

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m by Chair Ober

Commissioners Present: Richard Ober, Chair
David Wood, Vice-Chair
Tom Barrett
James Walker
Michael Candela
Stephen Lucas

Commissioners Absent: Lisa Emmerich

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Alicia M. Rock, Assistant City Attorney
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

COMMISSIONER WALKER NOMINATED DAVID WOOD FOR CHAIR AND LISA EMMERICH FOR VICE-CHAIR. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

1.3 Public Comments None

Commissioner Emmerich arrived at 7:08 p.m.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of December 17, 2007

Commissioner Candela removed this item from Consent Agenda

2.2 Approval of Public Event Permit Applications for Park Use from Downtown Chico Business Association (DCBA) for several events to be held in City Plaza in 2008

2.3 Approval of Public Event Permit Application for Park Use from Ensemble Theatre of Chico - Shakespeare in the Park on Weekends from June 14, 2008 to July 14, 2008 - City Plaza

2.4 Approval of Public Event Permit Application for Park Use from Sound Events

to Hold Concerts in City Plaza on Saturdays from April to September, 2008

Commissioner Walker noted no application was in the agenda packet, but it is on file.

2.5 Approval of Public Event Permit Application for Park Use from the Far West Heritage Association to Place a California Nut Festival Information Booth in City Plaza from February 21-24, 2008.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 2.,3, 4, AND 5 OF CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of December 17, 2007

Commissioner Candela wished to vote on this item separately, as he was not present at the meeting.

Commissioner Walker wished to add a fifth direction to Item 4.5 regarding the Annie's Glen bridge proposal to include "addressing safe pedestrian egress and crossing from the bridge onto Vallombrosa and Memorial Way". He also questioned the item in the minutes regarding Commissioner Wood's request for further discussion of Volunteer Mission Statement in Item 4.1. This item will be taken to the Volunteer Committee for further review. Walker also asked about the discussion of logo placement in Bidwell Park and staff indicated that this will be on the Master Management Plan Committee's next meeting agenda.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE MODIFIED MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 17, 2007. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2.

YES: WALKER, EMMERICH, BARRETT, WOOD, OBER

ABSTAIN: CANDELA AND LUCAS

4.2 Review and Discussion of Feral Cats in Bidwell Park

Feral cats have long been a concern in Bidwell Park both for public health and safety reasons and for the vitality of wildlife in the Park. The Chico Cat Coalition was formed in late 1990's to trap, care for, and adopt out cats abandoned in Bidwell Park and have aided 150 to 200 cats. In March 2009 they will lose their lease on a barn where unadoptable cats are cared for so they are no longer taking new cats. Since volunteers are few, they have no plans to continue the program.

Ranger Jessica Urdahl said she has recently seen 15 to 20 cats in Lower Park and one feeding station. There is zero tolerance for feeding cats in the Park so violators may be cited on first contact. Breeding season will be soon and the numbers could grow extensively.

The community and BPPC are being asked for ideas and solutions to this problem. Commissioner Wood indicated that education is critical for the public to understand that this is a serious problem. There can be no feeding and there is a reward for turning in a person abandoning a cat in the Park. It is an ongoing problem that will be discussed again. Staff also suggested that information regarding not feeding cats could be included in the upcoming "Chico Today" newsletter that will be sent to all city residents within the next month or so.

4.3 Review and Consideration of the Placement of Bollards in City Parks
(Commissioner Barrett's request)

Commissioner Barrett suggested staff might make some adjustments for safety to existing bollard placement and modify entrances for bikes at closed gates. The Council's Internal Affairs Committee will be reviewing this issue in February and staff will update the BPPC of their actions at the Commission's next meeting. Commissioner Barrett also indicated that this item might be of interest to the Commission's Trail/Safety Committee and also requested that staff look at the width of the areas around some gates since some are difficult to get around on foot or bicycle.

4.4 Review and Discussion Regarding Chico Disc Golf Association's Tournament in Upper Park on 12/29/07 (Commissioner Ober's request)

After the event, staff learned of a tournament that was held at the area used for disc golf on Highway 32 on a rainy day when trails were closed.

Interim Assistant City Manager Beardsley said the sign posted there is a request that is not enforceable and that closed trails are meant for bikes and equestrians, not pedestrian use. Once disc golf is approved for that location, the area can be better managed.

From the public:

Lon Glasner thinks any organized event in the Park should be noticed to staff, but many do not know when or how to do that. Disc golfers showed good faith by scheduling the current Shasta Series disc golf tournament at Community Park under CARD. He suggested that the Commission finish the Master Management Plan (MMP), set rules, and then educate the public further.

Gregg Payne agreed the MMP needs to be completed. Some people will always break the rules but disc golf has a built-in etiquette.

4.5 Status of Capital Projects and Grant Funds

Proposition 12 funds must be spent by 03/31/08. Construction of proposed Day Camp Bridge has not begun so the \$222,000 in Prop 12 funds allocated for that project should be redirected to another project. Staff suggested that the funds be used for renovation of Children's Playground, or another projects recommended as directed by BPPC. Commissioner Walker asks whether these funds could also be used for a restroom on the north side of the One-Mile Recreation Area.

From the public:

Susan Mason stated that 30% of the Roberti Z' Berg Harris portion of the Proposition 12 can be used for maintenance and suggested developing a restoration project, a fire maintenance plan, or a trail maintenance plan.

Commission agreed to send this item to Master Management Committee and asked all interested parties to submit ideas for consideration.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager's Report

- a. **Husa Ranch/Nob Hill Neighborhood Park Meeting**
There is a meeting of the landscape district this week
- b. **Baroni Neighborhood Park**
It is a success and well used. A fence is down
- c. **Highland/Ceres Neighborhood Park**
Going out for bid in June
- d. **Chico Creek Nature Center**
Building is complete; getting money now for equipment
- e. **One-Mile Dam**
Lower the dam today for some work that will take about ten days
- f. **Storm Update**
The park was closed for one week as all resources were diverted to public health and safety first; there was a lot of clean up but little damage in the Park; the public was very grateful for opening City green dump to take fallen trees for no fee and they received 18,000 tons.
- g. **Tree Preservation Ad Hoc Committee**
The meeting date has been moved into February
- h. **Bicycle Advisory Committee**
Chair Candela will continue to serve on the Council's Bike Advisory Committee.
- i. **2008 Committee Assignments/Meeting Dates**
Give any requests for change of assignment to staff or Chair Wood; membership will be announced at the February meeting.
- j. **Council Action/Correspondence**
 - 1) **Administrative Citation Fee Schedule**

5.2 Monthly Reports

- a. **Maintenance Report**
- b. **Ranger Report**

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

Urban Forester Britton said crews spent many days picking up trees and hangers after the storm. There are still stumps and root balls to take of through a contract. Seventeen City trees need to be removed, including two in Lost Park and one near the horse arena in Upper Park

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report Received and filed

Commission discussed placement of a convertible-back bench on south side of Big Chico Creek east of Hwy 99. It was agreed to place a recycled bench with no back at that location for better visibility.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Park Watch annual training is set for March 13 and March 15, 2008.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. to the next regular meeting of February 25, 2008.

APPROVAL:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
 Lisa Emmerich, Vice-Chair
 James Walker
 Michael Candela
 Stephen Lucas
 Richard Ober

Commissioners Absent Tom Barrett

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
 Denice Britton, Urban Forester
 Linda Herman, Management Analyst
 Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Special Recognition

Twelve members of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity received a certificate of appreciation from Chair Wood for the work they have done on four picnic sites, contributing 115 hours. They are preparing a volunteer work plan for next year also.

1.3 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 28, 2008.

2.2 Applications and Permits for Park Use for Wildwood Park Ballfields for the 2008 Season from Butte United Soccer League, Chico Central Little League, Chico Cal Soccer Club, and the Chico Youth Lacrosse Club.

2.3 Approval for Public Event Permit Applications for Park Use from Butte Environmental Council for “Endangered Species Faire” on May 3, 2008 - Cedar Grove.

