

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

Minutes of  
January 28, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Swearing-in of Commissioners - City Clerk Deborah Presson**

City Clerk Debbie Presson swore in new and returning Park Commissioners Mary Brentwood, Janine Rood and Drew Traulsen.

**1.2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair** – Parks and Natural Resources Manager, Dan Efseaff  
Commission Chairs are allowed to serve two year appointments. A brief discussion ensued and the following motions were made.

**MOTION:** Appointed Lisa Emmerich to serve as Chair of the BPPC. **MADE BY:** Brentwood.  
**SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

**MOTION:** Appoint Jim Moravec to serve as Vice-Chair of the BPPC. **MADE BY:** Emmerich  
**SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

**1.4. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator) and Debbie Presson, City Clerk.

**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 held on 1/28/13.

## **2.2. Permit for Making Strides 5K Run.**

The American Cancer Society requested a permit to host a walk in Lower Park on 10/19/13. The Commission considered the application because the group is requesting the use of a park area for multiple days and for more than 10-hours.

## **2.3. Permit for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedal Powered Music Festival.**

Applicant requested a permit to host a bicycle pedal powered music festival at Camellia Way Park on June 1, 2013. The application is considered by the BPPC because the group is requesting to host a public event in an area that is not designated as an intensive use area. Commissioner Herrera excused himself.

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

## **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – IF ANY**

### **3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

### **4. REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **4.1. Discussion of Committee Assignments and the 2013 Meeting Calendar.**

Park staff explained the committees of the BPPC: Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Street Trees and the City's ad hoc Bicycle Advisory. 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. Assignments are at the BPPC Chair's prerogative with staff recommendations. Staff requested that Commissioners send in their preferences to Park staff by February 11 and the committees will be announced at the February meeting. Staff asked that the 2013 calendar for Committee Meetings and BPPC Annual schedule be approved with the following changes: the 05/27 meeting will be moved to 05/28 to avoid Memorial Day and the 12/30 meeting will be moved to 12/16 to avoid the New Year holiday.

**MOTION:** Approve the BPPC regular meetings calendar. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Ober. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

#### **4.2. Heritage Tree Application**

A Blue Atlas Cedar street tree located at 1641 Mulberry and 17<sup>th</sup> Street was submitted for Heritage Tree status by the adjoining property owner, Julie Shaw. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Heritage Tree application and a first for a citizen to apply for a City street tree. Ms. Shaw stated that she enjoys the beauty of this huge tree and that this status will mean that it will receive special attention and care for years to come. She also complimented Field Supervisor Dave Bettencourt for the information on the tree that he shared with her.

**MOTION:** Approve the application for the street tree to receive Heritage Status and forward to Council. BPPC regular meetings calendar. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

### **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.

FROM THE PUBLIC:

Jane Turney stated that she was concerned by the lack of signage for the Monkey Face trail work currently underway and said that the Master Management Plan calls for educational and informational signage for such projects. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseff stated that our Rangers are working on interpretational signage for the area and we host our next Park Talk at Monkey Face.

## 6. REPORTS

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

### 6.1. Policy Advisory Committee Report – Lisa Emmerich, Chair

Chair Emmerich reported the proceedings from the Policy Advisory Committee from 1/17/13. The Committee suggested changes in the Revised Fee Schedule regarding vendors, payment of additional costs that exceed the damage deposit and rounding up fees. Commissioner Brentwood asked if there was a mechanism to ensure that applicants have to pay for costs over the \$100 damage fee and staff reported that we bill the applicant at this time. Failure to pay will be handled by 1) making contact with an applicant and 2) then disallowing the event to be held in the Park for the future.

The Committee then discussed some revisions to the Wet Weather Management Plan in assessing areas of the Disc Golf course, using a more visible closed sign and reevaluating the assessment route used in Upper Park for the trails. Both items will come back to the Commission for review and approval.

### 6.2. Special Report: 2012 Street Trees and Urban Forest Annual Report – Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Urban Forest Manager Britton presented the Street Trees and Public Plantings Division's Annual Report and overview of care and maintenance of over 30,000 trees and the 229 landscape maintenance areas. Much of the current focus is on formative pruning of young trees, working on deferred maintenance of trees, working with tree and landscape companies to improve their performance, and continuation of the citizen tree planting program. The Urban Forest Management Plan is well underway after months of Tree Committee work and should be finalized later this spring. Commissioner Ober inquired about the "Hwy 32 Upgrade Project" and staff reported that it would be the widening of Hwy 32 segment between Hwy 99 and El Monte. There will be some tree removal from the northside of the highway and that it has been delayed due to funding issues. Commissioner Emmerich asked about accessibility clearance if trees are too low. Staff stated that if it is a tree issue then it would be taken care of by routine pruning and safety measures. Sidewalks would fall under Capitol Projects.

### 6.3. Special Report: 2012 Park Division Annual Report – Dan Efseff, Park and Natural Resource Manager

Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseff began the Park Division's Annual Report with the announcement that Bidwell Park will be inducted into the CA Parks and Recreation Society, District 2's Hall of Honor as a "Regional Treasure" in February. This prestigious award recognizes the importance of Bidwell Park to Chico as well as to our region. He then described the Park Division's various program areas: Administrative and Visitor Services, Maintenance and Infrastructure, Natural Resource Management, Outreach and Education, Ranger and Lifeguard, and Volunteer and Donations. Our Park staff cares for Bidwell Park as well as other City parks, open spaces and greenways. Many of the Commission's Workplan projects are well underway with completion dates for the Trails and Natural Resources Plan anticipated for 2013. Park and greenway volunteers logged 19,801 hours toward trash and weed removal, restoration with native plants, propagation of plants, and trail work. The Park Division is challenged by increasing visitors estimated at over a million (with the help of traffic counters); limited resources due to

budget cuts, and an aging infrastructure that needs renovating and replacement. Despite the obstacles, our staff has increased efforts in outreach and education, natural vegetation restoration and management efforts, trail projects on the Middle Trail and at Monkey Face, and expanding the volunteer program with trainings for new crew leaders and trail volunteers. Annual Reports for each of the Park's leasees were also included with the report.

Commissioners agreed that the Street Trees and Urban Forest Annual Report and Park Division's Annual Reports were extremely comprehensive and impressive and can be used for informing the public of budget and resource needs.

**6.4. Urban Forest Manager's Report** - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Urban Forest Manager Britton presented the month's update stating the tree planting workshops will continue this spring and that she is looking into partnering with a Chico school for an Arbor Day celebration. A code violation had been issued to the Holiday Inn for topping of street trees along Manzanita Court. Staff reported that a large tree fell across Cal-Trans Right of Way at the east end of Woodland Ave and has destroyed a fence that needs to be removed.

**6.5. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report** - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that the trail crew has been working on a re-route of Monkey Face and that a major education campaign will take place to inform the public of the need for the re-route to protect this unique natural resource. The North State Resources has completed the Oak Monitoring Report which is attached to the report. Staff is looking into a new installing a bollard with a closed sign at Hole 1 as well as into whether signage could be placed on Hwy 32, near Bruce Road, that would indicate the open/closed status of the disc golf course. The restroom at Five Mile Recreation Area has been closed and new porta potties put in place until a new septic system can be installed. The new BPPC Work Plan will need to be worked on this spring and some items, such as the Natural Resource Management and Trails Plans, will be carried over from the last one.

Commissioner Herrera asked about the status of Bidwell Ranch since the last update to Council in August 2011 and what role does the BPPC play in the project. Staff reported that it was a Council directive to look into a Conservation Mitigation Bank. There will be a contract in place soon. The next step is to get the contract in place so that the pros and cons can be fully considered. There are four options to consider: 1) no action; 2) full conservation mitigation bank; 3) utilize the property only for City mitigation projects; and 4) a hybrid of 2) and 3). Bidwell Ranch will be kept on the Work Plan.

Commissioner Emmerich asked about a calculation error on page 3 of the Oak Monitoring Report. Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. pays for the reports. Staff will review the numbers and see about recalculation. The Technical Memorandum is preliminary findings.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:38 to the next regular meeting on February 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

February 25, 2013  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
Minutes of  
February 25, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Moravec called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:**

Mary Brentwood  
Mark Herrera  
Jim Moravec  
Rich Ober  
Janine Rood

**Commissioners Absent:**

Lisa Emmerich  
Drew Traulsen

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**1.3. Recognition of former Commissioners Jim Mikles and Clay Craig**

Recognition of former Commissioners was given. Neither Commissioner was present and certificates will be delivered to them. Jim Mikles served from 2010 through 2012 and Clay Craig served from 2011 through 2012.

**1.4. Special Presentation: Slideshow of Bidwell Park presented at the Induction of Bidwell Park into the California Parks and Recreation Society Hall of Honor.**

This DVD footage of Bidwell Park was shown during the California Park and Recreation Society District 2's Hall of Honor Induction dinner in Folsom, California on February 22, 2012 as part of Park and Natural Resource Manager Dan Efseaff's presentation.

