. He stated that he would like to attend the next field review and encouraged Park Commissioners to attend as well. Commissioners strongly recommended that ORAI attend the follow-up meeting.

**6.2. Tree Committee Reports – March and April Summaries – Jim Mikles, Chair**

Chair Mikles reported that the committee meetings have been well attended and there has been ample input from the public. The committee has defined an urban forest for use in the City’s management plan.

**6.3. Urban Forest Manager’s Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager**

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

Parks and Natural Resource Manager reported that the Middle Trail work started back up in April and that the CA Conservation Corps will return in June to work several more weeks. Signs have been added so that park users can choose alternative routes around the worksite. The Butte County Hmong Association’s cultural event will take place in September. Northern CA Land Trust had requested a change in date from June 9 to June 2, which will correspond nicely with the Park Division’s National Trail Day.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:30 pm to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst

May 29, 2012  
Date Approved

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
May 29, 2012 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), Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator)

**1.3. Special Recognition - Woodstocks Pizza Community Cleanup**

Chair Rich Ober commended Woodstock's Pizza on their very successful staff coordinated creek and neighborhood cleanup held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The group organized the event, registered volunteers, provided staff team leaders; recruited community volunteers, and held a large after event pizza party at the restaurant. Woodstock's staff closely with city staff Park Services Coordinator Smith-Peters and Code Enforcement Officer Raul Gonzalez. General Manager Jeff Davis received the award and bestowed a framed thank you with photos in appreciation to the Park Service Coordinator, Lise Smith-Peters.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**2.2. Permit 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chico Police Department Mounted Equestrian Training at the Horse Arena.** Chico Police requests that participants be allowed to stay overnight in trailers with "living quarters" for security purposes during the event (August 3-5, 2012) as they have the past few years of conducting this event. The BPPC considered the permit because of the exclusive use requests of the Horse Arena for multiple days and for more than 10-hours.

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

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT** – None.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

## 4. REGULAR AGENDA

### 4.1. Permit a Wedding Ceremony and Horse-drawn Carriage at the Campfire Council Ring.

Applicant requests to hold a wedding ceremony at the Campfire Council Ring on 06/02/12. The BPPC considered the permit because the request is to have a horse-drawn carriage in an area closed to vehicle traffic.

**MOTION:** Approve the permit with conditions for the use of a horse drawn carriage in an area usually closed to vehicle traffic. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** 6 (Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Brentwood).

### 4.2. Permit a Wedding at Picnic Site No. 37 in Lower Park

Applicant requests to hold a wedding ceremony at Picnic Site No. 37 on 06/09/12. The BPPC considered the permit because it is for exclusive use of a non-exclusive use area. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Dan Efseaff stated that a similar permit for the use of Site 37 was approved at the 3/26/12 BPPC meeting. The applicants understand the conditions and will limit their guests to 80. He added that staff is reviewing special use permits for park applications to simplifying the process.

**MOTION:** Approve the permit with conditions for the use of picnic site 37. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Clay. **AYES:** 6 (Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Brentwood).

## 5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

Citizen Doug Fogel addressed the BPPC provided a letter about Lost Park concerns. He moved to Chico over 20 years ago and thought that the City of Chico would utilize Lost Park as a downtown greenway similar to the cities of San Luis Obispo and Ashland. He expressed his desire to have support the Chico General Plan 2030 which calls for "enhancing downtown's integration with bordering creeks.... Require development and redevelopment along Downtown creeks to incorporate design features such as outdoor seating or dining, public open spaces and creekside façade improvements." Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that Lost Park has been included in the BPPC's Workplan adopted in January 2012 and that volunteer efforts have been focused there as a start to transforming the area. Staff will put Mr. Fogel on the Park Commission email distribution so that he can stay involved with committee meetings devoted to Lost Park.

Commissioner Herrera stated that he would like to see the Park Division's budget. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said that we can send him a link but that the Council would be finalizing the budget in June.

Commissioner Emmerich remembered longtime bicyclist and park advocate, Ed McLaughlin, who passed away on 5/24/12. Ed chaired the Bicycle Advisory Committee, was Executive Director of Chico Velo, and was an advocate for bicycling and for the Chico community in general.

## 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. Special Report - Park Watch Program Overview and Direction - Ranger Shane Romain

Ranger Shane Romain presented background information on Park Watch (PW), the City's longest

running volunteer program, which started in 1993. The organization began as a patrol oriented group and through time has transformed into members serving as ambassadors. Members walk, ride bikes and horses throughout Bidwell Park and now some are walking in Verbena Fields. Some PW members are docents for the Chico Creek Nature Center. The annual training is held in March and this year was combined with the training for Crew Leaders and Trail Volunteers. Ranger Romain requested adding the BPPC to the Park Watch monthly newsletter.

### **6.2 Tree Committee Report – Jim Mikles, Chair**

Chair Mikles reported that progress continues on the formation of the Urban Forest Management Plan and that the next phase is establishing and fleshing out the goals outlined in the report. The City's Street Tree Field Supervisor and Landscape Inspector have been invited to offer their input on goals.

### **6.3 Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton**

Urban Forest Manager Britton stated that Winco has worked well with City staff on their irrigation and landscape to enhance tree growth. She is working more closely with the City Building and Development Services, Engineering and Planning Departments to improve the current method of planting and that outside landscapers who plant on City property will be certified by the Park Division.

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

Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff reported that the City has hired NorCal Certified Accessibility Specialty Consultants (CASP) to conduct an Americans With Disabilities (ADA) assessment of all city owned properties, which will include Park facilities such as restrooms, and parking lots. The Middle Trail grant will actually help fund the rehabilitation of a trail so that it reaches to the Horseshoe Lake accessible fishing pier. General Services Director Ruben Martinez stated that the assessments will allow the City to prioritize and take into account changes in the ADA.

Mr. Efseaff stated that Friends of Bidwell Park is funding the Park Division Intern, Rick Helgerson's creation of a Bidwell Golf Course Privet Removal Project Plan. The project will include GPS mapping of the trees, logistics of removal and restoration elements.

The Park Division will be working with graduate students from the University of Cincinnati's Design, Architecture, Art and Planning School on replacement and design needs for Bidwell Park signage. Graduate student Teal Horseman, a native Chicoan, leads the project and the group has already visited Bidwell Park for collection of information on the Park and user needs.