2.4 Approval of Application and Public Event Permit for Park Use for “Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs” Event Saturday, May 31, 2008 - Horseshoe Lake

2.5 Approval of Application for Public Event Permit for Park Use from Cycle

Productions for the Artisans Faire May 2-4, 2008 - City Plaza

- 2.6 Approval of Application for a Permit for Park use from 916 North Area Activities for Wildwood Park from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on July 19, 2008**
Commissioner Ober removed this item from Consent Agenda

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVED ITEMS 2.1 -2.5 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 2.6 Approval of Application for a Permit for Park use from 916 North Area Activities for Wildwood Park from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on July 19, 2008**

Commissioner Ober said that he was not familiar with the 916 North Area Activities group and asked for more information. Ron Rowe, the group's Chair, said it is an organization for narcotics anonymous. Their application requests use of the park for twelve hours and any activity longer than 10 hours must be approved by the Commission.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

4.2 Invasive Weed Presentation and Consideration of the 2007 Vegetation Management Report and 2008 Priority Project List

- a. Review of 2007 Annual Vegetation Management Report and list of priority vegetation management projects scheduled for 2008**

The City's Volunteer Coordinator reported that there are about 130 invasive plants in Bidwell Park. An intern is mapping sites for setting work priorities, by both area and by species. Eradication is at various stages and some plants will take several years to complete.

- b. Slide presentation by Susan Mason, Friends of Bidwell Park, on invasive weeds in Bidwell Park**

Ms. Mason gave a presentation identifying plants that are of concern to all of Chico's open spaces. Commissioner Walker inquired on how is invasive plant removal is prioritized, by plant type or location. Volunteer Coordinator Lise-Smith Peters responded that both are used when deciding on removal projects. Walker also questioned whether invasive plant removal could be included in the annual park cleanup activities.

From the public:

John Copeland is especially interested in Scotch Broom; former open spaces in the Park are now filled up by invasive plants that must be stopped.

Randy Abbott said to continue efforts to remove invasives to keep native habitat that provides a cultural setting as well as preserve flora and fauna. He also suggested an invasive weed public outreach campaign.

Nancy Park has seen the Park change since 1957; the oaks/woodland ecosystem is disappearing.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE VEGETATION MANAGEMTN REPORT AND PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

Chair Wood agreed BPPC would move to Item 5.4 at this time.

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report

The 2007 annual volunteer report shows 18,757 hours of work has been donated, which includes Park Watch. Commissioner Ober's questioned how many picnic sites have been adopted and whether there could be some sort of plaque or recognition could be placed at the adopted site. Volunteer Coordinator Smith-Peters responded that there are five to six picnic sites have been adopted and it was suggested that the topic regarding recognition could be reviewed by the Volunteer Committee.

4.3 Review and Consideration of the Placement of Bollards in City Parks

Interim Assistant City Manager Beardsley updated the Commission on the City Council's Internal Affairs Committee discussions concerning bollards. Staff is reviewing the different options, i.e. whether rigid or flexible, and which locations to keep or remove the bollards, and will bring information back to BPPC. Different kinds will be tried in the planned extension of bike paths as test projects.

4.4 Confirmation of Appointment of Commissioners to the Various Subcommittees of the Commission and Approval of 2008 Calendar of Commission and Committee Meeting Dates

- a.. Commissioners confirmed Committee assignments as written.
- b. Commissioner Candela cannot make day meetings. He tentatively accepts dates provided. BPPC meeting is set for Tuesday, May 27, due to Memorial Day on May 28, 2008.

4.5 Review and Discussion of Citation Policy for Abandoning or Feeding Feral Cats in Bidwell Park

Commissioners were provided with the administrative fines for Municipal Code violations. There is zero tolerance for feeding or abandoning feral cats, with an officer able to use his discretion under mitigating circumstances.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Director's Report

- a. **Husa Ranch/Nob Hill** Still looking at costs
- b. **Ceres Neighborhood Park** Going back to Council sometime 3/18/08.
- c. **Chico Creek Nature Center** Building is complete, looking for financial help to furnish it.
- d. **One-Mile Dam** It works marvelously, and the control building blends in well.
- e. **Comanche Creek/Thomasen Property** The draft is complete and will be presented to BPPC at next meeting.
- f. **Sycamore Creek/Wildwood Avenue Bike Path** Path will be completed this year from Five-Mile Recreation Area north to beyond Wildwood Park
- g. **Budget Update** There is pressure on the general fund to preserve existing programs rather than start or improve new ones.
- h. **Council Actions** A partnership between CARD and City is being considered by the City Council and staff is to provide additional information for future consideration by the Commission and the Council.
- i. **Correspondence** None

5.2 Monthly Reports

Park Crews/Rangers Received and filed

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

A pruning contract was awarded and work will begin soon on South Park Drive. Arbor Day is March 3 with two celebrations planned at elementary schools. Urban Forest Manger talked to PG&E about removing invasive plants under their lines and planting native ones. Crews are removing ground cover that are most invasive Peterson Drive and most are invasive.

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report See Page 3 for comments.

5.5 Correspondence None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Walker inquired about the Master Management Committee's tour of Parcel 9 and the Upper Park viewshed and asked if story poles could be put up if a tour was not possible.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting of March 31, 2008.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF MARCH 31, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Lisa Emmerich, Vice-Chair
James Walker
Michael Candela
Stephen Lucas
Richard Ober
Tom Barrett

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Alica M . Rock, Assistant City Attorney
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Public Comments

Susan Mason said the Finance Committee recently set land assessment values for parks and greenway acreage to establish park facility fees. Based on previous purchases, she thinks the value amount used is grossly inadequate.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of February 25, 2008

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1
YES: WOOD, EMMERICH, WALKER, CANDELA, LUCAS AND OBER
ABSTAIN: BARRETT

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda None

4.2 Report from the Trails/Safety Committee Meeting of 03-19-08 (Commissioners Wood, Lucas and Barrett)

a. Review and consideration of a Boy Scout project for the North Rim Trail in Upper Park

For his Boy Scout project, David Levitt would like to measure and put in distance markers along a trail in Upper Park. Commissioners thought Upper Rim Trail would be difficult to measure accurately and to set posts in volcanic rock. Mr. Levitt will look into this and might consider another trail.

From the public:

Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Smith-Peters said David has worked on other projects in the Park and will do a good job.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT WITH THE TRAIL TO BE DETERMINED. COMMISSIONER BARRETT SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

4.3 Review and Consideration of Fiscal Year 2008-09 Park-related Community Organization Funding Requests

a. Chico Creek Nature Center

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE \$61,293 FOR THE NATURE CENTER. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

b. Chico Cat Coalition

The Coalition is requesting \$10,000 to help cover costs to nurse, house and care for each feral cat picked up in Bidwell Park.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE \$10,000 FOR THE CHICO CAT COALITION. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

Mini-grants of up to \$2,000 are given to reimburse artists for costs of their work, which would be reviewed by the Arts Commission. The following two come before BPPC because the work is proposed to be placed in Bidwell Park.

c. Erin Wade Arts Mini-grant

Erin Wade would make four or five sculptures from materials collected in the annual Bidwell Park cleanup. The artwork would be light weight, temporary, and placed through the Park. She could provide sketches.

Commissioners discussed concerns about stability and public safety, possible other locations, and that it may make public aware of the trash left about in the park.

From the public: Gregg Payne said the press could not resist it. An example of something inexpensive that works.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO CONCEPTUALLY APPROVE THE PROJECT, WITH LOCATIONS AND MORE DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION AT A FUTURE MEETING IF FUNDING IS APPROVED. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-3.

YES: WOOD, LUCAS, EMMERICH AND OBER

NO: BARRETT, CANDELA, WALKER

d. Janice Hofmann Arts Mini-grant

Janice Hofmann proposes to create a high relief, clay, Mechoopda Indian Tribe mural to be placed in the interior of First and Verbena Restoration Area. Mary Gardner, Arts Project Coordinator, said the piece will cost more than \$2,000 and the artist would be responsible for finding the remaining funding needed for the project.

From the public: Gregg Payne said you cannot go wrong with mini-grant programs. It is a personal work of the artist.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MOVED TO CONCEPTUALLY APPROVE THE PROJECT, WITH LOCATIONS AND MORE DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION AT A FUTURE MEETING IF FUNDING IS APPROVED. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

4.4 Update of the Verbena Fields (1st and Verbena) Restoration Area

This project is a cooperative effort among several agencies, with the majority of funding coming from State Water Resources Control Board Grant. Susan Mason gave a presentation showing the area as it is now and describing plans for restoration.

4.5 Review and Consideration of Draft Comanche Creek/Thomassen Property Vegetation Management Plan

Jim Martin, consultant with Design, Community and Environment of Berkeley, California, submitted the Comanche Creek Vegetation Management Plan and invited comments and suggestions from BPPC and the public. The plan focuses on protecting the corridor, identifying animal and plant species, eliminating non-native plants, providing wildlife habitat and controlling negative impacts of human use. It is basically an inventory of the existing conditions of site and is does not provide

recommendations regarding use of the area. A management plan for the property will be addressed in the future. Commission agree the property must stay open to the public.