**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**

**MOTION:** Approve Minutes from the 1/28/13 meeting as submitted. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Herrera, Moravec, Ober and Rood). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 2 (Emmerich and Traulsen)

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT –**

**2.2. Consideration of Chico Area Recreation District's (CARD) request to waive reservation and vendor fees for 2013 permits.**

Commissioner Brentwood requested that CARD's request to waive reservation and vendor fees for the Spring Jamboree; 4th of July Community Celebration; and Pastels on the Plaza be removed from the consent agenda. She inquired as to whether there are additional costs

involved with these events that will not be recouped due to waiving the fees. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsseff reported the Park Division and CARD work closely together because of their leasing park land and CARD events are self-supporting and free to the public.

**MOTION:** Approve CARD's request to waive the reservation and vendor fees for the Spring Jamboree; 4th of July Community Celebration; and Pastels on the Plaza. The applicant will pay the other required fees. submitted. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Herrera, Moravec, Ober and Rood). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 2 (Emmerich and Traulsen)

### 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

## 4. REGULAR AGENDA

### 4.1. Consideration of a Permit Application for a 5k Obstacle Course in Lower Park –

MMX Racing, Inc. requested a permit to host a 5K obstacle course in Lower Park on Saturday, June 8, 2013. This will be the first year the applicant has held this event and anticipates approximately 300-500 participants. Applicant Jerrad Fisher met with Park staff for planning considerations prior to bringing it to the Commission. The applicant answered questions and discussion focused on the impacts to other park users not participating in the event. Commissioners indicated concern about the potential for user conflicts, impact to the Park, the number of spectators, potential for blocking the two roads; and fall material for the wall obstacles. The applicant stated that mattresses would be used next to the obstacle walls to help cushion the falls. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efsseff stated the picnic site parking areas are not intensive use areas and so would not offer much opportunity for people to be off of the two Lower Park roads. The applicant said that volunteers would help manage spectators.

Commissioner Rood inquired as to whether the Hwy 99 construction would be finished prior to this event and if another location had been considered? Mr. Fisher stated that the release of participants in waves would help reduce congestion and that other locations such as Cedar Grove would involve too many people in the same area would have crowding issues. The Park's Master Management Plan was consulted for guidance. The BPPC moved to not approve the permit (4-1-2 absent) due to the impact on Park users.

From the Public: Mario Barrajas – stated that he liked the idea of bring people to town for this type of event and that he had enjoyed visiting Pleasanton for the Tough Mudder event.

**MOTION:** Reject the application to hold a 5k Obstacle Course event in Lower Park. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Ober. **AYES:** 4 (Brentwood, Moravec, Ober and Rood). **NOES:** 1 (Herrera). **ABSENT:** 2 (Emmerich and Traulsen).

### 4.2. Finalization of 2013 Committee Assignments and Chairs.

BPPC members serve on the Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Street Trees Committees and the City's ad hoc Bicycle Advisory Committee. Assignments are at the BPPC Chair's prerogative with staff recommendations. New committees and calendar of meetings was discussed and no action was needed.

### 4.3. Introduction to the 2013 - 2014 BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities (Informational Only).

Staff provided a brief update on past priorities and discussed the overall process for the developing the new BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities for 2013-2014. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efsseff reported that the current Workplan is a large list with many items in progress and that for items to be added that some may have to be dropped due to staffing and resources, The Council will have to approve the new Workplan and that fiscal impacts will be

noted. Commissioner Ober encouraged the BPPC to consider new items for the Workplan however since this is the time to add and subtract items.

From the public: .Park neighbor Bruce Norlie requested that the BPPC consider restoring the area at the east end of Woodland Avenue, where a large oak tree fell and crushed a CalTrans fence. He encouraged the Park Division to work with CalTrans on the area that is an entrance into Bidwell Park and is part of the Cal-Trans Right of Way. Mr. Norlie also said that he would be amenable to helping support the project.

## 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.

Woody Elliott inquired about the rogue trail that had been built by Park users in the early summer and found by Park staff. Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff reported that elements of the trail were decommissioned and the ends of the trail had been closed off. Staff discussed the issue with police and looked into possible criminal charges. He also inquired about an area on the southside of Bidwell Park past the Ten Mile House Road gate. It resembles a mudslide. Staff indicated that they were aware of the slide and would have more information at a future meeting.

## 6. REPORTS

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

### 6.1. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Urban Forest Manager Britton gave her monthly report noting that Bidwell Bowl is still being plagued by vandalism and that benches are repaired on a regular basis. The Tree crew removed a damaged tree in the Hwy 99/Woodland Avenue area. Mitigation oak trees in Belvedere Heights are thriving and protections used to establish the trees early on have been removed to help them prosper. The City will celebrate Arbor Day on March 7 at Emma Wilson Elementary and there will be a Tree Committee meeting this month.

### 6.2. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.

Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff reported that the Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. had submitted their exclusive use days for the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course for 2013. Park staff has continued removing telephone pole barricades and replacing with splitrail. A new ranger Eric Willadsen has joined the Park staff. On March 12th Park staff will conduct Volunteer Training for Park Watch, Trail and Crew Leader programs.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on March 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

March 25, 2013  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

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

Minutes of  
March 25, 2013 Regular Meeting  
*Revised 05/13/13*

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Commissioners absent:** none

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**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**

BPPC approved Minutes of meeting held on 2/25/13.

**2.2. Permit Application for the Chico Artisans Faire, May 4-5, 2013.**

Applicant requested a permit to host art, craft and entertainment faire in City Plaza May 4-5, 2013. BPPC approval is required for requests of park areas for multiple days and for more than ten hours.

**2.3. Permit the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Hooked on Fishing Derby.**

Applicant requested a permit to host a fishing derby in Upper Park at Horseshoe Lake on 06/01/13. BPPC approval is required for public event at intensive use areas and to allow the stocking of the lake with approximately 10,000 lbs of catfish.

**2.4. Permit the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkinhead Contest.**

Applicant requested a permit to host the annual pumpkin head contest at City Plaza on 10/19/13 and anticipates approximately 500 people. BPPC approval required for events reserved for more than ten hours.

**2.5. Permit the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hooker Oak ¼ and ½ Marathon.**

Applicant requested a permit to host a run in Middle and Upper Park on 10/06/13. The request to use trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas requires BPPC approval.

**2.6. Permit the Sunrise Service at the Cross in Middle Park on March 31, 2013.**

Applicant requested a permit to hold a sunrise service at the cross near Parking Area B in Middle Park on Sunday, 03/31/13. The request is being considered because it is located in a non-intensive use area.

**MOTION:** Approve the consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Brentwood.

**AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT** – None

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Bidwell Bowl Amphitheatre Renovation Proposal**

Park Staff have been working with students and faculty with the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) Program at California State University, Chico to explore the feasibility of replacing wooden bench tops at the Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater, built in 1938, with concrete tops. Over time, vandalism and normal wear and tear have damaged or made unusable benches at the facility and the project provides an opportunity to repair and rehabilitate the facility in a cost-effective manner.

Stig Strombeck, student president of CIM, presented concepts of the phase 1 bench project that is part of his Capstone Senior Management project. The replacement benches would require minimal maintenance, durability, and offer graffiti resistance. CIM would supply labor, materials, and some annual maintenance and repair on the benches. The benches would be stained natural colors. Mr. Strombeck noted that he is working closely with the City's ADA consultant. Professor Tanya Komars, from the CSUC CIM program, stated that they could provide stain samples if desired.

Commission members extensively discussed the project, including possible weight concerns of adding cement bench tops, the color of the benches, construction timeframe and its effect on reservations, with the continuation of the project over 4 years. The proposed project will be completed in phases so that only a portion of the Bowl will be closed at a time. Staff reported that there are no event conflicts at this time with the proposed work schedule.

Comments from the public:

Mary Andrews, Butte County Historical Society expressed concerns of impacts to the project funded under the Works Program Administration and feels that it needs to be preserved. She feels that the benches should remain wood and is concerned with the color and other construction aspects.

Woody Elliot (former State Parks Employee) expressed concern about the potential of changing a landmark and requested that it be carefully considered.

Park staff stated that as a demonstration project, the feasibility of the rehabilitation associated with historical concerns would be addressed. Professor Komars, provided a perspective on the bench replacement project as it relates to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The demonstration project would allow the CIM program members to work with Parks staff to explore options and issues related to historical preservation issues. The replaceable bench tops would be created off-site. As a pilot project, if the benches were undesirable, they could be removed. Any follow-up installation would require additional BPPC review.

Staff also discussed the potential for examining potential improvements for the facility and requested feedback at starting a long-term planning process to look at facility needs and changes.

**MOTION:** Move to proceed with the feasibility of the demonstration project for the bench tops and coating on the stage with the stipulation that the bench color reflect the aesthetic and historical integrity of the site and approval of the concept to develop a design plan for the entire site that would return to the BPPC for review and for ample public input. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 1 (*Emmerich - revised per April 29, 2013 Regular Meeting*). **ABSTAIN:** 1 (Herrera) **ABSENT:** 0.

