



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHICO AREA
RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
545 VALLOMBROSA AVENUE, CHICO, CA 95926**

**MINUTES
July 18, 2019**

Board Members Present: Michael Worley, Chair
Tom Lando, Vice Chair
Thomas Nickell, Board Member
Michael McGinnis, Board Member
Dave Donnan, Board Member

Staff Members Present: Ann Willmann, General Manager
Jason Bougie, Director of Parks and Recreation
Heather Childs, Finance Manager
Jennifer Marciales, Executive Assistant

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., and roll call was taken as noted above.

1.2 Closed Session Announcement

Chair Worley stated that direction was given to staff.

2.0 CORRESPONDENCE

2.1 The Board of Directors acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Juanita Sumner dated June 19, 2019.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C/ (Directors Lando/Nickell) that the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda as presented.

The vote was as follows: Ayes carried

Ayes: Worley, Lando, Nickell, McGinnis, Donnan

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6.0 REGULAR AGENDA

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7.1 General Manager Willmann reviewed her staff report with the Board and provided an update on the Prop 68 Per Capita Funding, Community Outreach, Tree Maintenance, Enforcement of District Rules and Regulations, and Legislative Tour.

John Reid addressed the Board and stated that he has concerns about the trees taken down in Hooker Oak Park and asked why the trees were removed and if the removal was coordinated with the City of Chico. General Manager Willmann stated that CARD hires a certified arborist to evaluate the trees, and when they are deemed a hazard, the tree is removed. She further noted that when this occurs, CARD communicates with the City of Chico to make sure they are aware of the removal. Mr. Reid stated that when a tree is removed, it should be replanted. General Manager Willmann stated that the District is currently developing a plan for replanting trees when they are removed.

Terry Cleland addressed the Board and asked if the community would be involved in the planning for future facilities, and General Manager Willmann stated that a series of public meetings will be conducted in the next couple of months to share the proposed projects and gather community feedback.

- 7.2 Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Chico Area Recreation and Park District Adopting the Final Budget for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year

M/S/C/ (Directors Lando/Nickell) that the Board of Directors adopts Resolution 19-9 Adopting the Final Budget for fiscal year 2019/2020 with an amendment to include an additional \$15,000 for salaries.

The vote was as follows: Ayes carried

Ayes: Worley, Lando, Nickell, McGinnis, Donnan

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1 Ceres Avenue Park Project – Chico Noon Rotary Request

Director Lando abstained from the discussion and addressed the Board on behalf of the Chico Noon Rotary Club. He stated that the Chico Noon Rotary Club would like to celebrate their 100th anniversary by donating their time to assist with the construction of a neighborhood park on Ceres Avenue. He noted that with Rotary's assistance, it could reduce a significant amount of costs with volunteer work.

The consensus of the Board was for the Facilities Ad Hoc Committee to meet and review potential options.

M/S/C/ (Directors McGinnis/Nickell) that the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager to begin discussions with the Chico Noon Rotary Club, and conduct neighborhood meetings with regard to developing a plan to construct a 5 acre neighborhood park on Ceres Avenue.

The vote was as follows: Ayes carried

Ayes: Worley, Nickell, McGinnis, Donnan

Noes: None

Abstain: Lando

Absent: None

8.2 Chico Creek Nature Center Lease

M/S/C/ (Directors Lando/McGinnis) that the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager to work with the District's Legal Counsel and City of Chico staff to finalize the lease agreement, and once complete, execute the lease agreement with the City of Chico to lease the Chico Creek Nature Center.

The vote was as follows: Ayes carried

Ayes: Worley, Lando, Nickell, McGinnis, Donnan

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8.3 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas

Executive Assistant Marciales reviewed her staff report with the Board, along with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the areas identified by staff for off-leash dog exercise areas.

Director Nickell stated that he is concerned that the areas being discussed are not secured.

Director Lando stated that with reference to Hooker Oak Park, he would prefer to see it limited to one field rather than two.

Director Donnan suggested that the cutoff time be 12pm, rather than 2pm.

Barbara Rea addressed the Board and stated that she lives near Hooker Oak Park, and she is here to represent several people in the area who are in support of having designated days and times for off-leash dog exercise areas. She stated that she is aware of the off-leash area in upper park, but does not feel it is safe because of snakes, foxtails, and there is no water. She further stated that the DeGarmo Dog Park is very crowded and people do not pick up after their dogs. She stated that at Hooker Oak Park, for the most part, everyone cleans up after their dogs. Ms. Rea suggested that the District consider a permit process to allow dogs off-leash for those that are following the rules and charge a fee for it.

