

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JANUARY 25, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

1. Roll Call

Present at roll call: Chair Russell Mills, Commissioners Steve O'Bryan, Kimberly King, Tom Barrett, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki, and Glenn Dunning. Staff Park Director Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Mills announced that newly-elected officers will conduct the February meeting.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION THAT COMMISSIONER BARRETT BE ELECTED CHAIR FOR THE COMING YEAR. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MADE A MOTION THAT COMMISSIONER KING BE ELECTED TO VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS Beautiful weather brought thousands of people to the Park last week end. All were enjoying themselves and there was little trouble. Goats will be in Lower Park before the February meeting and will be of special interest to the public.

CONSENT AGENDA Chair Mills announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. He then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commission.

1. **Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 17, 1998**
2. **Permit Application from Butte Humane Society Regarding a Poker Rally - February 6, 1999 at the One-Mile Recreation Area.** This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner O'Bryan.
3. **Permit Application from Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) for a Yo-Yo Contest Saturday, October 2, 1999 - Park Plaza**
4. **Permit Application from Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) for a Bike**

Rodeo, Saturday, April 24, 1999 - Plaza Park

5. **Permit Application from California State University, Chico - Recreational Sports Program for Bidwell Bow Wow - a 10K Walk/Run in Lower Bidwell Park - Sunday May 3, 1999.** This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Barrett.
6. **Permit Application from Butte College Community Education to Conduct a Fishing Class - Horseshoe Lake on March 13, 1999, April 10, 1999 and May 1, 1999**

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION THAT ITEMS 1, 3, 4, AND 6, OF THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Permit Application from Butte Humane Society Regarding a Poker Rally - February 6, 1999 at the One-Mile Recreation Area. Commissioner O'Bryan asked about the policy for allowing new events and for keeping events away from One Mile. He suggested using Hooker Oak area instead. Chair Mills said allowing such events conflicts with the Master Management Plan that says motor vehicles in the park should be reduced and additional traffic not encouraged.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MADE A MOTION TO DENY THE APPLICATION FROM BUTTE HUMANE SOCIETY REGARDING A POKER RALLY ON FEBRUARY 6, 1999 AT ONE MILE RECREATION AREA. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: CHAIR MILLS, COMMISSIONERS O'BRYAN, KING, BARRETT, KOPICKI AND DUNNING. NOES: COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Permit application from California State University, Chico - Recreational Sports Program for Bidwell Bow Wow- a 10K Walk/Run in Lower Bidwell Park - Sunday May 3, 1999 Commissioner Barrett noted the application was for a walk and run only but that other activities have been included in this event in the past. Chair Mills said the accompanying letter mentions entertainment and activities also.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT APPLICATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO- RECREATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAM FOR BIDWELL BOW WOW, A 10K WALL/RUN, IN LOWER

BIDWELL PARK ON SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1999. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Park Director Beardsley recommended the Aquisition Task Force duties be assigned to the Master Management Plan Committee. Commissioners agreed. The following assignments were made: Volunteer Committee - Kopicki, Dunning and King; Preservation/Stream Committee - Holderbein, O'Bryan and Kopicki; Tree/Finance Committee - Mills, Barrett and O'Bryan; Bike Advisory Committee - Mills with Barrett as alternate; Master Management Plan - Mills, Barrett and King; Art Ad Hoc Committee - Barrett, Holderbein and Kopicki.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR HUMBOLDT SKATEBOARD PARK

Park Director Beardsley asked the Commission to work through the rules as presented by Staff, asking questions and making modifications as they go. The rules come from information gathered from other parks and includes items required by JPA Insurance Company. An ordinance will be drafted, presented to the Commission again, then sent on to City Council. The rules should then be ready for the Skateboard Park opening in May 1999. Though the facility will not be supervised, citations can be given if posted rules are not obeyed.

In public comments Ann Hayes said her boys have no place to ride their bikes and that other parks have no problem with both bikes and skates using the facilities; Tim Woodville said bike and board maneuvers are compatible; Bob Ray would like to have areas for picnics, amplified music and lights for night access; Pamela Radke doesn't want good kids being nailed for being in the wrong place at the wrong time; Nick Jackson wants to ride his bike there; and Brad Woodville would like to volunteer to work there.

Chair Mills read each rule and suggestions were made to clarify terminology, eliminate duplications, be more specific, and reduce signage. Staff will contact other parks to learn how bikes and boards work together and more about insurance that would cover both activities. Minimum safety standards for required helmets could be considered. Regarding the questions of sound, there is a need to maintain good relations with the neighbors whose property is very close.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE USE OF EARPHONES IN HUMBOLDT SKATEBOARD PARK. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONERS BARRETT, HOLDERBEIN AND O'BRYAN. NOES: COMMISSIONERS KING, DUNNING, KOPECKI AND CHAIR MILLS. THE MOTION WAS DENIED.

BREAK FROM 9:00 TO 9:10

4. **DISCUSSION OF JANUARY 1 POLAR BEAR SWIM**

Chair Mills expressed concern for public safety regarding this annual, spontaneous activity and asked for input from others. It was decided no Park rules prohibit the public from being in the water at any time and Rangers could exert control from existing rules.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Director's Report** Park Director Beardsley reviewed his submitted report. There is no update on the rabies concerns; Park Watch has scheduled training sessions for March 8 and 25, 1999; Commissioners were asked to submit to the Park Office their most convenient times to meet for consideration when setting upcoming Committee meetings; Salt Creek crews have completed work in lower park and will be at Five Mile next week; there will be 250 street trees planted by the end of February. Staff was unaware of some new trees Commissioner Barrett had seen recently planted at Cedar Grove.
2. **Committee Reports** None
3. **Monthly Reports** A report covering the areas of park maintenance, street trees, volunteer coordinator and park rangers was filed. Stream Minders has offered to do revegetation near picnic areas 4 and 5 where the bank has been eroded. Such work may become school projects in the near future. Currently there are three locations in the park being fenced off from the public - one is to stop use of the bank as a jumping-off area, one to stop parking too close to the creek bank, and one that could probably come down.
4. **Incident Reports:** Received and filed
5. **Correspondence:** Received and filed. A request to install unisex bathrooms throughout the park system was sent to the Trail/Safety Committee.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 to the next regular meeting of Monday, February 22, 1999

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 22, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at roll call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Kimberly King, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning. Staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

Special Order of Business: PDB reminded the public that Upper Park trails and Wildwood Park are closed now during wet conditions to keep them in good condition for summer use.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Barrett announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. He then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commission.

1. **Minutes from Regular Meeting of January 25, 1999**
2. **Permit Application from Jill Dole for Area on North Side of Five Mile Recreation Area, October 16, 1999**
3. **Permit Application from Chico Velo Club for March 21, 1999 Gourmet Century - Upper Bidwell Park**
4. **Permit Application from Michelle Paul, Five Mile Recreation Area (North Side) on September 25, 1999**
5. **Permit Application from Loren Redwood, Redwood Grove (Bear's Lair) - July 10, 1999**
6. **Permit Application from DNA for Wednesday Night Concert Series - Plaza Park.** This item was removed from the consent agenda by Park Director Beardsley.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Permit Application from DNA for Wednesday Night Concert Series - Plaza Park. Park Director Beardsley noted that the start date on the application for the concert series was March 31, 1999 but has been changed to April 28. The end date is September 29, 1999 and the October dates would be for make-up concerts only.,

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Review and Discuss Rules and Regulations for Humboldt Skateboard Park

Park Director Beardsley read the revised Skateboard Park Rules. He recommended that closing times be changed in May and June to 9:00 p.m. and in July and August to 9:30 p.m. He said those times are staff's best guess and can be reviewed as needed by the Commission at any time. From research he could find only one instance when BMX/Free Style bikes were allowed in a similar facility, and that was under supervision and for designated times only.

Risk Manger Bob Koch explained the insurance coverage. He said the City is self-insured for a loss of up to \$500,000. It is then one of 130 agencies that are members of the Joint Powers Authority which covers losses from \$500,000 to Ten Million. Rules of use for the skateboard park must agree with JPA rules. To lessen liability the City must maintain design immunity, which means that the facility was designed by a qualified designer and any failure is not due to the design. Permits to allow bikes into the facility could make the design deficient and void JPA coverage. State laws protect cities on liability for injury of skaters over 14 years only.

In public discussion Ann Hayes said a design for bikes would be the same design as one for skates. Free style riders can't ride any where but the City would not spend another \$250,000 to build another facility for bikes. Every park is full of grafetti, it comes with the sport. Other facilities may not allow bike riders because bike riders have not asked to be allowed. "Ride at your own risk" means the City is not responsible already. The hours to be open are too late and invite failure in that things can go wrong in the neighborhood. Arthur Stoschke said people are riding in Bidwell Park after dark without lights.

Commissioner O'Bryan said the sport of free style bike riding will probably mature so more riders will approach agencies and rules will relax. Chair Barrett asked to clarify the

"no earphones" rule. Commissioner Mills suggested staff check with the wording used by California Department of Motor Vehicles in restricting their use.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF HUMBOLDT SKATEBOARD PARK AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Report and Proposed Actions from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of February 8, 1999

- a. Request to Consider Unisex Bathrooms in Bidwell Park:** Commissioner King suggested signs be placed at all restrooms in Bidwell Park, not just at Caper Acres. They would notify others that there may be someone of the opposite sex in the room. Commissioner Mills suggested the working "a child or disabled person may accompany an attendant of the opposite sex". Park Director Beardsley clarified that signs would be at Caper Acres, Cedar Grove, One Mile and Five Mile. He would talk with CARD about such signs at Hooker Oak and the golf course.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ADD SIGNS AT ALL REST ROOMS IN BIDWELL PARK SAYING "A CHILD OR DISABLED PERSON MAY ACCOMPANY AN ATTENDANT OF THE OPPOSITE SEX". COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items b, c, and d required no action. An agenda for the meeting of February 25, 1999 is posted.

Break from 8:20 to 8:30.

4. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of February 11, 1999

- a. Review and Discussion of Proposed Improvements to the Chico Creek Nature Center:** Park Director Beardsley recommended approval of a Notice of Exemption from t Environmental Review and allow the Nature Center to proceed with plans for construction of a building to replace and expand one burned down last year. Gene McFarren, President of the Chico Creek Nature Center, asked that the City also consider improving the outside lighting design. Urban Forester Boza suggested the fixtures could be made consistent with those in Plaza Park, be incorporated in the Master Plan for Cedar Grove, and added to the capital improvement projects budget.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. Discussion of Proposed Astronomical Observatory in Upper Bidwell Park:** Kris Koenig, representing Chico Kiwanis and North Valley Astronomers club, said education is the first priority of the proposed observatory. He presented slides showing goals, materials to be accessed, proposed location and structure, telescopes to be used, management plans and benefits to the public. Members of the Astronomers Club would be in attendance and they would need a permit to stay open later than three hours after dark. If the observatory is built in the park there would be a need to filter light and dust pollution but access to the public would be better than if built on the ridge. Kiwanis would sign the lease for a length of time to be determined. No action was required.

5. Report from the Volunteer Committee from February 16, 1999 meeting

Disc Golf in Bidwell Park: There was no discussion and no action required.

6. Discussion of Issues and Topics the Commission Would Like Discussed at Future Meetings.

Chair Barrett prepared and distributed to Commissioners a list of items to be considered for future action. Park Director Beardsley said the staff develops a work plan each year and items can be added for attention. Commissioner Mills suggested comments and issues can later be added and subtracted and priorities set for future agendas. No action was required.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

- 1. Director's Report:** Items contained in the month's Director's Report were listed on the agenda for public information. Park Director Beardsley announced that the City owns Tiger Ponds as of January 27, and there will be a dedication in March; the Bird House in Caper Acres should open next week and a ceremony would be planned to recognize those who contributed; bids are going out for water at Five Mile; the Commission is invited to attend Park Watch training sessions in March. Commissioner Mills commented that Stream Minders are putting up several signs in the Park and he recommends no net increase in signs. He also asked about pruning Sycamore suckers at Site #4. Urban Forested Boza said the cuttings are of water sprouts under one inch in diameter and are then used for layering at the site. Such cuttings have the best chance to sprout and grow.

2. **Monthly Reports:** Park Directory Beardsley said street tree planting will be finished in about two weeks. Crews are working at replacing half of the lighting damaged at Wildwood Park.
3. **Incident Reports:** Commissioner Dunning asked about the buck who died at the Deer Pens last week. Park Director Beardsley said he was one of four bucks there, that he died suddenly, and results of tests as to the cause are not yet back from the doctor.
4. **Correspondence:** Gene Parker, President of the Bidwell Park Golf Club, wrote a letter regarding the Club's plan to consolidate debts incurred in realigning the course. Commissioners need more information on the subject before the issue goes to Committee.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:40 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 29, 1999. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF MARCH 29, 1999
SIGN IN SHEET

Print Name	Address
1. Brian MtJoy	1340 west 7th Street
2. Mark Barrett	470 Rio Lindo Avenue
3. Emily Jane Williams	180 Valley View Drive Paradise
4. Vance J. Fowler	1 Carson Street
5. Judy A. White	1968 E. 8 th Street
6. Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Terrace

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MARCH 29, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Acting Chair Kimberly King, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.
Absent: Chair Tom Barrett.

Special Order of Business ??

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair King announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. She then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commission.

1. **Minutes from Regular Meeting of February 22, 1999**
2. **Permit Application from La Danza Serpentine for Festival of Music and Dance, May 29, 1999 - Plaza Park** This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Mills.
3. **Permit Applications from Chico Central Little League, Chico Area Recreation and Park District, Butte Youth Soccer League and Butte United Soccer League for use of Wildwood Park during 1999**
4. **Permit Application from Ensemble Theater of Chico for 1999 Production of Shakespeare in the Park July 5, to August 19, 1999 - Cedar Grove Meadow and Picnic Area**
5. **Permit Application from Downtown Chico Business Association for Friday Night Concerts in Plaza Park May 7, 1999 to October 8, 1999 - Plaza Park**

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Permit Application from La Danza Serpentine for Festival of Music and Dance, May 29, 1999 - Plaza Park Commissioner Mills noted that the application said there will be a fee for the activity and asked how it would be collected for admission to the Park Plaza. PDB said any money collected is actually a voluntary donation.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT APPLICATION FROM LA DANZA SERPENTINE FOR FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND DANCE, MAY 29, 1999 AT PLAZA PARK. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Approval to Include Humboldt Neighborhood Park in the List of Drug Free Zones

PDB said there has been a request to designate the Humboldt Skateboard Park a drug free zone and recommends it be done before the opening of the facility in May.