#### **4.2. Consideration of Park-Related Community Organization Funding Request (FY 2013-14)**

Sherry Morgado, the Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development Services, presented a background on the annual Community Organization Funding Program. She explained that applications which propose use of City park facilities or operate in City parks are first reviewed by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) for acceptance. The applications are then forwarded to the Finance Committee for recommendations to the City Council on funding allocations for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

Executive Director Laura Beck and Program Coordinator Caitlyn Riley explained that the Chico Creek Nature Center (CCNC) is requesting \$65,000, which would bring their funding back up to past funding requests. They are expanding their programs and their membership drive to raise money internally. The CCNC needs to hire additional part time staff. Ms. Riley asked that the term "full funding" be included with the motion. Commissioner Moravec requested that the Commission not over step the Council's decision making purview and that the wording remain as acceptance of the application as suggested by staff.

**MOTION:** Move to accept the application for funding made by the CCNC. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Ober. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

#### **4.3. Discussion and Approval of the 2013 - 2014 BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities.**

At the February BPPC meeting, Staff requested that Commissioners send in potential ideas for Work Plan Priorities, which would be finalized by the BPPC and then forwarded to the Council for approval. Commissioner Ober asked about how things make the cut to be considered for the Work Plan and questioned why a recycling program for Bidwell Park was not included. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff stated that such a program would be more inline with operations than a policy and that Park staff was looking into a grant to fund recycle containers. Urban Forest Manager Britton stated that the recycling cans in City Plaza are not used and that park users collect the cans to turn in.

From the public:

Janet Ellner, Friends of Comanche Creek, was involved in the process to complete the Comanche Creek Management Plan. She inquired as to what the next step would be for opening the greenway to the public so that more circulation of visitors could occur. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff stated that some creative funding mechanisms would be needed such as grants or the potential of a maintenance fee from the neighborhood.

**MOTION:** Moved to approve the 2013-2014 Work Plan Priorities as listed in the staff report be submitted to the City Council. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.



**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
Minutes of  
April 29, 2013

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

Mary Brentwood  
Lisa Emmerich  
Mark Herrera  
Jim Moravec  
Richard Ober  
Janine Rood (arrived at 6:40 pm)  
Drew Traulsen

**Commissioners absent:**

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager, and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**2.4 Consideration of a Permit for a Vacation Bible Experience.**

Bidwell Presbyterian requested a permit to host a Vacation Bible Experience at Children's Playground, June 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. The BPPC considered the permit because Children's Playground is exclusive use of a non-exclusive use area.

**MOTION:** Approve the permit use application with conditions. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT –**

The following items were removed from the Consent agenda:

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Emmerich requested removal of the Minutes from 03/25 and asked that a correction be made on her vote against proceeding with the Bidwell Bowl demonstration project for bench tops and stage coating taken. The Minutes have been corrected and changed to:

**MOTION:** Move to proceed with the feasibility of the demonstration project for the bench tops and coating on the stage with the stipulation that the bench color reflect the aesthetic and historical integrity of the site and approval of the concept to develop a design plan for the entire site that would return to the BPPC for review and for ample public input. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 5 (Brentwood, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 1 (*Emmerich - revised per April 29, 2013 Regular Meeting*). **ABSTAIN:** 1 (Herrera) **ABSENT:** 0.

Commissioner Traulsen requested the removal of items 2.2 and 2.3:

## **2.2. Consideration of a Permit for the Bidwell Bump Mountain Bike Race.**

North Rim Adventures requests a permit to host a mountain bike race in Upper Park on established trails on 08/24/13. Routes would be on the north and south side of the park.

Commissioner Traulsen asked that a condition be added to both the Bidwell Bump and the CCAA Cross Country Championship permits stating that "no unauthorized trail work can be undertaken."

Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff stated that this type of protection of natural resources is included in the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan and can be cited in the Report conditions for the applicant. The BPPC considered the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas. The applicant expects to have 175 participants.

From the public:

Tom Barrett asked about holding a for-profit event by a private business. In the past, he understood that such events should be held by nonprofits to benefit the Park.

Katherine Ketterer from North Rim Adventures stated that their company is taking over the Bidwell Bump coordination. They will adhere to the conditions as presented and that a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Park.

**MOTION:** Moved to approve the permit use application with conditions for the Bidwell Bump. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

## **2.3. Consideration of a Permit for the CCAA Cross Country Championship.**

Chico State Cross Country Team requests a permit to host a Cross Country Championship race in Middle Park on established trails on 10/26/13. Coach Gary Towne said that CSUC has the opportunity to host this event once every 8 years. Most of the race area is in Hooker Oak Recreation Area. The BPPC considered the permit because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**MOTION:** Moved to approve the permit use application with conditions for the CCAA Cross Country Championship. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

## **3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

## **4. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **4.1. Revision to the Park Division Fees – Fee Schedule 80.020.**

Staff explained that the Park Division Fees are made up of park reservation permit fees and other fees related to the use of Bidwell Park and other City parks. Except for minor adjustments, staff has not revised the fees in several years. Staff's proposed changes better reflect the increase in staff costs for administering permits, preparing a site and cleanup. Staff is also implementing a new online reservation system, which a simplified schedule will enhance. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that this was a pre-liminary transition period and that additional items such as special use permits would need more analysis and discussion, which could take place at a later time.

Commissioners discussed the difference between public and private events and expressed concern that a private event with a large number of people could be just as impactful to the Park as a public event and yet the fees would be based on a flat rate. Staff stated that historically private events have been smaller and the facility site would determine how large

the number of visitors would be. The group also discussed whether for-profits should be charged more or have some of their proceeds returned to the park. Staff said they would bring back the definition of public events and look at the language in the Chico Municipal Code. They also noticed some corrections needed on numbering.

From the Public:

Tom Barrett suggested that the Park Division charge more for filming in the Park and that the City had looked at this before when a company wanted to film in the Park. The distinction between events that charge and those that don't was an important factor the BPPC took into account in the past. Some entities that provide a public event and don't charge, such as the Endangered Species, offer an educational experience to park users and so is of benefit to the community. He recommended that for profits that have vendors selling items should have to pay the Park more since they are making money on the vendors and that events that charge participants should also pay more.

Chair Emmerich asked whether other cities have a separate fee schedule for profit and non profit entities. The BPPC requested that the fee revision issue be taken back to the Policy Advisory Committee for further review and input. The BPPC asked that the item go back to the Policy Advisory Committee for further discussion and reworking.

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

Tom Barrett said the BPPC has had policies that were taken into account but never written down. He wishes to recommend that that a policy should be set for dealing with for profits that hold events that do not directly benefit the Park.

## **6. REPORTS**

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them on a subsequent posted agenda.

### **6.1. Tree Committee Report**

Chair Ober and Urban Forest Manager Britton gave an update on the Urban Forest Management Plan progress and stated that are word-smithing. Two items were discussed by the Committee are 1) should Black Walnut trees be added to the approved species list and 2) whether public notification should be made for trees to be removed. These items will be discussed further at the Committee level in May.

### **6.2. Policy Advisory Committee**

Chair Herrera gave a brief update of staff's work with the CSUC Parks and Recreation 323 class who have been helping with logistical support for holding a special event in Bidwell Park on July 20<sup>th</sup> in honor of the Park's birthday. The Birthday Bash will have several events tied in with it, including a walk or run, an open house for our Park partners, a plein aire painting event, late afternoon games and booths at One Mile and a CARD movie. The Committee also was updated on staff's progress of finalizing the Park's donations policy and that the cost of Memorial benches would be increasing to cover the costs involved with materials, and installation.

### **6.3. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager**

Urban Forest Manager Britton then gave the Manager's Report, stating that one of the City's largest red maples was removed because it was diseased and posed a threat of failing. She also said that several trees were removed from downtown Chico due to the Kona's sidewalk reconstruction and a tree at Main and 2<sup>nd</sup> which was leaning precariously over the street. The bids have been received for the City's tree removal contract.

**6.4. Park and Natural Resources Manager’s Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.**

Parks Services Coordinator gave a report on Earth Day in Bidwell Park with 259 volunteers working in the area of the World of Trees and Cedar Grove on April 20 and the CA Native Plant Society, Mt. Lassen Chapter’s Teichert Ponds olive and privet removal project with over 600 hours logged in work sessions led by Susan Mason.

Natural Resources Manager Efseaff reported that the Outsiders had given the Park Division their annual exclusive use days listed in the report, and that he had met with Chair Emmerich, City Planner Bob Summerville and members of Chico Historical Society and Chico Preservation about the Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater. He explained that if the project met the Secretary of the Interior’s guidelines then it would be considered maintenance. Park staff included a chart with the repair costs over the past few years due to vandalism of the Bowl.

Park staff will return to a fixed regular schedule Monday through Friday and that the General Services Office hours will be moved to 7 am to 4 pm, which will better match our crew schedules.

Park Watch volunteers and Rangers conducted a “saturation patrol” on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to help share information about Park rules and information with visitors and to provide an increased presence and build camaraderie between staff, visitors and volunteers.