From the public: Susan Mason said that she had a lot of her comments on the Plan, which she would provide to staff.

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

Present at 9:00 pm Chair Wood, Commissioners Emmerich, Barrett, Walker, Candela, Lucas, and Ober

4.6 Review and Consideration of Cooperative Programming Between the City and the Chico Park and Recreation District (CARD)

CARD applied for a permit to hold a skateboard camp six mornings a week from June 9 to August 9, 2008 at Humboldt Neighborhood Park (skate park). Cost of the camp will be \$60/week and the Park will be closed to the public during the 8:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. camp hours.

Commissioners voiced some concern about displacing those who cannot afford the cost of the camp and asked that CARD provide the Commission with a report on the program in the fall.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.
COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

4.7 Review and Consideration of an Art Project for City Plaza Restroom

William EverOne painted the mural of a trolley on the north side of City Plaza restrooms, and has submitted a proposal to paint another trolley on the south side facing Fifth Street. It will be funded by the City's Mural Art Treatment capital project.

From the public: Gregg Payne said Mr. EverOne did a great job on the first project so it is natural to follow through with this proposal.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT.
COMMISSIONER BARRETT SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

4.8 Report from the Master Management Committee Meeting of 03-10-08 (Commissioners Lucas, Candela and Walker)

a. Review and consideration of a request to officially name the Sycamore

Creek restoration area in Lower Bidwell Park.

Commissioners agreed on a name for this area and possibly will name other areas as well. Each name sign would have a small plaque below it saying “another volunteer project”.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO SIGN THE AREA: *SYCAMORE RESTORATION AREA (ANOTHER VOLUNTEER PROJECT)*. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0

b. Consideration of capital projects for Proposition 40 grant funds

A bridge in Upper Park had been approved for \$220,000 of Prop 40 funds, but it cannot be built by the 2010 grant deadline. Commissioners discussed other possible park projects for the money. Suggested projects for funding included restrooms on north side at One Mile Recreation Area, a large wind chime at some park location, funding for a disc golf course, complete Children’s Playground, and a pit restroom at Horseshoe Lake/Observatory,

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE UP TO \$150,000 FOR A PERMANENT RESTROOM ON THE NORTH SIDE OF ONE MILE COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1.

YES: EMMERICH, BARRETT, WALKER, LUCAS, CANDELA, OBER
NO: WOOD

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE UP TO \$20,000 TO PURCHASE A SWING SET FOR CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND. COMMISSIONER BARRETT SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-3.

YES:, BARRETT, WALKER, LUCAS, OBER
NO: CANDELA, EMMERICH, WOOD

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE REMAINING \$52,000 FOR A RESTROOM IN UPPER PARK. THE MOTION WAS NOT SECONDED.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MOVED TO NOT ALLOCATE THE \$52,000 TO A PROJECT AT THIS TIME. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1.

YES: EMMERICH, BARRETT, WALKER, LUCAS, CANDELA, OBER
NO: WOOD

4.9 Consideration of Establishing a “Volunteer of the Month” Recognition Program

Chair Wood said the recognition could be tied to creative ideas and not just given for hours worked. Commissioners agreed that would be in line with what has been done in the past and agreed to continue with the present recognition procedure.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager’s Report

- a. DCBA City Plaza Art Activity – permit for chalk drawings will be approved as before.
- b. Ceres Neighborhood Park - If approved by Council, a property owner ballot will be sent for a possible landscape and lighting district.
- c. Graffiti on trees in Bidwell Park – graffiti is concentrated at a few sites and probably can be stopped; graffiti on Sycamore trees is simple to correct and less visible.
- d. Budget Update.
- e. Council Actions – information was provided on possible ways to improve safety when using bollards.
- f. Correspondence – none

5.2 Monthly Reports

Park Maintenance and Rangers – received and filed

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report – received and filed

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report – received and filed

5.5 Correspondence – A proposal from Francis Farley to preserve and develop John Bidwell’s old wagon road (Humboldt Road) as an historic park.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Chair Wood asked about the punishment for an off-road driver who left tracks in the field near the entrance to Upper Park. Assistant City Manager Beardsley said the driver has been cited for two counts and restitution has not been decided yet. Assistant City Attorney Rock said she has been working on the new administrative citation process and fees for nine years, which now is in effect. The City collects the fees, which start at \$100 for most park violations.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. to the next regular meeting of April 28, 2008.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Lisa Emmerich, Vice-Chair
James Walker
Michael Candela
Stephen Lucas
Richard Ober
Tom Barrett

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Alica M . Rock, Assistant City Attorney
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 31 , 2008

Commissioner Walker asked to remove this item from Consent Agenda

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 31, 2008

Commissioner Walker asked when the capital projects for Prop 40 funds in Item 4.8 (b) would be going to the City Council. Interim Assistant City Manager (IACM) Beardsley responded that it will tentatively be discussed at the all-day Budget Meeting on June 3, 2008.

Commissioner Lucas wanted “Keep the property open to the public” added to Item 4.5 regarding discussion of the Comanche Creek Vegetation Management Plan.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 31, 2008 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

4.2 Review and Consideration of a Request from TJ Farms Carriage Company to Provide Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides in Bidwell Park

TJ Farms requested permission to access the no-vehicle section of South Park Drive and to remove the bollards so that they can use the pedestrian bridges to cross over to Peterson Drive for a safer, shorter ride. The Company is willing to provide insurance naming the City as additional insured. Staff proposes that a park use permit for each ride be taken out to notify staff when the carriage and horse would be in the Park, and to monitor the activity. For safety, two people would be driving the carriage.

Tom Moss, of TJ Farms said the rides would be for about an hour in the Park and the horse is not bothered at all by the public. The Commissioners expressed concerns regarding allowing carriages in the no-vehicle section of the South Park Drive and suggested an alternative route of starting at Cedar Grove, crossing over the bridge at Manzanita, and back across the Cedar Grove bridge.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVE, FOR ONE YEAR, HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES FROM CEDAR GROVE EAST TO MANZANITA, OVER TO PETERSON DRIVE WEST TO CROSS CEDAR GROVE BRIDGE. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO ALLOW, FOR ONE MONTH, THE CARRIAGE TO USE 1/4 MILE OF BIKE PATH OFF SOUTH PARK DRIVE TO INTERSECT PETERSON DRIVE. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1.

YES: WOOD, CANDELA, EMMERICH, LUCAS, WALKER, AND OBER

NO: BARRETT

Staff and Mr. Moss will test the viability of this alternative route and will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

4.3 Update on Phase II of the 8th Street Reconstruction Project

Bob Greenlaw, Senior Civil engineer, and Lane Green, Associate Civil Engineer, presented the conceptual design for Phase II of the project. Among the modifications that were made include; a round-about was redesigned to a standard T intersection, plans to allow ADA parking and ADA accessibility to Picnic Area #12, installing a split rail fence along east 8th at Forest and El Monte for biker safety and to guide people to the safer El Monte park entrance.

From the public:

Concerns regarding parking at the El Monte entrance and potential noise and other problems at night were presented by neighborhood residents Jon Luvaas, Brian Boswell, Neil Mc Cabe, Nora Todenhogan, Claudia Rawlins, Jeff Sampo, Christian Todenhogan, and Mike Von Krist. Commissioner Walker said trying to improve access to the Park has had unintended consequences.

Chair Wood requested three more parking spaces on 8th Street to the left of Forest and to move the bus stop west, closer to the Cedar Grove. Engineer Green said an ADA accessible parking space also requires building an accessible path from it into the Park.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO ASK BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (BCAG) TO MOVE THE PROPOSED BUS STOP NEAR FOREST AVENUE TO THE WEST, AND TO PUT IN SIX PARKING SPACES INCLUDING ONE ADA SPACE CLOSER TO FOREST AVENUE. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 7-0

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO HAVE NO ADA PARKING ON 8TH STREET NEAR EL MONTE, AND TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT PICNIC SITE #12 SO THAT IT IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE. COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-3.

YES: WALKER, OBER, BARRETT AND EMMERICH

NO: WOOD, LUCAS, AND CANDELA

Break from 9:00 to 9:10

Present at 9:10: Wood, Emmerich, Barrett, Walker, Candela, Lucas and Ober.