Park Services Coordinator Smith-Peters stated that intern Rick Helgerson will be working this summer as part of his graduation requirements for his CSUC Department of Parks and Recreation degree. His main tasks include the Golf Course Privet Project; coordinating the summer weekly Upward Bound High School Program in the park; leading Volunteer Fridays; and mapping volunteer restoration sites. She also reported that Earth Day on April 21<sup>st</sup> was a resounding success with over 125 community volunteers and Park Crew Leaders working guiding volunteer teams.

## **7 ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 7:45 pm to the next regular meeting on June 25, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

                    /s/                      
Lise Smith-Peters  
Park Services Coordinator

July 30, 2012  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
July 30, 2012 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), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator), Alicia Rock (City Attorney) and Bob Summerville (Senior Planner).

**1.3. Special Recognition – Fred Sherman, Park Watch Member.**

BPPC Chair Rich Ober and Staff Lise Smith-Peters recognized Park Watch Volunteer Fred Sherman, who served as a member for 8 years; and chaired the organization during 2007 and 2008. Fred has been an avid PW member and often volunteered for Park information booths; helped with the annual training; and patrolled often by bike in Bidwell Park.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**2.2. Permit the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hooker Oak ¼ and ½ Marathon.**

Applicant requests a permit to host a run in Middle and Upper Park on 09/30/12. The Commission is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**MOTION:** Approve 2.1 Meeting Minutes of 5/29/12 and the Annual Hooker Oak ¼ and ½ Marathon as submitted. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Mary. **AYES:** 6-0 (Brentwood, Craig, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Emmerich.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

**2.3. Permit the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Earthdance Music Festival at the Cedar Grove Meadow.**

The item was removed from the consent agenda at Applicant requests a permit to host music festival at the Cedar Grove Meadow 09/22/12 to 09/23/12. The Commission is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of a park area for multiple days and for more than 10-hours.

From the Public:

Becky Barnes Boer asked that the Park Commission not allow public events in the Park as long as the Park is not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that during public events, if accommodations are needed, that the Park Division and proponents assist participants with disabilities, such as escorting cars in. He also noted that a consultant is assessing Park facilities. City Attorney Rock stated the City has an ADA Coordinator, Tom Varga, who is producing a comprehensive response on ADA issues throughout the City made in the past few months.

Commissioner Mikles stated that he could not see why this event should be singled out and cancelled without a specific issue. and moved to approve the permit.

**MOTION:** Approve the permit for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Earthdance Music Festival at Cedar Grove for 9/22 & 9/23. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 6-0 (Brentwood, Craig, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Emmerich.

### 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

### 4. REGULAR AGENDA

#### 4.1. Provide Comment on Planning Permit Application for a Fence on 1191 Woodland Ave.

The Planning Department requested BPPC input on a proposed fence (1191 Woodland Ave.) just south of Bidwell Park because of the proximity to the Park and potential viewshed issues. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff reported that the visual impact of the fence has been lessened by a change in fence design. Senior Planner Bob Summerville presented the fence design and the Planning Department process for approval. He also noted that the proponent and City have met with neighbors to help address concerns and the applicant is sensitive to the design fitting with the neighborhood architecture. Planning Department's Staff will forward BPPC comments to the Planning Department. Chair Ober expressed his appreciation for this item being brought to the BPPC for input.

From the Public:

Jim Stevens, landscape architect for the project, stated that the Gonzales family wanted to be good neighbors and changed the design to accommodate their concerns.

Becky Barnes-Boer – requested that the City make a commitment to make sure that vegetation will not be allowed to overgrow on to the sidewalk.

**MOTION:** The BPPC believes that the project poses no conflict with the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 6-0 (Brentwood, Craig, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Emmerich.

#### 4.2. Review and Adoption of Resolutions Concerning Revisions to Park Rules and Regulations , Title 12 and 12R of the Chico Municipal Code.

Chico Municipal Code Title 12 entitled "Parks" and Title 12R entitled "Rules and Regulations of Bidwell Park and other Parks and Playgrounds" provide the primary authorizations for the operating policies and regulations for Bidwell Park and other City properties. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that the park location maps have been combined and updated for ease of use. Commissioner Brentwood asked that as staff takes into account feedback that Susan Mason's email suggestions also be included in the revisions.



City Attorney Rock clarified that the codes do not contain policy nor are policies referred to in the code. The proposed revisions 1) reflect current management practices; 2) provide up-to-date definitions; and 3) clarify certain language in order to ensure that the rules and regulations are enforceable.

Commissioners discussed different items contained in the revisions and suggested that this agenda item be continued to the next BPPC meeting so that staff could provide additional information about specific questions that arose, so that Commissioners could see the context of the revisions and changes.

## **5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

## **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. Special Report: 2011 Year End Monitoring Report for the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Long Course**

Todd Cathers, President, Outdoor Recreation Advocacy, Inc. (ORAI), presented the organization's Annual Report for 2011. They had a successful year with 10 exclusive use days and sold fundraising items one Saturday per month. They did not keep usage records of the facility and are not required to do so by the agreement. He reported that the maintenance was pretty minimal in 2011 due to the newness of the course. ORAI is planning to host "Bag Tag" Tournaments and Public Tournaments to help with fundraising. The organization spent \$9,000 in 2011 for the upkeep, insurance, and botanical studies (\$3,700) for the course. They are in the process of designing new tree guards to better protect the tree trunks. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that we are recording some of the hits and that no decline has been recorded despite the disc impact to the tree. Gray pines grow very fast in the area and may be used as natural blue oak protectors. President Cathers stated that they have planted 180 blue oak acorns. Mulch needs to be added at 8 tee pads and 6 targets.

### **6.2. Tree Committee Report – Jim Mikles, Chair**

The July Tree Committee meeting was cancelled due to no quorum. The group made good progress at the June meeting on the 3 major goals of the Urban Forest Management Plan:

- 1) Implement a program for enhancing public safety and reducing risk to citizens;
- 2) Define the character and appearance of Chico's Urban Forest;
- 3) Develop a more comprehensive program to increase tree planting opportunities to fill the back log of empty planting sites. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

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

Urban Forest Manager Denice Britton stated that the tree crew has had a rash of emergency calls due to summer limb drop, a natural phenomenon this time of year. A large red oak fell and struck two homes. She also recently met with the Police Target Team to discuss the on-going vandalism at City Plaza.