The Upper Park Road is now open after staff repositioned material that had been washed out from the road during the January rain storm. The road is more narrow and visitors will need to drive slower.

The Bidwell Ranch mitigation bank will go to the Council in January and prior to that the Citizen Working Group will be restarted probably in the early Fall. The Parks and Natural Resources Manager will keep the BPPC updated on that project as well as the Iron Canyon Fish Ladder.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to the next regular meeting on May 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

May 28, 2013  
Date Approved

Distribution: BPPC

**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
Minutes of  
May 28, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Commissioners absent:** Janine Rood

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**1.3. Special Recognition of former Supervising Ranger Jessica Erdahl**

The BPPC gave recognition to Ranger Jessica Erdahl for her service to the City of Chico. Ranger Erdahl first worked as a crime scene specialist with the Police Department 2002-2006 and then as a Ranger with the Park Division from 2007 to 2013. She became Supervising Ranger in 2009. Ms. Erdahl has taken a position with US Army Corps of Engineers at Black Butte Lake.

**1.4. Special Presentation (video): Rules of Bidwell Park (a CSUC Project Management Class Project) – Mary Brentwood Commissioner**

Commissioner Brentwood and classmates produced a video about the rules of Bidwell Park for use by the Park Division and with other outreach efforts. The video was shown at the meeting.

**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 held on 04/29/13.

**2.2. Consideration of a Permit for the Annual “Frost or Fog” 5k, 1/4 Marathon and 10 Mile Race in Middle and Upper Park**

Under the Sun Events requests a permit to host a race that starts in Middle Park and extends into Upper Park on 01/25/14. Applicant has held similar events for the past nine years and anticipates approximately 500 people. In addition to the 5k and ¼ marathon, the applicant has also added a 10 mile race to the event.

**MOTION:** Approve consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Rood.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – None**

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Consideration of Park Related Community Organization Funding Requests - Artists Proposals.**

The City of Chico annually considers applications from non-profits for Community Organization Funding. Arts Project Coordinator Mary Gardner presented information on two art proposals that desire to use the Park for their projects. Both of the requests are for \$2,000. Commissioner Emmerich recommended that the Commission consider each of the projects separately.

According to Park and Natural Resource Manager Efsaaff, both projects offer opportunities for alternative interpretation of the Park. Artist Erin Wade's project "Invasive Nature, a mini-grant project inspired by the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy" will feature invasive weeds installed as a sculpture near the One Mile Recreation Area. Park staff expressed initial concern about the use of invasive weeds and wanted to ensure that seeds would not be spread nor the structure could serve as a fuel ladder to the higher tree canopy. Ms. Wade stated the sculpture would be installed for 2 weeks with the starting day being on the Bidwell Park Birthday Bash Day on July 20. Commissioners recommended that Ms. Wade work with the Park Division and Friends of Bidwell Park volunteer programs to learn more about the invasive plants. There was consensus that this project presented an opportunity to educate the public on the invasive weed problem in Bidwell Park.

Art Commissioner Todd Hall stated that Golden Gate Park in San Francisco had hosted two Andy Goldsworthy inspired projects with success.

**MOTION:** Accept Erin Wade's application for an art project in Bidwell Park as recommended by the Arts Commission. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Ober. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Rood.

Hannah Hinchman's art project will be installed in the spring 2014 and will produce two trail guides for Lower Bidwell Park, one from a poet's perspective ("The Poet's Park") and one from an artist's point of view. ("The Sketcher's Park"). The guides will first be printed booklets distributed at the Chico Creek Nature Center and other outlets and will correspond with inexpensive markers as initial guidance points in the Park. The markers will be up March through October 2014. The GPS coordinates will be available online for the markers once they are removed. Chair Emmerich recommended that Park Watch be notified about the project so that they can provide information about it to park visitors.

**MOTION:** Accept Hannah Hinchman's application for an art project in Bidwell Park as recommended by the Arts Commission. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Rood.

Commissioner Ober suggested that such art proposals that involve the Park and input from the Park Commission be brought first to the BPPC and staff for review and discussion prior to going to the Art Commission.

## **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.

Commissioner Herrera stated that the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) was scheduled to be reviewed every 5 years. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efsaaff noted that the document states that the review states that the 5 year interval is an approximate time for the review and that with the Trails and Natural Resources Plans well underway, that the review process should take place after these documents are completed. The document has many items that are being pursued and is still a valid document to govern the Park.

Commissioner Moravec wished to reiterate that the Commission had denied the Obstacle Challenge based on the perceived impact to the Park and its users even though the discussion had included the “for profit” nature of the event.

## **6. REPORTS**

Items provided for the Commission’s information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

### **6.1. Tree Committee Report**

Commissioner Moravec recused himself from the meeting since his company had requested the pruning of trees under item 2.2 of the Tree Committee meeting. Committee Chair Ober gave a brief report as to the meeting and described the Committee’s discussion of the need for guidelines that would help dictate when tree removal or pruning was in order to help with marketing visibility for business signs. The Committee also discussed the idea of public notification prior to street tree removals. Urban Forest Manager Britton said the item should be in the Urban Forest Management Plan for consideration as to its feasibility and if passed would require a change to the Chico Municipal Code 14.40.

### **6.2. Urban Forest Manager’s Report**

Urban Forest Manager Britton stated that staff had prepared removal and replacement spreadsheets to make sure to keep up with the ratio of plantings to removals. Commissioner Ober inquired of the bulbing at Mom’s Restaurant and at Celestinos for outside seating. Ms. Britton stated that while 1 street tree would be removed in this project area that it would be replaced with 2 street trees paid for by Mom’s and Celestinos.

### **6.3. Park and Natural Resources Manager’s Report**

Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efsaaff stated that over the Memorial Day weekend lifeguards had made their first save of the season of a young boy, who was at the pool with young friends. The appeal by the Bidwell Challenge applicant was upheld by the Council and the event will take place in August. Staff provided some conditions for the applicant, including the last wave start at noon. There will be a one hour delay for the Lower Park gates opening. The City’s budget will be discussed and decided on at a day time Council meeting on June 18. The Park staff will revisit the fee revisions with the Policy Advisory Committee and utilize Council direction from the budget talks. Plans for the Birthday Bash are in progress and it will take place on July 20. The volunteer hour report will be completed on a quarterly basis. Park staff provided a volunteer recognition on May 10 and Susan Mason was named “Volunteer of the Decade.” National Trails Day will be held on Saturday, June 1.

Director of Public Works Ruben Martinez stated that there is a \$4.8 million general fund deficit, which translates into a 10% reduction, with major impacts to the City’s daily operations. With fewer staff, operations will be cut by about ½ of where it is currently. Parks has been asked to reduce its budget by \$500,000.





CITY OF CHICO  
BIDWELL PARK AND  
PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

***NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF MEETING***

The June 24, 2013 meeting of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission has been cancelled.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Monday, July 29, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber unless otherwise noticed.

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

Minutes of  
July 29, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

Mark Herrera  
Richard Ober (Acting Chair)  
Janine Rood  
Drew Traulsen

**Commissioners absent:** Mary Brentwood, Chair Lisa Emmerich, Vice-Chair Jim Moravec

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**1.3. Special Recognition – Billy Robinson, Senior Park Maintenance Crew Member**

The BPPC recognized Billy Robinson, Senior Maintenance Crew Leader, who served the Park Division for over 17 years. Billy started as a maintenance worker and was promoted to Senior in 2008. Billy served the City with distinction and devoted the majority of his career to the care of Bidwell Park.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Herrera requested that Item 2.1 be removed from the consent agenda.

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**2.2 Permit Application for the Almond Bowl - 5k, ½ and Full Marathon in Lower, Middle and Upper.**

Chico Running Club requests a permit to host a run in Lower, Middle and Upper Park on 11/3/13. The Commission is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**2.3 Permit Application for the Love on the Rocks 5K/10K Run in Middle and Upper Park.**

Under the Sun Events requests a permit to host a run in Middle and Upper Park on 9/7/13. This inaugural event is similar in nature to other Middle/Upper Park runs. The Commission is considering the application because the group is requesting the use of trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**2.4 Permit Application for Shakespeare in the Park at Council Ring.**

The Bidwell Theatre Company requests a permit to hold a Shakespeare in the Park event on two nights, Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3, 2013. This is the company's first time to host the production in the Park. The Commission is considering the application because it is a multi-day event.

**MOTION:** Approve consent agenda. **MADE BY:**Herrera. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 4 (Herrera, Ober, Rood and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 3 (Brentwood, Emmerich and Moravec)

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – 2.1 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Herrera asked why the June meeting was cancelled as it would have been helpful for the public to understand and weigh in on budget decisions. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efsaaff stated that the City often cancels meetings if there are no action items on agendas (there were none for June). In addition, the City Council meetings are the most appropriate and effective venue to weigh in on budget concerns. Council action at the budget workshop (held on June 18<sup>th</sup>), occurred well after the typical deadline for meeting reports and staff would have been unable to respond to the implications of Council action. Staff did outline potential impacts at the May BPPC meeting.

