

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
Minutes of  
January 26, 2015 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

Chair Emmerich called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

Mary Brentwood  
Lisa Emmerich  
Mark Herrera  
Jim Moravec  
Richard Ober  
Janine Rood  
Drew Traulsen

**Commissioners absent:**

**1.2. Swearing-in of Commissioners –**

Deputy City Clerk Dani Brinkley swore in the new Commissioners: Corley, Hernandez and Reddemann.

*Item 1.4 (Roll Call) was taken prior to item 1.3 (Election of Chair and Vice Chair)*

**1.4. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

Mary Brentwood  
Marisa Corley  
Alberto Hernandez  
Jim Moravec  
Valerie Reddemann  
Janine Rood  
Drew Traulsen

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Shane Romain (Senior Park Ranger), Lisa Barge, (Park Ranger) and Nancy Kelly (Administrative Assistant).

**1.3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair –** Parks and Natural Resources Manager, Dan Efseaff explained the procedure and that Commission Chairs are allowed to serve two year appointments.

**MOTION:** Appoint Jim Moravec to serve as Chair of the BPPC. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

**MOTION:** Appoint Mary Brentwood to serve as Vice-Chair of the BPPC. **MADE BY:** Hernandez. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

- 1.5. **Special Presentation: Recognition of Outgoing BPPC Members** – Efseaff spoke and offered his thanks to outgoing Commissioners Brentwood, Herrera and Ober, for their service on the Commission. Chair Moravec also offered his appreciation to the outgoing Commissioners.

## 2. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

- 2.1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Approve minutes of BPPC meeting held on 11/24/14.

- 2.2. **Permit for Seasonal Celebrations (Various Days) at Council Ring**

Feather River Grove requested a permit to host various seasonal celebrations at Council Ring in Lower Bidwell Park. This is approximately the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the event. The applicant requested use of the fire pit.

- 2.3. **Permit for Durham Recreation & Park District**

The Durham Recreation and Parks District (DRPD) requested permission to conduct a trail hiking class in Upper Park over several days (a series of day hikes).

**MOTION:** Approve the consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Hernandez. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT** – None.

## 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

## 4. REGULAR AGENDA

- 4.1. **Permit for a Rail Jam (2/20/15)**

Soul id requested a permit to host a snowboard and ski demonstration at City Plaza. The Applicant will import snow and demonstration supplies and remove them at the end of the event. **Recommendation:** *Conditional approval.*

Applicants, Eli Libby and Ben Sampson, provided an overview of the event. The event would entail bringing in snow to the City Plaza to allow for skiers and snowboards to perform tricks on rails, boxes, pipes, towers, wall rides, etc. The event was more of a marketing event rather than a revenue generating event. They are estimating approximately 180 spectators at the event with roughly 20 competitors, with the event lasting approximately two hours. Competitors will be of a certain skill level.

Brentwood didn't feel the Plaza was the right venue for this event. Efseaff stated that staff did suggest other locations; however, there was nothing in the code that would prohibit this event from the Plaza.

Efseaff reported that the City would require the applicant to have higher insurance coverage.

Brentwood asked how the event would be funded. The applicant responded that there are angel investors and sponsors that are helping to fund the event.

The event would last approximately two hours; however, if the temperature is too warm the day of the event, the event will be cancelled.

Ranger Lisa Barge reported the insurance requirements are \$3M per occurrence/\$6M aggregate on extreme sports. The plaza must be returned to the condition prior to the event. The snow will

be removed from the plaza via wheelbarrow by the applicants. When asked about what happens if the event reaches 500 or more spectators, Ranger Barge answered that often times the crowds reach that number at the Thursday night markets, and Friday night Concerts in the Park.

Reddemann thought the idea to be creative and was in full support of it.

**MOTION:** Approve a Permit for a Rail Jam on 2/20/15. **MADE BY:** Reddemann. **SECOND:** Hernandez. **AYES:** 6 (Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 1 (Brentwood). **ABSENT:** 0.

#### 4.2. Permit to Remove and Replant Trees (Various)

The Commission was asked to review four separate requests by citizens for permits to remove and replant trees at their own expense. The requests were for trees that weren't dead, dying or dangerous.

a. 1515 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. – Applicants: Michael Barr and Michele Burton for one California sycamore tree (13" dbh). **Recommendation:** Staff recommended approval to remove and replace the tree.