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

Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff reported that due to a brief window afforded by favorable weather conditions and plant status, the Park Division and Chico Fire Department conducted a prescribed burn of 3 acres on July 18 in Middle Park south of Upper Park Road

(between Parking Lots A & B). The burn was a control measure for medusahead (and other annual grasses such as foxtail barley) and yellow star thistle. The One Mile Recreation Area and City Plaza have received inordinate amounts of vandalism in the last month. One Mile was tagged two days prior to the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and staff was able to clean up the damage and graffiti prior to the annual event. Park Watch had an information booth out during the July 4th festivities and volunteers provided instruction on One Mile rules, and BBQ use. This year the Park Division provided more porta- potties and also requested more trash cans, which reduced the amount of trash. The Park Division will be hosting a National Night Out event at Sycamore Pool on August 7, 2012.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:50 pm to the next regular meeting on August 27, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

  /s/    
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

  August 27, 2012    
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
August 27, 2012 - 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  
Lisa Emmerich  
Jim Mikles  
Jim Moravec  
Richard Ober

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Alicia Rock (Assistant City Attorney), Jessica Erdahl (Senior Park Ranger), and Lynda Cameron (Administrative 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 Meeting Minutes**

**2.3. Permit the Almond Bowl 5k, ½ and Full Marathon.**

Applicant requested a permit to host a run in Lower, Middle and Upper Park on 11/4/12. The Commission considered the application because the group requested the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**2.4. Permit the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkinhead Contest.**

Applicant requested a permit to host the annual pumpkin head contest at City Plaza on 10/26/12. Results Radio has held this event for the past 16 years and anticipates approximately 200-500 people. The Commission considered the application because the group requested the use of the reserved area for more than ten hours.

**MOTION:** Approve Items 2.1, 2.3, and 2.4 of the Consent Agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Emmerich.  
**SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober)  
**NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

**2.2. Permit the Chico Nephrology Biathlon.**

Applicant requested a permit to host a run and bike race in Lower and Upper Park on established trails on 03/23/13. The Commission considered the application because the group requested the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

Commissioner Moravec requested additional details on the plans and preparations of the bike race portion of the biathlon. He questioned whether the City has historically approved bike races in Lower Park, stating caution can become a secondary factor when bikers are racing. Chico Kidney Biathlon representatives Kerilynn and Jon Ferguson provided a verbal explanation of the route for both runners and bikers, stating they were working with the "Run for Food" event organizers who have experience holding large events in the Park and adding that their main concern was safety.

Commissioner Emmerich asked if the Kidney Group had consulted with Chico Velo regarding the bike race and asked if this event is considered a race or a ride. Mr. Ferguson indicated the group had not yet spoken to Chico Velo and at this point, the event is classified as a race. Chair Ober shared similar reservations on the safety of the event but also supported the biathlon, adding that a way to avoid the potential use conflict may be to turn the bikes around before reaching Sycamore Pool Bridge. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff asked the representatives about their timing for advertising and recommended this item come back to the Commission for final approval.

**MOTION:** Approve provisional acceptance of the permit for the Chico Kidney Biathlon with the item to come back to the BPPC at its meeting of 9/24/12 for final permit approval with the following additional information provided: (1) make contact with Chico Velo; (2) change the bike "race" to a bike "ride;" (3) provide a detailed plan for route safety; and (4) incorporate other measures for participant and park user safety. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober) **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

### 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS -None

### 4. REGULAR AGENDA

#### 4.1. Revisions to Park Rules and Regulations, Title 12 and 12R of the Chico Municipal Code.

Chico Municipal Code Title 12 entitled "Parks" and Title 12R entitled "Rules and Regulations of Bidwell Park and other Parks and Playgrounds" provide the primary authorizations for the operating policies and regulations for Bidwell Park and other City properties. The revisions: 1) reflect current management practices; 2) provide up-to-date definitions; and 3) clarify certain language in order to ensure that the rules and regulations are enforceable.

Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff provided the Commission with an overview and clarification on questions that arose at the meeting of 7/30/12 regarding bikes, dogs, smoking, night closure, and closure of parks.

A discussion to clarify existing code and recommended changes ensued. For example, Commissioner Craig questioned the last sentence in 12R.04.070 (Roads closed permanently or temporarily to motor vehicles are trails for the purpose of this section) and said it could make South Park Drive or other closed roads a trail. Chair Ober agreed with Commissioner Craig and asked for alternate language. Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Rock offered that a clarifying sentence could be added "except South Park Drive."

Commissioner Brentwood asked if 12R.04.020.P, *defining Upper Bidwell Park*, including the park along Highway 32, could be referred to as Peregrine Point. ACA Rock indicated she could strike "including the park," and add "up to the eastern boundary established by Highway 32." Chair Ober suggested also changing that section to read "the area east of Bidwell Municipal Golf Course" rather than "the area east of Five-Mile Recreation Area."

Commissioner Moravec asked about the dog training areas as noted in 12R.04.115. ACA Rock stated there are two training areas; Lower Park and Upper Park as delineated in 12R.04.115.A.1 and A.2. She stated it would be clearer if language was added "in the following areas" and strike "and is in one of the dog exercise or training areas." She also suggested adding Exhibit H and J for reference to Lower Park for 12R.04.115.A.1, and changing the section title to "Dogs Off Leash Areas" rather than "Dogs Exercise Areas."

ACA Rock noted the closure period for Middle and Upper Park in 12R.04.370.C. was a duplication to other areas and suggested it be removed.

**MOTION:** Approve the following revisions to the resolution: (1) definition of Upper Bidwell Park as modified in 12R.04.020; (2) reference to South Park Drive in 12R.04.070; (3) corrections made to 12R.04.115 in relation to dogs; and (4) correction set forth in 12R.04.370 in relation to closures. Forward the ordinance and resolution to the City Council for adoption. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec and Ober) **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

## 5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

In response to Commissioner Herrera's question on the Becky Barnes-Boers issue, Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff stated Capital Project Services Director Varga is drafting a response to Ms. Barnes-Boers concerns and the City is in the process of reviewing the ADA locations

## 6. REPORTS

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action was taken on any of the items.