COMMISSION MILLS MADE A MOTION THAT THE COMMISSION PREPARE A RESOLUTION REQUESTING CITY COUNCIL TO INCLUDE HUMBOLDT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IN THE CITY MUNICIPAL CODE AS A DESIGNATED DRUG FREE ZONE. COMMISSION HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Permit Application from the Exchange Club of Chico for a “Ducky Derby” September 11, 1999 - One Mile Recreation Area

PDB said this event would require that Sycamore Pool be kept dammed after Labor Day and such an operation would not be a problem for Park crews. Brian MtJoy and Mark Barrett spoke for the Exchange Club. They described the Club’s charitable activities, which would be extended by money raised at this event. They target including 20,000 ducks at a requested donation of \$5.00 per duck but with a complimentary entry available. The ducks could be put in at the shallow end of the pool from a dump truck on the access road and recovered before the dam by Boy and Girl Scout volunteers. They would be in the water about five minutes.

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT

APPLICATION FROM THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF CHICO FOR A “DUCKY DERBY” ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1999 AT ONE MILE RECREATION AREA. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: CHAIR KING, COMMISSIONERS HOLDERBEIN, KOPICKI AND DUNNING. NOES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS AND O’BRYAN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. Report and Proposed Actions from the Tree/Finance Committee Meeting of March 24, 1999

- a. **Request for Funding from the Chico Creek Nature Center, Inc. and Chico Cat Coalition** Commissioner King explained that the funding for every organization was cut about 20% by the City Council last year. Judy A. White, Program Director, spoke for the Nature Center. She said they are following up on the Council’s request that they do more fund raising to add monies to what the City gives to them.

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND GRANTING \$45,000 TO OPERATE THE CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PDB said the Cat Coalition has been very successful in their operation the past year and there are no viable alternatives to solving the problem of feral cats in Bidwell Park. The Butte Humane Society could not continue taking the number of cats available and most would have been euthanized instead of cared for and adopted out as the Coalition is doing. The problem won’t go away and this is a critical time to stay with the program so as not to lose the progress made.

Emily Jean Williams and Vance Fowler spoke for the Cat Coalition. They explained that each cat needs to be examined and determined to be healthy before being put with other cats at a cost of \$25 each; they are trapping many pregnant females; they must spay or neuter all to halt the population growth; there should be less need for the program in the future as the cat population goes down and people are educated not to dump animals in the Park; PAWS, their parent organization, is restructuring so won’t provide the same support they did last year; and they have lost the free veterinary services they had in the past.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO GRANT \$13,375 TO THE CHICO CAT COALITION TO HELP OPERATE THE CAT RESCUE AND ADOPTION PROGRAM FOR ONE YEAR. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Request to use City Owned Property at 9th and Hazel for a Community Garden and Funding to Establish** This item will be on the City Council agenda for April 6, 1999 but the Tree/Finance Committee does not recommend approval of the request. Concerns include that there is no contractual relationship of those asking for the garden, Streaminders is now out of the picture; the preparation needed could not be completed in time for this year's growing season; and there is a question if the area would be restored. Speaking for the public, Caryn Jones said a community garden is an appropriate use for public land but growers should not be asking for funding nor fence off the land as though it was private.

COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN MADE A MOTION THE COMMISSION NOT RECOMMEND SUPPORT FOR THE REQUEST OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY LOCATED AT 9TH AND HAZEL STREETS BECAUSE FENCING WOULD MAKE THE AREA LOOK LIKE PRIVATE USE AND NOT PUBLIC, THE CREEK BANK IS UNSTABLE, THERE IS NO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION INVOLVED, AND THERE WOULD BE PESTICIDES INTRODUCED NEAR THE CREEK. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Report and Proposed Actions from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of February 25, 1999

- a. **Discussion of Plaza Park** The Committee discussed issues and problems that occur in Plaza Park and ways Police and the Park Department might address these concerns. Suggestions included close Plaza Park at night, modify the gazabo, and increase law enforcement patrols. The Master Plan has proposed that the existing gazabo be removed and a new one, which includes lockable rest rooms, be built by the sidewalk across from the Post Office. Commission suggested that any changes in procedures for Plaza Park be applied to Children's Playgrounnd also because it is effected by Plaza Park activities. Police Officer Rob Sheridan, the downtown bike officer, said there is a lot of vandalism in Plaza Park and calls there have not decreased as they have in other parts of downtown. He recommends closing it from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. or during times that coincide with Bidwell Park closing hours. Lt. Ken Kausen suggested having private security in Park Plaza for two weeks before changes occur to educate the public, as was done at Deport Park. Any changes are meant to discourage loitering, not to impede the public passing through. Commissioner Dunning asked that police survey downtown business owners for their opinions about making Park Plaza a drug free zone and closing the park at night. Results of the survey will come back to the Commission at the regular meeting of April 26, 1999 and recommended changes will then go to City Attorney for proper wording to amend the Municipal Code. Commissioner Mills asked if the gazabo railing could be lowered and something added to the top board to make it uncomfortable for loitering. PDB will check the building

code.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND CLOSURE OF BOTH PLAZA PARK AND CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND BETWEEN THE HOURS OF CURFEW AND 7:00 A.M. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Review and Discuss Revisions to the Draft Trails Manual** Preparation of the manual is still in process. No Commission action is necessary.

6. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of March 15, 1999

- a. **City/CARD and Neighborhood Parks** There are now five park sites available to be developed and a clear policy is needed about who will develop and maintain the sites. The Committee recommends that CARD be the lead agency as they are experienced in administering fee structures, lighting districts and recreation programs. Commissioner Mills said the public works well with CARD and Commissioner O'Bryan said CARD is better for covering both county and City property. PDB said the City owns the park site properties and either leases or deeds them to CARD to manage the programs with no more City oversight.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THAT CARD BE THE LEAD AGENCY IN DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PDB said the General Plan supports a policy of purchasing open spaces for future park sites and the Committee recommends the Commission write a letter to City Council encouraging them to support that policy.

- b. **Status of Resource Analysis Study for the New Acquisition**
- c. **Restrictions to Off-Road Parking** Private vehicles are sometimes found parked well off of existing roads in the Park. They can be cited but the removal process takes a long time. The Committee recommends the Municipal Code be amended to allow for towing of such vehicles.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION OF INTENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH

AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW FOR TOWING VEHICLES PARKED OFF PARK ROADS. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Report from the Volunteer Committee on March 2, 1999 Meeting

- a. Review and Discuss Plans for Bidwell Park Spring Cleanup.** Volunteer Coordinator Steve Hogue said the annual spring clean up of Bidwell Park is to be held on April 24, 1999. To assure coverage of the entire Park, volunteer groups will arrive at Five Mile and be sent to various areas as plotted on a map. He has need to recruit special volunteers to clean up large items along Highway 32. He has received donations of food and drink, raffle items, and money for advertising the event.
- b. Discuss Volunteer Recognition Event** A picnic and program is planned at One Mile on May 15, 1999 to show appreciation for hours donated in support of the Park. Leaders of volunteer groups and staff are invited. The cost will be approximately \$350.

Break from 9:10 to 9:20

8. Review and Discussion of Items to be Included in Budget Meeting with the City Council

PDB asked the Commission to determine budget items of high priority so that background information on such items may be prepared for presentation at the regular April meeting. Commissioners suggested support of the Chico Cat coalition and The Chico Nature Center (see Item 4.a), resource analysis of the acquisition to learn sensitive areas and go forward with trail planning at \$30,00 to \$35,000, and developing Lindo Channel as discussed at a meeting of PDB said the items presented on the Five Year Work Plan are in good shape for funding.

9. Discussion of Pedestrian/Bicycle Access from South Park Drive to East Eighth Street at El Monte.

City Council Internal Affairs Committee recently approved changes along El Monte Avenue to accommodate anticipated traffic for the new junior high school being built in the area. This item is to discuss an unimproved access point to South Park Drive at the Intersection of East 8th Street and El Monte and how it might relate to new traffic flow. PDB recommended this topic to be referred to the Trail/Safety Committee.

10. Report on the Dust Control Options on Upper Park Road

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
APRIL 26, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Kimberly King, Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

Special Order of Business: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Barrett announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. He then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commission.

1. **Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 29, 1999** This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Chair Barrett.

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 29, 1999 Item 8 of the Regular Agenda, page 6, should read "go forward with trail planning at \$30,000 to \$35,000"

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 29, 1999 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS, KING, O'BRYAN, HOLDERBEIN, KOPICKI AND DUNNING. ABSTAIN: CHAIR BARRETT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

2. **Presentation and Discussion of the Watershed Education Project.**

Anne Stephens, Education Coordinator, spoke on the history and purpose of the Watershed Education Project. There is now a core group of 16 teachers in four school districts

implementing watershed education through classroom learning, field studies, participation in community events, propagation of native plant species for revegetation, and restoration activities. They would like their students to provide and plant native vegetation and to take part in long-term successional field studies in Bidwell Park. She is now working with Ranger Baxter on finding possible work sites in the Park. Park Director Beardsley said the areas where the goats have been feeding need revegetation and such a need should be on-going. This item is for information only, no action required.

3. Report on Issues and Options Regarding Plaza Park

At their March 29, 1999 meeting, the Commission gave preliminary approval to closing Plaza Park from curfew to 7:00 a.m., discussed altering the gazebo to make it less comfortable for loitering, and asked staff to contact businesses in the vicinity of the park about their opinions on making it a Drug Free Zone. Officer Rob Sheridan reported on the survey requested. He has spoken to all businesses surrounding Plaza Park and found no opposition to making it a Drug Free Zone. Building Official Purvis suggested placing a metal angel iron on top of the railing at the gazebo and, with no opposition from Commission, staff will proceed with the alteration. Staff has no recommendation for wording of the policy on closing the park. An enforceable policy statement is necessary and more time is needed to develop that for consistent implementation. Police Chief Massie said he needs to look at all options so as not to have any conflict with park users. The Police Department and Park staff will work on wording the closing policy and bring it back to Commission.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ESTABLISH A DRUG FREE ZONE AT PLAZA PARK, RINGEL PARK, DEPOT PARK, ANNIE'S GLEN AND CAMELLIA WAY AREA. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Report on Dust Control Options for Upper Park Road

Urban Forester Chris Boza reported on the followup of this item introduced at the March Commission meeting. He presented a memo giving information expanding on materials discussed last month, looking at other possible materials, giving the benefits and drawbacks of each, and costs of application on a road 1.7 miles long and 18 feet wide. He recommended doing a test plot of Road Oyl as probably the most economic and effective of the materials available. Park Director Beardsley said the Upper Park Road was done as a capitol project about five years ago. Last year an annual program was begun laying basalt, which would replace the road base over a period of about five years. The current funding for the road surface is \$2,000 per year for the basalt. Staff is now looking for a dust control material and program to pursue. If money is not made available this spring, the new program would begin next spring. For the public, Suzanne Gibbs asked about the chemical make up of Road Oyl.

Urban Forester Boza said it is modified pine resin and breaks down in natural components the same as a pine tree decomposing.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE TO CHANGE THE ROAD BASE OVER TIME AND TO TEST ROAD OYL IN THE INTERIM. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Recommendation to Prohibit Dogs on the Playing Fields - Wildwood Park

Staff recommends that dogs be allowed on leash in Wildwood Park but not on the playing fields at any time.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION THAT CHICO MUNICIPAL CODE ARTICLE IV. "RULES FOR DOGS, SECTION 12 R,04.130 DOGS-PROHIBITED AREAS" BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE F. NO PERSON SHALL CAUSE OR ALLOW ANY DOG OWNED BY HIM OR HER OR UNDER HIS OR HER CONTROL TO GO INTO THE SPORTS PLAYING FIELDS AT WILDWOOD PARK. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Report and Proposed Actions from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of April 12, 1999

- a. **Review and Discuss Proposed Improvements to Annie's Glen** The committee discussed a proposal to construct a bike path to facilitate bicycles going from the south side of town to the north side and from downtown to One Mile. It could connect the Bidwell Park trail system to Olive Street through Annie's Glen, under Mangrove and over Big Chico Creek. For the public, Gregg Payne said it would be a nice addition and asked for costs. Park Director Beardsley said there is an interest in doing the project but are no cost estimates yet. Commissioner Mills recommended it could be included in the bike plan. This item has been added to the agenda for a joint meeting with the Bicycle Advisory Committee. No action required.
- b. **Request to Construct a New Trail along Centennial Drive East of Five Mile Recreation Area** Michael and Caryn Jones have offered to build a path from the east end of Five Mile paralleling Big Chico Creek and Centennial. For the public, Caryn Jones said she has been studying the Trail Manual and thinks a Class 2 trail would fit this area the best. Her actions are to reduce negative impact to the park, encourage volunteering and save the City money. This item will come back to Commission after completion of an environmental review and the path alignment is determined.

- c. COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT A NEW TRAIL ALONG CENTENNIAL DRIVE EAST OF FIVE MILE RECREATION AREA PENDING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- d. **Discussion of Plaza Park** Staff provided a report to the committee and an oral report at the April commission meeting. See Item 4.3

7. Review and Discussion of Items to be Included in Budget Meeting with the City Council

Park Director Beardsley suggested that, for best use of the 30 minutes allotted, the Commission present only three of the five preliminary items discussed at the March Commission meeting. The Council Finance Committee is recommending funding to Chico Creek Nature Center of \$35,000 and Chico Cat Coalition of \$7,675. The issues of Lindo Channel would better be presented at another meeting when there is more time for consideration. In discussion, it was decided that including the resource analysis since the amendments to the Master Management Plan and cannot proceed without the additional information. To support requests for the volunteer program the Council should know what volunteers have accomplished and how goals have been met. Commission members agreed that the budget items to be presented to City Council should be 1- funding for Chico Creek Nature Center, 2- resource analysis for the new acquisition, 3- status of the volunteer program (and 4- Lindo Channel if appropriate). Staff will prepare a report for Commissioners before the May 25, 1999 budget meeting with City Council.