Efseaff reported that this tree is approximately 14 years old and is causing significant sidewalk lifting and ADA issues. If removed, a replacement would need to be in place within a year. The applicant was not present at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Approve the Tree Removal Permit for 1515 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Hernandez. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

b. 260 Cohasset Rd., Suite 190 – Applicant: ASC LLC Jeffery Stover for eight Raywood Ash trees (12" dbh). **Recommendation:** Staff recommended approval to remove and replace the trees.

The applicant, Jeff Stover, was in attendance at the meeting. The applicant originally planted the trees, at and adjacent to his business, Chico Sports Club. The trees have caused significant damage to the water systems.

The applicant explained that they are beginning to have problems with the pool filters and from the droppings from the trees into the pool. California Water Service is recommending that two of the trees be taken out as the roots are threatening the water mains. The applicant would replace the trees with a minimum of eight, less messy, Arbutus trees.

**MOTION:** Approve the Tree Removal Permit for 260 Cohasset Rd., Suite 190 with a minimum replacement of eight trees. **MADE BY:** Corley. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

c. 2066 Marilyn Dr. - Applicant: Barbara Wise for four Hackberry trees (14" dbh). **Recommendation:** Staff recommended approval to remove and replace the trees.

Efseaff reported that the Hackberry trees are hosts to aphids so treatments need to be regular and can be costly. The applicant was not in attendance at the meeting.

Reddemann supported Rood's concern of the entire Chico canopy. She suggested looking at the canopy from a higher level in order to determine which trees to replace.

**MOTION:** Approve the Tree Removal Permit for 2066 Marilyn Dr. to remove four Hackberry trees. **MADE BY:** Reddemann. **SECOND:** Hernandez. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

d. 400 Mission Ranch Blvd. - Applicant: Merle Webb and Sons for four Yarwood Sycamore trees (20" dbh).

Efseaff reported that some areas of the sidewalk are raised up to a foot due to the fast growing trees. The applicant would replace these trees with more appropriate, possibly Sunset Maples, to match those going in across the street.

The applicant was not in attendance at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Approve the Tree Removal Permit for 400 Mission Ranch Blvd. providing the property owner is willing to pay for the removal of four trees and replace them with four new trees. **MADE BY:** Hernandez. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

#### 4.3. Parks Hosting Community Programming at City Plaza (various dates).

The Park Division is planning to host a series of programs at City Plaza in celebration of Bidwell Park's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday and to raise funds and awareness for Park projects. The City sponsored events would provide opportunities for performers and the public to use this space; serve as a fundraiser; and help minimize some of the negative behaviors observed in the Plaza. Staff sought input from the Commission on the concept.

Efseaff offered that the Park Department is looking to book lunch time activities that include schools, bands, entertainment, promotions, etc. all in an effort to bring people to the plaza and to discourage negative use. He was looking for initial input from the Commission and their thoughts of using this as a fundraising effort for Caper Acres.

Reddemann asked about any interest so far. Efseaff reported that potentially Chico Country Day School may be interested in taking part in sing-alongs. The intent is to attract people to the plaza during lunch time.

Reddemann asked about security and Efseaff stated that the park rangers would oversee security.

Rood was in support of activities that would draw people to the Plaza. She was interested on what the duration would be. Efseaff was hopeful that it would evolve and take place from spring to fall.

Corley asked how people would find out about the events. Efseaff stated that the City would look for partners to step in and help with the programming and marketing of the events. Some of the non-profits have expressed an interest in promoting their efforts.

All the Commissioners were in support of the City Plaza activities. Moravec felt that while the objectives of the programming in the plaza include changing the environment and raising funds, he felt that changing the environment should be the primary focus.

#### 4.4. Discussion of Committee Assignments and the 2015 Meeting Calendar.

Annually, the Commission selects a Chair and Vice Chair. Committees of the BPPC include: Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Street Trees, and the City's ad hoc Bicycle Advisory Committee. Assignments are at the BPPC Chair's prerogative with staff recommendations. In addition, the Commission will consider the Committee and BPPC meeting schedules for 2015. **Recommendation:** Staff recommended that the BPPC: 1) approve the revised 2015 calendar; and 2) the Chair announce committee assignments.