### 6.1. Special Report - Police Efforts in City Parks and Greenways – Sergeant Dave Britt and Officer Dave Bailey, Chico Police Department.

Sergeant Britt addressed the Commission on the role of the Target Team and how they address chronic police activity. Officer Bailey stated the Police Department realizes there is an increase of criminal activity in the Park due to the poor economy, AB 109 (Prison Realignment), and increased homelessness.

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), a tried and tested method that several municipalities have adopted, was discussed. The Police Department has met with staff on several areas throughout Chico. Suggestions for City Plaza include: (1) a screen around the stage to prevent homeless sleeping there; (2) increased lighting during darkness; (3) removal of locks from bathrooms; and (4) removal of screening around bathrooms.

Sgt. Britt explained how they use Penal Code 647 (e) "illegal lodging" in the following staged approach to Chico's homeless issues: 1<sup>st</sup> time warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> time warning and citation, 3<sup>rd</sup> time arrest, adding that the HELP program is an asset in getting the homeless back to their families. Commissioner Herrera questioned if this just moves the problem from one area to another. The response was this is a common thought, but in actuality it reduces the overall crime rate. Commissioner Emmerich applauded the Police Department's humane effort with the homeless. Commissioner Herrera asked how the community could get involved in homeless clean ups. Sgt. Britt said Code Enforcement Officer Gonzalez organizes three events per year for the City and other organizations such as the Rotary Club, BEC and LOVE Chico also have events

From the Public:

Woody Elliott stated he walked Lindo Channel from Nord Ave. to the Esplanade, noting there were many encampments creating an environmental issue. Sergeant Britt said the Police Department patrols Lindo Channel on a regular basis, adding he cited three people this week and every month it is on the clean up list. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efsaaff noted that the City's encampment program has been very busy this summer throughout Chico.

**6.2. Tree Committee Report – Jim Mikles, Chair.**

The August Tree Committee meeting focused on Management and Community of the Urban Forest Management Plan. Regarding the Community category, the Committee discussed improving citizen awareness and enhancing citizen opportunities. Chair Ober stressed the importance of this item as it is on the BPPC's Work Plan.

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

Urban Forester Britton stated the amount of damage at the City Plaza has reduced significantly in the past month. She has been working with Landscape Inspector Sheppard to look at ways to reduce criminal activity such as screening the stage area, changes to the restrooms, and increased lighting, adding that in the coming months they will bring forward proposals to the Commission.

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

Park and Natural Resources Manager Efsaaff reported on the fires in Upper Park and said he has been developing a contingency plan (Plan) to reduce the risk of fire danger. The Plan would be enacted when there are red-flag days due to weather or imminent fire risk. The Plan would close Upper Park Road in a staged approach: (1) barricading past Brown's Hole; (2) closing the gate at Diversion Dam; and (3) closing the gate at Parking Lot E. The Plan is important as it allows for emergency vehicles to get in and out and keeps citizens from getting stuck in the Park. Park minute radio announcement has been positively received by the public and the Park Division has received requests from educators in town for more information for their students.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to the next regular meeting on September 24, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

September 24, 2012  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
September 24, 2012 Regular Meeting  
Revised Version as of 10/29/12

**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 Moravec  
Richard Ober

**Commissioners absent:** Lisa Emmerich, Mark Herrera and Jim Mikles

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**1.3. Special Recognition -- M&S Wesley Tree Service – Marc and Shuree Wesley** – Chair Ober and Urban Forest Manager Britton commended the Wesley's for their commitment to Chico's trees as demonstrated by their donation of pruning of the large valley Oak tree on Heritage Oak Drive. This 66" diameter oak was preserved as part of the Heritage Oak subdivision in 1996 and designated a "Heritage Tree" in 2010.

**1.4. Special Recognition – Rick Helgerson, Park Intern** – Chair Ober and Park Services Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters recognized Rick Helgerson for his service as Park Intern from August 2011 through September 2012. Rick helped with coordinating volunteer work sessions; the Upward Bound summer high school program; and some mapping projects in Bidwell Park.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Approve minutes of BPPC held on 08/27/12.

**2.2. Consider a Permit for a Wedding at Picnic Site No. 37 in Lower Park.**

Applicant requests a permit to host a wedding ceremony at Picnic Site No. 37 on 10/06/12. This application requires BPPC consideration as the applicant is requesting the exclusive use of a non-exclusive use area.

**2.3. Permit the Frost or Fog 5k, 1/4 Marathon.**

Applicant requests a permit to host a run in Middle and Upper Park on 01/12/13. The Commission is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**2.4. Permit the Jack Frost 10k.**

Applicant requests a permit to host a run in Lower and Middle Park on 12/16/12. The Commission is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**MOTION:** Approve the consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Morave. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 4 (Brentwood, Craig, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Emmerich, Herrera, and Mikles.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Consider a Revised Permit Application for the Application for the Chico Kidney Biathlon.** The applicant, Chico Nephrology group, requested a permit to host a run and bike race in Lower and Upper Park on established trails on 03/23/13. The group first addressed the BPPC at its 8/27/12 meeting. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef explained that the applicant had been asked to return to the Commission for final permit approval with the following additional information provided: (1) make contact with Chico Velo; (2) change the bike "race" to a bike "ride;" (3) provide a detailed plan for route safety; and (4) incorporate other measures for participant and park user safety. Applicant spokesperson, Kerilyn Ferguson explained that the group had received assistance from Chico Velo's Executive Director Janine Rood to revise and help plan out the routes in Bidwell Park. For safety purposes, participants will walk bikes across the Five Mile bridge. Commissioner Moravec shared his concern over the complexity of the foot and bike ride since it was the organization's first time to coordinate this type of event. Ms. Ferguson stated that the event organizers were putting a lot of time and energy into coordinating the ride. Participants will be made aware of particular "rules" for the event that must be followed and that they would have a large number of volunteers to handle route safety aspects. The number of volunteers would depend on how many participants signed up. The group provided a copy of a volunteer manual that will be used to orientate the event support staff.

**MOTION:** Accept the revised plan/route for the Nephrology Biathlon. **MADE BY:** Craig. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 4 (Brentwood, Craig, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Emmerich, Herrera, and Mikles.