8. Review and Approve Correspondence to the City Council Regarding Creekside Greenways

At the March 29, 1999 meeting, Commission approved sending a letter to the City Council encouraging continuation of opportunity purchases along Little Chico Creek for addition to the Little Chico Creek Greenway. A draft of that letter was read. Commissioner Mills suggested an addition saying “everyone can not go to Bidwell Park so other parks are needed”. For the public, Suzanne Gibbs said linear greenways connect and strengthen a community. A final draft of the letter will be on the agenda for June 1, 1999.

9. Review and Discussion of City Council April 20, 1999 Actions Regarding Lindo Channel

Park Director Beardsley reported on the actions taken by City Council regarding Lindo

Channel. Directions from the Council included 1) ordered that existing encroachments that impede access or water flow be removed immediately, 2) requested a report and recommendation from the Fire Chief on fire safety issues, 3) requested a report and recommendation from the Commission and Park Director regarding trash/debris in the Channel, 4) directed that a letter be sent to all property owners along the channel to make them aware of the issues, and 5) requested the Commission begin a five-year study on issues of encroachments which do not impede access or water flow. Commissioners discussed each item and how it might be interpreted and achieved. Park Director Beardsley recommends that the charge of developing the next steps be remanded to either an existing or a new committee. No action taken pending further review.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Director's Report** Park Director Beardsley updated his written report. Concrete work in Humboldt Skateboard Park will be completed in 7-10 days; 136 people were involved in Spring Clean Up and took out tons of debris; the goat grazing program will continue for four or five weeks and finish behind the CARD center; the annual Commission Park Tour will be a walk along Lindo Channel on Saturday, June 5, 1999 between 8:00 a.m. and noon; May 15, 1999 is the lunch for volunteers.
2. **Monthly Reports** Monthly reports from Park Field Supervisor, Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator, and Urban Forester were received and filed. Sycamore Pool will be cleaned at the end of May in preparation for opening.
3. **Incident Reports** Incident reports for Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park and City Plaza were received and filed. Poison Oak is prevalent this year.
4. **Correspondence** None

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Suzanne Gibbs, Watershed Coordinator for Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, said last Saturday was the fourth annual Creeks of Chico Conference. It can be viewed on Thursday, April 29, 1999 on the information channel, channel 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 to the next regular meeting of Monday, June 1, 1999.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF APRIL 26, 1999
SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Address
1. Suzanne Gibbs	1162 E. 7 th Street
2. Gregg Payne	1343 Laburnum
3. Anne Stephens	710 Parkwood Drive
4. Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Terrace

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 1, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Steve O’Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Christ Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioners Russell Mills and Kimberly King.

Special Order of Business: Chair Barrett announced the creation of the Bidwell Park Endowment and asked for donations of money or efforts to support the Park. Volunteers are also needed to serve on an Advisory Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 26, 1999.** This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner O’Bryan.
2. **Approval of Application and Permit from Geoff Lane, American Judo/Jujitsu Federation (AJJF) for Use of Five Mile Recreation Area, September 4 and 5, 1999.**
3. **Approval of Application and Permit from Spanish Summer Institute to Use the Bidwell Bowl June 18, June 25, July 2, July 16, and July 23, 1999.**

COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVED ITEMS 2 AND 3 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Minutes from Regular Meeting of April 26, 1999: Item 3 of the Regular Agenda, page 2, should read “...suggested placing a metal angle iron on top of the railing...”

COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 1999 MEETING AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE

MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Status Report and Discussion of Humboldt Neighborhood Park

Dedication of Humboldt Neighborhood Park will be held on June 28, 1999 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Mollie Terrano from Think First, a national injury prevention program, asked the Commission's permission to include their logo on the entrance sign. Commissioners agreed to include it with the Drug Free Zone logo. Park Director Beardsley said the Skateboard Park will be very popular and the City needs to insure it is a good neighbor. Issues of concern may be graffiti, vandalism, excess noise and late night activity. Such issues would need to be addressed immediately and his plan of action would be to close the facility for 24 hours at his discretion upon complaints or incidents. He would post a sign "Closed Because of (Specific Incident)" as part of the campaign to educate the public on what is acceptable use of the facility. He asked the Commission for support of the plan or suggestions of other ways to deal with possible problems.

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE PLAN THAT HUMBOLDT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK MAY BE CLOSED FOR 24 HOURS AT PARK DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION UPON COMPLAINTS OR INCIDENTS. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBINE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Discussion of Public Safety Issues and Management Policies in Upper Bidwell Park

Numerous persons have expressed concern for safety in Upper Park after the recent drowning at Bear Hole. It was the fourth downing in ten months at this particular part of Big Chico Creek. Last year signs were posted warning of danger and one funnel hole was filled with rocks. Questions remain about posting more information signs, disseminating more public information, and making physical changes to the creek.

Comments from the public: Dr. Cory Boyles, Medical Director of Emergency Services at Enloe Hospital, said he has personally been involved in providing medical assistance in a number of drownings and Bear Hole is an infamous area. He is tired of pronouncing young people dead from drowning there. There may be hazards along the creek but that one spot is an obvious death trap. He toured the area with Park Director Beardsley and understands the appeal and beauty there but something drastic needs to be done. Perhaps build a barricade or remodel the channel. Jeff Smith said there are many similar areas in Upper Park but a kiosk to regulate traffic and warn of dangers would be a good move. Walter Cook didn't know if the creek can effectively be modified to be safe but thinks there is need for a foot bridge in the vicinity and signs to give warnings. Teresa McDonald said something is needed immediately and suggested

ropes be provided so one could pull himself out if needed. Scott Burghardt said the Bidwells donated the park and meant it to be natural so don't change it; people need to learn to respect water. Eric Jones said it should be altered with cement to make it flat. Tim Bowsquist said the creek has not been natural for 100 years since the Diversion Dam was built so do something.

In matters of liability, City Attorney Dave Frank said that by State law the City is not liable for injury or death resulting on unimproved public property. If a public improvement is added, there is a conditional immunity if the plan for the change was reasonable. These laws are to preserve access to such land and not let liability force it to be taken from public use.

Chair Barrett said the drownings were in the same 20 feet of the creek but were under different circumstances. Behavior needs to change, not the creek. No change in the creek would be safer for a long term. Commissioner Holderbein said something needs to be done and suggested an obvious obstruction on both sides of the creek at that particular location to show immediate danger there. Commissioner O'Bryan said he has been familiar with Big Chico Creek for many years. The rock structures have remained stable but water flow changes so the creek changes all of the time. There are dangers inherent in wild places and people should learn the risks of cold creek water and learn to understand rock formations and water flow. Any modifications probably would be temporary. Commissioner Dunning agrees there should be more education and doesn't know how a change at this spot might make other places along the creek more dangerous. People need to learn to recognize and avoid hazards and dangerous situations. Commissioner Kopiki wants more signs along the creek designating a danger zone and under tow.

Dr. Boyles asked the Commission to consider bringing in an expert to study the site. Ms. Terrano said to be aware that in community education the audience changes all of the time so education must be on-going. Risk Manager Bob Koch said he and City Attorney Frank would work with the Park Director on wording of signs and bring it to the regular meeting of June 28, 1999.

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION TO ERECT SIGNS ALONG THE STREAM TO WARN OF DANGEROUS CONDITIONS AT BEAR HOLE AND TO REFER TO COMMITTEE THE STUDY OF POSSIBILITIES FOR PHYSICAL ALTERATIONS TO THE CREEK. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Break from 8:50 to 9:05.

4. Report and Proposed Actions from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of May 24, 1999

- a. **Discussion of Resource Analysis Study for the New Acquisition:** The Committee reviewed a proposal for preparation of resource analysis of Upper Bidwell Expansion prepared by Dr. Lisa Stallings of CSUC Research Foundation and ask the Commission to approve the proposal and look for funding.

COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN MADE A MOTION TO PURSUE THE RESOURCE ANALYSIS FOR UPPER PARK AND TO SECURE FUNDING FOR SAME. COMMISSIONER KOPIKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Proposal to Reduce the Amount of Vehicular Traffic in Upper Bidwell Park** The Committee discussed Tom Barrett's proposal on how to reduce vehicular traffic in Upper Park and asks Commission to consider the proposal and send it back to Committee if there is interest in pursuing the matter. Chair Barrett said the original Master Management Plan mentioned a kiosk for giving out permits for each swimming hole to an acceptable number of park users to control density of use. His interest now is in reducing vehicular traffic in Upper Park. One way would be by building a kiosk at Horseshoe Lake to issue permits which could also give out information. Another would be by charging a fee for cars going into Upper Park. Charging for each car would discourage single drivers and encourage car pooling. Also he would ask CATS to provide mass transit as far as Horseshoe Lake. The next step would be to eliminate cars altogether and provide shuttles only.

Commissioner Holderbein said he is not in favor of charges yet but public transit is alright. Commissioner Dunning said a gate to limit the number of people going in should have no charges. A fee would not solve a problem with either the number of people or cars using the park. He wants public input on the issue of charges. A CATS route in the park would be OK but should make frequent runs. Commissioner O'Bryan said the cost of the kiosk would absorb any revenue so none would be left to improve the park, which is what the public would expect of charges. Providing a passive collection system would make more funding available for improvements, such as better trails. Commissioner Kopiki said a charge of \$2 per car would not discourage single drivers but the kiosk is a good idea. Chair Barrett asked staff for a current car count on Upper Park Road. In public comment Caryn Jones said the goal of the proposal is not clear so one can't adequately address the issues. Improved trails would get people off the road.

The Commission agreed to send the proposal back to committee to set specific goals and proposals.

5. **Work Session on Lindo Channel**

The City Council has recommended various actions be taken regarding management of Lindo

Channel Greenway. Park Director Beardsley reported on the status of several items. A letter has been signed by the mayor and sent to adjacent property owners addressing issues to be considered. A meeting on fire safety is set for June 8, 1999 at Marigold School. The area is being mapped for priority of debris clean up by volunteer work parties. Council requested the Commission address encroachments in Lindo Channel and recommend consistent encroachment policies to them within one year. Park Director Beardsley said first priority is to determine the category or each encroachment and how to deal with them. That may then lead to having to find a line on the ground. In preparation for the Commission's hike along the channel on Saturday, June 5, Urban Forester Boza referred to posted aerial maps of Lindo Channel and "traveled" the channel from Manzanita to near Highway 32. The maps showed the line of Annie Bidwell's deed but the survey boundaries picked up only major points, not intermediate points.

In public comment Walter Cook brought forth a record of survey done for the City on the area dated January 12, 1994. He said the survey shows monuments, both set and found, so nothing else is needed to determine actual encroachments. Structural encroachments interfere with access and destroy both vegetation and aesthetics. The integrity of the park must be preserved - you have a responsibility to keep public land clear. Caryn Jones said she often gets calls about new issues and wants to know where to refer them. Park Director Beardsley said to call the Park office and give him the information. Staff is separating pre-existing issues from current ones and is learning to deal with each. Public safety is top priority now.

Park Director Beardsley recommends the question goes to an existing or new committee for further action. A task force or a committee as a whole are also possibilities. Commissioners agreed to form a Committee as a Whole, which will meet in Conference Room 1 on either the second or third Thursday evenings of the month beginning June, 1999.

Break from 11:15 to 11:30 p.m.

- 6. Report and Proposed Actions from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of May 10, 1999. This was joint meeting with the Bicycle Advisory Committee.**
 - a. Review and Discuss Proposed Improvements to Annie's Glen** The Committee voted to include into the Bicycle Master Plan George Mathew's suggestions for connecting the Durham/Midway bike path with the Chico Airport bike path through Annie's Glen. That is the first step toward seeking funds to further investigate the different elements of the proposal.
 - b. Circulation Patterns within Bidwell Park - South Park Drive** Opening of Marsh Junior High School in the fall of 1999 means many students may travel through the Park to and from the school. In anticipation of the travel patterns, the joint committee

recommended closing South Park Drive to vehicles from Cedar Grove to Centennial Avenue and allowing two-way bicycle travel for the same area. The proposal leaves four picnic sites with no vehicle approach, though they are not far from East 8th Street. Commissioner Holderbein suggested that accommodating school traffic would be necessary only when school was open, and then two-way bike traffic should go as far as One Mile.

COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE SOUTH PARK DRIVE TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC STARTING WITH COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 1999 FROM CENTENNIAL AVENUE TO CEDAR DROVE AND ALLOW TWO-WAY BIKE TRAFFIC TO ONE MILE ON SCHOOL DAYS ONLY FOR A TRAIL PERIOD OF 60 DAYS. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Report and Proposed Action from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of May 18, 1999

The draft of the Trails Manual will be presented to Commission for review and approval at the regular meeting June 28, 1999.

8. Review and Approve Correspondence to the City Council Regarding Creekside Greenways.

The revised draft letter to City Council encouraging continuation of opportunity purchases along Little Chico Creek for addition to the Little Chico Creek Greenway was presented to Commission.

COMMISSIONER KOPIKI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Director's Report** Park Director Beardsley announced that at the Budget meeting this date, funding was allotted at \$10,000 for dam modification, \$20,000 for downtown trees, \$6,000 for Five Mile roofs replacement, \$14,000 to close two wells, \$66,000 to complete the Skateboard Park, \$45,000 to Nature Center, \$7,000 to Cat Coalition, and funding for a future second Seasonal Ranger and a part-time Landscape Inspector. A letter was received from CARD accepting leadership of neighborhood parks. Goats will be back in Bidwell Park in June and about 300 in August. Spot spraying of Garlan 3A will be done to maintain control of Himalayan blackberries. This month's packet contained City Manager's recommendation to Council that

Bidwell Ranch property be set aside for wetland mitigation, airport overflight area, and other designated nonresidential uses.

