

**MORAGA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
July 19, 2011 - 7:00 PM
Hacienda de Las Flores – 2100 Donald Drive**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Faoro called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

II. **ROLL CALL:** Commissioners: Crouch, Haffner, Khanna, Lucacher (7:07pm) and Vice Chair Reed

Commissioners Absent: Mallela
Audience: 21 +/-

III. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Faoro asked for a motion.

Commissioner Haffner moved and Commissioner Khanna seconded, to adopt the agenda, reversing items IX and X. - Unanimous

IV. **MINUTES - June 21, 2011**

Chair Faoro asked for a motion.

Commissioner Khanna moved and Vice Chair Reed seconded, to adopt the June 21, 2011 minutes as amended by staff (including Commissioner Lucacher as attending). Motion carried unanimously

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** -
Staff provided verbal list 1) Summer recreation programs going well 2) Thank you Moraga, we raised \$24,600 for fireworks and passed our goal of \$23,000.

VII. **PARK FOUNDATION LIAISON REPORT** –
Sound curtain on back wall appears to be working well. Pear Harvest August 6 & 7.

VIII. **HACIENDA FOUNDATION LIASON REPORT** -
Report deferred to August.

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Rancho Laguna Park Playground Fundraising – (update)

Staff and task force provided brief reports. Staff will take the lead and request approval from the Park Foundation to send out a letter under MPF letterhead requesting donations for the play structures.

B. Themed vs. traditional play structure styles – (update)

Since the informal survey results from the 4th of July showed that only 5 more people liked the nature themed play structure, the commission discussed their desire to go with a traditional design.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Long term vision for Rancho Laguna Park** – (discussion)

Staff presented brief timeline and introduced Mark Slichter, Principal with Callander Associates a Landscape Design and Planning firm that has worked on the Camino Pablo field project. Mr. Callendar presented four version of potential conceptual designs.
Public Comment included:

Joe Rosenbaum, Moraga, drainage for the field needs to be addressed in one of the first two phases as that park doesn't drain well.

Shane Carney, East Bay Eclipse Soccer, Field space in Moraga is a huge issue. Dog park should be separate. Eclipse soccer is a new program with 250 kids enrolled. \$25,000 fields budget with \$24,000 going to Orinda and Lafayette and only \$1,000 to Moraga this fall.

Blaire Newell, Lafayette, Grateful to see dog park in the plans, if dog area is expanded (revised concept plan) might work if there is enough open space.

Bill Carman, Moraga, Move play structures more south along with soccer fields to allow more acreage (suggested 3 acres) if fenced. Explained the desire for two separate paths one for fenced dog walkers and one for the general grass area.

Barry Bahr, Moraga, Excited about developing the park. Don't support fencing dogs. Concerns include: only 43 parking spaces, must improve entrance and exit, Impact of quality of life in surrounding neighborhood.

Jeanne Moreau, Moraga, No other place dogs can go in Lamorinda. Dog area must be at least 3 acres.

Gene ???, Moraga, likes taking dog to the park and does not want a fenced area. Has been using the park for 10+ years.

Seth Freeman, Moraga, We have been down this road before with this park. Not one notice of this meeting at Rancho Laguna Park. Questioned what Callanders involvement was/is in this process

Ellen Beans, Moraga, It is a good idea to look at the park as a whole and it is a good idea to have the playgrounds next to the restrooms.

Boyd Smythe, Lamorinda Soccer Club, Orinda, Love the concept of an enclosed dog park, this would improve safety and cleanliness of the grounds. 43 parking spots would be enough if just soccer was being play.

Judy Dinkle, Moraga, Would encourage the use of the "Back 40"

Jill Keimach, Town Manager, Thank you to Callander for pro bono work and thank you to the community for saying we can come to agreement. We will find a solution.

Judy Peak, ?, Doesn't like the no grass dog park option.

Scott Bowhay, Moraga, Fields Committee found the Rancho Laguna Park field use not financially good, can't believe we are still talking about sports fields. Can Town consider the 2 acre site, next to 533 Moraga Rd. as a site for fields?

Bob Priebe, Chief of Police, Tot lot location is good, from a safety standpoint don't put lots of plantings in front to block the view – difficult for line of site safety with police patrol.

Public Comment Closed

Chair Faoro, Thanked Bill Carman for addressing off-leash dogs during her recent visit to the park. Appreciated comments about opening the dog park bigger than designs suggest, not have designated hours, open it for all day use. Two separate pathways appeared good.

Vice Chair Reed, important to maintain picnic tables within fenced dog area.

Commissioner Haffner, Thanks Callander for the pro bono work. Thanks for the level of civility between Lamorinda Dogs and the rest of the community. Like the picnic tables in the dog area.

Commissioner Crouch, All the community feedback is invaluable, this project must be a phased approach. Callander put us light years ahead of where we would have been without.

Commissioner Khanna, Thank you for the civil meeting and thank you for sharing your thoughts

Commissioner Lucacher, No question or comments at this time.

Options 1 and 3 needed revisions for the August meeting. Option 1 is a N/South oriented U=10 soccer field, dedicated dog park in north area, reconfigured path to fit field. Option 3 expands the fenced dog area to the entire north side and some of the east side.

Two possible options for further revisions. 1) Fit a 3 acre, fenced dog park and a U-12 soccer field in the park. 2) Create two separate, loop paths the eastern most path available behind a fenced dog area (1/5) of a mile loop and the other path circling the smaller turf area.

Parking needs to be addressed in the plans moving forward.

Discussion closed.

XI. REPORTS

A. COMMISSION MEMBERS

- **Schools** – CP field is looking great
- **Grant Funding** – none
- **Natural Resources/Environmental Sustainability** – SMC College of Lifelong Learning meet and made progress
- **Sports Alliance** – None
- **Other Reports** – None

B. STAFF – None

XII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGNEDA

-Long term vision for Rancho Laguna Park

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

By order of Chair Faoro, the meeting adjourned at 10:01pm