**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 – Clay Craig, Commissioner, Tree Committee**

Commissioner Craig stated that the Committee continues to make good progress on the Urban Forest Management Plan and to receive constructive community input. Denice Britton, the Urban Forest Manager, is working on a list of acceptable trees and shrubs and guidelines.

Commissioner Moravec asked what can be done about vacant business properties that are allowed to become overgrown with weeds or when irrigation is turned off, the landscape dies. Manager Britton stated that she can get involved when the property has street trees in its landscape, otherwise, it is an issue that may need an ordinance to enforce property owner care and in that event, it would come from the Planning Department.



## **6.2. Natural Resources Committee Report – Mary Brentwood, Chair**

Chair Brentwood stated that the NRC meeting in September focused on Upper Bidwell Park management zones and trails and was a continuation of several meetings. She asked that the report be amended to reflect that the NRC adjourned at 7:25. This meeting encourages public input into the initial trail plan and management unit discussion and that the meetings have been publicized. In the past, the Park's 32 designated units were based on plant communities but the zones now under consideration would utilize Park landmarks as well as trails. The group discussed consideration of the park's history and culture, such as the use of Mechoopda names, when naming areas for the management units.

Chair Brentwood stated that work on the Monkey Face trail reroute will start up this fall. There is no outside funding for the improvements to the Monkey Face Upper Park area and the reroute and closure of trails will be completed in phases. Staff will continue work this Fall on the Middle Trail grant project. Park Manager added that staff would issue press releases and that signage in the project area would help inform the public as to the need for the reroute.

Park Manager Efseaff reported on the illegal trail in the far eastern portion of Upper Bidwell Park. The discovered trail is about 7/10 of a mile in length and comes down North Rim at a 50% grade. The culprits who created this illegal trail have placed sawed off logs there probably to use as jumps. He stated that this is being viewed by the Park Division as an extreme act of vandalism to an area of the Park that was considered pristine. Staff is looking into various measures to address this act.

From the Public

Bob Jones addressed the Commission that the mountain bikers have been an important source of volunteer labor for trail work and that they should be pulled in more into the trail discussions. He continued that illegal trail construction is done by a few Mt. bikers not most.

Renee Johnson shared similar sentiments stating that whoever created the illegal trail did not understand the effect that this will have on the plants and cultural resources of the area. She is a Park Watch member and trail crew leader and that she has been working to get Park Watch members more involved. She wants Dan to continue holding the trail trainings.

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

Urban Forest Manager stated that the crew had been addressing a lot of limb breakage, which is common this time of year, and that the tree contractor is working a list of removals of seriously damaged trees.

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

Park Manager Efseaff stated that the smoking ban issue had been sent back to the Policy Advisory Committee to address some particulars pertaining to the Park, such as smoking at the Golf Course and inside of an automobile. The Committee will forward its findings to the full Commission. Staff met with Woodland Avenue neighbors to address issues at the One Mile Recreation Area involving security, maintenance, egress and entrance issues. Staff has been working on some new staging areas for resupplying mulch to areas of the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course. The Volunteers in Police Service helped Park Watch members on Labor Day, much like on the Fourth of July, providing visitors with information. Staff is working with the Police Department's Target Team on transient and vandalism issues. The Park Services Coordinator spoke of the new Fall work sessions and that Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park will be held on October 27, 2012 from 10 am to 1 pm.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ober adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm to the next regular meeting on October 27, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

                                /s/                                  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

October 27, 2012  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
October 29, 2012 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), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Mikles requested that the Minutes from 09/24/12 BPPC meeting be corrected. Staff incorrectly wrote that Mikles had given a verbal report of the meeting but he was absent. The Minutes will be corrected to show that Commissioner Craig gave the report on 09/24/12.

**MOTION:** Approve the Minutes as corrected. **MADE BY:** Morave. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 4 (Brentwood, Craig, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Emmerich, Herrera, and Mikles.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Permit the Gobble Wobble 1 Mile, 5k and 10k.**

The CSU, Chico Department of Kinesiology class requested a permit to host a run in Middle and Upper Park on 11/10/12. The race will begin at Horseshoe Lake. If the trails are closed, the race will be moved to Upper Park Road. Staff strongly recommends that for future events the applicant submit a complete application for park use, including final race routes to the BPPC at least 85 days prior to the date of such event in order to ensure adequate time for approval and/or an appeal of a decision of the Commission. The BPPC is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

From the Public:

Applicant Professor Traci Ciapponi stated that the Kinesiology class focus is on scheduling,

planning and coordinating of the Gobble Wobble Run. The class starts in August, and so the 85 days or more restriction is a burden to comply with. Ms. Ciapponi said she would work with Park staff to figure out the best way to have the application in a timely manner.

**MOTION:** Accept the permit for the Gobble Wobble Run for 11/10/12. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 6 (Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1. (Brentwood).

#### **4.2. Appeal of Tree Pruning Permit Denial for Park Avenue and East Park Avenue**

A request by CBS Advertising to heavily prune trees on Park Avenue and East Park Avenue to provide better viewing of their two billboards has been denied by the Urban Forest Manager, and was appealed per Section 14. 40.330 of the Chico Municipal Code. The Urban Forest Manager reported that CBS would not be attending tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Moravec excused himself from the discussion. Commissioner Craig inquired as to whether the billboards predate the trees. The City's Capital Project staff initiated the beautification project, in which the trees had been planted to shade the bike path and help hide the scrap yard. The billboards predate the tree plantings. Commissioner Emmerich asked how often the trees would need to be pruned and at what cost and whether we had worked with other vendors on this type of issue. Urban Forest Manager Britton said that the city does work with businesses but this particular request has not come up before. The scope of work requested was extensive, and beyond the normal pruning standards. The proposal was also not specific as to which trees would be pruned to what extent.

From the Public:

John Stallman stated that there may be a legal issue since the billboards were there first but that the area is finally looking nice due to the maturing of the trees. Also the solar shading act may come into play too.

**MOTION:** Staff will work with CBS Advertising to come up with mutually acceptable guidelines and will continue the discussion with the BPPC at the November 2012 meeting. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 5 (Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Mikles, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Brentwood). **ABSTAINED:** 1 (Moravec).