2. **Monthly Reports** Reports were received and filed from Park Director, Ranger Bob, Street Tree Crew, and Volunteer Coordinator. Fish and Game did a fish rescue last Wednesday and salmon were removed from Warner Street bridge. Staff then worked very hard to get the pool cleaned for scheduled opening. The amount of sediment put down stream during the cleaning was exceedingly minimal.
3. **Incident Reports** Reports were received and filed on Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park and City Plaza. The third Ranger is on duty full time for the summer so coverage will be better.
4. **Correspondence** Letters were received from Scott Gunderson regarding disc golf, Hollie Vinson regarding an accessible trail, and Naomi Davis in support of goats. Director's responses were filed. A series of letter were received later regarding disc golf and no response has been made yet.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER KOPIKI MADE A MOTION AT 12:05 A.M. TO ADJOURN TO JUNE 5, 1999 AT 8:00 A.M. AT HOOKER OAK TO WALK LINDO CHANNEL. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 1, 1999
SIGN IN SHEET

1. Molly Terrano 3006 Godman Avenue 95973
2. Cory Boyles 624 Marshall Court
3. Jeff Smith 1425 Oleander Avenue
4. Walter Cook 42 North wood Commons
5. Theresa McDonald 5044 Russell Drive Paradise
6. Scott L. Burghardt 1092 Camino Real
7. Eric Jones 1908 Mars Way
8. Tim Bousquist PO Box 4627 95927
9. Caryn Jones 5 Deborah Lane

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 5, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning, Russell Mills, Kimberly King; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley and Urban Forester Christ Boza. Meeting convened at 8:15 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. None

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**
2. **Tour of Lindo Channel from Hooker Oak Recreation Area to the Esplanade.**

Commission walked the Channel to familiarize themselves with the area. No action was recommended or taken.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. None
- 2.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION AT 11:45 A.M. TO ADJOURN TO JUNE 17, 1999 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 17, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Steve O’Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning, Russell Mills, Kimberly King; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley and Urban Forester Christ Boza. Absent: Commissioner Dunning. Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **None**

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**
2. **Study Session on Lindo Channel Encroachments Policy**

The City Council has requested a policy recommendation from the Commission regarding encroachments onto public property in Lindo Channel. This meeting allowed the Commission to begin that process. No recommendations were made other than to suggest various alternatives throughout the discussion. After reviewing and modifying an initial proposal prepared by Commissioner Mills, the Commission scheduled July 8, 1999 for the next study session.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **None**
- 2.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION AT 11:45 A.M. TO ADJOURN TO JUNE 17, 1999 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SIGN IN SHEET FOR BIDWELL PARK & PLAYGROUND
COMMISSION
Meeting of June 17, 1999

1. Doug Dauterman
2. Linda Patnia 50 Guynn Bridge Court
3. Marshall Gregory 44 Guynn Bridge Court
4. Ron Egnstrom 60 Guynn Bridge Court
5. Helen Ost 1255 East Lindo Ave.
6. Earl Nance 8 Shimmering Oak Court
7. Wayne Edwards 9 Shimmering Oak Court
8. John Ost 1255 East Lindo Ave.
9. Walter Cook
10. Caryn Jones 5 Deborah Terrace
11. Debbie Peck 5 Dove Creek Court

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JUNE 28, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Steve O’Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Glenn Dunning and Russell Mills; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioners Barbara Kopicki and Kimberly King.

Special Order of Business: Park Director Beardsley said there is extreme fire danger in Bidwell Park. There was a control burn today between Easter Cross and Horseshoe Lake but those scheduled for Alligator Hole and Bear Hole will be delayed. Sycamore Pool is open.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Minutes from Regular Meeting of June 1, 1999** This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Mills.
2. **Minutes from Adjourned Regular Meeting of June 5, 1999**
3. **Minutes from Adjourned Regular Meeting of June 17, 1999** This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Dunning.
4. **Approval of Application and Permit for Park Use from Chico Unified School District for Cross County Meets September 15, 25 and 30 and October 7, 14, 12 and 28, 1999**

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS 2 AND 4 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Minutes from Regular Meeting of June 1, 1999 The motion for Item 6.b. on Page 6 should read “Commissioner O’Bryan made a motion of intent to close South Park Drive to vehicle traffic starting with commencement of school in the fall of 1999 from

Centennial Avenue to Cedar Grove and allow two-way bike traffic to One Mile on school days only for a trial period...”

Minutes from the Adjourned Regular Meeting of June 17, 1999 should not include the name of Commissioner Dunning as present.

2. Review and Consideration of Proposal at 1388 Longfellow

Park Director Beardsley referred to a posted map of the property at 1388 Longfellow designating areas of the property being considered for change. There is an existing encroachment into Lindo Channel of a parking lot and a fence along this commercial property. Owners have applied to the Planning Commission for a use permit but the permit is deferred until the encroachment issue is settled. Clif Sellers, Community Development Assistant, said the property was developed in the early 1950's and was remodeled in 1986. It was then in Butte County and the County OK'd the remodel, including a letter of authorization for the parking lot. The City issued permits.

Park Director Beardsley presented three possible ways to deal with the encroachment and invited direction on how to proceed. One way would be a land swap in which the owner would trade a vacant parcel of approximately .44 acres adjacent to the property for the encroachment area, which is approximately .175 acres. A second could be to relocate the access drive to the south side of the existing building and provide for parking without using the encroachment area. The third way could be to grant a lease for business parking and, at the same time, keep the area available for public parking to access the channel.

For the public, Dan Shedd, representing owners Hignell & Hignell, said it is physically possible to change the access drive but it would result in a net loss of parking spaces and such an arrangement might not meet the needs of tenants. Parking is now as required by the City. The use permit before the Planning Commission is so that tenant C&N Auto can expand and use some parking space for storage. The fence erected in February was needed to stop vandalism and because the bank is steep at that location. The parking on the west side of Longfellow Avenue was improved by the City and makes a better access to the channel. Caryn Jones wants a land swap but reminded Commission that a Roses and Ivy land swap resulted in much debris to be cleaned up so look at all issues carefully. Most importantly a bike trail has not been considered and access to Longfellow could be lost. She recommends the proposal be sent to the Trail Committee to safeguard public interest and to have an outside appraisal for the proposed lands to be exchanged. Walt Cook said a land swap should not be approved by virtue of legal and policy reasons. City Attorney opinions say it would be legally invalid. A gift of public property is invalid. Any changes must improve the channel but this would mean losing an opportunity for a bike trail. There can be a lease for 25 years for public use but get further legal clarification from City Attorney. Helen Ost said we are setting a precedence and she

approved considering each encroachment on a case-by-case basis to make sure each decision is fair and gives benefit to the parkland. Defer this decision for more legal study. Ken Chase, a tenant at 1388 Longfellow, said an alternate access drive would ruin night parking for his 18 trucks. The new fence is closed only from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and on Sundays and is needed to stop vandalism at the back of the lot. The chain link fence could be taken down. We must work together to make this a useable place for all. John Merz said asphalt is falling into the channel from the encroachment. Land use in the neighborhood is changing and Hignell & Hignell need to redesign the entire area to be compatible with a greenway as they did on Humboldt. Parking space on the other side of Longfellow Avenue is really a fill and should be removed. Bike paths on both sides of the channel would have a bad impact on habitat. City Attorney needs to give the Commission clear direction. John Ost said Hignell & Hignell could finance a dam flow study and design their parking as riparian habitat for restoration.

Chair Barrett said another option might be to purchase the parcel now offered for trade and allow the businesses to use City land in exchange for a bike trail through the existing parking lot. The new parcel would also provide access to the First and Verbena Park. Commissioner Mills said he wants to know the value of the land proposed for swap beyond the appraisal value and get more information from City Attorney. Commissioner Dunning said another option would be to leave the property as is and simply acknowledge the existing parking on City property is for channel access. Staff will look for permits and other written history on the property and report at the July 28, 1999 regular meeting.

3. Proposal to Change Traffic Patterns on South Park Drive to Accommodate Bicycle Access to Marsh Junior High School.

At the June 1, 1999 meeting Commission approved the concept of closing South Park Drive to vehicular traffic during school days to accommodate student bicycle traffic through Bidwell Park to and from the new junior high school. Park Director Beardsley said staff would like to get more direction on the intent before going forward with implementation. Specific issues are 1) the traffic signal at El Monte and Highway 32 will not be installed before school opens; 2) two-way traffic to One Mile would end at bollards near Caper Acres so how would traffic be diverted there; 3) the trial period was designated at 60 days but using time between school breaks might work better; and 4) doing the traffic experiment for seven day a week would be less confusing than just on school days.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO BEGIN THE TRIAL PERIOD AFTER THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT ARE COMPLETED. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the public, Caryn Jones said kids will cross Highway 32 at El Monte even without the light

because it is easier to do so than go farther to Forest Avenue.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO LIMIT TWO WAY BIKE TRAFFIC FROM CENTENNIAL TO CEDAR GROVE BRIDGE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN. AYES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS, O'BRYAN, HOLDERBEIN AND DUNNING. OPPOSED: CHAIR BARRETT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

In further discussion, it was decided to implement the policy during school days only for the duration of the trial. The trial period should be between spring break and end of school in year 2000.

4. Review and Approval of the Bidwell Park Trails Manual

Commissioners made corrections and alterations on several pages of the manual. They agreed to take out references to Bidwell Park and name the document "Park Trails Manual". They have no interest in giving maintenance priority to any certain trails. For the public, Caryn Jones said she is proud of the quality of our park and of the manual. She would like Lindo Channel to be a part of the manual, not just Bidwell. She has mapped trails in Upper Park and would like to upgrade South Rim Trail between Bear Hole and the golf course upon approval of the Trails Committee.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PARK TRAILS MANUAL. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Status Report on Improvements to Ringle Park

Park Director Beardsley referred to a posted drawing of two rest rooms and benches along First Street proposed for Ringle Park, located at East First and the Esplanade. Both the rest rooms and benches give opportunities for art work, which funding of \$10,000 has been allocated by City Council. Cost of the proposal itself is \$90,000 and is part of the ADA project. It probably will be built in the spring of 2000. The gazebo has already been reinforced. Chair Barrett asked if bike racks and rain shelter could be included. Staff will find out if there is some transportation money available and check on the issue of providing shelter. Commission agreed to proceed with the project as presented.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Director's Report:** Park Director Beardsley updated his written report. Warning signs have been installed at Bear Hole and safety videos will be shown on television beginning this week. The Department of Fish and Game are continuing their study of Bear Hole and their report will

come to the Commission. It may take up to one year. They will be considering fish passage and public safety. The first organized group to clean Lindo Channel, 150 students from Upward Bound, will clean from the Esplanade to Manzanita on July 15. Goats will regraze areas in August. They will graze at Vallombrosa in early spring when traffic is less than during summer and presents less concern for welfare of the animals. Fire Chief Brown's report of the neighborhood fire protection meeting of June 8, 1999 was included in the packet, as well as his Lindo Channel fire protection recommendations. In the recommendation that owners along the channel should be able to continue abating dry annual vegetation behind their properties, it should be specified abating meant by mechanical, not chemical, means. Commissioner Mills wants to prohibit smoking in the channel during fire season and said a vegetation management program is needed with the fire issue. A memo from Senior Civil Engineer Tom Alexander was included as a reminder that the storm drain project on Vallombrosa is going forward. It is not a new storm drain but a resizing of an existing one.

2. **Monthly Reports:** Dedication of Humboldt Skateboard Park is on Friday, July 2, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. Staff is preparing for Fourth of July. Reports from Park Director and Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator were received and filed.
3. **Incident Reports:** None
4. **Correspondence:** A letter from Douglas Laurie regarding user fees in Upper Bidwell Park and response.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION AT 10:45 TO ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 8, 1999 IN CONFERENCE ROOM 1 BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SIGN IN SHEET
JUNE 28, 1999

1. Dan Shedd c/o Hignell & Hignell, Inc
1500 Humboldt Road
2. Caryn Jones 5 Deborah Terrace
3. Walter Cook 42 Northwood Commons
4. Helen Ost 1255 East Lindo Avenue
5. Ken Chase 2584 Cactus Avenue
6. John Merz 1331 Broadway
7. John Ost 1255 East Lindo Avenue

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JULY 8, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

1. Roll Call

Present at roll call: Vice Chair Kimberly King, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki. Absent: Tom Barrett and Glenn Dunning Staff Park Director Beardsley.

- 2. CONSENT AGENDA** Vice Chair King announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. She then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commission.

2.1 Approval of Public Event Permit Application from the American Red Cross for Water Safety Day Saturday, August 14, 1999 - One Mile Recreation Area.

COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN MADE A MOTION THAT ITEMS 1 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

4.2 Study Session on Lindo Channel Encroachment Policy

Commission reviewed revised draft policy resulting from the June 17, 1999 meeting. Commissioners discussed various revisions and key issues. Specific comments on wording were made. Staff was asked to prepare a final version for Commission consideration at their August 30, 1999 meeting.

- 5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 to the next regular meeting of Monday, July 26, 1999

S:\BPPC\MINUTES\07-08-99.WPD

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JULY 26, 1999
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Kimberly King, Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioners Barbara Kopicki and Russell Mills.

Special Order of Business: Park Director Beardsley acknowledged the special contributions of Park Watch members who have given thousands of hours of service for various projects. Recently several gave of their time for CPR training.

Park Director Beardsley asked that Item 4.3 **Receive a Report on "Water Quality Data Analysis - Big Chico Creek - January to November 1998" by Stewart Oakley** be removed from the agenda because Dr. Oakley is out of the country. The item will be placed on the August agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Minutes from Regular Meeting of June 28, 1999**
2. **Minutes from Adjourned Regular Meeting of July 8, 1999**

COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN MADE A MOTION THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Items removed from the Consent Agenda: none**
2. **Review and Consideration of Proposal at 1388 Longfellow**

A portion of the parking lot on this commercial property is an encroachment on City property into Lindo Channel. The property owner has applied for two use permits but a determination regarding the existing encroachment must be made before action can be taken on the permits. This item was carried over from the June 28, 1999 meeting so staff would provide additional information on the legality of the City accepting the Hignell & Hignell proposal to trade a parcel

of land they own along the channel for the encroaching parcel now being used for parking.

City Attorney David Frank explained there are two layers of conveyance on this parcel. The first is from Annie Bidwell and requires the Channel be maintained in its natural state. The second was in 1950 when the State conveyed it to Butte County and subsequently from the County to the City. This required the City to restrict the property to park and recreation use. On gifted property, the public agrees to use the property as designated by the donor or return it. It is his conclusion State law says there can be no exchange of such property. This answer is given for now so that the Planning Commission might move on the pending use permits, but research never totally ends and law is still developing on such property. A 25 year lease is an option if the use is determined to be a public benefit.

