



**CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(Reddemann, Chair, Glatz & Nickell)**

Regular Meeting Agenda
February 14, 2018, 6 p.m.

Chico Municipal Center Council Chamber Building - 421 Main Street, Conference Room 1

Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection in the Park Division Office at 965 Fir Street during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chico.ca.us/>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.1. CONSIDERATION OF REVISING THE CLOSING TIMES FOR LOWER BIDWELL PARK

Currently, the closing hours for Lower Bidwell Park and most City parks is midnight to 5:00 a.m. At its meeting on 1/17/18 meeting, the Policy Advisory Committee discussed potentially revising the Chico Municipal Code to close Lower Bidwell Park earlier than midnight. The Committee continued their discussion to the February meeting so that a representative from the Chico Police Department could attend and provide input on this item.

Recommendation: *The Committee is requested to provide a recommendation on whether to close Lower Bidwell Park earlier.*

3. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR S

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

4. ADJOURNMENT

Unless otherwise noticed, adjourn to the next regular meeting on March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1, Chico Municipal Center Council Chamber Building located at 421 Main Street, Chico, California.



Please contact the Park Division Office at (530) 896-7800 if you require an agenda in an alternative format, or if you need to request a disability-related modification or accommodation. If possible, this request should be received at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting.



Policy Advisory Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date 2/14/18

DATE: 2/9/18
TO: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)
FROM: Linda Herman, Parks & Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF REVISING THE CLOSING TIME FOR LOWER BIDWELL PARK

REPORT IN BRIEF:

Currently, the closing hours for Lower Bidwell Park and most City parks is midnight to 5:00 a.m. At its meeting on 1/17/18, the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) discussed potentially revising the Chico Municipal Code to close Lower Bidwell Park earlier than midnight. The Committee continued their discussion to the February meeting so that a representative from the Chico Police Department could attend and provide input on this item.

Recommendation: *The Committee is requested to provide a recommendation on whether to close Lower Bidwell Park earlier.*

BACKGROUND:

Although Lower Bidwell Park gates are closed to vehicles earlier, Section 12R.04.370 of the Chico Municipal Code (CMC) establishes closing times for all users for City Parks and greenways as follows:

“12R.04.370 Closure of parks.

- A. Unless authorized by permit issued by the city of Chico, it is unlawful for any person to be present in any of the parks set forth in subsection B, below, during the hours the park is closed. Closing hours will be posted at all parks subject to this section
- B. The following parks shall be closed between the hours of 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and 5:00 a.m., Pacific Time:
 1. Lower Bidwell Park;
 2. Children's Park;
 3. Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater;
 4. Depot Park;
 5. Ringel Park;
 6. Wildwood Park;
 7. All city-owned Greenways;
 8. All city-owned neighborhood parks.
- C. Middle and Upper Bidwell Park shall be closed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day, Pacific Time.
- D. City Plaza shall be closed between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., Pacific Time.
- E. The following exceptions shall apply to this section, if the person is:
 1. Directly and actively proceeding to a destination outside of the parks listed in subsection B, above; or
 2. A duly authorized city employee or persons participating in city activities or other activities for which the city has provided written permission to utilize a park beyond the closing time.
- F. The director may temporarily close any park or a portion of any park within the city whenever the director determines that such closure is necessary for the protection of public safety or public property. It is unlawful for any person to be present in any park or portion of any park within the city that has been temporarily closed by the director.”

Former BPPC members previously reviewed the earlier closing of the One-Mile Recreation Area, primarily the Sycamore Pool area, in 2000, 2001, 2006 and again in 2008. Each time, the Commission voted to keep the closing times to between midnight to 5 am. The reasons stated at that time were that there were different ways to reduce noise and bad behavior other than limiting access to everyone. At the request of Commissioner and PAC member Glatz, the BPPC directed the PAC to revisit the concept of whether to close Lower Bidwell Park earlier than midnight.

DISCUSSION:

At its 1/17/18 meeting, the PAC discussed that areas of Lower Bidwell Park, particularly the One Mile group picnic area and Council Ring, have people in them burning fires in the BBQs and other activities after the midnight closing time. Committee member Glatz stated that this nefarious activity is a public safety concern, and that closing the park earlier would provide another tool for enforcement. Staff noted that the Municipal Code allows persons to “pass through” to another destination when the park is closed, which makes it difficult to discern who is legally in the park during that time.

One suggestion was to possibly close the park at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. The Committee also discussed if closing the park earlier would provide more time for potential illegal activities because there will be fewer individuals in the park to see and report this activity. The Committee expressed the need to obtain an opinion from the Police Department on whether closing the park earlier would be an effective enforcement tool. The Committee continued this discussion to their February meeting so that a representative from the Police Department could attend.