



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

922 Machin Avenue
Novato, CA 94945
415/899-8900
FAX 415/899-8213
www.novato.org

Mayor
Pat Eklund
Mayor Pro Tem
Denise Athas
Councilmembers
Pam Drew
Josh Fryday
Eric Lucan

Interim City Manager
Cathy Capriola

NOVATO RECREATION, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 8, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Novato City Hall*
Council Chambers
901 Sherman Avenue

A. ROLL CALL

Chair Crow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Crow, Weber, Solorzano, Bartling, Caye, Neese, Styx

Commissioners absent: None

Also present: Director Pam Shinault, Recording Secretary Lori Simpkins

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the Agenda.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 12, 2016.

MOTION/SECOND, COMMISSIONERS WEBER/CAYE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Chair Crow welcomed new Commissioner Gerry Styx and all of the Commissioners introduced themselves.

E. READER BOARD INFORMATION

1. Various Program Fliers

F. PRESENTATIONS

There were no Presentations.

G. OLD BUSINESS

There were no Old Business items.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction to General Plan 2035 – Bob Brown, Community Development Director. Mr. Brown gave a General Plan PowerPoint presentation. He anticipates heavy involvement from the Recreation, Cultural and Community Service Commission. During the presentation, he explained what areas of the General Plan the Commission should focus on, and what types of information he is looking for. Mr. Brown and his staff have held several public workshops, and have attended many social and club meetings, including Novato Senior Citizen's Club. There is also a website dedicated to the General Plan 2035. The General Plan 2035 is expected to be completed by April 2017.

Commissioner Caye thought that there has not been enough public engagement. How can Commissioners help with that?

Mr. Brown said to talk to neighbors, people you run into and suggest they get involved and attend workshops. It is difficult to get people engaged.

Other comments from the Commission: concern about cracks in sidewalks, downtown parking issues, concern about the disconnect with the Northwest Quad.

Ms. Shinault suggested that the Commission meet in October for a complete discussion of this item and then at the November meeting make recommendations.

I. REPORTS/INFORMATION

1. Director's Report. Ms. Shinault said the Dogbone Meadow Park project has gone out for RFPs to get a design consultant to do the final design and specs. They will need to go back to Council to ask for additional funding.

Bahia Parks Project – is moving forward with the contractor, but is not fully funded. This project will need to be done in phases.

Hill Recreation Area Master Plan – staff recently held another workshop and also met with Novato Youth Soccer to discuss their concerns. It is hoped that this project will regain momentum shortly after the new city manager is settled in his new position and other Public Works vacant staff positions have been hired. It is anticipated that the conceptual design will be brought to the Recreation, Cultural and Community Service Commission early next year.

The department recently hired a recreation supervisor, Katie Gauntlett, to take over Bob Gregg’s duties. Bob retired after 40 years of working for the department. She will be hiring a Special Events Coordinator later this year.

Lieb Property Update – have reached a tentative settlement. In an upcoming meeting, Council will discuss what next steps they want to take.

2. Upcoming City Council Items
3. Media Articles - Comments from the Director/Commission.

J. COMMISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS.

1. Commission Comments/Reports. Chair Crow said she attended the Council meeting where the Dogbone Meadow Park project was on the agenda. In the staff report, it recommended no grass. This Commission spent a lot of time discussing the need for grass at the dog park. The Council discussed and finally stressed the importance of grass and added it back into the project.

Ms. Shinault explained that over the years, many commissions gave different recommendations than what staff recommends. With this project, at the time it came to the Commission, staff did not have a finalized budget and didn’t know the level of maintenance that could maintain the turf. Maintaining the turf at the dog park has been a challenge. After the Recreation, Cultural and Community Service Commission meeting, she and Public Works staff discussed the turf issues and costs. At that time staff didn’t know if Public Works would be able to hire additional maintenance staff. That was part of the reason the staff recommendation did not reflect the Commission’s recommendation, which can happen from time to time.

1. Chair and Vice Chair Nominations.

MOTION/SECOND, COMMISSIONERS CROW/WEBER, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER CAYE AS CHAIR.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION/SECOND, COMMISSIONERS NEESE/CROW, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER WEBER AS VICE CHAIR.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Commissioner Caye asked that with the new Special Events Coordinator position, if the City could get involved in the 4th of July Firecracker Run.

2. Upcoming Community Events.

K. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Special Workshop – October 20, 2016.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Crow thanked the Commission for being such a wonderful group the past year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.