Park Director Beardsley said the process is that the Commission can address the encroachment issue and make a recommendation to Council to determine a solution and then the permit issue can proceed. Tonight the Commission can approve or deny the land exchange, modify the proposed exchange, or make no recommendation. This particular encroachment may be treated independently and decided tonight, even before discussion of the entire encroachment policy, to move the process along. The General Plan calls for a bike path along the Channel from Marigold to Highway 32, but does not designate which side so that is a point of discussion. The new bike plan also calls for a Class 2 trail on the north side from Marigold to Cohasset.

For the public, Dan Shedd, representation of owners Hignell & Hignell, asked if the exchange could be made by quit claim deed. He believes Fred Hignell would have no objection to a quit claim deed or to giving parking access to the Channel if the area is clearly designated as City property and liability. Caryn Jones said Hignell & Hignell has owned the property since February, 1962; the encroachment occurred between 1962 and 1972; approval given in 1985 by Butte County for landscaping was in violation; the parking area on city property has been used for 27 years without any payment of rent; a fence going 35 feet into park land was erected in February 1999 with no permit; the required bike path must go along the south side of the Channel at this location or an expensive bridge would have to be built; and the value of the lot proposed for swap is assessed at \$1,200 and the value of the encroachment land and improvements is probably \$10,000. Hignell & Hignell is breaking many laws but she recommends amnesty and proposed they construct a bike trail along their parking surface on the bank top to the First and Verbena site and the City could work out a lease with an access right for cars to get to existing businesses. Walter Cook said any new proposal needs to be thoroughly discussed. Adequate and correct information and maps need to be provided and Hignell & Hignell should provide a survey. The Commission should reject the proposal based on City Attorney's opinion and let Hignell & Hignell come back with new proposals to consider. He thinks a quit claim deed is not a legal option. Helen Ost said the Commission has no choice to make because the City Attorney has determined the owner's proposal is not legal. They

don't need to come up with alternate plans, just answers. John Ernst said there is a need to be clear about the Commission's responsibilities on encroachments so put off this decision until all have been discussed and determined. Suzanne Gibbs asked why wouldn't the fence be removed. Chair Barrett answered that is a separate issue.

Commissioner Dunning asked if he has a conflict of interest since his retirement plan has an interest in Hignell & Hignell property. City Attorney Frank answered he thinks that might be too remote but he can look into it. Chair Barrett said to vote on the proposal and discuss issues later. Commissioner King wants Hignell's response to designing a bike path and wants to know the legality of a quit claim deed. Commissioner Dunning said a lease could be allowed if parking is for public access and a bike trail is provided. It would gain nothing to plow up the area now. Commissioner O'Bryan said this is an encroachment of 27 years and should be dealt with as other permanent encroachments. Give the owners notice of 180 days to remove it.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO DISAPPROVE THE PERMIT, ACKNOWLEDGE THE ENCROACHMENT AND ASK STAFF TO COME BACK NEXT MONTH WITH REWORDING AND MORE INFORMATION FOR OTHER OPTIONS AND A BIKE PATH. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONER KING AND HOLDERBEIN. NOES: CHAIR BARRETT AND COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN. ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER DUNNING. THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO DENY THE LAND SWAP UPON CITY ATTORNEY'S DETERMINATION AND COME BACK TO DISCUSS OTHER OPTIONS SEPARATELY. THERE WAS NO SECOND

COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN MADE A MOTION TO PUT HIGNELL & HIGNELL ON NOTICE TO REMOVE THE EXISTING ENCROACHMENT WITHIN 180 DAYS FROM FINAL NOTICE BY CITY COUNCIL. THERE WAS NO SECOND.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO DENY THE APPLICATION BASED ON CITY ATTORNEY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE CITY CANNOT LEGALLY SWAP LAND. COMMISSIONER SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: CHAIR BARRETT, COMMISSIONERS KING, O'BRYAN, AND HOLDERBEIN. ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER DUNNING. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Park Director Beardsley will meet with Mr. Shedd and provide as much information as possible on options at the next regular Commission meeting.

Break from 8:50 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

3. **Receive a Report on "Water Quality Data Analysis - Big Chico Creek - January to November 1998" by Dr. Stewart Oakley.** This item was removed from the agenda.

4. **Status Report on Humboldt Neighborhood Park**

Park Director Beardsley said the skateboard park opened three weeks ago. It has been well used and the users have been respectful but he wants to review issues that have come up. Bikes are not allowed in the facility but have been an issue and so has use of safety gear. Other issues that have appeared are a concern for traffic and parking, litter in the facility and along the street, and noise after closing time. Perhaps operating hours should be changed to coincide better with day light. A maze could be installed to keep bikes from entering. After this education period about the rules, citations could be given. Designated hours could be set aside for use by younger skaters only. Commissioner O'Bryan suggested contacting shop owners with safety gear for sale and encouraging them to help make use of safety gear socially acceptable.

For the public, Steve Personett said he owns rental property across the street and thinks the dark neighborhood park would encourage negative use. He would like it to be fenced and be opened and closed at the same hours as the skateboard park. Ken Rice grew up in Chapman town and knows there are drug sales in most parks now. He has often called police about problems and gets little help. This park has badly influenced the neighborhood from the quiet place it was and the operating hours are too long.

Commissioners requested staff to proceed with changing the open hours to be during day light only. All issues will be covered at an open forum meeting on August 5, 1999 at 3:00 p.m.

5. **Consideration to Provide Food Services in Bidwell Park**

Park Department has received a request to provide food service at One Mile. If the Commission has an interest in allowing food services, Park Director Beardsley recommends they consider the need for such service and the high level of staff work involved with letting a contract. A notice should be distributed to allow open competition for the contract and the operation could be functioning for next season. Urban Forester Chris Boza reported the last contract for food service was three years ago. He said it has been difficult to get the City's percentage of profits from previous vendors as they seem to just go away. Vendors could use carts or the park facility, but the building at One Mile would be expensive to outfit. The last bid process was done in 1993.

For the public Sam Sayegh said he has been setting up his cart across from One Mile and

recently was told he would have to apply for a permit to sell within 200 feet of the Park. He has insurance, several years of business experience and would pay the City the percentage requested. He would like the exclusive right to sell outside of special events and thinks some food service in the park is better than none at all.

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION THAT STAFF LOOK INTO PROVIDING FOOD SERVICE AT ONE MILE. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Consideration to Establish "No Parking" on the Northwest Corner of East Lindo Avenue and Longfellow Avenue - Lindo Channel

The city property at the northwest corner of East Lindo Avenue and Longfellow has long been used for parking by unknown persons. Chair Barrett said it looks bad, could be considered an encroachment into Lindo Channel, and could be a fire safety issue. He asked that it be designated No Parking. For the public, Helen Ost said cars are there by 7:00 a.m.. It is not meant to be for business use and should be no parking. Maybe the Planning Commission needs to look into the parking situation of the area. Walter Cook parked there for access to the Channel. That is what has been said is needed so don't exclude people for parking there. Ken Chase said his employees are parking on that side of the road. It has been improved by the City and has been used for years by area employees. There is not enough room on the street for the needed parking. He wants to be able to use public lands as any other member of the public can. Commissioner O'Bryan said the Parking Commission requires adequate parking be provided by any business. There is need for a comprehensive policy to cover several areas where parking is obvious. Commissioner King said to address this problem as part of planning park land uses or in the encroachment police. No action was taken.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Director's Report** Park Director Beardsley updated his filed report. Bids on the Accessibility Project are open and will be awarded in two weeks; Kiwanis will finish installation of new play equipment at Children's Playground and at One Mile on Saturday, August 1, at the cost of \$5,000; there are currently 160 goats grazing star thistle at the horse arena; spot spraying has been done on 12 acres of lower park using 8.5 gallons of Garlon 3A; the vegetation management report will be presented to Commission in October; he would compliment staff for improvements on the cleaning operation of Sycamore Pool.
- 2. Monthly Reports** Reports were filed by Park Director and Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator. Park Director Beardsley said that for the first time the Park has complete coverage with four Rangers on duty until Labor Day. Chair Barrett questioned the success of a

restoration area at Manzanita and Vallambrosa. Park Director Beardsley agreed it has been a problem to enforce keeping people out of that swimming hole and a new program is needed for that area.

3. **Incident Reports** Reports were filed on Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park and City Plaza.
4. **Correspondence** None

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 11:30 P.M. TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 30, 1999. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JULY 26, 1999
SIGN IN SHEET

	Name	Address
1.	Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Terrace
2.	Walter Cook	42 Northwood Commons
3.	Helen Ost	1255 East Lindo Avenue
4.	John Merz	1331 Broadway
5.	Suzanne Gibbs	
6.	Dan Shedd	C/O Hignell & Hignell 1500 Humboldt Road
7.	Steve Personett	42 Santa Clara Court
8.	Ken Rice	Humboldt Street
9.	Sam Sayegh	598 East Eighth Street
10.	Ken Chase	2584 Cactus Avenue
11.		

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
AUGUST 30, 1999
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1. Emergency Agenda Item:** Park Director Beardsley asked to add an item 4.2 to the agenda giving a report on the fire in Bidwell Park.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ADD AN EMERGENCY ITEM TO THE AGENDA MAKING A REPORT ON THE FIRE IN BIDWELL PARK. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 2. Roll Call:** Present at roll call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioner Kimberly King.

Special Order of business: None

- 2. CONSENT AGENDA** Chair Barrett announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. He then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commission.

- 1. Minutes From the Regular Meeting of July 26, 1999** Commissioner Holderbein asked to have this item removed.
- 2. Approval of Permit Application for 7th Annual Tower Records Chili Cook-off and Band Jam - September 25, 1999 - Plaza Park**
- 3. Approval of Permit Application for Star Fest 1999, September 18, 1999 - Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park** Chair Barrett asked to have this item removed.

Commissioner King arrived at 7:40.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 2 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed From the Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 26, 1999

Commissioner Holderbein said that the last motion on page 3 should read “Commissioner Holderbein seconded the motion...”. Chair Barrett said that the last line on Item 6 page 5 should read “the encroachment policy:.

COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 26, 1999 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Approval of Permit Application for Star Fest 1999, September 18, 1999 - Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park

Chair Barrett asked if any conditions needed to be added to the permit application. Park Director Beardsley said the event meets regular permit requirements.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR STAR FEST 1999. COMMISSIONER O’BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Report on Fires in Bidwell Park

Park Director Beardsley reported that 1,500 acres of Upper Park were burned in a back fire last Thursday in response to the Musty Buck fire encroaching on the park. It was one of many fires started the previous Sunday night by lightning. Division Chief Steve Simpson referred to a posted map of the area showing where the fires were located. He said that no aircraft were able to fly on Thursday because of dense smoke. He sent two engines to the end of North Rim Trail at 1:00 p.m. and found the fire was burning four acres into the park. Planning the backfires took about three hours and involved finding places to tie backfires into Upper Park Road. Existing trails were not wide enough and dozers could not be used. A large thunder cell was over Grass Valley and moving north with potentially more lightning strikes. Line for the backfire was along Upper Park road down to Easter Cross. That left a buffer zone between the road and Big Chico Creek to help prevent erosion during rains. Ten engines were left

in the park from Thursday through Saturday morning. The park was closed through Sunday because of possible hot spots and burning trees. It was opened again this morning. Trees were ringed with a wet line to prevent damage.

Commissioner Mills asked what damage can be expected from the fires once winter rains begin. Urban Forester Boza said it was mostly a grass fire and went through trees quickly. Grass seeds will sprout from the rains and brush will sprout from their root systems. Some jack pots (spots of heavy fuel) burned hot with heavier damage but seedlings will come back. Straw bails may be put around drainage areas to stop erosion potential.

3. Receive Report on "Water Quality Data Analysis - Big Chico Creek- January to November 1998" by Dr. Stewart Oakley

Dr. Oakley said his job was to analyze data provided him and report to State Water Quality Board if the City is in compliance with its waste discharge permit. Also he was to make recommendations on how improvements might be made in monitoring and management practices. He showed a chart displaying the statistical analysis compiled from data collected during 1998 by monitoring water quality at Big Chico Creek and One Mile Pool. Measurements were taken of turbidity and settleable solids at One Mile Pool during cleaning operations and of fecal coliform concentrations in Big Chico Creek from Bidwell Golf Course to One Mile Pool. The results show the City is in compliance with the permit and the Creek is in good shape. He recommends daily sampling during the summer and weekly sampling during the rest of the year.

Commissioner Mills asked if there are other potential hazards at One Mile. Dr. Oakley answered there could be organisms to cause ear and eye infection that are not shown by current sampling but there have been no such reports. Park Director Beardsley said 1998 was the first year the bypass under the pool was entered. The sump was installed in the fall. Data for 1999 shows more improvement. Urban Forester Boza said the sump has allowed for draining the pool so low that water from the creek comes back in. Every inch of the bottom is now cleaned and almost no material goes downstream. The discharge waste permit requires continued taking of samples but good results could end the need for a permit.

4. Review and Discussion of Operation and Maintenance of the Humboldt Neighborhood Park

Current open hours for the skate board track are the same as for Bidwell Park. However, the facility is meant for daylight use only so closing hours need to be changed. Chair Barrett prepared a chart showing sunset times and twilight times, which

is when the sun is six degrees below the horizon. It was decided to round up one-half hour from twilight time. The new monthly schedule was approved. Park Director Beardsley said the changes would need to be approved by City Council and become part of the 12 R's.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE CLOSING TIMES AS DESIGNATED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Review and Discussion of Operation and Maintenance of the Humboldt Neighborhood Park.

Park Director Beardsley reviewed the August 5, 1999 public meeting at which 32 people met to discuss issues related to the skate track and the park in general. Safety was the primary concern, including use of safety equipment by skaters, reducing traffic speed on Humboldt, and danger to business customers from skaters on the sidewalk. Internal Affairs Committee will consider reducing parking times in front of the business near the park and painting warning signs on the sidewalks. Signs will soon be posted for 25 mph speed limit along the street. Port-a-potties have been moved as requested and a permanent unit is planned. For an additional \$600 per month, the contractor is now doing two daily cleanings in the park and along the street. That makes the total cost of cleaning the facility \$1,950 per month. Commissioner King asked about using court appointed Community Services workers to clean up. Park Director Beardsley will find out if they are available.

For the public, Sharon Skibo, of Boradori Automotive, suggested making skaters responsible for cleaning, perhaps blow a whistle to stop the skating and have a clean up time. She is concerned about the safety of their customers being hit by skaters as they exit the building. Park Director Beardsley said there may be a meeting held at the park on a Saturday near the end of September to demonstrate issues of concern. He will give a follow up report to keep the Commission advised. There is interest in using the park for special events but none has been done so far and any would need a permit. He does not recommend such usage.