#### **4.3. Appeal of Denial of Tree Removal Permit for 1902 Spruce Avenue**

Homeowners Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have requested a permit to remove two healthy black walnut street trees. The permit was denied and is being appealed per Section 14. 40.330 of the Chico Municipal Code. Staff recommended denying the permit to remove the trees based on their health and the benefits they provide to the community but would support the applicant's pruning of the trees. Urban Forest Manager Britton corrected the report to state that the Robinson's permit had been denied in August and appealed in September.

From the Public

Pamela Robinson and her father Larry Skinner, who both live on the property, stated that the two large walnuts were a danger due to dropping walnuts and limbs and that one of the trees had previously caused damage to the neighbors garage and fence. Currently, visitors and sometimes the family park their cars across the street to avoid walnut and limb damage. Ms. Robinson stated that she understands the City's difficulty with keeping up with maintenance and that the trees are on a waiting list for pruning. Mr. Skinner said that 3 black walnuts had been removed from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue with no issues and that the family is willing to pay for the removal of the street trees in their front yard.

From the Commission:

In response to a question from the Commission, Urban Forest Manager Britton stated that treating the trees with a chemical to stop walnut production would be difficult and the effectiveness of such treatments is unknown, but at best would only be between 80 – 90%. Black walnuts are not on the current approved street tree list. The trees were planted during Bidwell's time and are considered historic and these particular trees could fall under heritage tree status. Black walnuts are not produced for horticulture but for agriculture, now as the root stalk for English walnuts. The trees are valued for their wood because it is becoming rare. The Urban Forest Manager stated that a request to remove these trees is rare.

When asked if the neighbors opposed the removal of the trees; staff stated that the issue had not been made public. Mr. Skinner said that the next door neighbors who had their fence and garage damaged supported the request as well as other immediate neighbors.

**MOTION:** Deny the permit to remove 2 black walnut trees at 1902 Spruce Avenue. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 4 (Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, and Ober). **NOES:** 2 (Mikles and Moravec). **ABSENT:** 1 (Brentwood).

## 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. Annual Review of Paragliding Activities in Bidwell Park -- Lise Smith-Peters, Parks Analyst

Staff gave a brief background on the Bidwell Park Fliers Annual report. This is a second annual report provided, as part of the permit requirements, and will also be shared with the City Council. Flights in Bidwell Park from October 2011 to October 2012 numbered 154. Fourteen pilots visited the area and accounted for 17 of the flights. Currently there are a total of five pilots in the area (two resident pilots, two intermittent pilots, and one student pilot, with Jon Stallman and Martin Roland conducting most flights).

From the Public:

Jon Stallman described some recent flights in Bidwell Park and showed the BPPC the paragliding back pack equipment that must be carried out to the launches. He also described the Fliers role in educating the public about the park and flight with the birds of the area. He also stated the group would like to explore with the BPPC the idea of adding a launch site from the South Rim of Upper Park. He explained that the launch site would have limited use since you have to have a P4 rating for launching from that type of site.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff recommended that the subject be discussed in the Natural Resources Committee so that any issues and solutions can be discussed more in depth there and brought back to the full Commission.

### 6.2. Policy Advisory Committee Report – Lisa Emmerich, Chair

Chair Emmerich gave a background on the request by City Council to have the BPPC discuss elements of a smoking ban for all City parks. Committee members discussed the merits of making it a comprehensive smoking ban so as to reduce confusion among park users and to help make a consistent policy for all parks and greenways. Public input from the American Lung Association representatives and Kids Leading Everyone Education Against Nicotine also felt strongly that a comprehensive ban would be less

confusing and easier to enforce. Staff reported that the most likely process would be for staff to work with the City Attorney's office on language for a resolution. This will be reviewed by the BPPC and then forwarded to the City Council for adoption. Staff projected that the process would take place over the next few months.

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

Urban Forest Manager stated that an emergency removal of a damaged sycamore tree next to Peet's Coffee took place in October. The downtown couplet project has finished its first phase and the Street Tree crew has been asked to water newly planted trees. Planting workshops will be conducted on several Saturdays in October and free trees will be given to participants who need street trees replaced.

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

There has been new pavement installed in the North One Mile Recreation Area parking lot. Staff worked with the Engineering Department and right-of-way crews to install a one-way west bound bike lane on South Park Drive in the segment near the 4<sup>th</sup> Street entrance, which leads to the bikeway and underpass to Annie's Glen. The bikeway addresses the issue of bikes riding the wrong way into oncoming cars. A wildlife camera was added to Upper Park road area and photos of a black bear and Mt. Lion were taken. Both were shared with the public by putting them on the Park Division's Facebook page. The City held its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park work day and there were over 275 volunteers.

Commissioner Moravec inquired about the Highway 32 Disc Golf Log visits by Rangers. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff said that most of the visits are routine stops but the Rangers do walk the course from time to time or as needed.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ober adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm to the next regular meeting on November 26, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

November 26, 2012  
Date

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
November 26, 2012 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), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**1.3. Special Recognition – Rotary of Chico, Soroptimist International of Chico and Home Depot** -- Chair Ober and Park Services Coordinator Smith-Peters presented special recognitions to the Home Depot staff, Starla Starnes and Ainslie Robbins; Chico Rotary members, Tod Kimelshue and President Dick Stein, and Soroptimist members, Vice-President Gayle Aylward and Margaret Bomberg. Each organization had teams working in Bidwell Park on October 27 and donated materials to the event.

Staff showed a Youtube video: Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park, created by Dan Efseaff of the event to begin the recognition.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Approve minutes of BPPC held on 10/29/12.

**2.2. Permit the 34th Annual Endangered Species Faire.**

Butte Environmental Council requests a permit to host an educational faire at Cedar Grove on May 4th, 2013 (with set-up for the event on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013). Mark Herrera excused himself from the decision since he sits on the BEC board of directors. The organization has held this event for 33 years. This comes before the BPPC because the event's duration is over 10 hours (due to set up the day prior to the event).

**2.3. Permit the Placement of a Menorah at City Plaza during Chanukah.**

The Chabad Jewish Center requests approval for the installation of a Menorah at City Plaza from December 8 to December 15, 2012, with a public lighting ceremony held on December 11. Since 2007, the BPPC has approved the installation of the menorah. This comes before the BPPC because the event's duration is over 10 hours.