4.4 Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of 04/14/08 (Commissioners Candela, Lucas and Walker)

Review and consideration of a request to allow para-gliding in Upper Bidwell Park

Jon Stallman presented a request to allow paragliding from six possible take-off points along the north rim trail in Upper Park. The Chico Municipal Code currently prohibits paragliding and hang-gliding in Bidwell Park. Mr. Stallman said that he represents pilots registered with US Hang gliding and Paragliding Association, who will follow FAA airspace rules and would self-monitor to make sure that only licensed pilots paraglide in the park. They hike to take-off points with equipment in their backpack and take off, if conditions are favorable. It takes two to twenty steps toward the edge to get off the ground, and they typically land in a small area near Horseshoe Lake. Mr. Stallman also said that the Paragliding Association will provide insurance for the activity.

Commissioner Ober asked if all six launch sites are needed and whether the group can get by with only three. Mr. Stallman said that this would be okay. Commissioner Emmerich questioned whether this is an appropriate activity in Upper Park, expressing concerns regarding the effects on the pristine nature and park user's experiences.

IACM Beardsley stated that the project will require environmental review, which would most likely include a botanical survey, but that it should be a limited review.

From the public:

Carla Moreno, and Phyllis Lindley spoke against para-gliding in Upper Park.

Shad Preston, Kurt Jorgensen and Kris Koenig spoke for para-gliding in Upper Park.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THAT THE REQUEST BE SENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR A POSSIBLE CODE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW PARAGLIDING IN UPPER PARK, PENDING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0

YES: WOOD, WALKER, LUCAS, CANDELA, BARRETT

NO: EMMERICH, OBER

4.5 Report from the Tree-Finance Committee Meeting of 04-24-08 (Commissioners Barrett, Emmerich and Lucas)

a. Review and consideration of establishing a policy regarding donations and/or sponsorships by corporate and non-profit organizations

Committee recommends no change in the policy as any special case outside of guidelines would come back to BPPC. Commercial logos are allowed only during special events.

b. Update on revisions to tree preservation regulations

Committee is looking at three items: 1) heritage tree program, 2) tree preservation, and 3) tree canopies. They need one more meeting before bringing a final recommendation to BPPC. Comments can still be submitted for further discussion. Commissioner Lucas expressed concerns with the provision that any person can designate a tree as a Heritage Tree.

4.6 Consideration of a Request from Chair Wood to Support Senate Bill 1345 Concerning Volunteers

IACM reported that SB 1345 did not get out of committee, but other bills are being considered that would extend an exemption for paying volunteers prevailing wage for public works projects.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE MAYOR SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BILLS THAT WOULD SUPPORT NOT PAYING PREVAILING WAGES TO VOLUNTEERS ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Barrett expressed concerns with recommending a “blanket” approval on bills without seeing and knowing what other items may be included in the bill. Commissioner Candela withdrew the motion

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager’s Report

- a. Goat grazing in Verbena Fields restoration project** - continue through May
- b. Ceres Neighborhood Park** - ballots to approve the Landscape and Lighting District (LLD) are due by May 20, 2008
- c. Observatory annual Report** - submitted and presented by Kris Keonig
- d. Council Action**
 - 1) City Council review of bollard issue
 - 2) City of Chico/CARD Ad-Hoc Committee meeting on 04/30/08
- e. Correspondence** - letter from Gregg Payne on disc golf at Comanche Creek

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF MAY 27, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Lisa Emmerich, Vice-Chair
Michael Candela
Stephen Lucas
Richard Ober

Commissioners Absent: James Walker
Tom Barrett

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Special Recognition

Chair Wood presented a certificate of recognition to Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for volunteering over 100 hours of work on the Yahi Trail.

1.3 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 28, 2008

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2008 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

Commissioner James Walker arrived at 7:10 p.m.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda None

4.2 Review and Consideration of Parcel Map 08-01 (Orr/McCraday) at 488 East Third Street

Pursuant to City's Bidwell Park Sphere of Influence Policy, BPPC is asked to give

advisory comments on this proposed development near Annie's Glen. A pre-application Neighborhood Meeting was held on May 7. Final action will be taken by the Planning Commission.

Associate Planner Greg Redeker was present to discuss the project. He asked for comments on four areas:

- a. Type of fence desired and any adjacent landscaping
- b. Should gates be allowed from private lots into Annie's Glen
- c. What type of lighting to include
- d. Any restrictions on height or placement of structures to be built

From the public:

The developers Pat Orr and Mike McCrady plan to construct two two-story houses on the parcel and wants to hear recommendations to guide future planning; He also would like to trade some City property to square up the parcel, but Associate Planner Redeker indicated that that would be very complicated because it would require a zoning change.

The Commission made the following comments and consensus:

1. Minimize the impact of the project on Annie's Glenn.
2. Install a wrought iron fence to discourage graffiti, with some form of vegetation on owners' side.
3. Encourage gates from the private lots.
4. Low lighting compatible to that at the One Mile Recreation Area.
5. That the structures be painted with colors compatible with the Park
6. Try to increase the 15 foot setback.
7. That stepping stones instead of a path be installed.

4.3 Update on the Commission's Consideration of a Request from TJ Farms Carriage Company to Provide Horse-drawn Carriage Rides in Bidwell Park

Interim Assistant City Manager Beardsley took the carriage ride on a busy Sunday morning from Cedar Grove to the bridge at One Mile. He saw no conflicts occur between the carriage and the public. Commission discussed possible routes throughout Lower Park. The Commission had previously approved a designated route that is to begin and end at Cedar Grove and the vehicles already has the legal right to travel the full length of Peterson Drive.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO EXTEND, TO ONE YEAR, PERMISSION TO USE 1/4 MILE OF BIKE PATH OFF SOUTH PARK DRIVE TO INTERSECT PETERSON DRIVE. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager's Report

- a. **Ceres Neighborhood Park** - the measure did not pass for the second time
- b. **Verbena Fields Restoration Project** - going out for bid to build this fall
- c. **Council Action**
 - i. **Budget Review** - budget was cut 7.5% resulting in reduction of personnel, fewer hours for lifeguards at the pool, an potentially cutting back on tree

planting and trimming programs.

- ii. **Review of Proposition 40 Grant Funds** - Park Department has been recommended to receive \$175,000 in federal recreational trail grant funding on a proposal for work trails in Upper Bidwell Park. It should take about one year to do an environmental review first.

d. **Status of paragliding in Bidwell Park**

e. **Correspondence**

5.2 Monthly Reports

Park Crews/Rangers received and filed

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

Two interns are ready to begin implementing the tree inventory program. Ten trees fell during the storm last week and staff received 60 calls on branches down.

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report received and filed

5.5 Correspondence

Letter from Delores Sideker regarding deer pens.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Gregg Payne brought in some photos of possible art work he could do on the freeway pillars. IACM Beardsley said there is no money for that now; Chair Wood noted there will be construction on the freeway.

Gregg Payne also informed the Commission that he found someone to build the metal tetrahedron base for his wind chime that was formerly approved by the Commission for Humboldt Park. Commission agreed to send this issue to the Ad Hoc Art Committee.

Commissioner Walker asked when BPPC would review the Master Management Plan. IACM Beardsley said possibly July or August, 2008.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. to the next regular meeting of June 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF JUNE 30, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Tom Barrett
Stephen Lucas
Richard Ober
Michael Candela

Commissioners Absent: Lisa Emmerich
Jim Walker

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Assistant City Attorney Alicia Rock
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant
Ruben Martinez, Dir. of Operations & Maintenance

1.2 Special Recognition

Chair Wood presented a certificate of recognition to Richard Stein, of the Chico Rotary Club, for their donation of materials and time in renovating the horseshoe pits in Lower Park.

1.3 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of May 27, 2008

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2008 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-0-1.

AYES: WOOD, LUCAS, OBER AND CANDELA

ABSTAIN: BARRETT.

3. NOTICED PUBIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda None

**4.2 Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of 06-16-08
(Commissioners Candela, Lucas and Walker)**

a. Review and consideration of the Chico Municipal Code (CMC) regarding closing of neighborhood parks and removal of violators of park rules

1) Park closures

Section 12R.04.370 of CMC provides for closing certain parks from midnight to 5:00 a.m. Committee recommends such closure be continued and be extended to include neighborhood parks as well. City Plaza closure would remain from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.

Ranger Jessica Erdahl said she finds the rule to be a good tool for moving people along without having to make an arrest.

Chair Wood reminded Commissioners that some people enjoy the park in late night. There are other rules on the books to exclude bad behavior.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO CONTINUE WITH AND EXTEND MIDNIGHT TO 5:00 A.M. PARK CLOSURE TO ALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND THAT PARK NEIGHBORS BE NOTIFIED WHEN THE AMENDMENT GOES TO THE CITY COUNCIL. COMMISSIONER BARRETT SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-1.
AYES: CANDELA, BARRETT, OBER AND LUCAS
NO: WOOD

2) 24-hour removal

Sections 12R.20.020 and 12R.20.020 provide for removal of violators of park rules from Sycamore Pool and Humboldt Neighborhood Park for a period or 24 hours. The Committee recommends such removal be extended to include all city parks, playgrounds, and greenways.