Break from 8:50 to 9:00

6. Review and Approval to Improve Trail from Five Mile Recreation Area Along Centennial Drive.

Michael and Caryn Jones have offered to make improvements to an existing trail from Five Mile to the end of Centennial Drive. Staff has reviewed the environmental issues

on the alignment as first proposed and found a category exemption. Caryn Jones asked for approval of the first half of the proposed route but suggested the second half along Centennial be revised because a lot of elderberry would need to be cut and the general plan wants trails within sight of Big Chico Creek. She asked the Commission to support a tentative path to go along the creek side instead of along Centennial. Park Director Beardsley said a new alignment would require another environmental assessment and he would like to take action on a proposal covering the complete trail. Chair Barrett has concern for approving part of a trail and, further, would like a plan for a trail system. No action was taken.

7. Review and Discussion of Draft Lindo Channel Encroachments - Policies and Procedures.

Commission reviewed a draft of the proposed policies and procedures regarding Lindo Channel encroachments. The document covers introduction, objectives, definitions, classifications, policies for removal, exceptions and appeals. It is available free to the public. For the public, Arthur Stoschke, a long-time resident of Chico, gave some history of the Channel. Tim Bousquet asked that any policy adopted apply to all City park land. Helen Ost appreciates the time and effort put into the draft and hopes it is speedily dealt with. Caryn Jones said maybe half of the encroachments, instead of mistakes, are plain stealing of park land since they are not being voluntarily removed when asked. She asked the public to clean up and return what is not theirs. She commended Russell Mills for starting the outline of the policy document. It protects those who mistakenly encroached and she recommends an aye vote.

Commissioner Mills said to include the City of Chico and Bidwell Park and Playground Commission in the list of agencies having regulatory responsibilities in Lindo Channel. Commissioner Holderbein said the document has been looked at enough and is in good shape. Commissioner Dunning likes the policy but does not want to make a judgment about any one's intent for use. Chair Barrett wants to know about setting standards for restoration and allowances for fire breaks behind an owner's property. Park Director Beardsley said an encroachment removal notice would be followed by a restoration notice. Restoration plans would be site specific and reviewed by Park Director or the Commission. For this year, the existing procedures for fire breaks will be allowed. He recommends adoption of this policy document and a follow up with additional policies on 1) vegetation management plan, 2) restoration plan, and 3) master management plan. The final draft will be on the September meeting agenda for approval.

8. Discussion of Sitting Benches in Bidwell Park Staff occasionally receives a request to place memorial benches in both Upper and Lower Park and asks

Commission for guidance in finding appropriate locations or in preparing a plan for potential locations. Design would also be a consideration. The issue was sent to the Volunteer Committee.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Director's Report** Park Director Beardsley updated his written report. Commissioner Holderbein, from the Ad Hoc committee, volunteered to serve on the artist selection committee for the Ringel Park restroom restoration with Commissioner Kopicki as alternate.
- 2. Monthly Reports** Reports were received and filed from Park Director and Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator.
- 3. Incident Reports** Reports were received on incidents in Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park, and City Plaza.
- 4. Correspondence** None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Park Director Beardsley said the burned area in Upper Park is very exposed and asked the public to stay on existing trails.

7. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 10:30 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 1999. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SIGN IN SHEET
AUGUST 30, 1999

	Name	Address
1.	Sharon Skibo	4266 Caballo Way
2.	Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Court
3.	Arthur W. Stoschke	894-6242
4.	Tim Bousquet	P O Box 462
5.	Helen Ost	1255 East Avenue

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 1999
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at roll call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioner Kimberly King.

Special Order of Business: Park Director Beardsley reminded the public that removal of items or material from Bidwell Park is prohibited by City Code. Such removal has not occurred or been a problem, but he wishes to make the public aware of the law.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Barrett announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. He then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commissioners.

- 1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of August 30, 1999**
- 2. Approval of Permit Application for Cross Country Mountain Bike Race - Collegiate Competition, Chico State Cycling Team - October 23, 1999 - Upper Bidwell Park**
- 3. Approval of Revision to Permit Application from Chico Area Park and Recreation District for the 1999 National Yo-Yo Contest, Saturday, October 2, 1999 - Plaza Park Approved January 25, 1999**

COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda** None

2. Review and Consideration of Proposal at 1388 Longfellow

Commissioner Dunning removed himself from discussion of this item because of a conflict of interest. Fred and Eileen Hignell Family Trust, owners of the property at 1388 Longfellow, have submitted to the Commission a proposal in which Hignell & Hignell would lease .175 acres of City-owned property and the City would lease from them another .493 acres. Conditions are 1) each lease would be for 25 years 2) a one-time cost of \$10 for each 3) each party would be responsible for the activities which occur on the parcel, 4) parties would share equally the engineering costs for a survey, legal costs to draw up the documents, and contractor costs to relocate a chain link fence. City may use their leased property for public recreational purposes. Fred and Eileen Hignell Family Trust may continue to use their leased property for a driveway, parking, and landscaping and may leave the existing fence with rolling gate. Hignell shall remove the portion of the existing fence which extends north of their leased area.

Park Director Beardsley referred to a color-coded map of the area showing proposed changes to property owned by Hignell & Hignell and to that owned by the City of Chico. He reviewed the proposal and said the intent of City leases would be to provide public access to a trail along Lindo Channel and eventually to the First and Verbena proposed park site. There is some debate about the history of what constituted approval for building the existing encroachment. There are some site restrictions for the trail that would need to be considered. It probably would be Class C and not appropriate for heavy use. Commissioners could approved the concepts of the proposal tonight and it would go to Council for review and approval. At that time, instruments would be drawn up to complete the transaction. David Frank, City Attorney, said the leases would be acceptable under conditions stipulated by Annie Bidwell.

For the public, Caryn Jones said she has discussed the proposal with Dan Shedd of Fred and Eileen Hignell Family Trust and she doesn't think it meets the terms of the deed from the County to the City signed in 1994. Hignell used the park land in violation over the years. A map of her proposal was posted in which Hignell gives up land in the flood way for a trail, designates the existing parking lot as trail head parking, and removes only a portion of the parking lot on the encroachment. Her family volunteers to construct their proposed trial at no cost to the City or to Hignell. Dan Shedd, of Hignell & Hignell, said the existing parking lot was constructed with the approval of both the county and the city so should not need to be removed now.

Businesses leasing at this location need the spaces. The parking space across Longfellow Avenue could be used for trail head parking. Hignell would share cost of removing the black top as well as moving the fence. Terry Koslofsky, a lease holder on the property, said he is caught in the middle because expansion of his business keeps getting postponed while these discussions drag on and it is costing him money.

Commissioner Mills said he has read past letters regarding the parking lot construction and thinks no clear direction was given by agencies so the owner went ahead and built. Concerning the conditions of this proposal: Hignell gets most benefit from the changes so the costs should be their responsibility; Item 3 saying the City shall be responsible for the activities of the public on their leased parcel seems strange; and he isn't sure the proposed path would be adequate for future needs. He asked how the City would fund their share of the costs.

Park Director Beardsley said the liability intent to indemnify uses in Item 3 is fairly standard for mutual protection; grading for a wider path could make bank stability a problem; funding is undetermined but he would think that use of capital money would be approved along with approval of the proposal. Chair Barrett determined that completion of the First and Verbena Park would take a minimum of five years. He would rather purchase than lease the land for a trail. Commissioner Holderbein said a trail head needs to be improved so the asphalt should be left there. Commissioner O'Bryan said the Commission should not start compromising now and lead to a trend in future encroachments. This is a non-conforming use and an encroachment that needs to be removed. Commissioner Mills asked if there would be a conflict if the public used Hignell & Hignell parking at times that did not conflict with use of tenants and their customers. Dan Shedd said Mr. Hignell would be agreeable to that use during non-business hours but not for over night.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO CONCEPTIONALLY MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROPOSAL UNDER CONDITIONS THAT 1) HIGNELL & HIGNELL PROVIDE AN EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS FROM LONGFELLOW AVENUE AND PUBLIC PARKING IN THE AREA OUTSIDE THE ROLLING GATE AT TIMES NOT TO CONFLICT WITH TENANTS' USE, 2) FRED AND EILEEN HIGNELL FAMILY TRUST LEAVE THE ASPHALT OR PAY THE COST OF REMOVING THE ASPHALT AND COSTS FOR MOVING THE FENCE, 3) CITY OF CHICO PAY ALL OF THEIR INTERNAL COSTS, AND 4) CLARIFY WORDING IN ITEM 3 REGARDING INDEMNIFICATION . COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS, BARRETT AND HOLDERBEIN. NOES: COMMISSIONERS KOPICKI AND O'BRYAN. ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER DUNNING. THE MOTION CARRIED.

3. Review and Approval of Proposed Lindo Channel Encroachments - Policies and

Procedures.

The Commission has met previously to prepare the draft manual. Park Director Beardsley said the only change since last meeting is that Item 7 has been added. If commissioners approve it tonight, it goes to City Council for review and approval. Perhaps recommendations on vegetation management and on fire protection and suppression procedures could be sent to Council at the same time. Commission could review all the proposals in October and schedule a joint

meeting with Council for presentation and discussion about the concepts and application.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LINDO CHANNEL ENCROACHMENT - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Request to Access 1698 Park Vista from South Park Drive for Property Renovations

Staff has received a request to access the back yard of 1698 Park Vista from South Park Drive to facilitate property renovations. South Park Drive is three feet from the property's fence on a portion of the Drive closed to vehicle traffic. Construction vehicles would enter the Park at One Mile and exit at Cedar Grove. Park Director Beardsley recommends the following conditions if access is approved: vehicles to use South Park Drive between 9:00 a.m. and 3: p.m. only; drive at a speed of no more than five miles per hour; someone walking in front of each moving vehicle; emergency flashers to be used; any dirt or debris to be cleaned up immediately; a damage deposit of \$1,000; and insurance that meets Risk Manager's approval.

Robin Trenda, applicant for the request, said he is upgrading a substandard pool and septic system and access from the front to clear away large debris is almost impossible. He would meet the requirements set down, equipment would park on his property and not on South Park Drive, delivery of concrete and forms and of most landscaping will be from the front. He has other permits and is ready to start immediately upon approval from the Commission and acquiring insurance coverage.

Commissioner Dunning said he is concerned about possible damage to the road way from trucks but would grant permission if owner would assume any repair. Commissioner Mills said traffic has not been allowed on this section of the roadway since it was closed and this is a major imposition on the public. There should be a fee

to offset the impact. Park Director Beardsley said there is no fee structure for this use. Daily use fees would not apply to access or to a permit of this type.

COMMISSION DUNNING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST WITHOUT A FEE. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONERS O'BRYAN, HOLDERBEIN AND DUNNING. NOES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS AND KOPICKI. ABSTAIN: CHAIR BARRETT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

BREAK FROM 9:00 TO 9:10

5. Report on October 23, 1999 Make a Difference Day Trail Rehabilitation Program in Upper Bidwell Park

Park Director Beardsley said people have been calling since the fire to offer help with renovations in Upper Park. On October 23, as part of Make a Difference Day, approximate 400 people are expected to work closing bootleg trails and on rehabilitation of main trails in the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake. Training meetings are being offered on October 9, 12 and 21, 1999.

6. Report from Trail/Safety Committee

a. Discussion of Planning for Trails in Bidwell Park In the meeting of September 15, 1999, the committee discussed proceeding with assessing and categorizing existing trails and developing short and long range plans for restoration, realignment and consolidations as appropriate. It was decided to continue using the existing policy for naming.

b. Trail Signage This item was postponed.

7. Report from Volunteer Committee

In a meeting of September 22, 1999 the committee discussed the issue of placing benches in Bidwell Park. Park Director Beardsley has scheduled a tour with Bill Ward on October 7, 1999 to find natural sites for possible locations in Lower Park. Benches in Upper Park will be addressed later. Commissioner Mills suggested finding some way to survey the public interest in having benches and to evaluate use before placing many of them. Commissioner Dunning said any plan would be implemented slowly.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Park Director Beardsley updated his written report. Governor Davis has signed a One Million Dollar Neighborhood Park bond. Traditionally the City reviews the Five Year Capitol Improvement Program, confers with CARD and decides the kind of projects they would like approved with the funds. It has been sent to the Master Management Committee.. In partnership with CARD, staff is working out a process for putting water into Horseshoe Lake. Changes are going on in park staff personnel. Probably two new people will be hired. On October 5, Council will review the requested hour changes for Humboldt Neighborhood Park.

2. Monthly Reports

Reports were filed by Park Field Supervisor and Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator. Park Director Beardsley said the park had a good summer. There was a great crew of Lifeguards and a fourth Ranger at One Mile. Urban Forester Chris Boza said he has generated a list of 21 trees to be removed and replaced.

3. Incident Reports

Reports were filed on Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park and City Plaza. A total of 109 incidents in Bidwell Park reflects the work of additional Rangers. Park Director Beardsley said there has been 65 domestic cats dumped in the last three months, especially at picnic site 24. We need to find out who is doing it and prosecute.

4. Correspondence

A letter from League of Women voters of Butte County indicating Gerda Lydon will continue to attend Commission meetings as their representative. A letter requesting permission to gather traditional materials in the park from Rodney Clements, Mechoopda Indian Tribe. It has been sent to the Master Management Committee

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Dunning asked about cleaning up a dump site at Rio Lindo. Park Director Beardsley said clarification has determined the waste could go to the regular dump and it will be removed soon. Chair Barrett said the pipe lying along North Park Drive is 30 inch pipe being installed to replace an 18 inch storm water pipe.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. to the next regular meeting of October 25, 1999.

**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SIGN IN SHEET
SEPTEMBER 27, 1999**

	Name	Address
1.	Caryn Jones	5 Deborah terrace
2.	Terry Koslofsky	20 Ceres Circle
3.	Dan Shedd	Hignell & Hignell 1500 Humboldt Road
4.	Robin Trendera	1434 Normal Avenue

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
OCTOBER 25, 1999
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at roll call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Kimberly King, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, and Administrative Secretary Cheryl Tobin.

