

**MORAGA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
September 20, 2011 - 7:00 PM  
Hacienda de Las Flores – 2100 Donald Drive**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Faoro called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

II. **ROLL CALL:** Commissioners: Crouch (7:11pm), Haffner, Lucacher and Mallela

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Reed and Khanna  
Audience: 24 /-

III. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Faoro asked for a motion.

**Commissioner Haffner moved and Commissioner Mallela seconded, to adopt the agenda – Unanimous**

IV. **MINUTES - August 16, 2011**

Chair Faoro asked for a motion.

**Commissioner Haffner moved and Commissioner Mallela seconded, to adopt the July 19, 2011 minutes as amended - Unanimous**

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – What is being done with rodents at Rancho Laguna Park. The owl box on the west side needs additional support.

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** - Staff provided verbal list 1) Pear and Wine Festival is this Saturday, September 24.

VII. **PARK FOUNDATION LIAISON REPORT** – Bandshell improvements are moving forward as a contractor is about to be selected.

VIII. **HACIENDA FOUNDATION LIASON REPORT** - Join the community at the 2011 Oktoberfest, Sunday, October 16, 2:00 – 6:00pm.

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. None

X. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Lamorinda Dogs Inc. Proposal for Rancho Laguna Park** – (discussion) Jeannette Fritzky provided a Power Point presentation from the Community Coalition Advisory Panel (CCAP).  
*Commission Comments*

Chair Faoro inquired if the presenting group asked the current organized sports groups to be involved.

Commissioner Mallela noted slide 3 doesn't include organized sports user groups.

Commissioner Lucacher, do you see a fundamental compatibility or incompatibility or is it neutral the use of the park for soccer and simultaneously off-leash activity? How do you characterize it?

Chair Faoro asked about the groups that are okay with the field the way it is now.

Commissioner Crouch mentioned the focus seems to be just on soccer.

Chair Faoro suggested if we had dogs and soccer the proposal doesn't address spatial separation far enough

Commissioner Mallela, on slide 26, why wasn't the north side of park considered for fencing? Is cost the driving force behind the CCAP proposal, will it cost less to fence the south side?

Commissioner Lucacher want to find something that works for as many people as possible.

### *Public Comments*

Ann Kletz (Moraga), East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club, the issue is about sharing, not putting groups against each other. Discussion has unfortunately digressed. There is a simple solution and it about sharing the space. Club doesn't want to change the park, just want to find a way to share it.

Barry Bahr (Moraga), Options shown to us only include soccer in the drawings, so we assume soccer.

Bill Cosden (Orinda), 29 multi-use parks in SF. Rancho is a community enjoying the park, having wine and cheese in the evening time. The administration and Commission have taken this process way too far.

Meeting was called to brief recess at 8:41 p.m. by Parks and Recreation Director Ingram. Chair Faoro left the meeting at 8:41 p.m. and did not return.

Commission reconvened at 8:50 p.m. with acting Chair, Commissioner Mallela and Commissioners Crouch, Haffner and Lucacher.

Karen Lewis (Moraga), keep the park the way it is now

Steve Smith (Moraga), I will take anyone to the park to show them the slope of the grass, way too much excavation is required to make this a soccer field.

Seth Freeman (Moraga), provided statistical information, showing the population of children has decreased from 2000 to 2010.

Stephanie Dodson (Moraga), Change the tot lot and be done with the park.

Christopher Gerding (Moraga), Talking with the organized sports group was a break through, let's move on.

Diane Renton (Moraga), Rancho Laguna Park is beautiful the way it is.

Bob Reynolds (Moraga), Dog poop issue has to be addressed in this process

Jeanette Fritzky (Moraga), I enjoy bringing my dog to the park, on-leash during off-leash hours.

Jeanne Moreau (Moraga), You don't realize how special the community is that currently enjoys that park, there is a misunderstanding that dog people want to change the park. Fence the picnic and tot lot area.

Commissioner Mallela closed the public discussion

## **B. Proposed Alternatives for Subdivision of Town-Owned Land at Rheem Blvd. and St. Mary's Road – (discussion/action)**

Shawna Brekke-Read presented the staff report and the Commission was provided minutes of the Planning Commission, letters and submittals from East Bay Regional Park District, Regional Parks Association, Preserve Lamorinda Open Space and Roger Poynts.

Commissioner Lucacher questioned why the land is up for sale? Is there a financial objective for this? Is MOSA land sacred? There is no prohibition to not sell the land?

Commissioner Mallela, What were the Planning Commission comments?

Commissioner Haffner, This seems like a bad idea

Commissioner Crouch, I don't think we should sell off our MOSO land.

*Public Comment*

Suzanne Jones (Moraga), neighborhood was noticed well, but no note posted on the trail.

Commission should consider other ways to pay off the debt.

Rob Blitz (Lafayette), presented handout to Commission, please don't subdivide the land and sell it.

Diane Renton (Moraga), Bad idea politically to sell parcels of open space.

Jeanne Moreau (Moraga), Planning Commission didn't have a very open discussion.

Michelle Dunleavy (Moraga), bad idea to sell the land.

Jeanette Fritzky (Moraga), Opposed to selling the land

Bill Carman (Moraga), Opposed to selling the land

Claire Roth (Moraga) philosophically opposed to selling the land, but one small lot might be okay if placed along Rheem.

*Public Comment Closed*

Commissioner Lucacher, any erosion of MOSO isn't a good idea, opposed, maybe one small house if that would help.

Commissioner Haffner, Very opposed to any development on that open space.

Commissioner Crouch, Opposed to it

Commissioner Mallela, Opposed to development, sets a bad precedent

Commission choose to submit a motion:

Motion by Commissioner Lucacher, **“No, the Parks and Recreation Commission opposes the sale of any property as currently contemplated.”** Motion was seconded by Commissioner Haffner, motion carried 4-0 with Chair Faoro, Vice-Chair Reed and Commissioner Khanna absent.

XI. **REPORTS**

A. **COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- **Schools** – CP opens mid November
- **Grant Funding** – none
- **Natural Resources/Environmental Sustainability** – SMC Lifelong Learning meeting 9/21
- **Sports Alliance** – None
- **Other Reports** – None

B. **STAFF** – None

XII. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGNEDA**

Rancho Laguna Park

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

By order of Commissioner Mallela, the meeting adjourned at 10:15pm