Ranger Jessica Urdahl said she can site violators at other areas without the 24-hour removal but cannot ask them to leave. Urdahl said that the problem is that once violators are removed from these areas, they just move to another park or area without this restriction. Ranger Bob Donohue said many violators fail to appear and fail to pay fines so there are little consequences. With this addition, violators can be immediately removed.

From the public: Jane Turney said one warning or citation should be enough to expect compliance.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVE THE 24 HOUR REMOVAL POLICY AMENDMENT SUBJECT TO ATTORNEY'S LANGUAGE. COMMISSIONER BARRETT SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0

4.3 Report from the Art Committee Meeting of 06/25/08 (Commissioners Emmerich, Lucas and Ober)

a. Review of proposed wind chimes at Humboldt Park

Commissioner Lucas said Committee had a good discussion about the process of the wind chime projects. They will meet with members of the Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Committee sometime next month and come back to BPPC.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager's Report

- a. Verbena Fields restoration project - bid opening on July 17
- b. Paragliding Update - item will go to Council on September 2
- c. Bidwell Park Master Management Plan - plan to BPPC at August meeting
- d. Chico Rod and Gun Club annual report submitted
- e. Council Action - review of Prop 40 funding - IACM said that he has a suggested acquisition project at Annie's Glenn that could be funded with these funds and requested that the Master Management Plan Committee review this item.
- f. Iron Canon Fish Ladder Project - public meeting on 07-22-08 in CR 2

Pine and Cyprus Streets will be closed for a weekend in August to install the underpass. An agreement with Silver Dollar BMX is close to final approval for a move of this activity from the fair grounds to the three acres the City purchased for this purpose.

5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report Received and filed. Fires have slowed activity.

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

The Urban Forest Intern will be starting the forest inventory. Staff is looking at Wildwood Park soccer fields to improve the condition and routine maintenance.

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report Received and filed.

5.5 Correspondence

- a. E-mail regarding Humboldt Neighborhood Park. This item is sent to Master Management Plan Committee.
- b. Fax regarding paragliding in Bidwell Park

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. to the next regular scheduled of July 28, 2008.

APPROVED:

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF JULY 28, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Tom Barrett
Michael Candela
Lisa Emmerich
Stephen Lucas
Richard Ober
Jim Walker

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Ruben Martinez, Dir. of Operations & Maintenance

1.2 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of May 27, 2008

COMMISSIONER WALKER NOTED A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR ON PAGE 2 UNDER ITEM 4.2 TO CORRECT COMMISSIONER'S OBER NAME AND MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2008 AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

AYES: WOOD, LUCAS, OBER, CANDELA, EMMERICH, BARRETT AND WALKER.
NAYS: NONE

3. NOTICED PUBIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda None

4.2 Review and Discussion of Classes Offered by the Chico Area Recreation District - Humboldt Neighborhood Park (Skateboard).

Aerin Farrell from the Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) provided a report on recent classes offered at the Humboldt Neighborhood Park. CARD would also like to discuss the possibility of future classes at the facility.

Commissioners Walker and Lucas questioned how the program interfaced with regular park users and whether anyone was displaced. Mr. Farrell responded that there were very little problems due to low attendance in the mornings and that CARD would like to look at possibly expanding the program to include after school sessions

next year. Commissioners Wood and Ober commented that additional programs in the afternoons may help provide needed supervision at the facility.

4.3 Report from the Joint Art Committee and Art in Public Places Meeting of 7/09/08 (Commissioners Emmerich, Lucas, and Ober).

a. Review of Proposed Wind Chime at Humboldt Park.

Art Committee Lucas provided a report on the joint meeting with the Arts Commission's Art in Public Places Committee and stated that the Committee is recommending submitting a letter of support to the Arts Commission to consider funding the project.

Comments were provided by Commissioners Walker and Barrett regarding safety, noise, and whether the neighbors had been contacted regarding the project. Gregg Payne responded that the tetrahedron frame will be structurally sound and that neighbors had been contacted in the past.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE COMMISSION CHAIR WOOD TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE ARTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE PROJECT BE FUNDED AND TO ADD A SUGGESTION THAT NEIGHBORS BE NOTIFIED OF ANY PUBLIC MEETING WHEN THIS ITEM IS TO BE DISCUSSED. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1.

AYES: EMMERICH, WALKER, WOOD, LUCAS, OBER AND CANDELA
NAY: BARRETT.

4.4 Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of 7/14/08 (Commissioners Candela, Lucas, and Walker).

a. Consideration of a Request to Allow Reservations of the Humboldt Neighborhood (Skate) Park for Private Activities.

Committee Chair Walker provided a report on the Committee's review of a request from Christy Peterson that the Commission consider allowing individuals or groups to reserve the Humboldt Neighborhood (Skate) Park for birthday parties and other private activities. Walker stated that the Committee discussed possible scenarios such as limiting the age groups or times in which the park could be reserved.

Commissioners raised concerns regarding potential liability and enforcement issues, and not wanting to restrict other patrons from using the park during reservations. The Commission did not take any no action on this item and therefore the park will remain unavailable for private reservations at this time.

b. Consideration of a Capital Project for Proposition 40 Grant Funds.

The Interim Assistant City Manager (IACM) reported that the Committee considered allocating all or a portion of the remaining \$52,000 in Prop 40 funds for the potential acquisition of private property adjacent to Annie's Glenn to provide a buffer for the newly installed bike path and park. Committee Chair Walker stated that the Committee was in favor of purchasing the property, but wanted to pursue using other funds, such as park facility funds for the purchase. It was the consensus of the Commission to support the purchase of the property with funds other than Proposition 40 funds, if possible.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager's Report

- a. Verbena Fields Restoration Project - The IACM indicated that the low bid of \$583,000 for construction was received and that the permitting process is going well.
- b. Paragliding Update - The proponent for the project has paid for a \$1,500 botanical survey and is willing to fund the remainder of the environmental review costs if approved by the City Council on 9/2/08.
- c. Bidwell Park Master Management Plan - The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is complete and will be considered by the Commission at its 8/25/08 meeting. The Commission will also be considering the disc golf component of the plan, which is the last remaining element that has not been approved by the Commission.
- d. Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Project - The EIR for the project is moving forward and will soon be out for public review next week. The EIR will be presented to the Commission for public review and comment at its 8/25/08 meeting. The Commission was also asked to schedule a special meeting to consider final approval of the EIR. The Commission scheduled this meeting to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 in Conference Room 1 of the Council Chamber building.
- e. Other items - IACM reported, that due to budget cuts, the Park Division will have one less maintenance worker position but that the crews should be able to absorb the work due to good team work.

5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report Received and filed.

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

The Urban Forest Manager reported that work is continuing on revisions to the tree ordinance. It was also reported that the Street Tree crews have also reduced hourly staffing, and that there will be less tree removals and planting due to budget cuts.

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report Received and filed.

5.5 Correspondence None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to the next regular meeting of August 25, 2008.

APPROVED:

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Stephen Lucas
Richard Ober
Michael Candela
Lisa Emmerich
Jim Walker

Commissioners Absent: Tom Barrett

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Assistant City Attorney Alicia Rock
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant
Ruben Martinez, Dir. of Operations & Maintenance

1.2 Special Recognition

Chair Wood presented a certificate of appreciation to Boy Scout Troop 2 and Cub Scout Pack 302, and their leader Randy Stein, for their work in watering small Blue and Live Oak trees near Horseshoe Lake.

1.3 Public Comments None

Commissioner Tom Barrett arrived at 7:08 p.m.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Minutes from Meeting of July 28, 2008

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda None

4.2 Review and Consideration of the Placement of Temporary Art in Bidwell Park

Artist Erin Wade showed illustrations of the art she would like to construct from garbage and items collected from Bidwell Park during the Butte Environmental Council annual Creek Cleanup Event. The artwork would be displayed between

October 18 and November 01, 2008 in lower Bidwell Park. They would not be harmed by weather. At Commissioner Ober's request, she agreed to put up interpretive signs.

Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager, suggested the pieces be stored inside over night. Because of the time that would take, Ms. Wade would then shorten the time for display. Commissioner Walker said he believes the Park is a work of art in itself.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROJECT AS DESCRIBED, WITH THE ADDITION OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNS. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2.