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of BPPC held on 05/28/13 as submitted. **MADE BY:** Rood. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 4 (Herrera, Ober, Rood and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 3 (Brentwood, Emmerich and Moravec)

### **3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **3.1 Advisory Review of Parcel Map 11-04 and Planned Development Permit 12-01 (Schreder) 3 Summersky Commons; APN 018-060-029**

City Associate Planner Greg Redeker presented the information on the project adjacent to Upper Bidwell Park's south side. He described the process as an advisory review of a request to subdivide a 7.9 acre site (the agenda annotation incorrectly stated 7.34 acres) located adjacent to Upper Bidwell Park into two lots for single-family residential development. He noted that the northernmost 250 feet of the site adjacent to Bidwell Park will remain undeveloped as a no build zone, and that no trees are slated for removal. He also reviewed viewshed photographs taken in the field. He explained that the BPPC review is pursuant to the Bidwell Park Sphere of Influence policy, and that the Planning Commission would take the BPPC's direction into account when making a decision on the parcel map.

Jim Stevens, NorthStar Engineering, project engineer, described the use of a 20 foot pole with an orange box to help show the visibility of the highest level in which the applicant could build. Nicole Ledford, also from NorthStar Engineering, demonstrated photographic simulations of the proposed site using Google Earth from various viewpoints within the park.

Planning Associate Redeker stated that the northern 250 feet of the parcel was zoned OS-1, primary open space, which constrains what can be done on that portion of the site.

Commissioner Herrera expressed skepticism about the photographs which he claimed could not really demonstrate the view of the homes until they were actually built. He also noted that some of the existing homes already affect the viewshed.

The Parks and Natural Resource Manager stated that the existing Bidwell Park Viewshed policy was a result of previous development near Upper Park.

Mr. Redeker stated when the homes were built on Parcel 7 (above Alligator Hole), there was a different approval process and that the set back had been deficient and the property much more visible than the current project.

Acting Chair Ober recalled that he served on the BPPC during the creation of the viewshed policy and noted that it was developed so that the review and input process like what is occurring would take place. He opened the discussion to the public.

From the Public:

Attorney Rick Leland, representing neighbor Larry Buckley, presented his own photographs with a rough visual simulation of the proposed houses. He also expressed concern of the project's incremental impact on the Bidwell Park Master Management Plans objectives of eliminating invasive weeds and night sky pollution.

Michael Marks, who is the neighbor on the other side of the Schreder property, spoke in favor of the project. He stated that the Pinnacles homeowners association has fewer properties than Canyon Oaks, and that the two associations would soon be merged as one. He yielded his time to Jim Stevens (of Northstar Engineering) who stated that the Pinnacles is the last development and that there are no other parcels in the Pinnacles which can be subdivided.

Liz Gardner stated that light pollution is a big problem with further development in the foothills and that the Parks night sky was truly unique and should be safeguarded.

Chair Ober clarified that the item provides the Commission with an opportunity to give feedback and suggestions. Discussion ensued on the use of native plants and minimizing nighttime sky impacts. Commissioner Traulsen encouraged the Planning Commission to ask the property owner(s) to obscure any buildings with native plants.

MOTION: The BPPC recommends that the Planning Commission consider requirements to 1) use only native plants in the landscaping, 2) use plantings to help buffer the view of the structures from the park, and 3) minimize night sky impacts on the Schreder parcel. MADE BY: Rood. SECOND: Traulsen. AYES: 3 (Ober, Rood and Traulsen). NOES: 1 (Herrera). ABSENT: 3 (Brentwood, Emmerich and Moravec).

The group also discussed the idea of taking a position on the action of subdividing the property. Commissioner Ober and Herrera expressed concerns with allowing any more houses to be constructed near the park beyond what is already approved.

MOTION: The BPPC further recommends to the Planning Commission that the Schreder parcel remain as a single lot. MADE BY: Herrera. SECOND: Traulsen. AYES: 4 (Herrera, Ober, Rood and Traulsen). NOES: 0. ABSENT: 3 (Brentwood, Emmerich and Moravec).

#### **4. REGULAR AGENDA – NONE**

#### **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.

Liz Gardner of the newly formed Caper Acres Volunteers asked why the decision was made to close Caper Acres and Park gates without the Park Commission and without review and input from the public. She asked about the cost to have the Assistant City Manager or administrative staff to open the gates, and how closing the park saves the City money? She stated that perhaps the City could approach CARD for assistance and perhaps the Golf club.

Commissioner Herrera stated that Chico does not have a community deficit, and that he missed not having the June BPPC meeting to receive input and he feels the BPPC should be able to weigh in on the budget decision making regarding the Park. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that budget decision making is the purview of the Council and the June 18 budget workshop would be most appropriate for those comments rather than the BPPC. Staff will provide the BPPC with impacts to services.

Abigail Lopez (Caper Acres Volunteers) asked how the group could be put on the agenda so as to discuss how Caper Acres can be kept open. She asked if Community Service workers could help. She feels that a Bidwell Park Summit would be helpful to work on solutions and also, asked why the City does not hire for-profit companies to do Park maintenance.

Park Services Coordinator stated that we do use Community Service workers in our well established Park Volunteer Program. Parks and Natural Resource Manager stated that ServePro will donate time to clean up restrooms so that Park maintenance could focus on Caper Acres and keep it open longer.

Chris Bolshazy (from SEIU, the Union that represents city maintenance workers), stated that our crew knows the Park and trees the best and that the BPPC does have power and duties to make decisions on budgetary and contract issues.

Al Petersen of the Caper Acres Volunteers expressed concern about the fence around the playground and how vandalism and illegal activity can be stopped.

Commissioner Herrera wanted to know how to agendize these issues. Commissioner Ober requested that two items be placed on a future agenda: a) planning work for the new Caper Acres group; and a b) park and Open Space Summit meeting.

Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that the process is to receive a written request that the BPPC would consider on whether the item would be heard at a future meeting. The item could be referred to staff to address or provide information, referred to committee, or deferred to future agenda for full consideration and action by the BPPC.

Commissioner Ober stated his support and as the BPPC executes the Caper Acres Workplan item, that the BPPC will explore partnerships with volunteers and include the Caper Acres Volunteer group.

Woody Elliot asked about whether Park user fees would be brought back to the BPPC and suggested taxes and entrance fees might be considered.

Park Services Coordinator Smith-Peters stated that the fee revisions will be going to the Policy Advisory Committee in the fall as directed by the BPPC several months ago. City on a whole is revising its fee schedules and will be reviewed and decided upon by the City Council throughout the year.

Michelle Mittman asked about the operating costs of the Park and that there are questions about the City's general fund. Park Services Coordinator stated that donations made to the Park do NOT go into the general fund but are held in a separate account devoted only to the Park.

## **6. REPORTS**

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

### **6.1. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.**

Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff reported that staff has put the Trail and Natural Resources Plans on hold until the Fall at which time staff hopes to make progress on these items.

The Bidwell Challenge is coming up on August 17 and the applicant understands the conditions. The trees on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut which are slated for removal were first identified 6 years ago as hazardous. The Park maintenance crew has been cut from 7 to 4; now down to 2.75 Fulltime equivalent for



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

Minutes of  
August 26, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Commissioners absent:** Janine Rood

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**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**

**MOTION:** Approve minutes of BPPC held on 07/29/13 as submitted. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Rood.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – NONE**

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Consideration Of Commissioner Ober's Request To Agendize The Discussion Of The Option For A Public/Private Non-Profit Partnerships With The City To Help The Park.**

Staff received an email on August 20, 2013 from Commissioner Ober asking that the BPPC consider agendizing his request to discuss a public/private non-profit partnership to help care for the Caper Acres play area. The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission follows Council rules (Policy AP&P 10-10 and Board and Commission Policy 10-1). Commissioner Ober addressed the BPPC regarding the request to agendize the item stating that:

1. The BPPC workplan lists Caper Acres.
2. Budget cuts have resulted in closures of Caper Acres and gates.
3. The City and BPPC have a long tradition of working with public/private entities on park issues (for example, work with the Chico Cat Coalition).

4. There are future policy implications for any arrangements the city may end up making with the Caper Acres group that could become a model for supporting other public/private partnerships in parks and greenspaces.
5. There are questions around the status of this potential city partner. What are they prepared to do? Are they a 501(c)3? Do they have a funding source? Are they organizationally prepared to play a role in the park? What are the limitations of that role?

Commissioner Emmerich explained the process of agendizing the item for a future meeting. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff stated that there are 3 pathways to look at: 1) refer to a committee, 2) have it heard by the full BPPC, and 3) have staff provide more information and work on the issue.

Chair Ober stated that with the Caper Acres Master Management Plan being initiated soon with staff, that he would be fine with referring it to a committee, but stated concern over time period since the ServePro partnership would cease at the end of September. He would like to see some other options proposed for Caper Acres before then. He wants the group to have an opportunity to share their ideas.