Efseaff explained the committees of the BPPC and that during committee meetings, Commissioners and the public are allowed more detailed consideration on park issues. The

findings and recommendations are then reported to the entire BPPC at the regular monthly meetings. Staff recommended that Commissioners rank their preferences (1-4) of committees and send them to Park staff. The committees will then be announced at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

The BPPC meetings take place on the last Monday of each month. Due to scheduled holiday conflicts in May, November and December, it is recommended that the May 25 meeting be moved to May 18, the November 30 meeting be moved to November 16 and the December 28 meeting be moved to December 14.

**MOTION:** Adopt the changes to the meeting calendar for the months of May, November and December. **MADE BY:** Traulsen. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

#### **4.5. Introduction of the 2015-2016 BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities and Process.**

The City Council directs various City Boards and Commissions to develop biennial work plans to define goals and priorities. Efsaaff provided an overview of the process and update of current priorities. Staff requested BPPC members to provide suggestions for the 2015-2016 Work Plan priorities by February 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff will then compile suggestions and develop a recommended Work Plan for BPPC consideration. The City Council will consider the finalized work plan for adoption.

##### Comments from the Public

Thad Walker (Chico Velo Trail Works) would like to see trail work program in the park remain on the work plan.

### **5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

Charles Withuhn (Chico Tree Advocates) is now able to offer free trees. He provided the Commission with some tree information.

Lenore Bolton inquired about additional off-leash recreational areas for dogs.

The Commission recessed at 8:58 p.m. for a five minute break. The meeting was reconvened and all members were present.

### **6. REPORTS**

**6.1.** Natural Resources Committee Report – Mary Brentwood, Committee Chair, reported the Committee:

Discussed the Natural Resources Management Plan; the trails plan priorities in lower park; Caper Acres fundraising ideas; were provided a status update on Bidwell Ranch Conservation and Mitigation Bank; and discussed the possibility that the Natural Resources Committee meetings be a forum for the citizen work group related to the Bidwell Ranch Conservation and Mitigation Bank since these meetings are already publicly noticed.

**6.2.** Special Report: 2014 Park Division Annual Report – Dan Efsaaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager, reported the following:

Staffing has been the biggest challenge for the year; the completion of the Caper Acres Renovation Plan, will be shifting to a community fundraising model; announced the appointment of Shane Romain to the new Park Services Coordinator; commended intern, Heidi Ortiz, on her remarkable work with park activities; over 28,000 volunteer hours were logged; donations have been steady

this year; Park Services in-kind services reached \$250K; the California Conservation Corp. was instrumental in this; more stream-lined tree reporting system; Bidwell Park is #3 in California for size of Municipal Parks; there were challenges last year in the lifeguard recruitment, will possibly look at partnering with CARD this year; the conversion of LED lights at the One Mile area were completed, potential savings of \$6,000/year; pile burns have started again in Bidwell Park; Work on the Little Chico Creek Arunda project has begun resulting from a grant secured by the Fire Dept.; the Park Pulse quarterly newspaper is continuing; and, upcoming staffing requests.

Ranger Romain reported the following:

Rangers continue to outreach; more time was spent outside of the park while dealing with illegal encampments; thanked the Commission for their support of rangers carrying tasers; there has been a significant drop in citations, directed related to staff reductions; interpretive programs including the 911 Safety Pals had to be reduced; and, rangers are working closely with the Nature Center as they are feeling the effects of reduced staff; acknowledged Friends of Bidwell Park and Friends of Comanche Creek for all their efforts

**6.3.** Parks and Street Trees Division Report (Dec. and Jan.) – Dan Efsseff, Park and Natural Resource Manager, reported the following:

As a result of the storm, 30 calls were responded to without any overtime (Street Tree related only); debris in Big Chico Creek is causing some erosion on the bank so staff will be working with DWR on this.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m. to the next regular meeting on February 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved:   /  /  .

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Kelly, Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Distribution: BPPC

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2/19/2015

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
February 23, 2015 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

Chair Moravec called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

Marisa Corley  
Alberto Hernandez  
Jim Moravec  
Valerie Reddemann  
Janine Rood

**Commissioners absent:**

Mary Brentwood  
Drew Traulsen

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Shane Romain (Park Services Coordinator), and Nancy Kelly (Administrative Assistant).