YES: WOOD, EMMERICH, BARRETT, LUCAS AND OBER

NO: CANDELA AND WALKER

4.3 Consideration of the Environmental Review for the Proposed Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Rehabilitation Project in Upper Bidwell Park

The City has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) on this project and the period for public review is from 08/04/08 to 09/03/08. Tonight is for review and public comments. Final adoption will be considered at a special BPPC meeting on September 10, 2008.

From the public:

Eric See, Chico Area Flyfishers, supports the project.

Roger Cole, Streamminders, supports the project. There were once 1,000 salmon going upstream and now are about 300.

Arlene Ward, Mechoopda Indian Tribe, is concerned about the staging area, the impact on roads coming into the site, and that ladders down stream might make Iron Canyon ineffective. The Tribe should be called in for Section 106 consultation.

Commissioner discussion:

Commissioner Candela commented on the increased traffic and impacts on the road. Commissioner Ober and Emmerich asked about the cultural resources and when further study of these and when the study will be conducted. Commissioner Walker stated that he was in favor of the end product, but that he had concerns since this is the first major construction project, with heavy equipment and excavation, that has been conducted in Upper Park. In response to his questions regarding the impacts on raptors, Susan Strachan said that the project will be timed to not interfere with the nesting season and that the site will have on-site spotters looking for nests during construction.

4.4 Consideration of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update and Associated Park Improvement Project

Tonight Bidwell Park and Playground Commission is to:

- 1) Review and consider a recommendation to the Council regarding certification of the Environmental Impact Report recently completed and provided.

- 2) Make a recommendation to Council regarding the Disc Golf/Trailhead Area concept related to developing a 18-hole long course and a 18-hole short course (Options A), a 18-hole long course and a 12-hole short course (Option B), a 18-hole long course only (Option C), or restoration (Option D).

In attendance to provide information were Petra Unger and Curtis Allen, from EDAW consultants, and Brendan Vieg, City of Chico Senior Planner. Ms. Unger gave some history of the process taken in preparing the Master Plan.

Chair Wood announced that each speaker from the public could speak for two minutes. John Merz called for point of order and requested each be given three minutes. BPPC approved (4-3, Wood, Walker and Candela) to allow three minute limits.

From the public:

Jerry Olio - protect the pristine nature, some activities are not good in the Park

Francis Farley - concerned about possible changes to Humboldt Wagon Road

Ken Anderson - this is a special spot for a family sport, don't take it away

Nancy Park - has 620 signatures to support keeping Upper Park Wild

Grace Marvin - supports restoration of the area (Option D); keep Upper Park wild

Matt Meuter - build the course to keep citizens active; land was purchased by tax payers

Rachel Smith - visited disc golf courses elsewhere, and there are methods, such as nets around trees to protect them. willing to help with finances to keep up the course.

Amanda Biddle - disc golf community has grown and cares for the environment

Robert Morgan - there is a lot of area and we should share it

Cody Buchholz - no other place would be as feasible or as nice for a course.

Break from 8:25 to 8:40 p.m.

Present at 8:40: Wood, Emmerich, Candela, Walker, Ober, Barrett and Lucas

Boy Scouts Kiefer and Conlon McCartney and David Hines - the course at Sherwood Forest is too easy, the Bidwell course is more challenging.

Kim Laslow - a course would be costly to develop and maintain, and would limit public access to 25 acres of public lands.

Julian Zener - development will increase use and negative impact; there is a dangerous history along the cliff.

Jim Mellen - approve Option A; develop trails all can use

Neil McCabe - large part of the game is enjoying the environment

Jennifer Nelsen - likes Option A; other children's activities require high costs

Randy Abbott - he likes disc golf but a course should not be on this fragile area

Kimberly King - the course gives affordable recreation for all citizens, and the land was purchased by City Council without a specific dedicated use in mind.

Mark Bohn - likes Option A, not D; we can do all activities there in harmony

Dusty Carr - supports Option A; disc golf is why he first visited Upper Park

Cory Beynon - likes Option A; came to school here partly for this course

Juanita Sumner - she is a tree hugging lover of nature and supports disc golf at this site; organized sports cost too much for a family.

Phil Johnson - disagrees with comments in the EIR regarding paving and roads

Susan Baldwin - consider a course closer to town; too far to drive to Ten Mile Rd.
Maria Phillips - a teacher who commends this civics lesson; the process should be very clean” but changes have been made she did not know about
Matthew Christopher - not a good place for a course; put one in a development
Todd Cathers - do Option A or move homeless out of Comanche Creek to use it
Christina Arangurn - disc golf is the latest mine field in the park and there will be others; Money is needed for maintenance, not new development
Josephine Guardino - Short courses should be at Caper Acres or Comanche Creek; Upper Park is designated for passive recreation; Blue Oaks difficult to regenerate
Justin Smith - not been able to protect the course so that’s why it is not better
Devan Hilligoss - don’t put our youth on the streets; do fundraisers for the course
Arlene Ward - review and mitigation, particularly regarding cultural and historic resources, has not been comprehensive to this point
Steve Bouttote - has set up other courses and will ask for donations to do this one
Tina Day - a disc golf mother; this site gets us away from daily lives
Mike Reilley - all living parks change; this area is not part of original Park deed.
Jim Aiva - likes Option A; there is no perfect solution; Lindo Channel one possible alternate location
Mark Hoover - plays disc golf with all ages of his family; can gather donations
Scott Etheridge - offered to volunteer concrete work; players are tolerant of others
Josh Cutler - wants the community to have this site for a long time; there is more than disc golf harming the trees

Break from 10:10 to 10:20 p.m.

Present at 10:20 p.m. Wood, Emmerich, Candela, Walker Ober, Lucas and Barrett

Jennifer Oman - need to connect with nature; keep the site and keep it healthy;
Matt Smith - he has sold a total of 12,700 since 1999 for \$11,000 taxes to City
Jane Turney - don’t teach children that having fun is more important than caring for environment; she supports restoration
Melinda Vasquez - don’t sanction this activity at this site, look at Lindo Channel
Patsy Schutz - do restoration; why support a special interest group’s selection of intensive recreation in such an sensitive area; it is a fiscal burden
John Merz - this is not a discussion of disc golf but a location issue relative to the ecology of the area; there are other places where it would be better to build it.
Lon Glazner - support Option A; he has set up a non-profit and built other projects (Nico Project) so knows it can be built with donations and support of the community.
Mike Tralander - no one is wrong but where is the solution? Comanche Creek
Gregg Payne - support Option A; future commissions can make changes
Susan Mason - Park has big back log of higher priority maintenance projects and no money;

Candela submitted four comments that were incorporated into the MMP. Staff feels modifications made to Plan were consistent with the Commission’s wishes.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO CHANGE LANGUAGE IN SECTION 0.SLU-7 OF THE MMP TO INSERT THE WORDS “WHERE FEASIBLE” IN PLACE OF “WHEN POSSIBLE AND/OR NECESSARY”. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED, WHICH CARRIED 4-3.

YES: CANDELA, WOOD, LUCAS AND WALKER

NO: EMMERICH, BARRETT AND OBER

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO CHANGE SECTION O.RC-1: TO READ AS “PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHICO RESIDENTS AND OTHERS IN THE PARK THAT CURRENTLY ARE NOT PROVIDED FO IN OTHER LOCAL SETTINGS, WHILE BALANCING THE NEED TO PROTECT THE PARK’S NATURAL RESOURCES”.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 7-0

Commissioner Barrett has questions about the adequacy of EIR, which might take another meeting to discuss. After, it was agreed the vote tonight was simply to signify if BPPC determines it to be adequate or inadequate.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 08-01 RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CERTIFY THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND ITS ASSOCIATED MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM.

COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5-2.

YES: CANDELA, WALKER, WOOD, OBER AND LUCAS

NO: BARRETT AND EMMERICH

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT OPTION D - THE RESTORATION OPTION IN REGARDS TO DISC GOLF PROVIDED IN THE DRAFT EIR

Commissioner discussion:

Commissioner Walker thinks this is a time to compromise. The area is not part of Annie’s deed. A course would have some affect on ecology, but mitigation measures are recommended. Financing for development of the course will not come from the City, but using Prop 40 funding is a strong possibility.

Commissioner Ober is frustrated with conversations that presented the issue as having disc golf at this site, or no disc golf at all. There are alternatives that should be pursued.

Commissioner Emmerich has heard tonight that if one does not like the site on Hwy. 32 for disc golf, you are anti-family, anti-exercise, etc. She supports Option D.