Special Order of Business: Park Director Beardsley reported to the Commission that on October 12, 1999, Allstate Insurance recognized various community organizations for their involvement with the recent firestorms throughout the 1999 fire season. Allstate Insurance distributed awards totaling \$25,000, of which the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission received \$500.00. The money will be used to restore portions of Upper Bidwell Park, particularly completing restoration of the trails and purchasing native plant seeds. In addition, the City of Chico Park Department and the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission were presented resolutions from The State Assembly and the State Senate for the involvement given.

Park Director Beardsley also stated that the goats are back grazing in Bidwell Park. They will north of Five-Mile for three weeks, then will be moved to the Lower Park area to work on the blackberries. The goats will be home in time for Christmas.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Barrett announced that anyone on the Commission or in the audience could have any item removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion or action. He then read the following items on the Consent Agenda, copies having been furnished in advance to the Commissioners.

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of September 27, 1999.

2. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda: None

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Lindo Channel Fire Protection Recommendations. The Chico City Council has asked for recommendations regarding fire protection in Lindo Channel. The Fire and Park Departments have developed a series of recommendations that have short and

long implications for private and public property in, and adjacent, Lindo Channel. The Fire Chief's memorandum dated October 19, 1999 outlines the proposal. At the October 25, 1999 meeting, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission considered proposals that address short term and long term issues in Lindo Channel. To the short term, the Commission supported the need for planning and coordination, improved access, fire prevention and abatement activities. The Commission did not support continuing to allow property owners to do vegetation abatement in Lindo Channel, rather the Commission recommends that abatement activity, if any, be the responsibility of the City of Chico. This is in reference to Item D.5 in the October 19, 1999 memorandum from Fire Chief Brown. To the long term, the Commission did not support a vegetation management plan without considering the complete array of other resource management issues and overall plan for Lindo Channel. The Commission is recommending that a master management plan be completed before a vegetation management plan is implemented. This is in reference to Item A.1 in the October 19, 1999 memorandum from Fire Chief Brown. The Commission did not take a position on equipment recommendations indicating Staff and City Council should address this policy.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED IN THE OCTOBER 19, 1999 MEMORANDUM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM D.5. BRUCE HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. COMMISSIONER MILLS ALSO MADE A MOTION TO ENDORSE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE OCTOBER 19, 1999 MEMORANDUM AS OUTLINED IN A-D AND ADD TO D.5 THAT THE BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION WOULD LIKE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CITY CLEARING AROUND THE PERIMETER OF LINDO CHANNEL PROPERTY FOR FIRE CONTROL. IN ADDITION, TO ADOPT A PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS THE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF A COMPREHENSIVE NATURE, ENCOMPASSING RECREATION, HABITAT MANAGEMENT, PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL SITES, ETC. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Reconsideration of Action taken September 27 1999 Regarding 1388 Longfellow-Lindo Channel.

Glenn Dunning removed himself from discussion of this item because of a conflict of interest. At their September 27, 1999 meeting, the Commission approved a proposal that, under specific conditions, would allow the continued use of City owned property along Lindo Channel by the tenants at 1388 Longfellow in return for the public using private property for trail purposes. As approved, the public would have unrestricted use of the trail alignment at all times; however, the public would only have access to the

vehicular parking are during non regular business hours. At their October 25, 1999 meeting, the Commission recommended conceptual approval of the terms and conditions leases with the Fred and Eileen Hignell Family trust that would allow for public trail access and parking between Longfellow Avenue and the First and Verbena Park site. The recommendations have been forwarded to the City Council for policy approval at their November 23, 1999 meeting.

COMMISSION KING MADE A MOTION TO RECALL THE RECORD TO RECONSIDER. BARBARA KOPICKI SECONDED MOTION. AYES: O'BRYAN, KING, BARRETT, KOPICKI. NOES: MILLS, HOLDERBEIN. MEETING WAS SET FOR 7:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 2, 1999 IN CONFERENCE ROOM 1.

- 3. Status Report and Proposed Action on Disc Golf in Bidwell Park.** The Commission has previously indicated support for disc golf and approved temporary use of a site along Highway 32 pending approval of design and final decision on a location for the activity. In addition, Caltrans has indicated an interest in working with the Park Department to gain public access to the site. Before a final decision can be made to continue to allow disc golf at the present location, a plan and environmental documents needs to be prepared then reviewed and approved by the Commission. The cost of developing the plan and completing the environmental review process is estimated to cost between \$15,000 to \$20,000. There are many disc golf supporters who support the present location on Highway 32. Commissioner King supports this location as well as a possible location within the Lower Park area so those who do not drive will not be excluded.

COMMISSIONER DUNNING MADE A MOTION TO FORMULATE A PLAN AND PERFORM NECESSARY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE HIGHWAY 32 LOCATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY HOLDERBEIN AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 4. Review and Discussion of Next Phase Development of Wildwood Park.**

The City Council has asked for recommendations for the next phase of development of Wildwood Park. Park Director Beardsley presented the following expected improvements: completion of 100 car parking lot and related irrigation, landscaping, lighting and pathways; moving one light tower which will allow for two large soccer fields rather than the current one; develop one large group picnic area; develop a children's play area with play equipment; and upgrade the original pathway lighting to current standards and to match new improvements. The preliminary estimated costs for this phase is expected to be \$1,327,000. Phase III of this project would include a 38 car parking lot that when completed, would connect to Eaton Road and would include

an adjacent group picnic area and playground at the northern end of the park. Consideration can also be made regarding development of a small building to be used for club meetings.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **Report from Volunteer Committee.** On October 7, 1999, the volunteer Committee consisting of Commissioners Kopicki and Dunning, along with Bill Ward and Park Director Beardsley toured potential sites for benches to be located within Lower Bidwell Park. Commissioner Dunning stated there were several very good locations suitable to place a bench, approximately 16 locations would work well. This matter has been referred back to the Commission for its November 29, 1999 meeting.

BREAK FROM 9:10 P.M. - 9:15 P.M.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Director's Report:** Park Director Beardsley updated his written report to state that the ADA project within Bidwell Park is moving along very well; the Cedar Grove Sewer Line Project is now under construction; the Ringel Park restoration project with regard to the artist suggestion with preliminary concepts will be submitted after a review by the selection committee at the November 29, 1999 meeting; the status of Comanche Creek EIR will be available November 11, 1999; the Mid-Year Budget Review has been set for November 16, 1999 to allow the subcommittee to review before sending to City Council and Make A Difference Day on September 23, 1999 was a resounding success; staff had hoped to have Arundo under control, however, the crews from Salt Creek have been unavailable do to their participation with the many fires throughout the County.
2. **Monthly Reports**

Reports were filed by Park Field Supervisor and Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator.
3. **Incident Reports**

Reports were filed on Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park and City Plaza.
4. **Correspondence**

A letter from Wayne Edwards regarding Lindo Channel and a letter to Janet August regarding donation of bench in Bidwell Park.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - NONE

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. to the next regular adjourned meeting of November 2, 1999.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SIGN IN SHEET
OCTOBER 25, 1999

	Name	Address
1.	Suzanne Gibbs	602 Sycamore Street
2.	John Ost	1255 E. Lindo Avenue
3.	Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Terrace
4.	Helen Ost	1255 E. Lindo Avenue
5.	Lance Brogden	1255 Neal Dow Avenue
6.	Gregg Payne	1343 Laburnum #A
7.	Gaye Johnson	1850 Vallombrosa Avenue
8.	Cris Bowen	1705 Oak Vista Drive
9.	Thomas Addison	1391 W. Sacramento Avenue

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, Assistant City Attorney Lori Barker, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson

2. **CONSENT AGENDA** None

3. **NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **Items Removed from the Regular Agenda** None

2. **Review and Consideration of Proposal at 1388 Longfellow**

Commissioner Dunning withdrew from discussion due to a conflict of interest. Park Director Beardsley said this item comes to the Commission tonight upon a vote for reconsideration. At their September 27, 1999 meeting, the Commission approved a set of recommendations for City Council consideration on the encroachment at 1388 Longfellow. That action will stand if not modified at this meeting. After tonight, final recommendations will go to Council for their consideration on November 23, 1999. Council can accept, approve or modify the recommendations. With Council direction, environmental review and appropriate documents would be prepared. Both would come back to Commission and, if approved, go on to City Council for final acceptance.

Chair Barrett voiced concerns: 1) parking areas should be for public/park use and not exclusive use for business; 2) questioned if the area behind the rolling gate would have public access; 3) questioned what adjustments would be made to the lease if, for any reason, the trail is not constructed; and 4) clarified that BPPC has authority to enter into a 15 year lease but a 25 year lease go to the City Council. Changes he would like made to the original motion are to designate exclusive use of the parking area to the west side of the gate for businesses and to make the lease for 15 years.

Park Director Beardsley said the motion now says the gate stays in place and can be closed. The intent was that parking inside the gate is for business only. Assistant City Attorney Barker said trail construction would be included in the environmental review that comes with the lease. Upon mutual agreement, no other permits would be required. BPPC could include in their motion any terms requested to be included in the lease and review the language generated.

For the public - Caryn Jones said Hignell never paid for use of City land, taking an unfair advantage over competitors. The trail is crucial to make the deal possible and parking on City land should be for trail head use, not private. Dan Shedd, of Hignell & Hignell, said they have used the land with permission of entities in control at the time of improvements and no rent was ever asked for. Ken Chase said an inter-city memorandum refers to crossing the right of way and there is a letter saying parking was reviewed and OK'd. Jim Wabs asked when does common sense prevail; this is a win/win proposition. Fred Hignell said his firm has worked with the City since 1951 and never had a problem that could not be solved. He has given the City a park on Humboldt and a bike path by his apartments.

Commissioner King asked if all options suggested by Community Development Director in the June 22, 1999 memo were discussed by the Commission and the public? Park Director Beardsley said they were. She would like to wait and make a decision after the November 23, 1999 joint meeting with Council to see what Council does with the general encroachment policy.

Commissioner Mills said new points to consider are 1) tie the lease to the current land owner, and 2) tie transfer of land to the specific use intended. Commissioner O'Bryan said the previous stewards did not protect the land, and we should be reclaiming our land starting now. Commissioner Holderbein said a 25 year lease is fine since it would be reviewed if either side can not use the land as intended. The Commission needs to take a solid motion to the Council.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO ADD TWO CONDITIONS TO THE EXISTING MOTION: 1) TIE THE LEASE TO THE CURRENT OWNER, NOT TO THE PROPERTY AND 2) THAT LEASES DESIGNATE INTENDED USE AND BE RE-NEGOTIATED IF USE IS NOT POSSIBLE. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS AND HOLDERBEIN. NOES: COMMISSIONERS O'BRYAN, KING, KOPICKI AND CHAIR BARRETT. THE MOTION DID NOT CARRY.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION THAT PUBLIC PARKING WOULD BE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ROLLING GATE AFTER WORKING HOURS. COMMIS-SIONER

HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS AND HOLDERBEIN AND CHAIR BARRETT. NOES: COMMISSIONERS KING AND KOPICKI. ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Park Director Beardsley said all meeting dates in the packet are confirmed except possibly the one for December 12. Call Park Office if you have any questions.

6. ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 to the Regular Meeting of November 29, 1999.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 1999
SIGN IN SHEET

	Name	Address
1.	Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Terrace
2.	Dan Shedd	Hignell & Hignell 1500 Humboldt Road Chico 95928
3.	Jim Wabs	5 Mindy Court
4.	Fred Hignell, Jr	Hignell & Hignell
5.	Ken Chase	Lifescapes 1388 Longfellow, Suite M

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 29, 1999
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Kimberly King, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning, staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

Special Order of Business: Park Director Beardsley called attention to a press release on the return of 500 goats today to Lower Park for four weeks. They are accessible to the public and fun to watch. The public may call 895-4972 anytime for status of trails in Upper Park.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 25, 1999**
- 2. Minutes from Regular Meeting of November 2, 1999**
- 3. Approval of Permit Application from the Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) for the "Giant Pacific Bell Park Pitch" Saturday, March 4, 2000 - Bidwell Park**
- 4. Permit Application from DNA for a Concert Series - Plaza Park** Commissioner Mills asked to have this item removed.

COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS 1, 2, AND 3 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Permit Application from DNA for a Concert Series - Plaza Park

Commissioners Mills asked if moving the concerts to Thursday night would be

incompatible with the existing Farmers' Market already downtown on Thursday nights. Also there are small groups playing music around downtown on that night and they should be considered. Park Director Beardsley said there are no concerts scheduled on the first and third Thursdays so as not to conflict with Planning Commission meetings. That leaves 16 Thursday concerts. DNA, promoter, said this is his eighth year as promoter and he has always worked well with the City concerns. This season the Wednesday night concerts would be rock and Thursday bluegrass and music more compatible to what farmers like. Commissioner King said she has no concerns as it appears this schedule is OK with DCBA. Suzanne Gibbs said the commission is micro-managing DNA; the mix of people is refreshing.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT APPLICATION FROM DNA FOR A CONCERT SERIES IN PLAZA PARK AS REQUESTED.

COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: COMMISSIONERS MILLS, KING, KOPICKI, HOLDERBEIN, AND DUNNING. NOES: COMMISSIONER MILLS. ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN.

2. Presentation from Representatives of the Chico Creek Nature Center

Judy White, Executive Director, and Janece Webb, President of the Board, appeared before the Commission to discuss the first quarter of their annual budget, a copy of which was presented to each Commissioner. They reviewed a list of pending fund raising events and anticipated grants. They have lost a federal grant of \$10,000 but PG&E provided \$5,000. There is now \$30,000 available to remodel the existing building. This month a new sign was erected designating the Nature Center to be also Bidwell Park Information Center. No action was required.

3. Receive and Comment on Proposed Art Treatment Component of the Ringel Park Restoration Project

Mary Gardner, Art Project Coordinator, displayed computer-generated posters showing the proposed art work selected for display at the restroom, gazebo, and bulletin board at Ringle Park. The posters showed a concept of the mural, not the final version. The Park is an entry to downtown and the art presents elements of downtown from past to future. The finished mural will be heavily protected from vandalism. Repair and renovations must also be done as part of the project. No action was required.

