

**PACIFIC GROVE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
RECREATION BOARD
Minutes – Regular Meeting - Tuesday, July 13, 2004**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Board chair Gary Anderson.
 2. Members present: Manuian and Tansill. Absent: Bell and Cotham
 3. All items listed under the consent agenda were approved.
 4. There were no oral communications.
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- 5a. Recreation Coordinator Amber Alewine reported that the summer camps are in full swing and have been running at full capacity. The camps have taken one out-of-area trip to Golfland in June and will take another trip to Great America on July 14. The Recreation Department will receive a check from John Woodworth, owner of Shnarley's Pizza. The check is a portion of the proceeds from the June golf tournament he hosted to benefit the Youth Center and the Monterey Rape Crisis Center.

 - 5b. Senior Coordinator Don Mothershead reported that the PONY Baseball tournament held at Municipal Ballpark June 3-8 was run successfully. Approximately 10 of the youth track participants attended a Nor-Cal meet in San Jose and seemed to enjoy this experience. Soccer signups are still being accepted for the fall league, and many of the leagues are almost at capacity. For the first time, 7th and 8th grade boys and girls will play separately. There was a soccer skills contest held on June 26th and Mothershead reported there will be a football skills contest in September. The 15 socko teams concluded their spring season on a good note.

 - 5c. Mothershead, spoke on behalf of Walter Davis, who did not attend the meeting (he recently became a new father!). He reported that, with great regret, that Davis and his family would be leaving the area in August to move to Florida. Davis has worked in the Recreation Department for eight years, and would be missed. His last day will be August 13. All professional providers who teach for the Department are now paying a set rate for use of City facilities, rather than the 75%/25% split. The grant intended for Chautauqua Hall was approved by the Office of Historic Preservation, and the notice of exemption was posted for 30 days so State funds should be coming shortly. The department is waiting for a few more quotes from playground contractors before asking City Council to award a bid.

 - 6a. John Miller reported that the funds available for resurfacing the Morris Dill Tennis Courts is approximately \$84,000. This includes the funds raised through Sam Feldman's efforts, donations from tennis organizations and the grant money available through the State. Miller has received several estimates to do the work, and the money on hand seems adequate to pay for this. Miller referenced a letter sent by 14th Street neighbor Jerry Norton that was sent to him and each of the Recreation Board members which outlined his views on how he would like to see the courts configured so that there is a 15-foot buffer zone on the east end of the courts, facing 14th Street. Norton spoke at the meeting and reiterated some of the points made in the letter and said he saw no reason for not making the distance between the courts closer, thus creating the possibility of a bigger buffer. Norton said that Nate Piotrkowski, a local tennis player and elementary teacher, said he favors four courts with a fence dividing the two sides so that a pro could teach on two courts without disturbing recreational play on the other side. He said it is unnerving to play tennis when balls frequently fly over from novice players learning the game. Another local tennis player, Vince Tuminello, said that agrees with Jerry Norton that it is desirable to have space, but unless the Morris Dill Courts are improved, the average tennis player will pay at free courts such as those at Robert Louis Stevenson School. Rec Board chair Gary Anderson thanked everyone for their input, especially those who contributed to the two Tennis Advisory meetings. Anderson said that, in his opinion, Option "B" was the most logical in that it offers ample space between the courts and allows for the possibility of a fence down the middle. It would allow for a buffer zone of 6' 4", which is less than what the neighbors want, but is more than currently exists (at this time, there is no buffer zone). Jerry Norton said that, in his view, this would not be acceptable to the neighbors who would have to live with the decision long after the Recreation Board members were no longer serving. Discussion became somewhat heated. Recreation Director Miller said that ever since the issue of tennis court improvements became a financial possibility, he has worked hard to ensure that all points of view would be heard, but it would be difficult (if not impossible) for any one group have

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all their wishes granted. Give and take and the need for compromise was always part of the process, he said. Recreation Board member Peter Tansill said that he has carefully studied the issues and agrees with Anderson that Option "B" seems to address the most critical points. He made a motion to recommend Option "B" to the Council and to also recommend that the Recreation Department be allowed to solicit bids, seconded by Jim Manuiian. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7a. Continuing with tennis, Miller announced that for family reasons, tennis pro Mark Sydnor had accepted a position in Arizona. In the interim, Sevan Zenopian is running the tennis camps and programs. He told the Recreation Board members that he would like them to consider the tennis pro issue at the August meeting and also to review a summary sheet of contract conditions from pro contracts in the cities of Monterey, Salinas and Santa Barbara, all of which have city tennis facilities.

(Items 7b and 7c were switched in order to accommodate guests in the audience)

- 7c. City Manager Ross Hubbard invited Frank Beitz and Jill Legler, the only remaining members of the Arts Commission, to attend the meeting. He explained that for a variety of reasons, the Arts Commission is faltering, mostly because it has been difficult to recruit new members, and that when the chairman, Tim Culbertson, moved out of town, he was ineligible to continue to serve. The group has been unable to meet since May because they have not had a quorum of three. Meanwhile, there are worthwhile projects that have been proposed. Hubbard explained that although he does not have a solution, he thought that the Recreation Board and Arts Commission might have issues they could work on together. Frank Beitz said he would be happy to work with John Miller and the Board to see how they can do this.

- 7b. For the information and education of the Recreation Board, John Miller gave them a copy of an agenda report prepared by City staff regarding the proposed ballot initiative that would limit building in the "O" zone. This is slated for the November 3 election. He wanted the board members to be knowledgeable about the issue so they could answer questions of the public if asked. Remodeling the Lovers Point restrooms and covering the George Washington Park dugouts are two projects discussed by the Recreation Board that could potentially be affected by passage of this measure. Dan Miller, who was in the audience, supports the measure and said its intent is not to block projects such as the Lovers Point Restroom remodel. He said it is his opinion that projects such as this could easily be passed by the voters should the measure pass in November.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Recreation Board will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Miller
Director of Recreation