Commissioner Lucas learned tonight that the land was purchased without any designated use or preservation in mind. We are talking about 38 acres, with 1,360 acres preserved elsewhere on the south side of the Park. He supports the course in this location since it already existed when the City purchased the property and that there is interest in the community to provide donations and/or volunteer services for development of the course.

Chair Wood said Annie Bidwell’s intent was for the Park to be used for recreation and this is an opportunity to do so. People will develop appreciation and take better care of it. The course has been there 14 years unsupervised and

improvements have not been allowed so it is at its worst.

Commissioner Candela said all use has impact and believes that if it was fully developed that the damage may be lessened. The recreational benefit is compatible to Highway 32. He supports some form of disc golf there.

Commissioner Barrett has been going to the site since 1990 when cows were grazing on it. He supported disc golf there when the use was light, but use has increased and destruction is much worse. The mitigation presented won't work. Most people he has seen there are not responsible. The destruction is not worth the recreation. He supports the restoration Option D.

COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED COMMISSIONER BARRETT'S MOTION FOR OPTION D, WHICH FAILED 3-4.

YES: BARRETT, EMMERICH, OBER

NO: CANDELA, WOOD, LUCAS AND WALKER

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION OF BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH INCORPORATION OF OPTION A (AN 18-HOLE LONG COURSE AND AN 18-HOLE SHORT COURSE WITH PARKING LOT ALTERNATIVE A) IN THE DISC GOLF/TRAILHEAD AREA CONCEPT PLAN WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT 1) MITIGATION BE IN PLACE, 2) MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE FACILITY NOT BE THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY, AND 3) A PERIODIC REVIEW TAKE PLACE TO EVALUATE THE CONDITION OF THE SITE. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-3.

YES: WALKER, LUCAS, WOOD AND CANDELA

NO: BARRETT, EMMERICH AND OBER

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager's Report

- a. Verbena Fields - close to having final permits approved and awarding a contract
- b. Paragliding update - going to Council next Tuesday, September 2, 2008.

5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report Received and filed

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

A tree service is starting the second pruning along South Park Drive on Tuesday.

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report Received and filed

5.5 Correspondence

Letter from David Ramirez from the Mechoopda Indian Tribe in appreciation of the work done for them by Dennis Beardsley, the Commission.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Beardsley announced Park Watch is having its annual barbeque at Cedar Grove on

September 13, 2008 and the Commission is invited to attend.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 a.m. to the next special meeting of September 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 1.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 1.

Commissioner Present: Acting Chair Lisa Emmerich
 Tom Barrett
 Richard Ober
 Jim Walker
 Steve Lucas

Commissioners Absent: Chair David Wood
 Michael Candela

Staff: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
 Linda Herman, Administrative Analyst
 Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA None

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda None

4.2 Consideration of the Environmental Review for the Proposed Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Rehabilitation Project in Upper Bidwell Park

Comments from the public:

Susan Strachan, CSUC Research Foundation, summarized the process and said this meeting raps up the EIR phase. If the project is and EIR is approved tonight, next week they will begin applying for grant funding for construction. Construction should begin June 1, 2009 and be out of the channel by October 15, 2009.

John Lane, from Chico Environmental, said idling will be monitored by the Air Quality Board and they will enforce proper conditions.

Comments from Commission:

Commissioner Ober asked to discuss the following mitigation measures:

- i. Measure 2.J. (Air Quality) regarding how long will the generators and equipment be idling, the measure defines specific conditions that equipment and generators were not to idle for long periods of time;
- ii. Measure C 1. (g) (Biological Resources) clarification that the spawning

- and rearing habitat referenced is for river lamprey; and
- iii. Goal 3 (Fish Ladder Construction), regarding the placement of concrete buttresses to support structures.

Commissioner Barrett asked about rock removal and worker safety, nesting birds, and about the restoration aspects in reseeded and re contouring compacted soil. John Lane said that after construction, the disturbed soil will be monitored for two years to ensure that native annual grassland is restored and no new weeds are introduced.

Acting Chair Emmerich suggested a sign be put up at Salmon Hole making people aware of the activity on the rim.

Commissioner Walker confirmed that access to Upper Park would be allowed during construction. He also commented that this is the biggest project in the history of Bidwell Park, and that ironically smaller projects often get much closer scrutiny. Commissioner Lucas commented that it is ironic that the biology report was written by a person who had commented on the disc golf component of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan that the BPPC is incapable of monitoring and verifying the impacts.

COMMISSIONER OBER MOVED TO ADOPT THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE IRON CANYON FISH LADDER REHABILITATION PROJECT AND TO APPROVE THE PROJECT. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0 YES: OBER, WALKER, EMMERICH, BARRETT AND LUCAS
ABSENT: WOOD AND CANDELA

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Interim Assistant City manager Beardsley said Verbena Fields construction has started and will be completed this fall.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting on September 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Tom Barrett
Stephen Lucas
Michael Candela
Lisa Emmerich
Jim Walker

Commissioners Absent: Richard Ober

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Linda Herman, Management Analyst
Alicia Rock, Assistant City Attorney
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant
Ruben Martinez, Dir. of Operations & Maintenance

1.2 Special Recognition

Volunteer Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters and Chair Wood presented a certificate of appreciation to Chico's Men of Honor from CSUC for over 100 hours of work cleaning Big Chico Creek and to VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) for serving the community, especially in the Park on weekends and special holidays.

In response to Commissioner Wood's request, Volunteer Coordinator Smith-Peters recounted some of the many activities supported by volunteers in the Park. They include Make a Difference Day on October 25, third grade classes from Park View and Sierra View elementary school adopted picnic sites, Chico High School Native Plant Greenhouse project for Bidwell Park; and North Rim Adventure Sports official adoption of the "B" Trail, and many more.

1.3 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meetings of August 25, 2008 and September 10, 2008.

Commissioner Emmerich asked that two spelling corrections be made in the 09-10-08 minutes. The Commission approved (6-0) the minutes with the noted corrections.

2.2 Approval of Application and Permit for Park Use from the CSU, Chico Department of Kinesiology for Cross Country 5K, 10K and Fun Run on November 15, 2008 - Upper Bidwell Park.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.
AYES: WOOD, EMMERICH, BARRETT, WALKER, CANDELA AND LUCAS
ABSENT: OBER

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from Consent Agenda None

4.2 Review and Consideration of a Request to Realign the Bike Path on the New 8th Street to a Path in Lower Bidwell Park

Senior Civil Engineer Bob Greenlaw and Associate Civil Engineer Lane Green said there is conflict between pedestrians and bikes on the bike path along 8th Street, especially at peak hours by Park View School. Staff is recommending that the path be realigned about 20 feet to the east for safety reasons. It would require no heavy equipment to do the work and the existing path would be brought back to natural vegetation state.

Comments from public: None

Commissioner Walker has ridden the path and thinks it should be moved a bit.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVE REALIGNMENT OF THE PATH ENTRANCE AT THE EAST END OF PARK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.
AYES: WOOD, EMMERICH, BARRETT, WALKER, CANDELA AND LUCAS
ABSENT: OBER

4.3 Report of the Trails/Safety Committee Meeting of 09/15/08 (Commissioners Barrett, Walker and Wood)

a. Review and consideration of naming trails and entrances in lower Bidwell Park

From the Public: Carla Moreno would like the new name signs to include what time the gates are opened.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO SEQUENTIALLY NUMBER ALL ENTRANCES INTO THE PARK, STARTING AT 4TH STREET AND ENDING AT THE END OF PETERSEN DRIVE, AND TO FORMALLY NAME THE VITA COURSE TRAIL AND THE CREEK SIDE TRAIL ALONG BIG CHICO CREEK IN LOWER BIDWELL PARK. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.
AYES: WOOD, EMMERICH, BARRETT, WALKER, CANDELA AND LUCAS
ABSENT: OBER

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager's Report

- a. Verbena Fields Restoration Project Update - heavy equipment onsite to do sculpturing in next few weeks.
- b. Council actions
 - Para-gliding - conceptually approved pending environmental review.
 - Nob Hill/Husa Ranch - approved allocation of \$75,000 toward improvements.
 - Wind Chime Project for Humboldt Park - proceed with environmental review and will form a site selection committee. Commissioner Lucas was appointed to the committee.
 - Mandated ethics training - Commissioners were requested to select their time and date to attend.