**1.3. Announcement of Committee Assignments**

The BPPC 2015 Committee assignments will be as follows:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Natural Resource</b>	<b>Policy Advisory</b>	<b>Tree</b>	<b>Bicycle Advisory</b>
Monthly Meeting Date (As Needed)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	To Be Announced
Mary Brentwood	Chair			
Marisa Corley	Member			
Alberto Hernandez		Member		
Jim Moravec			Member	Member
Valerie Reddemann		Member	Member	
Janine Rood	Member		Chair	
Drew Traulsen		Chair		Alternate

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Action: Approve minutes of BPPC meeting held on January 26, 2015.

**2.2. Permit Application to hold Tai Chi Chuan in City Plaza (3/4/15 – 5/13/15)**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) requested to reserve City Plaza for Tai Chi Chuan classes. Because the event is for multiple days (10 consecutive Wednesdays), the request needed to be considered by the Commission.

**2.3. Permit Applicant for the Endangered Species Faire and Salmon Run at the One Mile (5/2/15)**

The Butte Environmental Council has held this event for 35 years. This year they were including a Salmon Run and were expecting approximately 3,200 participants. Because the event runs longer than 10 hours, the request needed to be considered by the Commission.

**2.4. Permit Applicant to hold the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs Fishing Derby at Horseshoe Lake (5/30/15)**

The Applicant, Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs requested a permit to host a fishing derby in Middle Park at Horseshoe Lake. The BPPC approval was required for the public event at an intensive use area and to allow the stocking of the lake with approximately 20,000 lbs. of catfish.

**MOTION:** Approve the consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Hernandez. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 5 (Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, and Rood). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 2 (Brentwood, Traulsen).

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None.**

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE.**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Proposal to Rename the Chico Community Observatory**

The Pacific Center for Astronomical Outreach (PCAO) recently sent a request to rename the Chico Community Observatory to the Anita Ingrao Memorial Observatory. Ms. Ingrao passed away in 2014. PCAO docents wished to honor her long time service to the observatory. **Recommendation:** Retain the overall facility name as the Chico Community Observatory and support dedicating the facility to Ms. Ingrao or support naming the building or other feature in her honor.

Efseaff provided an overview of the Observatory including the name changes over the years. Previous names included the Kiwanis Community Observatory, Kiwanis Chico Community Observatory, or Greater Chico Kiwanis Club Observatory. The City owns the facility and property and leases the premises to PCAO. The Observatory is now known as the Chico Community Observatory.

The Commission and staff acknowledged Ms. Ingrao's knowledge and significant contribution to the observatory and the community. They were sensitive to the request to honor Ms. Ingrao, but also sensitive to maintaining the long-term interests of Bidwell Park and setting a precedence.

Comments from the Public

The following spoke in favor of renaming the Chico Community Observatory to the Anita Ingrao Memorial Observatory: Kris Koenig, Heidi Koenig (read a letter from Sydney Harvey), Nils Koenig (read a letter from Pat Lynch), Aline Ingelson-Filpula, Bill Smith, Dr. William Koperwhats, Renee Buchan, Courtney Farrell, Brian Jones, Kathie Barron, Mike Davis, David Allison, and Michael Lavelle.

Comments from the Commission

Reddemann thanked everyone for speaking and sharing their passion and as to how Anita Ingrao was an inspiration to them. She was a woman who made an incredible impact in her field and on the Chico community.

Corley agreed. She added that she was clearly the heart and soul of the observatory. She acknowledged that her contributions affected a great deal of people and because this was an emotional topic for all who spoke, she explained why there should be a period of time (3-7 years)



that should pass before making any decisions on renaming the observatory. It is important to consider the future, even if we consider this a special situation.

Hernandez reflected on his interactions with Ms. Ingrao and wished he had known her better. He questioned whether the City should have a say, since it had been named and renamed so many times before. He was in favor of creating an ad-hoc committee to develop a naming policy in the future.

Corley was interested keeping the name the same and dedicating another part of the facility to the memory of Ms. Ingrao.

Moravec noted that he thought a policy to allow 3-5 years to pass before making any decisions related to changing the name of a building or facility was a good idea. He felt that there were a number of areas in the park that operate in the same manner as the Chico Community Observatory, that have a certain passion or issue in the park. He felt the precedence issue is a factor.