#### FROM THE PUBLIC:

Abigail Lopez (Caper Acres Volunteers) stated that she understood the Caper Acres issue as one of infrastructure condition, lots of necessary maintenance and low staffing. She feels that the volunteer group could offer to fundraise and work with the Park Services Coordinator through the existing volunteer program and or work through another nonprofit.

Michelle Mittman (Caper Acres Volunteers) recommended keeping the discussion public on how volunteers can help in Caper Acres and in the Park.

Chris Bolshazy stated that the BPPC under Boards and Commission 1006.8 have the ability to agendize and they are empowered to oversee and govern City Parks, and as a chartered commission, they have a lot of power. He asked why the BPPC wasn't involved in making the hour changes and the closing of Caper Acres.

The BPPC discussed the merits of agendizing the Commissioner Ober's request. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff requested that a Commissioner take the lead on the item. Commissioner Brentwood nominated Commissioner Ober to serve as a liaison.

**MOTION:** To agenize the discussion of options for public and private entities to partner with the City to help the Park. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Herrera. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Rood.

## 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.

Doug Laurie asked that access to Upper Park Road for vehicles past the Diversion Dam be made available again. He would like to see it in good working order for emergency vehicles and visitors. He shared brochures with the BPPC about fresh water fishing, and would like the road open especially from November 1 to April 30 for the fishing season.

Chris Bolshazy (representative of the City's Trades and Crafts workers) asked whether the BPPC has been consulted over contracts such as for pruning and tree removals. He said that the City has lost employees due to contracts and he advised that volunteers are helpful but that city employees have the knowledge basis and investment in caring for city property. He said using the contract money to hire back a tree crew member would be cheaper.

Michelle Mittman asked about transient activity in Caper Acres and asked about how long it takes staff to prepare Caper Acres for the day. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff stated that it can take between 3 to 6 hours on the peak days. Ms. Mittman asked if CARD could take care of Caper Acres. General Services Director Ruben Martinez responded that both CARD and the City are challenged budget wise. CARD does care for other areas in Bidwell Park but that they acquire revenue through programs run at the site, which allows their staff to care for the property. Caper Acres would not be able to generate revenue for CARD.

Liz Gardner stated that it is important to have the permanent restrooms at Cedar Grove open since the porta potties can only accommodate a limited number of people a day. She also supports park fees especially in Upper Park and suggests that extra police be hired to patrol Lower Bidwell Park.

## **6. REPORTS**

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

### **6.1. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.**

Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff reported that the Bidwell Challenge was last weekend and that the event was smaller than planned with few issues. The Bidwell Park Birthday Bash raised about \$1,800 (after expenses) and staff will do an evaluation of the event. Staff is also considering changing the time of year for the event in order to have students involved and cooler weather.

Park Services Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters gave an update of the Wildcat Welcome creek cleanup last Sunday with 60 CSUC students removing trash and clutter from the One Mile dam through Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater area. The Associated Students' Community Action Volunteers in Education partnership with the Volunteer Program will start their Fall semester of 30 hours each in the Park (8<sup>th</sup> year for the program). The Adopt-A-Site program continues with 3 groups renewing their commitment to work in their sites: Sigma Chi at #40; Sierra View Elementary at #27 and Blue Oak Elementary at #6. Friends of Bidwell Park has adopted Lost Park to work regularly in.

Local artist Jake Early produced a unique rendition of the Monkey Face print for fundraising T-shirts for Bidwell Park. Their cost is \$20 and they are on sale at the Park office.

Staff received a request for the BPPC from City Council on Councilor Randall Stone's request to consider the issue of selling and consuming alcohol at the Bidwell Municipal Golf Course. The Policy Advisory Committee will consider this request in September.

A Master Management Plan for Caper Acres is in its initial formation stage and will soon be publicized to gather input from the community over the next few months. The plan will help guide a Capital Campaign to raise money for the renovation.

The BPPC reviewed the staff memo on impacts of the Park Division's reduced staff. Commissioners appreciated the effort to provide detailed information on how the division is handling the reduced budget and staff members.

The Draft of the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course Monitoring Report is available for review and comment. It will return to the BPPC for consideration next month.

## **FROM THE PUBLIC**

Woody Elliott inquired as to whether the 2013 monitoring at the Disc Golf had taken place and why it was not in the current draft report. Staff stated that the 2013 botanical report had not been finalized and the oak monitoring has not been completed. The 2012 reports were forwarded to the BPPC as they were completed. The 2012 report will be completed by the next meeting.



**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
Minutes of  
September 30, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Commissioners absent:**

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**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 held on 08/26/13.

**2.2. Permit Application for Catalyst's "Raising Voices of Hope" Public Arts Display, October 7-11, 2013**

Catalyst Domestic Violence Services requested a permit to host a public arts display entitled "Raising Voices of Hope" in Children's Playground during October. The Commission considered the application because it multiple day.

**2.3. Permit Application for the Jack Frost 10K Race, December 15, 2013**

Fleet Feet requested a permit to host the Jack Frost annual 10K race. The Commission considered the application because the event uses trails in Middle Park that are not considered intensive use trails.

**2.4. Permit the Gobble Wobble 1 Mile, 5k and 10k, November 9, 2013**

CSU, Chico Department of Kinesiology requested a permit to host a run in Middle and Upper Park. The Commission considered the application because the event uses trails in Bidwell Park that are not considered intensive use areas.

**2.5. Installation of the Chanukah Menorah at City Plaza with a Celebration on December 3, 2013**

The Chabad Jewish Center requested to hold a Menorah lighting celebration and to have the Menorah installed on the City Plaza restroom. This is the applicant's 8<sup>th</sup> year for this celebration. Due to budget and staff reductions, the Park Division has requested that the applicant have their

own contractor install the Menorah with direction from Park staff. The BPPC considered the request because is multi-day.

**2.6. Consideration of a Permit Application for the Chico Artisans Faire, May 3-4, 2013**

Cyrle Productions requested a permit to host art, craft and entertainment faire in City Plaza. The Commission considered the application because the group requested the use of a park area for multiple days and for more than 10-hours.

Commissioner Emmerich requested that the year be corrected to 2013 on the 9/30/13 meeting agenda annotation.

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

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT** – None

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Permit Application for the Endangered Species Faire at One Mile Recreation Area on May 3, 2014**

Staff gave a brief update on this annual event. The Butte Environmental Council has changed the location of the event to One Mile Recreation Area from Cedar Grove. They expect approximately 3,000 participants. The BPPC is considering the application because the event is longer than 10-hours. **Recommendation:** Approval of permit with conditions.

**MOTION:** Approve the permit with conditions. **MADE BY:** Rood. **SECOND:** Traulsen. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Ober, Rood and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 1 (Moravec).

**4.2. Permit Application for the Orchard Church to Hold Weekly BBQ in City Plaza, Multiple Days**

The applicant, Orchard Church, has held this type of event for 6 years and at the request of the Park Division submitted a permit to hold their BBQs which feeds the hungry each Sunday in City Plaza from 5:45 pm to 8:15 pm. The BPPC asked a variety of questions related to the event and impacts. Commissioner Ober stated the event was unprecedented in the weekly scheduling and asked how often evaluations would be conducted. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff described that every event held in the Park is evaluated at the time they are conducted. He further stated that based on the Chico Municipal Code the Park Division can revoke an applicant's permit if safety or health issues become a concern. The event evaluations will provide staff with information that can be reported back to the BPPC on a quarterly basis. Our staff started keeping a City Plaza log of events and issues in the Plaza.

Pastor Jim Culp of Orchard Church stated that the event has been held since 2008 and that the numbers served has almost doubled in the past 2 years. They serve between 6 to 7 pm and they have a team of volunteers who do cleanup.

**FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Dave Blau stated that the park and greenways are moving into a crisis and that feeding invites homeless into town. For the City to sanction this makes the situation worse and increases the problem. Should be considering what works for the other residents. Have them feed people at their Church or at a patron's house. Chico is becoming like Santa Cruz.

Pastor Culp stated that Orchard Church has moved 8 people out by helping them get back on their feet.

Commissioner Brentwood recommended that the permit be allowed on a monthly basis and not for the whole year so that evaluations can be done monthly. Commissioner Rood asked about what would happen if events at the Plaza were to overlap? Parks and Natural Resources Manager Dan Efseaff stated that the reservation is on a first come first serve basis. Public Works Director Ruben Martinez suggested that adding a 9<sup>th</sup> condition where by the applicant would work with staff to solve the scheduling conflict if another applicant needed to reserve the Plaza at the same time

Pastor Culp stated the issue of double booking events should not raise an issue that Orchard Church would just give sandwiches out of backpacks instead of a full set up. He stated concern that to have a monthly permit would double their application expenses and would not be affordable for them. Park staff responded that some events would not be suitable for dual occupancy and that staff would need to work with the applicant.

Commissioner Ober expressed concern about the duration of the Church's weekly schedule. Commissioner Rood inquired as to how a permit is rescinded and staff said that the Chico Municipal Code provides an extensive list at all levels if the event does not comply.