5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report Received and filed

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

Pruning work is finished on South Park Drive until next fiscal year;
Interns are doing a good job on street tree inventory;
East Eighth Street trees are being planted
Vallombrosa Street Plan is being completed

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report Received and filed

5.5 Correspondence None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Walker thinks the new dam at Sycamore Pool is working well and asked when picnic site that was damaged in the storm will be cleaned up from fallen debris. Grading on the Pine and Cypress underpass/bike path project will be completed after conduit is installed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. to the next regular meeting of October 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: David Wood, Chair
Tom Barrett
Michael Candela
Lisa Emmerich
Jim Walker
Richard Ober

Commissioners Absent: Stephen Lucas

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Denice Britton, Urban Forester
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Special Recognition

- a. Noon Exchange Club
Volunteer Coordinator Lise Smith-Peters and Chair Wood presented a certificate of appreciation to representatives George Joiner and William Campbell for all of the Club's community activities and for the exercise station they built in the Park.
- b. Park Watch - not available

1.3 Public Comments None

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of September 29, 2008

2.2 Approval of Application and Permit for the 3rd Annual Run for Food Event to be held in Lower Bidwell Park on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2008

2.3 Approval of a Request from Rabbi Mendy Zweibel of the Chabad Jewish Center to Place a Menorah at City Plaza from December 21, 2008 through December 30, 2008

This item was removed from Consent Agenda by Commissioner Ober.

2.4 Resolution of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission Amending Section 12R.04.370, Entitled "Closure of Certain Parks" to the Chico Municipal Code to Remove the Sunset Provision and Add Certain Parks

This item was removed from Consent Agenda by Commissioner Walker.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 2.1 AND 2.2 OF THE CONSENT

AGENDA. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

3. **NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of a Request from Rabbi Mendy Zweibel of the Chabad Jewish Center to Place a Menorah at City Plaza from December 21, 2008 through December 30, 2008**

Commissioner Ober wished to help the public understand that BPPC guides the use of facilities and that the use of religious symbols is decided on a case-by-case basis. Placement of the Menorah at City Plaza worked well last year.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST. COMMISSIONER EMMERICH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

- b. **Resolution of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission Amending Section 12R.04.370, Entitled "Closure of Certain Parks" to the Chico Municipal Code to Remove the Sunset Provision and Add Certain Parks**

Commissioner Walker pointed out a discrepancy in closing times of between 11:00 p.m. and 60 minutes before sunrise stated on the agenda and confirmed the closing times to be those stated in the Resolution.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE REMOVAL OF SUNSET CLAUSE TO CMC 12R.04.370 MAKING CLOSURE TIME IN PARKS FROM MIDNIGHT TO 5:00 A.M.. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-1
AYES: WOOD, BARRETT, CANDELA, EMMERICH AND WALKER
NOES: WOOD
ABSENT: LUCAS

4.2 Request from the Barber Neighborhood Association and Little Chico Creek Watershed Group to Install a Split Rail Fence and Allow Planting Trees on City Property - West 9th and Hazel Streets

The groups have approached the City with a desire to restore this area on Little Chico Creek and to eliminate illegal activity. They request a split rail fence be built on two sides of the 0.5 acre property owned by the City as part of the Little Chico Creek Greenway and some native trees be planted to improve the area's appearance.

From the public:

Linda Hamilton wants guidance in making the area an education and resource center for creek awareness.

Becky Strong, a neighbor, said it used to be a beautiful area but has become overgrown and dangerous from people who stay there for long periods of time.

Liz Stewart has researched the history of the neighborhood from 1841 and brought in an old map.

Paul Lieberman said they are about to bring their neighborhood plan to Council.

For information only; no motion required.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City manager's Report

- a. Verbena Fields restoration project update - now grading the site
- b. Annie's Glenn Bike Plath - the undercrossing is closed for the winter
- c. Windchime Committee Meeting - on November 4
- d. Council actions - none

Husa Ranch/Nob Hill landscape district goes to Council and could be combined with Children's Playground. A bid for One Mile restroom will go out in January.

5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report Received and filed

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report

Urban Forester Britton said the interns are working to complete tree inventory before the grant ends in March. Planting is done on East 8th Street and is doing well.

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report Received and filed.

5.5 Correspondence None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Barrett came upon a cycle event of about 30 people racing in Lindo Channel and asked if the Department knew if it. Interim Assistant City Manager Beardsley said there had been no request for an organized event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. to the next regular meeting of November 24, 2008 at Council Chambers.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Emmerich at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.

Commissioners Present: Lisa Emmerich, Acting Chair
Michael Candela
Richard Ober
Stephen Lucas
Tom Barrett

Commissioner Absent David Wood

Staff Members Present: Dennis Beardsley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Alicia M. Rock, Assistant City Attorney
Lise Smith-Peters, Volunteer Coordinator
Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

1.2 Special Recognition

Supervising Ranger Bob Donohue will retire December 26, 2008 after 19 years with the City. He was recognized for his exemplary service in many areas and was given a plaque made from the original Hooker Oak tree. Ranger Bob thanked the commissioners and the many special people he has known here, the “best Park Director,” and expressed happiness for being part of such a special Park.

1.3 Public Comments

Jim Walker, newly elected City Council member and former Park Commissioner, came to recognize Ranger Bob and to thank BPPC for the great work they do for the City.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Approval of Minutes from Meeting of October 27, 2008

2.2 Approval of Application and Permit for Park Use for the 33rd Annual Bidwell Classic Marathon and Fun Run to be Held in Lower Bidwell Park on March 7, 2009

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.
COMMISSIONER OBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda None

4.2 Update and Consideration of the Pilot Yellow Starthistle Vegetation Management Program

This item is to review action taken to control vegetation in the Park, such as use of herbicide, hand removal, and control burns. Volunteer Coordinate Smith-Peters said the planned control burn could not be done this year due to extensive vegetation fires in the County during the summer. Salt Creek crews also were not available because of the fires, so volunteers were encouraged to do some hand removal. That method is very laborious and best for small areas. Urban Forester Britton applied the herbicide "Milestone" along the trail north of the horse arena. It is cost effective and there is evidence of a good kill so use will be expanded.

Commissioner Ober requested an annual report on herbicide use in parks, and it will be done in the fall.

From the public:

Casey Collins, a biology student at CSUC, said a dead plant leaves behind about ten generations of seeds on the ground. Is it worth the time and effort to spray, or even possible to eradicate the plants? Volunteer Coordinator Smith-Peters said the plan addresses seeds left; consistency is the answer to success.

COMMISSIONER CANDELA MOVED TO RECOMMEND THIS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUE AND THE USE OF HERBICIDE BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SOME OF THE PARK'S TRAILS. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-1

YES: CANDELA, LUCAS, EMMERICH AND OBER

NO: BARRETT

4.3 Consideration of Proposed Bench Installations in Bidwell Park for 2008 and 2009

Volunteer Coordinator Smith-Peters prepared a report on the proposed benches for approval and showed photos designating existing and proposed benches at Five Mile Recreation Area, Parking Lot M, and near the walnut orchard.

From the public: None.

COMMISSIONER BARRETT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE BENCHES AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER CANDELA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

4.4 Update Regarding the City Council's Consideration of Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination Between the Chico Area Recreation and Park District and the City of Chico

An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed in February 2008 between the Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) and the City of Chico to pursue ways and means of extending cooperation and coordination between the two. The agency's role at Wildwood Park and at neighborhood parks is now the main discussion. Skateboard Park, development fees, and other considerations will be coming up. The plan could take a couple of years to complete.

Commissioner Lucas asked if there will be a nexus study for agreement on how

money will be used. Lucas also wanted to clarify that nothing would change and that the City would maintain control of Bidwell Park.

From the public: None

The Ad-Hoc Committee and Interim Assistant City Manager Beardsley will recommend at the Council's 12/16/08 meeting that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the existing informal agreements, understanding, and cooperative programs between the City and CARD, and to clarify each agency's roles and responsibilities for current and future recreation programs and facilities.

Information only.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Interim Assistant City Manager's Report

- a. Verbena Fields restoration project update - 1,000 willow cuttings have been planted; projects should be completed sometime in January
- b. Council Actions

5.2 Park Crews/Rangers Report Received and filed

5.3 Urban Forest Manager/Street Trees Report Received and filed

5.4 Volunteer Coordinator Report Received and filed

Commissioner Ober noted that Butte College had adopted Five Mile Recreation Area and Sierra View Elementary School adopted picnic site 27 and that adoptions are increasing.

6.0 BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Barrett asked about plans to remove poles and such at the disc golf site. Interim Assistant City Manager Beardsley said it is being discussed, but there is no specific plan now.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. to the next regular meeting on January 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

APPROVED:

Janice Heckerson, Administrative Assistant

Date