Corley asked about naming the building but not the entire facility and referring to it as dedicating to the memory of Anita Ingrao. She asked if there was anything preventing Ms. Ingrao's name being on any new signage. Efseaff replied there was nothing preventing it.

Mr. Koenig felt very strongly that the only option was for it to be called the *Anita Ingrao Memorial Observatory*. He stated that they funded, built, operated and maintained the observatory. They came to the City to simply invite them to the rededication.

Moravec clarified that the City did play a role in the creation of the Chico Community Observatory in that they granted them the opportunity to use the City property in Upper Bidwell Park.

Corley suggested the least controversial option was to allow a waiting period to pass.

Reddemann asked for understanding of the Commission's position that it is on City property and therefore they need to take into consideration, how it will affect other facilities within the City.

**MOTION:** Dedicate the facility and refer to it as the Chico Community Observatory, dedicated to the memory of Anita Ingrao. **MADE BY:** Reddemann. **SECOND:** Corley. **AYES:** 5 (Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, and Reddemann). **NOES:** 1 (Rood). **ABSENT:** 2 (Brentwood, Traulsen).

#### **4.2. Consideration of Demonstration Project for Sycamore Pool Lifeguard Services.**

City and Chico Area Recreation District (CARD) staff have explored options for CARD to provide lifeguard services and additional programming at Bidwell Park's Sycamore Pool. The proposed change would allow for staffing flexibility; potential cost savings; and additional appropriate use of the pool for recreational classes. The 2009 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides the mechanism for an agreement that the Council would have to approve. Staff proposed a one-year demonstration that could be extended upon mutual agreement. **Recommendation:** Direct staff to complete and recommend Council to approve an agreement with CARD to provide 1) lifeguard services, and 2) additional programs at the Sycamore Pool.

Efseaff reflected on the challenges of recruiting and establishing a full crew of lifeguards last year. In partnering with CARD, there would be a larger staffing pool to work with. CARD and the City would meet the same level of certification standards when recruiting for lifeguards that would be used at the pool. The pool will continue to be maintained by City staff and CARD would provide lifeguard services. Staff is recommending a one year demonstration process. The liability would be split between the City and CARD. The City would carry the liability for the facilities and CARD would carry the liability for the lifeguards.

This would fall under the existing MOU between the City and CARD and would simply be an amendment to the current MOU. Staff will work with the City Attorney's office to provide the language.

Corley asked about the allowance for CARD to hold classes in the pool. She was inquiring about the value of the "gift". Efseaff stated that additional new programming will off-set some of CARD's costs.

Moravec thought that overall it was a great idea and there would be a savings with sharing lifeguards. He felt it would encourage greater utilization at the pool area.

The Commission asked for clarity on the hours of operation with lifeguards. Efseaff stated that there would be language in the agreement that aligned with historical hours of the City, yet allowed for flexibility due to weather, air quality, demand of the pool, and other issues.

Efseaff reported there would be a savings of approximately \$6,000 which would simply be reallocated to the event coordinator or the park rangers.

Jerry Haynes, General Manager and Rob Hinderer, Recreation and Programming Director from CARD were in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Haynes reported this item has been approved by the CARD Board. It is their intention to follow the historical pattern of six days a week that had been in place in regards to days/hours of operation, but, will take into consideration, environmental conditions as they arise.

Reddemann feels it is a great collaboration between the City and CARD and financially there appears to be a savings.

**MOTION:** Direct Staff to complete and recommend to Council to approve an agreement with CARD to provide lifeguard services and additional programs at the Sycamore Pool. **MADE BY:** Reddemann. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 5 (Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Reddemann, and Rood). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 2 (Brentwood, Traulsen).

**5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR - None.**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1. Special Report: Parks Programming at City Plaza (various dates).**

Park Services Coordinator Romain reported the following:

A pilot "Picnic in the Plaza" took place on February 13<sup>th</sup> and was very well received so the weekly "Picnics in the Plaza" began March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will take place on Tuesdays (11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.). The idea is to bring entertainment and the community into the Plaza during a time when it is under-utilized.

