

MORAGA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
October 18, 2011 - 7:00 PM
Hacienda de Las Flores – 2100 Donald Drive

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Faoro called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

II. **ROLL CALL:** Commissioners: Vice-Chair Reed, Crouch, Khanna, Lucacher and Mallela (7:12pm), Haffner (8:45pm)

Commissioners Absent: Lucacher
Audience: 55 +/-

III. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Faoro asked for public comment

Barry Bahr – Is it possible on the breakout sessions to evenly distribute the two groups?
Jan Gruen – Meeting time is bad because Lamorinda is busy tonight. What mechanism exists for those that can attend tonight?

Chair Faoro asked for a motion.

Commissioner Khanna moved and Vice-Chair Reed seconded, to adopt the agenda – Unanimous

IV. **MINUTES - September 20, 2011**

Chair Faoro asked for public comment.

Seth Freeman – Clarified that at the September meeting he provided demographic statistics that showed the population of children in Moraga has decreased from 2000 to 2010.

Chair Faoro asked for a motion.

Vice-Chair Reed moved and Commissioner Khanna seconded, to adopt the September, 2011 minutes as amended - Unanimous

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Seth Freeman – It is October 18 and there are no playgrounds at Rancho Laguna Park this is outrageous, we are talking about spatial separation, we spent \$7,000 on facilitators, what is Commission going to do?

Jeannette Fritsky – During her presentation in September she was interrupted by the Commission.

Steve Smith – Can't see moving forward on this

Jan Gruen – Questioned where are the funds to repair the existing path.

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE -**

Staff provided brief statement addressing the need for the Chair to not recuse herself from the Rancho Laguna Park item this evening.

VII. **PARK FOUNDATION LIAISON REPORT** –

Staff provided brief statement addressing progress on the Commons Park Bandshell project.

VIII. **HACIENDA FOUNDATION LIAISON REPORT** -

Judy Dinkle provided verbal report on the financial success of Oktoberfest 2011 on 10/16

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Design workshop for Rancho Laguna Park (discussion/action)

Commission comments

Khanna – Where is the fenced area for dogs?

Public Comment

Tina Chambers – local resident, Boy Scout leader and active soccer supporter. Want to advocate for spatial separation due to public safety. Park is currently unsafe for my dog and kids, can't continue to be all open, change is good.

Bob Reynolds – Moraga has limited resources for level parkland, advocate for all day every day dog play area in some location. Acreage available at Mulholland.

Karen Lewis – That park has a real sense of community. We love our dogs and they need a place to run and play. Safety, if enforced better the park could be safe. Preserve our sense of community.

Leslie Murray – Bill Carman had a good concept. I support fencing for the dogs. I want 10am to 3pm and I want the area large.

Gabriela Campo – 2 kids, one dog. Dog uses it more than kids, keep the before 9am time and keep area at back of park for all day off-leash.

Anne Kletz – Read a letter into the record.

Jan Gruen – 2 kids, 14 & 16, played soccer, baseball and horseback riding. Both working groups didn't want to do a lot of change, non-change was the consensus. This is a community we all need to address our needs

Seth Freeman – We have been through this before. This should be about dogs, its open space, public lands, the use has been the same for the last 30 years. The law provides for off-leash dogs. Voters should decide on change of the park. Tell the Town Council the park is fine.

Barry Bahr – If feel that most people don't want change in the park. Hours can be adjusted. Want to see youth be able to use the park more. South side fencing is funded already. Soccer fields, Jay should work with SMC to be a one-stop-shop for fields in town.

Lisa Johnson – neighbor, two young children. Was in Mark's group and they didn't want a fence. Fence around the play area is not okay and not desired. Need better enforcement. I avoid the park during off-leash hours. Shared story of dogs getting close to her children at the park.

Bill Carman – LM Dogs, CA law says must fence playgrounds. Challenged Bob Reynolds statement about Mulholland and can only use paved path. I want better rules to pick up poop. AB11544 and ASTM 2049

Diane Renton – I use dog park for picnics and bbq's, I don't have a dog. Supports having a town separated but not fenced in dog area. Why is there such a big push to take this small park and change it? Get children's area done and fence south side.

Jeanne Moreau – need better enforcement, LM Dogs has offered to pay for a sign. If we put a fenced in park you would get a lot more poop. It will be expensive to divide park in half. Kids can be dangerous as well.

Chris Gerding – A lot of this difficulty is unnecessary. Soccer has motivated this whole thing and they seem to be okay with sharing. Temporal separation is okay.

Denise Duff – two children 7&9, one golden retriever, first priority is playgrounds, there is no money for the park, no fence across the middle, this doesn't create community. Keep off-leash park hours as they are and enforce better.

Larry Beans – Don't want to fence kids in. I support separation for safety reasons. Dogs do take food from picnickers. Provide temporary orange fencing.

Shirley DeFrancisci – 3 children, in favor of comments from tonight. Wants park that fosters community, my kids have been frightened by dogs, keep off-leash hours. Consider some idea shared tonight.

Public Comment Closed

Commission Comments

Reed – Safety is a priority and that a portion of area outside the path be developed to AKC standards. Off-leash dogs should be prohibited from other areas.

Crouch – The last 30 years has been okay, need new play equipment. Supports a phases approach 1) get playgrounds built, 2) all-day dog run with off-leash still remaining, 3) improve turf

Khanna – This is one of the finest parks in Moraga. Safety is important. Would like to see dog owners come at any time of day in fenced area. Should be separation with a separate place for dogs.

Haffner – Compromise has to happen, this is not a win-win situation. Safety is paramount for animals and people. I have to support spatial separation. Find a fenced area for dogs as well.

Mallela – There is a need for the Town to think about Risk involved without separation. If someone is injured, we must address the issue. We must be more specific about where phases happen

Faoro – Tend to agree with Commissioner Reed, close off dog area must be part of phase 1. Phase 2 playgrounds and phase 3 turf.

Reed – Phase 1 and 2 should be combined

Crouch – Phase 1, 24 hour dog area and spatial separation

Haffner – Commissioner Reed is on the right track, we need to present a plan to Town Council.

Crouch – approached the park sketch and drew in lines to designate a fenced dog area in the north and east side.

Commission Discussion closed as they prepared for a motion.

It was M/S (Vice-Chair Reed/Haffner) Recommend to Town Council a two phase approach for spatial separation at Rancho Laguna Park.

Phase One: Complete the south side playground renovation, including fencing as well as fence the north and east sides along the existing pathway extending as far as possible toward the amphitheater to accommodate off-leash dog activity during all open hours for the park.

Phase Two: Improve drainage on the existing turf area.

And, allow Town Council to address the temporal separation issue.

Vote: 6-0, Commissioner Lucacher absent.

X. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. None

XI. **REPORTS**

A. COMMISSION MEMBERS

- **Schools** – MSA meeting, 7pm, JM Library 10/25
- **Grant Funding** – none
- **Natural Resources/Environmental Sustainability** – None
- **Sports Alliance** – None
- **Other Reports** – None

B. STAFF – None**XII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGNEDA**

Prioritize projects for the remaining EBRPD Measure WW funds.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

By order of Commissioner Mallela, the meeting adjourned at 10:40pm