4. Receive and Comment on Annual Vegetation Management Report

Ranger Bob showed photos of certain areas in Bidwell Park comparing before and after effects of goat grazing, prescribed burns, and the backfire. Urban Forester Chris

Boza gave highlights of the six-year program. During this past year, staff continued control burns, initiated goat grazing, set a backfire, and did spot spraying limited to locations previously treated using a total of four gallons of Garlon 3A. He is looking at any long term effects of the backfire and continuing to analyze results of the program. For the public, Caryn Jones asked if use of Round Up could be considered, especially on poison oak over trails. No action required.

Break from 9:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Mills left the meeting

5. Report from Master Plan Committee Meeting of November 8, 1999

A. Review and Discussion of Proposed Observatory in the Vicinity of Horseshoe Lake - Upper Bidwell Park

Proponents of an observatory in Upper Park have prepared the information requested by Commission at a previous appearance. Submitted was material on how the observatory would function, location of the proposed building site, and a plan view of the proposed building. If conceptual approval is granted, staff will proceed with environmental review and documents for Commission review before going to City Council. Park Director Beardsley recommended that the proposed compost toilet be a handicap chemical restroom available for both the observatory and a proposed dock at Horseshoe Lake in response to questions of timing for future improvements. Next spring staff will learn of any effects of lead around the lake. Then they can go forward with planning a restroom, review of the lease with Rod and Gun Club, and development of additional policy for the area.

Suzanne Gibbs said the Gun Club building is unattractive and should be removed, not duplicated; we need to look at the over-all picture around Horseshoe Lake and include consideration of the observatory. Kris Koenig said the proposed structure was designed like the Gun Club to meet requirements to be compatible with buildings in the area. Steve Carson, Board of Directors for Hooked on Fishing, said no lead contamination has ever been found in fish.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO CONCEPTUALLY APPROVE THE PLAN AS PRESENTED, WITH A 15 YEAR LEASE AND A TOILET LEAST OBJECTIONABLE TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, UNTIL AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW IS COMPLETED. COMMISSIONER O'BRYAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Discussion of Allowing Access to Private Property from Parks, Greenways and Open Spaces.

To date, each request to enter private property from park land has been considered independently but concerns have been expressed about a need for guidelines in the future. The committee recommends that no access be provided to adjacent properties unless Park Director determines an emergency need. Commissioner O'Bryan said the park should be a good neighbor and keep an open minded policy. Commissioner Dunning said access to private property is alright if there is no adversity to the park so commissioners need to consider each case. Commissioner King supports having a policy of saying "No" unless Park Director determines there is an emergency. Any denied request can be appealed. Commissioner Holderbein said the review process educates everyone and should continue. Chair Barrett noted that other events in the park charge a fee but there is not one for this use.

From the public, Suzanne Gibbs reminded the Commission their first and only job is to protect and enhance the park, greenways and waterways. Caryn Jones said the wording does not reflect the intention clearly for future understanding.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION THAT NO ACCESS OF VEHICLES OR FOR CONSTRUCTION BE PROVIDED FROM PARK LAND TO ADJACENT PRIVATE PROPERTIES UNLESS UNDER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE PARK DIRECTOR. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION. AYES: CHAIR BARRETT, COMMISSIONERS KING AND KOPICKI . NOES: COMMISSIONERS O'BRYAN, HOLDERBEIN AND DUNNING. THE MOTION DID NOT CARRY.

6. Report from Volunteer Committee Meeting of November 16, 1999

A. Discussion of Benches in Bidwell and Donations for their Installation.

The Committee determined priorities for consideration in selecting sites for bench placement in Lower Park and recommended sixteen desirable locations.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CRITERIA SET FOR LOCATING BENCHES IN LOWER PARK AND RECOMMEND THAT BENCHES BE FINANCED THROUGH DONATIONS AND INSTALLED BY VOLUNTEERS WHEN POSSIBLE. COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Request for Several Bench Locations in the Vicinity of the One-Mile Recreation Area in Memory of Former Council Member Bill Johnston.

In answer to a request to establish a set of sitting benches in memory of Mr. Johnston, committee recommends placing the benches in an area around the play equipment by the large picnic area at One-Mile Recreation Area. Commissioner Dunning said Bill Ward can build only about ten benches in a year and should start with those for Mr. Johnston. From the public, Caryn Jones said there is an unauthorized bench near the disc golf course she would like to keep at that site.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A SET OF BENCHES IN MEMORY OF FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER BILL JOHNSTON TO BE LOCATED NEAR THE PLAY GROUND BY THE LARGE GROUP PICNIC AREA AT ONE-MILE. COMMISSIONER DUNNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Report from Preservation/Stream Committee Meeting of November 18, 1999

Holly Vinson would like to develop a fishing platform/pier for mobility impaired individuals on Horseshoe Lake. Park Director Beardsley said the project would include an ADA path from handicap parking in Lot C. After consideration of parking needs and water depth, a location for the pier has been selected west of the dam. From the public, Suzanne Gibbs said that, once health issues are decided, composting toilets are probably the way to go in the park for the future.

COMMISSIONER HOLDERBEIN MADE A MOTION FOR STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PREPARING PLANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE FISHING PLATFORM/PIER FOR MOBILITY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS ON HORSESHOE LAKE. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Consideration of Establishing “No Parking” on the Northwest Corner of East Lindo Avenue and Longfellow Avenue - Lindo Channel

Park Director Beardsley said the majority of the parcel on this corner is in Lindo Channel. Concerns have been expressed that the public continues to park there on an encroachment. Staff is monitoring the area and ticketing for cars parked too long. Commissioner King said the area is an eye sore and a used car lot. The City should take out any improvements and add barriers to prohibit vehicle access. Commissioner O’Bryan said this parcel should be made formal parking for public access to Lindo Channel, recognizing that others would use it but let the Planning Commission make

adequate parking a condition in granting permits to 1388 Longfellow. Chair Barrett stated vegetation should be installed to make it look more like a park.

From the public, Suzanne Gibbs said to revegetate the area, with work possibly done by people from the area. Caryn Jones said parking is not consistent with conditions of the deed, open space policy or Master Management Plan.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO PROHIBIT PARKING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF EAST LINDO AVENUE AND LONGFELLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CONSIDER FUTURE USE OF THE AREA IN A MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN. COMMISSIONER KOPICKI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Review and Consideration of Food Concessions in Bidwell Park

Park Director Beardsley does not recommend pursuing a private food concession operation in Bidwell Park for three reasons: 1) there is no profit for a small operation, 2) there is no good location for a concession, and 3) a roaming vendor is not consistent with the One-Mile Area. Currently an ordinance requires vendors on the street to stay 200 feet away from park property. If the Commission wants a concession in the park, staff would have to solicit vendors. Commissioner Dunning said no one would miss having one; there has been none for nine years. Those who tried cannot make money. No action was taken.

10. Review and Consideration of Items Discussed at the Joint Meeting Held with the City Council November 23, 1999.

Park Director Beardsley said there was a lot of follow-up to be done after the above meeting and Commissioners may wish to discuss some items now. Commissioner O'Bryan confirmed that any lease at 1388 Longfellow would have to come back to BPPC for discussion if the trail is not approved. Commissioner Dunning asked if all new trails would have to be ADA compliant. Park Director Beardsley is researching the law with Risk Manager Bob Koch. From the public, Caryn Jones asked when can she submit her list of encroachments once the policies are approved and would the work still be done at 20% for five years? Park Director Beardsley said staff will follow up on encroachments as they are brought to their attention and there is no time frame stipulated.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1 Director's Report

Azevedo Construction has begun work on the accessibility project; Cedar Grove sewer line installation is expected to be completed this month; the Comanche Creek EIR is not yet out.

2. Monthly Reports

Filed by Park Director and by Volunteer Coordinator.

3. Incident Reports

The City is now tracking incidents with CARD. Reports were filed on 20th Street Park, Hooker Oak Park, Oakway Park, Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park, City Plaza, and Dorothy Johnson Center.

4. Correspondence None

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 to the next regular meeting of December 27, 1999.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 29, 1999
SIGN-IN SHEET

	Name	Address
1.	DNA	PO Box 4995
2.	Suzanne Gibbs	602 Sycamore Street Chico 95928
3.	Janeece Webb	3360 Neal Road Paradise
4.	Judy White	9234 Goodspeed #E Durham 95938
5.	Mary Gardner	
6.	Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Terrace
7.	Kris Koenig	1025 Rushmore Ave Chico

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
DECEMBER 27, 1999
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Present at Roll Call: Chair Tom Barrett, Commissioners Russell Mills, Steve O'Bryan, Kimberly King, Bruce Holderbein, Barbara Kopicki and Glenn Dunning, staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza and Administrative Secretary Cheryl Tobin.

Special Order of Business: Park Director Beardsley called attention to the concerns of fire danger, particularly with New Year's Eve approaching.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of November 29, 1999

COMMISSIONER MILLS NOTED A CORRECTION. ON PAGE TWO OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 1999 MINUTES RUSSELL MILLS WAS NOTED AS HAVING VOTED NO AND AYE ON A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT APPLICATION FROM DNA FOR A CONCERT SERIES IN PLAZA PARK. THE CORRECT VOTE SHOULD BE NO.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Review and Discussion of Stream Bank Protection Standards

At their November 23, 1999 meeting, the City Council asked the Commission to review and update the proposal which will then be forwarded to the Council for consideration. The objective is to incorporate the standards into the Municipal Code.

Public Works Department has expressed a concern that any requirement that would mandate the planting of trees and plant material would have to be periodically removed to maintain bridge abutments and similar improvements. Park Director interprets the proposed standards as flexible enough to accommodate the concern; however, important enough to bring up in the discussion.

Suzanne Gibbs spoke and stated that the streambank standards are good, but some items need to be changed and improved upon and new methods and techniques could be incorporated into the standards.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MADE A MOTION TO SEND THIS ITEM TO THE PRESERVATION STREAM COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Report from the Tree/Finance Committee Meeting of December 7, 1999

Each year, staff prepares and the Commission reviews, comments and modifies a list proposed capital projects for the following fiscal year. The Tree/Finance Committee met December 7, 1999 to discuss the candidate list for Fiscal Year 2000-2001. The five year capital projects also allow for timing of long term projects and projecting future needs.

The Tree/Finance Committee and staff recommend the list of capital projects for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 as presented or modified by the Commission.

Park Director Beardsley discussed each item separately and stated that there are different sources for monies available to the Department for capital projects. Commissioner King suggested that the DCBA should be involved with details relating to Plaza Park projects. Caryn Jones suggested that the Commission recommend to Council that they adopt a policy requiring new development to pay impact fees to cover the costs of developing access to the underused areas in the greenways and the Upper Park acquisition and that the Commission recommend accelerating funding to the two proposed bridges accessing the Upper Park acquisition area to next year. Additionally, Caryn requested that staff study the nexus between new development and population growth and the need to develop bridge access to these under utilized city properties. This would implement the General Plan requirement to open up the creekside areas and make the greenways more accessible and welcoming.

Suzanne Gibbs stated it is important to move forward quickly on this item. Suzanne also stated the California Conservation Corp is a valuable resource to the City. These young people are trained in trail maintenance, tree restoration, bank stabilization, and invasive removal. Commissioner O'Bryan discussed the idea of having the Commission submit a letter to Council asking for the Council to work closely with the staff recommendations on the levels of impact fees to

have lesser affect on the General Fund. Chair Barrett is willing to write the letter.

Tim Bousquet spoke on impact fees stating that these fees are based upon the suposition that there are five acres of parkland for every 1000 residents. He believes it to be inappropriate to use 330 funds for area that are not new park areas and that it is more appropriate to use the redevelopment funds.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MADE A MOTION TO OBTAIN A TRACKED VEHICLE (LIKE A BOBCAT) FOR THE PARK DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Report from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of December 17, 1999

A. Discussion of Planning for Trails in Bidwell Park

With the adoption of the Trail Manual, the next step is to proceed with assessing and categorizing existing trails and develop short and long range plans for restoration, realignment and consolidation as appropriate. Referencing an aerial photograph, the Committee discussed routing of existing trails and closure of cross slope trails. Staff suggested using names rather than letters and the Committee asked that botanical and geographic names be considered. In discussing additional trails in Upper Bidwell Park, the Committee asked that consideration be made for more loop trails, designation of difficult trails. It was also suggested the use of metal pipe set in concrete on which wooden signs could be attached rather than rock cribs for holding signs in place.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOTIONED TO APPROVE WITH LANGUAGE CHANGES, COMMISSIONER KING SECONDED.

B. Trail Signage

Park Director is recommending a style of wood sign for Upper Bidwell Park . A prototype was available at the meeting for Commission review and comment.

COMMISSIONER KING MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS SIGN DESIGN, COMMISSIONER BARRETT SECONDED THE MOTIONED WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Azevedo Construction is moving right along work on the accessibility project; Cedar Grove sewer line installation is expected to be completed this month; the Comanche Creek EIR is not yet out, possibly in January. The installation on the Cedar Grove Sewer Line is expected to be completed in January 2000. On the status of the Vegetation Management Program, the goats are now out of the park until late March to early April. Salt Creek Crews have been working in Lower Park west of the One-Mile Dam and west of the Walnut Orchard. This area was to be grazed by goats, but is too small an area. The large area of blackberries west of the Walnut Orchard is being cleared by crews in preparation for the goat's Spring graze. In addition, the area east of the One-Mile parking lot off of Vallombrosa Way will be grazed in the spring. The Bidwell Park Gold Club, Inc. has been proceeding with the tree planting plan. Approximately 125 blue oak trees will be planted during this year and into next year. The closure of the area to parking at the intersection of Longfellow and E. Lindo Avenue took place on December 27, 1999 and was completed on December 28, 1999. There are two issue of concern on the Vallombrosa Avenue Storm Drain. The first is trailing, the second is ponding below the outfall. Park Director has requested that a permanent barrier such as a split rail type fence be constructed to help prevent accidents.

2. Monthly Reports

Received and filed.

3. Incident Reports

The City is now tracking incidents with CARD. Reports were filed on 20th Street Park, Hooker Oak Park, Oakway Park, Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Children's Park, City Plaza, and Dorothy Johnson Center.

4. Correspondence

Communications from the following individuals supporting more use of parklands, more trails and trail map: John Ost, Bob Ray and J. Clark.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 to the next regular meeting of January 31, 2000.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
DECEMBER 27, 1999
SIGN-IN SHEET

	Name	Address
1.	Suzanne Gibbs	602 Sycamore Street Chico 95928
2.	Caryn Jones	5 Deborah Terrace
3.	Tim Bousquet	