**6.2. Parks and Street Trees Division Report – Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Director**

Park and Natural Resources Director Efseaff reported the following:

Staff has been keeping an eye on a log jam in the creek, upstream of Hwy 99. City staff took care of the 4-5' wide blockage that had been causing erosion of the bank and flooding issues; working with Cal Fire (Salt Creek Crew), a successful, prescribed burn in the park took place in Middle Bidwell Park; information for homeowners in helping trees to survive the drought; and, City standards for tree planting.

Comments from the Public

Christina Schierenbeck inquired about the Urban Forester position and when the issue would be resolved.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 8:16 p.m. to the next regular meeting on March 30, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved:    /    /   .

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Kelly, Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Distribution: BPPC

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3/26/2015

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**

Minutes of  
March 30, 2015 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

Chair Moravec called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

Mary Brentwood  
Marisa Corley  
Alberto Hernandez  
Jim Moravec  
Janine Rood  
Drew Traulsen

**Commissioners absent:**

Valerie Reddemann

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resources Manager), Shane Romain (Park Services Coordinator), and Nancy Kelly (Administrative Assistant).

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Action: Approve minutes of BPPC meeting held on February 23, 2015.

**2.2. Permit for Multiple AA Meetings at Council Ring (Various Dates)**

The applicant (God Squad) is a support group that would like to meet every Sunday at the Council Ring from April 10, 2015 – October 16, 2015 (except for May 3, June 14, August 2, and September 20, 2015, as these dates already had an existing reservation. Meeting would be 1.25 hours long. **Recommendation:** Conditional approval.

**2.3. Permit Application for 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Artisan Faire at City Plaza (5/2/15 – 5/3/15)**

The applicant (Cyrle Productions) requested a permit to host an art, craft and entertainment faire in City Plaza on May 2 and 3, 2015 with set-up on May 1. BPPC approval is required for requests of park areas for multiple days and for more than ten hours. **Recommendation:** Conditional approval.

**2.4. Permit Application for 5K Walk in Lower Bidwell Park (10/17/15)**

American Cancer Society's *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* 5K walk is a fundraiser. The applicant requested approval to set up for this event the night before, making it necessary to have security stay overnight. **Recommendation:** Conditional approval.

**MOTION:** Approve the consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Hernandez. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Reddemann).

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None.**

3. **NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None.

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

4.1. **Appeal of Tree Removal Permit Denial (229 Denali Drive)**

On January 15, 2015, Staff received an application to remove a City of Chico street tree (a 14" DBH Shumard Red Oak.) The landowner cites concerns of broken sprinkler pipes and the potential for pushing up the sidewalk. Staff rejected the application, as the tree is not dead, dying, diseased or dangerous. The Chico Municipal Code (CMC 14.40.180) allows for the applicant to seek BPPC approval to remove the tree at the convenience of the property owner. **Recommendation:** If the BPPC upholds the appeal, staff recommends that the removal and replanting with two trees planted within a year occur at the landowner's expense.

Efseaff provided an overview of Staff authority and Commission authority to approve the removal of trees.

There are two trees on the property that currently show some overlap. They will most likely pose some competition in the future. If the Commission does recommend removal, staff is requesting that a condition be placed that it be within a year and that two trees be planted in its place.

Comments from the Commission

Brentwood asked about the overlap of the tree canopy and whether it could be corrected by a tree trimming. Efseaff stated it could, but over time, the trimming would change the composition of the tree.

Comments from the Public

Janine and Dave Rush (applicants) addressed the Commission with their request to remove the Shumard Oak tree.

Steve Rooney stated that since his property became a part of the City, he has had one tree fall which resulted in some damage and two others that need tending to. However, there seems to be a difference of opinion as to who is responsible for the trees that need attention.

Charles Withuhn encouraged the Commission to not only consider the species and the location, but to put more consideration towards selecting drought-tolerant planting strip zones. He stressed that the City only benefits from large trees and not medium sized trees.

**MOTION:** To grant the appeal with a recommendation to plant two new trees within a year and at the landowner's expense. **MADE BY:** Hernandez. **SECOND:** Corley. **AYES:** 4 (Corley, Hernandez, Moravec, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 2 (Brentwood, Rood). **ABSENT:** 1 (Reddemann).