Dave Walker addressed the Board and stated that he is a Chico resident, and when he heard about this proposal, he got very excited. He noted that he agrees with Ms. Rea's comments about the DeGarmo Dog Park. He stated that when you have an open area, those that have trained dogs are more likely to use that space, and dogs are less likely to be aggressive because they are not in a crowded space. He said he has never had an issue with a dog in an open area. Mr. Walker stated that he travels to the area near Caper Acres in the morning to run dogs off-leash. He stated that he stopped going to the DeGarmo Dog Park because of the irresponsible behavior of other dog owners. He stated that he is very much in support of CARD offering off-leash areas.

Sarah Van Dusen addressed the Board and stated that she is here representing the Chico Mother's Club. She stated that there are play groups happening at each park and is concerned about dogs being off leash near playgrounds. She suggested putting a fence around the playground, and noted that the kids typically go to the parks around 10am.

John Reid addressed the Board and stated that with regard to liability, it would be no different than owning a vehicle or having children. He noted that liability falls on the dog owner. He stated that he is more concerned about alcohol being present during softball and baseball games.

Deb McGowan addressed the Board and stated that she appreciates responsible dog owners, but has had bad experiences with dogs not respecting personal space, and she hopes the Board will reconsider.

Luke Pyle addressed the Board and stated that he is a dog owner and a CARD employee. He stated that the socialization that occurs with dogs and their owners is what we want to see at our parks. He stated that he supports the recommended off-leash dog exercise areas.

Bob McGowan addressed the Board and stated that it would be the irresponsible dog owners that will put a black eye on this thing, and it will be hard to take back after 3 months.

Director Lando stated that he is interested in the idea of offering a permit process that could be revoked if someone is not following the rules.

Director Donnan suggested starting with the areas at DeGarmo Park and Community Park.

Director Nickell stated that he is also interested in the idea of offering a permit process, but he is concerned about dogs being off leash in areas where there are children. Director Nickell made a motion to not allow designated off-leash exercise areas, but the motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Director McGinnis stated that he knows a lot of responsible dog owners and there are minimal areas for people to run dogs off leash.

The consensus of the Board was for staff to conduct further research and gather additional community input and present the information to the Board at a future meeting.

8.4 Pre-Employment Drug Screening

M/S/C/ (Directors Lando/McGinnis) that the Board of Directors directs staff to eliminate the post-offer, pre-employment drug testing for all employees, and continue to follow the guidelines outlined in the District's Reasonable Suspicion Testing policy.

The vote was as follows: Ayes carried

Ayes: Worley, Lando, Nickell, McGinnis, Donnan

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8.5 Emergency Action Item/Request for Statement Regarding Certified Needle Exchange Program Near Public Parks

M/S/C/ (Directors Lando/Nickell) to place the matter on the agenda as an emergency item. The Board of Directors finds that the matter arose after the posting of the agenda and the need to act on it immediately precludes awaiting scheduling of another meeting.

The vote was as follows: Ayes carried

Ayes: Worley, Lando, Nickell, McGinnis, Donnan

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

General Manager Willmann stated that she received a call from Chico Police Chief Mike O'Brien regarding the application from the North Valley Harm Reduction Coalition to conduct a mobile certified needle exchange program near Community Park. She stated that Chief O'Brien asked for CARD's input regarding the application since the western edge of Community Park was part of the boundaries.

M/S/C/ (Directors Lando/Donnan) that the Board of Directors directs staff to provide a statement to Chief O'Brien that the CARD Board of Directors is opposed to a needle exchange program anywhere near a public park.

The vote was as follows: Ayes carried

Ayes: Worley, Lando, Nickell, Donnan

Noes: None

Abstain: McGinnis

Absent: None

9.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORTS/SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

9.1 Butte County Special Districts Association/LAFCO

There were no comments.

9.2 Other Reports

Director Lando stated that the CARD/City of Chico MOU Committee held a meeting on July 18, 2019 to discuss the MOU and how both agencies can continue to support and assist one another. He stated that the committee would work on a mechanism to regularly transfer the Community Park Funds to CARD.

10.0 DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Donnan stated that he and Director McGinnis attended the Leadership Academy and thought it was very informative.

11.0 GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

General Manager Willmann introduced Jason Bougie as the new Director of Parks and Recreation.

12.0 STAFF COMMENTS

There were no comments.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chico Area Recreation and Park District on August 15, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Willmann, General Manager
Secretary to the Board