**MOTION:** Approve permit for Orchard Church to conduct public feeding of the hungry in City Plaza on Sundays following the conditions in the staff report and reducing the permit to three months with the ability to renew the application upon staff and BPPC review. Friendly amendment offered (Chair Lisa Emmerich) and accepted (Brentwood) to direct staff to develop an additional condition to allow other events in the plaza in the event that a schedule conflict arises. **MADE BY:** Brentwood. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 6 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Ober, Rood and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** Moravec.

#### **4.3. Discussion about Volunteer Partnerships with the City of Chico to Help the Park (Verbal Report)**

At its 08/26/13 meeting, upon request of Commissioner Ober, moved to agendize a public discussion of options for public and private entities to partner with the City to help the Park. With the temporary closure of Caper Acres, several groups have stepped forward with varying remedies of how to help the Park Division take care of the City's parks. Commissioner Ober gave a brief background on the subject. He stated that the public discussion has come about due to the reduction of staff and the City's budget situation affecting the City's ability to maintain the Park. The group known as Caper Acres Volunteers has had well attended meetings and have been adjusting their goals.

#### **FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Abigail Lopez of Caper Acres Volunteers stated that the group had met last Friday and discussed their overall goals of keeping Caper Acres opened, safe and maintained. She said the group's main focus would be fundraising and that e Chico Breakfast Lion's Club wanted to work with them toward this goal. They were considering doing a Fall Festival fundraiser in November.

Chair Emmerich thanked the group for their raising funds and helping. She inquired as to how they would work with the City.

Park staff explained that the Park Division would soon initiate a Master Plan for Caper Acres revitalization and that over the next several months the whole of Caper Acres would be looked at and the group's fundraising focus would be very helpful. He stated the kickoff for the Caper Acres Capital Campaign planning would be at the Natural Resources Committee meeting on October 10, 2013 at 6 pm. Staff also explained that a Park donations fund was already set up and that Caper Acres funds can be earmarked only for the playground's use.

Ms. Lopez said that she would work with Park staff and that they would like to get a list of needs for Caper Acres from staff.

Bruce Main of Breakfast Lions Club stated support for the Caper Acres process and helping out at the facility.

Chris Bolshazy, representative from SEIU, thanked Commissioner Ober and Ms. Lopez for bringing the issue of volunteer help forward. He stated that there are certain technical aspects that have to be done by the City's maintenance crew. He said that agreements or contracts that deals with trees or the staff should be brought before the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission so that they could do their duty.

Karen Laslo asked if the Caper Acres Volunteers would only be working for the playground and that there is so much to do throughout the whole Park. She recommended that the Lion's Club and CAV group work with the Bidwell Park Foundation to raise money for all of the Park.

Commissioner Ober stated that the group had been involved with Tom Barrett of the Bidwell Park Foundation about general fundraising.

## **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 Withunh stated that he felt the City was going down the wrong path and that more input from local arborists was needed to care for the Urban Forest. He said the Urban Forest Management Plan is a good start but that it needs more input. Mr. Withunh proposes a new volunteer group of arborists to review tree conditions before one is removed. He would also like to see better citizen notification of when trees will be removed, enforcement of current city codes and if we cut one tree down then we need to replant another one.

Elaina McReynolds stated that due to safety issues in the Park that volunteers needed to receive more safety training.

Commissioner Herrera requested that staff provide updates on contracts that affect the Trades and Crafts staff members or trees or the privatization of services.

Public Works Director Martinez stated that the tree pruning was an annual contract and that the money was already budgeted.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1. Policy Advisory Committee Report – Commissioner Ober**

Commissioner Ober provided a report on the Policy Advisory Committee Meeting of 09/19/13. He stated that Empire Golf, the Bidwell Golf Club's contractor, had submitted a proposal as well as Council member Randall Stone requesting the BPPC consider allowing the sale of alcohol at the Bidwell Park Municipal Golf Course. Empire Golf projects that there will be a healthy increase in revenue to the golf club, which will also mean more revenue to the City. Increased revenues would be used toward golf course and club improvements. Several citizens expressed concern that the City abide by Annie Bidwell's intent spelled out in the original deed to not allow alcohol in the Park. The PAC supported sending this to the full Commission for further discussion and consideration and have staff look into some issues regarding how the Club/Contractor would handle sales and training staff; whether the City should look into a changed formula for revenue from the Club. Commissioner Ober also asked whether gate closures and Park

hours might affect Club events. The issue will be brought back to the BPPC at the regularly scheduled October meeting.

#### FROM THE PUBLIC

Karen Laslo expressed concern that that other Park entities may wish to sell alcohol at their sites and that after Club events there may be drunk drivers to worry about. She hates seeing Annie Bidwell's request ignored just for money.

Commissioner Herrera asked for clarification of the process for this item. Park staff stated that the BPPC would consider the issue and could 1) recommend to Council; 2) Reject it and it would not be forwarded to Council; and 3) Make no recommendation and Council would hear the issue.

#### **6.2. Special Report 2012 Year End Monitoring Report for the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Long Course**

Park staff explained that this is the 2012 Monitoring Report and that it has been delayed due to backlog of Park issues as well as some in surveying by North State Resources. Information is gathered from the botanical surveys of Blue Oaks, Bidwell Knotweed and Butte County Checkerbloom; Ranger observations; wet weather usage; and photo points. Lot of information to compile, synthesize and then analyze. Staff will be placing a bollard at Hole 1 with a Closed Sign on it so if visitors are playing the course when it is closed; they can be cited for the violation. [ FILL IN MOST SALIENT POINTS]

#### FROM THE PUBLIC

Karen Laslo is sad about the blue oak damage and asked how the wet weather closures are being enforced? She asked about the Peregrine falcon situation as well.

Park Staff stated that last year's strategy was to focus on education and enforce the worst offenders. Over time, the focus will shift toward enforcement.

Woody Elliott said that the Peregrine falcons have been around since 2005 but are not known to have nested there. Some have nested at the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve near 14 Mile House Road. He requested that the data from 2013 be released earlier and to put the 2013 Botanical and Blue Oak data on the Park website. He stated that the mulch issue is really important part of the adaptive management despite the transportation issue. Also requested that staff look into working with CalTrans about putting a open/closed sign for the disc golf course down on Bruce Road so that players would not make the drive up if the course is closed.

#### **6.3. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager**

Park staff has been working with the Butte County Sheriff's Work Alternative Program on camp assessments and monthly cleanups. Council approve the BPPC's Workplan in September and that the Wet Weather Plan would come to the BPPC next monthly meeting. ServPro extended their volunteer service through November 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff is working with the Alternative Prison Program representative on whether their crew can help fill in for basic cleaning services along the lines of ServPro's work to free up Park maintenance for other Park projects. Reviewed the park staffing memorandum to provide a full picture of where the Park Division was and is currently in its staffing levels and responsibilities.

#### FROM THE PUBLIC

Charles Withunh suggested we look into hiring Americorps volunteers.



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

Minutes of  
October 23, 2013 Special Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff present:** Ruben Martinez, Public Works

**2. MEETING AGENDA**

**2.1. Review and Consideration of Wells Fargo Reservation Permit in Bidwell Park**

**Recommendation:** *Staff recommends approval with conditions.*

Public Works Director Ruben Martinez provided an overview of the Wells Fargo Bank permit request to stage a still photo shoot in Bidwell Park on October 26 and 27, 2013. The production company would setup in Upper Park at Day Camp, on early Saturday for an afternoon and sunset photography session. On Sunday they would setup very early in the North 5-Mile Area, and start with a sunrise shoot until around noon. The company's setup will include trucks, camera equipment, horses and approximately 20 production staff.

The applicant will provide sufficient monitoring to keep the production equipment and staff on the roadways where possible. The applicant has also requested that the Day Camp area be cordoned off so equipment, including trucks, horses, horse trailers and iconic stage coach is able to stage and effectively use natural light in the parking area with the natural foliage in the background. The applicant also asked to be allowed to put up caution tape as a boundary for regular onlookers and passersby, to view but not interfere with the work of the photo crew.

These areas will remain open to the public. The Commission also discussed indepth keeping the Yahli Trail open to Park users. The applicant agreed ahead of time to pay for Park staff to help with guiding Park visitors and helping monitor the photo sessions to reduce interference by the Park onlookers.

Production staff had agreed to monitor equipment movements to restrict, reduce or eliminate any movements outside of the wheeled roadways, while allowing the production company the best possible staging for photos. Additionally, 5 Mile Way on the North side of 5 Mile Park Areas will need to be kept clear of through traffic.



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

Minutes of  
October 28, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

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

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), and Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator).

**2. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE**

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – NONE**

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Herrera asked that the meeting Minutes of 9/30/13 item 4.1 reflect that he recused himself from discussion and voting on the Special Event permit for Butte Environmental Council's Endangered Species Faire since he is on their Board of Directors. Commissioner Moravec asked that his absence be noted under 1.2 Roll Call. These will be corrected and posted on-line.