**2.4. Permit the 18th Annual Alzheimer’s Association Walk.**

Applicant requests a permit to host the Chico Walk to End Alzheimer’s at One Mile on October 12, 2013, with event set-up on October 11, 2013. This comes before the BPPC because the event’s duration is over 10 hours (due to set up the day prior to the event).

**MOTION:** Approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. **MADE BY:** Emmerich. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Craig, Errerich, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSTENTION:** 1 (Herrera) **ABSENT:** 1 (Mikles).

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT** – None

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Recommend Resolution to Council on Phase II of the Middle Trail Grant**

Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff gave a background of the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) that provides Federal funds through the CA State Parks and Recreation Department annually for trails-related projects.

An RTP grant awarded to the Park Division in 2008 for \$175,000 has funded part of the current rehabilitation and rerouting efforts on the Middle Trail. There will be informational signage and an accessible trail segment south of Horseshoe Lake to connect parking lots C and E as part of the current project (Phase I).

The Park Division proposes to apply for additional support through another RTP grant. Funds would be used for Phase II, which would include: 1) design, purchase, and installation of interpretative, informational signs at Bear Hole and Salmon Hole; 2) complete botanical and anthropological studies along the trail corridors; 3) rehabilitate approximately 6,000 linear feet of Middle Trail with sustainable design features and restoration of erosion damaged areas; and 4) rehabilitate about 3,000 feet of the Live Oak Trail and approximately 1,000 feet of connector trails.

The project will focus on rehabilitating eastern segments of the Middle Trail (segments 8-10), repairing more of the badly eroded areas. As the project moves farther east along the Middle Trail, less of the trail material will be imported and much of the focus will be on fixing water issues. For instance, the Live Oak Trail, which is rarely use, is very steep and drops a lot of water down on to the Middle Trail. Connecting trails will also be decommissioned as they have in the current project. The NEPA and CEQA requirements will probably be a categorical exemption with minimal environmental compliance.

Commissioner Brentwood inquired as to where the matching funds will come from. Staff reported that the 12% match would come from funding for Park staff time on the trail work, and planning. It will enable us to fold in botanical studies as well. It is an allocation of staff time that would already be on Park projects. Mr. Efseaff stated that he thought the cost of trail work would be even less since the crew has become more proficient.

**From the Public:**

Bob Jones asked what is the scope of work? He said that he felt people were sad about what has been done and he asked that more input from the public be gathered. He stated that the work done has changed his park use and he no longer uses the Middle Trail as much.



Chair Ober stated that the trails are multi-use and the Park Division has limited funds and needs to take advantage of funding opportunities. Mr. Efseaff said that the work completed has also incorporated challenges and that the width of trail has been narrowed.

**MOTION:** Motion to support a Council resolution on a grant under the 2012 Recreational Trails Program. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Emmerich. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Craig, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Mikles).

## **5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR –**

Woody Elliott representing CA Native Plant Society, Mt. Lassen Chapter, inquired about Bidwell Ranch and what was being done about the wetlands issue. Mr. Efseaff reported that he was working on items to share with the City Council, which will be forthcoming.

## **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 – Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager**

Urban Forest Manager reported that the CA Urban Forest Council is now reviewing the Chico Urban Forest Management Plan, which was crafted with the use of the toolkit provided by the Council. Once they return comments, the Plan will come back to the Tree Committee and on to the full BPPC for finalization and then it will have an environmental review.

### **6.2. Urban Forest Manager's Report -- Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager**

Urban Forest Manager reported that the tree crew has been focusing on high priority service requests and that they will start decorating the holiday tree in City Plaza soon. She has touched base with CBS Advertising, who will provide a proposal for working on the tree issue along Fair Street and Park to bring back to the BPPC.

### **6.3. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager**

Park and Natural Resources Manager reported that we are using a new format for the Manager's Report to help streamline it. He announced the deadline of December 3, 2012 for City Council Boards and Commission. The BPPC has 3 openings and new Commissioners will be seated at the January meeting. The Rod and Gun Club was able to rearrange its schedule so as to reduce timing conflicts with the new earlier gate closure schedule. North State Resource's Botanical report on wildflowers for the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course is attached to the Manager's Report and will also be included with an analysis in the full Peregrine Point Monitoring Annual Report.

Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff stated that the Gnarly Neon evaluation by staff was attached to his report. The applicant has been invoiced for the cost of the Park staff's time helping with the cleanup and use of City equipment, which was necessary as their cleanup person was not equipped for the job. Our staff worked hard to prepare the Park for the Almond Bowl Run the next day. Commissioner Moravec asked about charging a larger deposit for events like this, and staff stated that the fee schedule itself is under review and the deposits are part of the application process and this could be considered.

Park staff also participated in a night time inspection of the Park recently, which gave them a different perspective and the ability to see some night issues and work together on resolving problems.

The Park Division raised approximately \$5,000 through the Annie B's Community Fund Drive and we received a lot of in-kind donations through Make a Difference Day.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on December 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

  /s/    
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Service Coordinator

December 17, 2012  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
Minutes of  
December 17, 2012 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  
Richard Ober

**Commissioners absent:** Lisa Emmerich and Jim Moravec

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator)

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Approve minutes of BPPC held on 11/26/12.

**2.2. Permit the Take a Hike and Trail Run.**

The Northern California Regional Land Trust requested a permit to host a hike and trail run in Middle and Upper Park on 06/01/13. The Commission considered the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**MOTION:** Approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Craig, Herrera, Mikles and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSTENTION:** 0 **ABSENT:** 2 (Emmerich and Moravec).

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – NONE**

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Permit the Sustain Chico Festival**

Sustainable Planet Productions requests a permit to host an Earth Day Festival at City Plaza on 04/20/13. The Commission is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of a park area for multiple days and for more than 10-hours. Commissioner Brentwood inquired about the plans for a beer and wine garden and asked whether the applicant understood that alcohol is prohibited from all City Parks. Kelly Munson with Sustain Chico stated that if that

component is included it will be located on private property outside of the Park. Parks and Natural Resources Manager stated that the application was routine but that it is a new event and will have the Plaza longer than 10 hours due to set up and take down and it will also involve street closures that the group is working with Engineering Department staff on. Ms. Munson also stated that the group could change its date so as not to conflict with other events that have been held annually on that weekend, like the Earth Day in Bidwell Park. The Commission can approve the permit and then the group can work on a schedule.