4.2. **Consideration of Chico Area Recreation District's (CARD) Request to Waive Basic Park Fees for 2015 Events.**

The applicant, (CARD), requested the waiver of basic park use fees for the following events: 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring Jamboree (April 4, 2015); Movies in the Park (June 20, 2015 and July 18, 2015); 50<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Community Celebration; and the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Pastels on the Plaza (September 19, 2015). Under the Chico Municipal Code (CMC 12R.08.250), the BPPC may authorize the waiver of basic park fees. The City has waived fees in the past. **Recommendation:** Staff recommended no waiver of reservation and vendor fees.

Efseaff recapped the partnership and the agreements the City has with CARD. There is a 2009 MOU in place where that the City would seek opportunities to share resources and build partnerships with CARD.

Due to the current budget of the City's Park Department, staff does not recommend the waiver of reservation or vendor fees. The fees in question for 2015 would be approximately \$716.00 for the three events.

#### Comments from the Commission

Brentwood asked about CARD's request to use the restrooms at Caper Acres during Movies in the Park. She feels that CARD should be required to have the porta potties.

Efseaff stated that the City denied CARD's request because the restrooms in Caper Acres have an age restriction where no one can enter the restroom without a child of age 12 or under. The south One Mile restrooms are only a couple hundred feet away and will be available.

Corley asked if there was any money made off of these free events to the community. She inquired about getting sponsorships.

Efseaff stated that in the past the City was a sponsor and donated the use of porta potties and trash receptacles at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, but unfortunately, the budget currently does not allow the City to do that.

Rood asked about the City waiving the fees as a form of sponsorship.

#### Comments from the Public

Rob Hinderer (CARD) was in attendance of the meeting to answer any questions.

Andrea Moriarti spoke on behalf of Do It Leisure (a division of Work Training Center). She mentioned that if funding continues to be cut, she is unsure as to how long the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event can continue. She would love to see the fees waived.

Moravec asked about the City limits and how far out of Chico city limits CARD does service.

Hinderer said that over 75% served are Chicanos.

Steve Rooney stressed to the Commission that they have the ability to waive fees.

#### Comments from the Commission

Rood asked Efseaff about the difference in this and last year's fees. Last year, the total value of sponsorships and fee waiving was roughly \$2,000. This year, if a waiver is granted, it would be approximately a \$700 break. She felt this was a reasonable way to step it down.

Corley asked why staff is recommending against waiving the fees events. Efseaff stated that much of it had to do with what the Commission had discussed last year. Also, the budget is an issue.

**MOTION:** To grant CARD's request to waive basic park fees for 2015 events in light of the City not providing a partnership this year. **MADE BY:** Rood. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Hernandez, Moravec, Rood and Traulsen). **NOES:** 1 (Corley). **ABSENT:** 1 (Reddemann).

### **5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR –**

Charles Withuhn reported that he has submitted a report to the City for the Community grant program for Chico Tree Advocates. Over 20 street trees were planted in just a couple of months. He wanted to make it known that the Chico Tree Advocates would be willing to help purchase samplings in exchange for participating in the species selection and discussions regarding irrigation techniques.

## 6. REPORTS

### 6.1. Parks and Street Trees Division Report – Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager

Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff reported the following:

The planting and pruning contract is currently out to bid; Public Works Director Martinez has requested feedback from the Commissioners on the Urban Forest Manager position which should be going out to bid shortly; a new permit system will be unveiled soon; staff has been working on recommendations for the upcoming budget which include a ranger and a maintenance worker; Staff is looking into an ongoing Capital Improvement Program for the parks; a new service request system is coming soon; Chico Velo is working on a new kiosk; waterless urinals have been installed at Five Mile Recreation Area; three trees were planted along the Esplanade in front of Chico High School with the help of students; Council has approved the CARD agreement for lifeguards; bringing the aphid control process in-house has resulted in a savings to the City; and, there is a tree at 5<sup>th</sup> and Arcadian Avenues that staff has been working on.

Park Services Coordinator Romain reported on volunteer efforts by Friends of Bidwell Park, Butte Environmental Council, the Mt. Lassen chapter of the Native Plant Society, and teens from the County probation Department; annual spring volunteer training of 25-30 new park watch volunteers is complete; and Picnics in the Plaza continue on Tuesdays.

Efseaff announced that the Park Department will be moving back to the third floor of City Hall in April.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 8:01 p.m. to the next regular meeting on April 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved:    /    /   .

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Kelly, Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Distribution: BPPC