**MOTION:** Approve Minutes of 9/30/13 with corrections. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Brentwood.  
**AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**4.1. Consideration of Alcohol Sales at the Bidwell Park Municipal Golf Course.**

At the Policy Advisory Committee meeting on 9/19/13, Commissioners recommended forwarding for consideration a proposal to allow alcohol sales at the Bidwell Park Municipal Golf Course, which was originally submitted by Empire Golf to the Park Division in August. Park Staff noted that the staff report on this issue was mistakenly not included in the Commissioners hard copy of the BPPC packet but was included on the online version. Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff provided a verbal overview of the issue as well as some of the discussion items raised during the PAC meeting.

Staff stated that to exempt the Bidwell Park Golf Club from the current alcohol ban for Parks and Playgrounds, City Council would need to review and approve it to change the current Chico

Municipal Code (CMC). Empire Golf would have to obtain an alcohol license from the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Department. Then the Chico Police Department would be involved in the review of the alcohol license as well as the City Council.

Staff requested that the BPPC 1) consider whether the Bidwell Park Municipal Golf Course should be exempted from the current ban on alcohol in Bidwell Park; and 2) review the proposal from Empire Golf to sell alcohol on the premises and consider additional lease conditions.

Rod Metzler, General Manager for Empire Golf presented information in support of allowing the Club to sell alcohol. He stated that the game of golf in general is in an economic slump and that Bidwell Park Golf Club faces even more challenges by competition locally from area Clubs that allow alcohol sales. The Club is also at a disadvantage by not having a driving range, which helps generate more revenue at other sites. Empire Golf operates 6 golf clubs in which two are municipally owned and operated on Park lands that do have alcohol bans that exempt the golf courses in the County of Sacramento. Empire Golf has "On-Sale General Eating Place" alcoholic beverage licenses at each of the 5 clubs that serve.

Empire Golf has projected an increase of revenue by about \$377,000 annually based on alcohol sales as well as an increase in golf rounds, cart rentals, and sales from banquets and tournament reservations. These estimates are based on sales averages of other clubs that sell alcohol. He predicted a spillover effect for helping the Chico economy with golfers traveling from outside the area and contributing to the local economy through restaurants, shopping and hotel stays. The Club will also need to hire more staff to handle increased use of their Club restaurant.

The Bidwell Park Golf Club, Inc. is a nonprofit so an increase in revenues over expenses will be put back into the golf course and in the Club facility. There is an economic benefit to the City as the Club's revenue is based on a percentage of gross revenue monthly. A five year capital improvement plan is also part of the lease with the City and outlines many needed upgrades including new irrigation, all weather cart paths, and a pump upgrade to name but a few.

Mr. Metzler stated that there is already alcohol consumption on the property and the sale of alcohol would put in place controls over this. Their staff will be trained through the "safe serve" program and sales would be for onsite consumption only. Police would be the enforcer outside the golf course for impaired drivers as with any intoxicated park visitors.

The question was raised as to what would prevent the other Park leasees from serving alcohol and staff replied that the change in the CMC would only refer to the Bidwell Park Golf Club. Park staff named the other Park leasees as the Chico Creek Nature Center, Community Observatory, Chico Area Recreation District, Chico Rod and Gun Club, Outdoor Recreation Advocacy, Inc.

#### FROM THE PUBLIC:

Caitlyn Reilly, Executive Director of Chico Creek Nature Center – the golf course needs this revenue structure and this will help reinvest in the park.

Ken Fleming, CSUC Professor – has specialized in behavioral health and alcohol issues since 1978. Chico has a problem with alcohol and this decision will have a major impact on this city. Downtown and south campus neighborhood is an alcohol wasteland. Our younger population between ages 18–35 has an alcohol problem. Suggests marketing strategy of alcohol free golf course.

Melinda Vasquez – too much emphasis on the revenue that would be generated. Chico has a huge alcohol problem, and there is a large price tag in the loss of life and payments for police to patrol during the Halloween alcohol party. Keep the Park as Annie intended it – alcohol free.

Dan Casamajor – Golf Club member since 1961, states alcohol is already consumed at the golf club. Since working in maintenance at the Club, he has really observed the need for upgrades and the current budget is thin so revenue from sales is needed.

Harrie D. Riley – Annie Bidwell was clear in the deed about no manufacturing or sale of alcohol. The City said no to alcohol in the park in 1995; I will be shocked if we go against what the forefathers wanted.

Todd Hall – Chico Creek Nature Center Board and Arts Commission – His family is in the wine making business and they promote the area's agriculture tourism and increased taxes from such. Want people to have options in the park.

Roger Clark, Board President of BPGCI) – the Golf Club demographics is quite different from the general Chico population – about 65 years of age and the Club is not a party destination like Madison Bear Garden. The Club needs to be able to hold full service events in order to increase the revenue to invest in the capital improvements.

Spencer Riemer works at the Golf Course and stated the need for the license.

James Mosher – there is binge drinking but this would not be a problem with the golf course.

Marvin Davidson – Played the course since 1968 with many of Chico's community members and they are active part of the community and active in fundraising to help the park. They agree that alcohol is ok at the course.

Commissioner Ober stated that the main process tonight included consideration of the following:

- 1) Making an exception for the golf course and Club to the City-wide ban of alcohol in parks and playgrounds;
- 2) consider the need for conditions;
- 3) continue the ban on glass in the park; and
- 4) training of Golf Club staff in the "safe serve" program.

Several Commissioners noted that making the Golf Club an exception to the alcohol ban did not create a precedent since the Club has such a different relationship with the City and any overage of revenue is returned to the Park. Chair Emmerich noted that alcohol is very much a city-wide issue and to vote for alcohol at the Golf Club would be providing a City-stamp of approval while linking alcohol use and recreation. She also stated that because illegal alcohol use on the golf course is already a norm, does not make it ok and it does not send a good message young people who play golf with elders who violate the Park's ban.

**MOTION:** Move that the BPPC recommend that the Council adopt an exemption for the Bidwell Park Municipal Golf Course from the current City-wide alcohol ban with 4 conditions: 1) abide by park hours; 2) allow no offsite sales; 3) uphold restriction on glass; and 4) Club staff trains in a "safe serve" program.

**MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Herrera. **AYES:** 4 (Brentwood, Herrera, Moravec and Ober). **NOES:** 3. (Emmerich, Rood and Traulsen); **ABSENT:** 0.

#### **4.2. Review and Consideration of a Wet Weather Policy for Bidwell Park**

Parks and Natural Resources Manager Efseaff provided a background on the creation of the Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan that was first adopted in December 2009. The BPPC reviewed and provided comments on a draft plan at its meeting in December 2012. Staff then presented some key findings of the revised 2013 document, which finalizes the Plan, and satisfies BPPC Workplan priority 2.

Some trends in data were evident; with drier weather prevailing in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 as compared to the first two years of data collection, ie. 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. There were

more than double the closures of both the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course (PPDG) and the trails during the first two years. January 2013 was an extremely dry month and the trails and PPDG were closed one week vs. 30 days in December 2012. The revised plan relies on weather data from the US Forest Service Chico weather Station (CHI). The protocol uses a trigger of 0.25" indentation (heel mark) to close trails and the Peregrine Point Course. A trail assessment is used to open the trails and PPDG (pp. 3-5). The dual assessment of trails and the PPDG is important because of the differences in the two sites and helps log these distinctions.

Staff, along with the Outsiders, have increased education efforts for disc golfers and there seems to be better compliance with wet weather policies. Staff observations suggest that unauthorized use still occurs in the Park; however, overall compliance during wet weather appears to be improving and we will continue to ramp up education efforts and enforcement. As discussed in the past, staff has placed a "Disc Golf Course Closed" sign on a lock in place bollard at the first hole. This makes the notice of closure impossible to miss so those playing when the course is closed should be cited. Staff also has contacted CALTRANS regarding a trail/disc golf course status sign at Highway 32 and Bruce Road, but have not received permission to erect a sign there (we received conflicting information on what was possible in the right of way).

Staff added the closure of Upper Park Road to motor vehicles to coincide with trail closures, providing an opportunity for trail users to use the road without car traffic when the trails are closed. After several years of study, staff has also defined a new trail assessment route for the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course to better capture disc golf fairway conditions on the long course. The new route will encompass holes 1, 2, 14, 15 and 16 (the latter two being the wettest holes).

Commissioner Ober asked whether there is now enough evidence for a seasonal closure of the trails in December. Staff is not ready to make that move yet, but that through the trail plan update process, there may be a recommendation for closures of particular areas that have vernal pools, such as in the case of the area west of Horseshoe Lake.

From the Public:

Adam Filippone, Vice President Chico Outsiders, said that the group is focusing on educating course users about the wet weather policy and the need to stay off the course during wet weather (to help keep the course open through the City).

Woody Elliott suggested that staff continue efforts to get a sign placed at Bruce Road and Hwy 32 so that people will not drive up the hill only to find the course is closed. He also recommended having a gate which would close off the parking lot during a course closure.

Staff will provide further update and revisions in 2014.

**MOTION:** Move that the BPPC adopt the Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan (Revised 2013).  
**MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Rood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0.

## 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.

Woody Elliott – the transient issue has gotten out of hand in the Park and there is great need to stay on top of it.