**MOTION:** Approve the Permit with conditions. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Herrera. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Craig, Herrera, Mikles and Ober). **NOES:** 0. **ABSTENTION:** 0 **ABSENT:** 2 (Emmerich and Moravec).

#### **4.2. Consideration of a Comprehensive Smoking Ban.**

In August 2012, City Council tasked the BPPC to develop a recommendation to the Council on prohibiting smoking in all City parks, with the possible exception of the Bidwell Golf Course, and to establish clear rules on smoking in vehicles in the parks. The item was taken up by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for discussion and public input. The PAC supported a comprehensive smoking ban for all City parks, greenways and open spaces.

At the December BPPC meeting, Commissioner Herrera stated that the ban should just apply to tobacco and not other smoking products. Commissioners Craig and Mikles expressed that an exception should be made for the golf course since people pay to play there (and a ban may send patrons to other courses); there is no threat of fire danger due to their irrigation schedule, litter is not an issue with many trash receptacles on the course and that health is not compromised by the public at large because of the nature of golf where small groups of people play together. There was also concern about the rights associated with private vehicles.

Parks and Natural Resources Manager stated that Rangers do patrol the golf course but it would be challenging and it would be up to the golf course ambassadors to enforce if golf course is included in the ban.

From the Public:

Elizabeth Newton from Kids Leading Against Nicotine (KLEAN) stated that the group has been working on the smoking ban issue for 2-3 years and there has been success with getting smoking banned from business entryways.

Christina Roberts from the American Lung Association stated that Chico Area Recreation District had banned smoking in their parks successfully and that many other cities have passed bans, which also included parking lots and roadways. There is plenty of language that the ALA could share from other cities' codes.

Francis Cung stated that a smoking ban would help promote healthy behavior and role modeling.

Kayla Bridges with KLEAN discussed the health issues with second hand smoke.

Taran Zilch with KLEAN stated that he had helped collect all of the cigarette butts from the Park and that smoking is a disease.

Bob Jones stated that he was against the smoking ban because there are so many other problem issues in the Park that staff needs to work on. "Is this just another feel good law that won't be enforced" like illegal trails, transients camping in the Park and meth labs?

**MOTION:** Forward to the Council a smoking ban in all City parks, greenways, and open spaces except inside vehicles and at the Bidwell Golf Course. **MADE BY:** Mikles. **SECOND:** Craig. **AYES:** 2 (Craig and

Mikles) **NOES:** 3. (Brentwood, Herrera and Ober) **ABSTENTION:** 0 **ABSENT:** 2 (Emmerich and Moravec).

The motion failed and a second motion was proposed:

**MOTION:** Forward to the Council a comprehensive smoking ban in all City parks, greenways, and open spaces. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Herrera. **AYES:** 3 (Brentwood, Herrera and Ober). **NOES:** 2 (Craig and Mikles). **ABSTENTION:** 0 **ABSENT:** 2 (Emmerich and Moravec).

#### **4.3. Consideration of Wet Weather Management Plan and Annual Report**

In December 2009, the BPPC adopted an Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan. Staff presented the 2011-2012 annual report and unveiled a draft update to the plan for BPPC and public input.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaef gave a brief update on the Draft Wet Weather Management Plan, stating that a key point is that an indentation of .25 inch in the soil is cause for closing the trails. The use of information from the Chico weather station has also simplified the information gathering. The staff does field assessments to help open the trails faster too. Soil depth also plays a role in the assessments and that some consideration of changing the route of the assessment may be needed to provide more comprehensive readings.

At this time, the Upper Park road has sustained a large amount of damage due to a recent winter storm and the road will remain closed probably until the end of spring. Closures of the trails, disc golf and the Upper Park Road are posted on the website, on the park phone voice mail and through our social media.

From the Public:

Woody Elliott stated that putting a "closed" sign for the Disc Golf Course down at Bruce Road would help the public know that there is no reason to drive up to the course and that a chain across the first hole on the course would be a deterrent that no players could ignore.

The Commission requested that the Wet Weather Plan be reviewed at a Policy Advisory Committee meeting to provide more time for public input. Once revised, the plan will return to the BPPC for consideration.

#### **4.4. Review of Upper Road Closure Guidelines for Fire Danger.**

In early October, the Park Division closed Upper Park Road at the Diversion Dam Gate to vehicle traffic as a precautionary measure against potential fire hazard due to high temperatures and issued news releases prior to the closure. The Park had 10 fires this past summer and staff developed some preliminary guidelines on which to base a closure of the Upper Park Road and would like BPPC and public input. The guidelines are advisory in nature and help indicate the conditions in which a road closure is warranted.

### **5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

Laura Beck introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Chico Creek Nature Center and expressed her interest in working closely with the Commission and Park staff.

## 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. 2011- 2012 Work Plan Update – Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resources Manager

Staff gave an update on the 2011-2013 Workplan explained that finding a funding source is needed and is a barrier to implementing the full restoration plan of Comanche Creek. The trail projects are the Middle Trail, Monkey Face reroute and then Peregrine Point connector trails. Staff is applying for a Recreational Trail Grant to fund Phase II of the Middle Trail.

### 6.2. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Urban Forest Manager stated that there is a lot of deferred maintenance with an aging urban forest and that the Tree Planting Program has had fewer applicants this year. She also gave an update on the discussion of the Fair St. and Park Ave trees with CBS Advertising. They have come to a compromise and the company will maintain the pruning and will pay the costs of keeping the trees in an agreed upon manner. While it is sad that they will be removing some trees, there will also be replanting of trees that will better size so as to not block the billboards that were there prior to the trees. Cal-Trans has been in contact with staff to let us know that they will need to take out some additional trees in the park as part of the project. They have been good about meeting with staff and informing us of progress or changes.

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

Park and Natural Resources Manager said that the Park fees had been revised and would be reviewed at the Policy Advisory Committee meeting prior to coming to the full Commission and then on to the Council for adoption. It has been several years since they have been reviewed and the timing for the change in fees is good along with the online permit/reservation program for park users.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:47 to the next regular meeting on January 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
January 28, 2013  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC