



**CITY OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION, MUSIC &
PARKS COMMISSION**

City Hall Council Chamber
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marianne Bertuccelli, Cody Chisham, Stacey Earl, Kate Greenspan, Hannah Rizzo Simmons, Karen Nau

ABSENT: Megan Kelly

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

GENERAL

PUBLIC

COMMENT

During **General Public Comment**, the public is invited to make comments on items of public interest that are within the City Council's subject matter jurisdiction and that are not listed on the current agenda. Public comments are limited up to three minutes per person. Depending on the number of persons wishing to address the Council, time will be allocated in equal shares totaling no more than twenty minutes, subject to the Council's discretion (Cal. Gov't. Code §54954.3(a), Petaluma City Council Rules, Policies and Procedures, III).

PRESENTATIONS

**Petaluma Fairgrounds Special Events and Community Programming Update -
Presentation on Plans for the Winter 2024 LUMA Ice Outdoor Skating Rink and
Proposed Plans for a Pickleball Pilot Program - Kat Reisinger, Deputy Director of
Parks and Recreation**

Clarifying Questions from Commissioners:

K Reisinger provided the Commission with a presentation regarding the Petaluma Fairgrounds Special Events and Community Programming Update.

K Greenspan Asked for clarification about event rental scheduling, specifically how can the public get in touch about scheduling for Luma Ice and where can the public get information on renting space at the Fairgrounds and ongoing rental questions.

K Reisinger explained that you can go to the City of Petaluma website and type in Fairground rentals, you will find the Rent the Fairground page, there is the general Parknrec@cityofpetaluma.org e-mail which can get information to the appropriate party. There are specific forms that would need to be filled out and are also on the website.

Regarding Luma Ice, you can get information at the cityofpetaluma.org/lumaice. At this site you will find all the links needed to book skating rentals, parties, and events. The process is similar to when community members use the online portal to book summer camp or other classes using our Civic Rec software. It will be user friendly online and you will also be able to walk up and pay onsite for the point of sale.

H Simmons asked about why the Ice Rink was put in the parking lot on the street over inside the Fairgrounds.

K. Reisinger explained that after looking into multiple options, we chose the parking lot for visibility, it would engage more partnerships and vendors because they could post up closer to the ice rink versus if they were in Expo Hall, fire code would not allow the vendors and partners to be inside with the rink. The outdoor space also gives a more "Winter Wonderland" experience.

H. Simmons clarified she meant why wasn't it put inside on the grass area.

K. Reisinger explained they will need to build a wooden deck to make the ground even for the rink, then add layers of sand and the actual water for the rink which causes the structure to be very heavy and is not good for the turf. Additionally, the rainy weather would cause mud and mess at the rink. Since this is the first year, we are looking for suggestions about what worked and what did not so they can change it next year.

H. Simmons asked about the cost associated with the ice rink. How much is the City paying for this?

K. Reisinger explained that the cost is coming out of the Fairgrounds budget directly. They are trying to keep the cost low for the community to make this very accessible to the community and used the example that school field trips are being asked to pay only \$10 per person. They are hoping for high level sponsorship to offset some of the cost and highlighted the economic return that the local vendor will get.

D. Halter added that is a first-time event and venture. He highlighted that the experiences being offered like the train, merchandise, food and vending are important parts of the cost recovery. Since this is new, they are looking at if this should be an event that the community subsidizes? At what level? Or do we want 100% cost recovery? Nothing like this has been done in our area. He added that they are also going to utilize Luma Go, our new transit system to connect Luma Ice to Downtown Petaluma. They will be tracking that. Then they will get feedback from the community about where the funds should be invested.

H. Simmons asked if we have a dollar amount for how much the ice rink will cost.

D. Halter answered that there are dollar amounts they have, like for the tents as an example, and we know what a generator may cost but they don't have a total amount yet because nothing has been built. We don't know what we are going to get in sponsorship

including “in kind” for things like lumber. They will track and provide updates when the bills are due. Now there are hard costs, but there are not numbers to share because they need to see how far they go with sponsorships and what it ends up costing.

K. Reisinger added that they are using a staffing model like they would at the pool and will be staffing according to the amount of scheduled events.

M. Bertuccelli did not have any questions.

K. Nau wanted to clarify about the cost and stated she wasn’t aware there was a fairground budget. She said that she wanted more clarification on the budget and is looking forward to the master plan coming to council. She added that she thinks this is a wonderful thing for the City to have during the Holidays. She asked what the hours will be at the Ice Rink.

K. Reisinger answered that the hours are approximately 10:00am to 10:00pm everyday and that there will be a calendar online. Tickets are available online ahead of time. They are reaching out to the sports community to use the rink for hockey practice from 6:00am to 10:00am, before it opens. They are offering fundraiser opportunities called “Glide and Give” nights where organizations can use the space and 15% of the ticket sales goes back to the organization. She also highlighted that they are being thoughtful not to over program the space for families.

K. Nau asked about the safety rails for beginning skaters and wanted clarification on where the art structure would be on the ice and how that would affect the skaters.

K. Reisinger clarified that the art structure that she talked about during her presentation was not located on the Ice Rink and will be in another location on the Fairground’s large field inside the fence.

K. Nau asked about ADA parking and K. Reisinger explained that it will be located by the Groome Parking and also that more information about the art structure, Naga, will be on the website soon.

K. Nau asked about the BMX that is supposed to happen in the middle of the speedway.

D. Halter clarified that this presentation was an update about the upcoming Fall/Winter events at the Fairgrounds and the BMX details are still being discussed. He reminded that there is still an existing tenant in that space and more details that need to be reviewed before bringing it back to council.

K. Nau thanked D. Halter for the clarification and asked if the ice skates will be rentable through a company.

K. Reisinger answered that the price of the skates will be included in the drop in price. The drop in price for adults will be \$20 and for children and seniors will be \$15. She also

clarified that the company building the ice rink is the same company that will be handling the skate rentals. Special Ice is the company being used and is a reputable company and will have a general manager and assistant general manager. They are based out of Livermore.

K. Nau asked about the dimensions of the Fairground Space and if it can fit a Pickleball court.

K. Riesinger explained that the contract company that she has had come out and other local Pickleball enthusiasts all say that it is large enough for four courts. It won't be perfect but it will be usable.

C. Chisham asked about programming options and transportation connecting the community to the Public Art, like Naga at the Fairgrounds to events happening Downtown Petaluma like the Lighted Boat Parade.

K. Riesinger replied yes. They are promoting LUMA Ice together with the events downtown. They are working with Marie from the Petaluma Downtown Association on marketing that would promote the Ice Rink as well as events downtown. We want to tie them together as closely as possible. Offering possible discounts to the Ice Rink for people who show that they have a receipt from downtown or use Luma Go for example. They are still working out the specifics but trying hard to include all the businesses. They want to bring people to Petaluma who may not always come here to shop. Groome, El Roy's and Java Hut for example are excited about the new people the Ice Rink may bring. All the departments are working together to make this event the best it can be.

C. Chisham asked if the Commissioners will get a chance to try this out.

K. Reisinger replied that there is a long list of people excited to try the Zamboni.

S. Earl explained that she is excited about the Ice Rink but has a lot of questions. The first was where do people park?

K. Reisinger explained that she has been working closely with the Planning Department and can assure the commission that there are enough parking spots within the designated areas that are close enough to the Ice Rink to meet the zoning code requirements. Additionally they are working with Groome to move them down and create more parking spaces that are closer and more accessible and a loading zone for families with strollers. She reported they are also making improvements to the area by the speedway and restriping some of the parking spots to make things more clear. They are working with the surrounding shopping centers to see if there are overflow options. They have repaved some of the space by the speedway to provide an additional 120 lighted parking spots.

S. Earl asked how they will stop people from parking at the Swim Center and if they are charging for parking.

K. Reisinger answered that they are not charging for parking. Regarding the Swim Center, they are hiring flaggers to direct people to the appropriate spots. So while she can't promise no one will park there, they are actively working on ways to mitigate the parking there during their open hours.

S. Earl asked where all the staff hours are coming from.

K. Reisinger answered that they are contracting with a separate company who is building the Ice Rink. Rebuilding Together is building the deck and the tent is another contracted company. Additionally, they are contracting with Bolt Staffing and they will be hiring the part time employees for the Ice Rink and as part of the agreement they will be the "first line of defense" management to help mitigate to pull on the City of Petaluma employees.

S. Earl clarified that all the money for the contractors is coming from the Fairgrounds money and K. Reisinger answered yes. S. Earl clarified that the art piece is collaboratively with the art committee and K. Reisinger said yes.

S. Earl asked about the parking for Pickleball. She wanted to know if they can park inside or have to park outside and walk in. She also wanted to know if there will be bike racks installed.

D. Halter answered that they would take that feedback and could work with the Petaluma Bike coalition to make that happen. Then he pointed out the short term parking next to Bianchi Barn that would be designated as parking for now.

S. Earl asked about the purpose of the curtain and K. Reisinger answered that the curtain mitigates the wind.

S. Earl asked where they would be placed and K. Reisinger explained that the current quote is for the two large longer sides which is the biggest wind tunnel area.

S. Earl asked for clarification of where the money and staffing are coming from for the Pickleball court. She explained that she just wanted to understand if they taking time away from Parks and Rec, when they are saying yes to something, what are they saying no too.

D. Halter wanted to remind everyone that this is the first year they are managing the property. The first budget that was approved was approximately \$450,000 which was for staffing and estimates for items like Pickleball and other programming. While there are nine tenants, they were tasked with increase access and community programming and through the next couple years, how much of that programming will provide revenues back into the budget, we will have to wait and see. During the next budget they will review but that was the budget approved for the first year taking over the property management.

S. Earl asked again that all the money for Luma Ice and proposed Pickleball is coming from the Fairgrounds budget and expressed the importance of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan since there will soon be a Fairgrounds Master Plan and they work so closely together and expressed concern for the staff at Parks and Recreation to take all that on.

D. Halter replied that it is an opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Department. He explained that there are other Departments that are feeding into the budget, and every department plays a hand in this project and property. We are creating a budget around what kind of programming and events we want to see on the fairgrounds property.

S. Earl asked about Live Oak's end of lease, and asked if they end at the end of this school year.

D. Halter replied that we do not have an answer tonight.

H. Simmons asked if the maintenance position has been filled for the fairgrounds.

D. Halter replied that yes, the maintenance technician position has been filled, but the maintenance supervisor position has not been filled.

S. Earl asked if Parks and Recreation is then expected to supervise and oversee maintenance at the Fairgrounds property.

D. Halter replied that since day one we have been working with a property manager, CIRE that has been managing the work order flow and the day to day maintenance.

K. Greenspan asked is the rental fees from all of the programs goes into the general fund, or if they go into a separate budget.

K. Reisinger replied that the fees go back into a separate fairgrounds budget.

D. Halter recognized Ali Baker, our new Administrative Assistant who will be clerking our meetings moving forward.

Public Comment for this agenda item:

P. Crabtree explained that he is all for more pickleball wherever we can put it in Petaluma. He said that in order to put 4 courts in a space, you need 120 feet by 60 feet, and he believes the barn is 100 feet by 65 feet.

K. Reisinger does not have the actual dimension but does not have the intention of putting courts that are not up to size in the space.

Clarifying Questions from Commissioners:

C. Chisham Stated that this is very exciting for the City, and thinks that this is an opportunity for the City to have a new yearly tradition.

K. Nau said that she spent the weekend in Golden Gate park where they had roller skating, and she said maybe we could expand to roller skating in the future so we could do it year round.

M. Bertucelli stated that she is impressed by what staff has done and thinks it all sounds fantastic. She is in support of utilizing space and making the fairgrounds more accessible.

H. Simmons thinks ice skating sounds awesome, and wants Petaluma National Little League to have a fundraising night. Wanted to also add that youth need more basketball courts, and to think about adding some at the fairgrounds property as well.

K. Greenspan wanted to give staff props for the creative ideas, and is excited for Luma Ice. She thinks it would be awesome to have a Parks Master Plan to guide us.

S. Earl thinks that we have to try things out and see what happens, so she is in full support. She thinks we should auction off Zamboni rides to make some more money. Wanted to comment that November 1 is not a school day for kids so Big Bounce should add more times for older kids. She is eager to see what happens.

ReLeaf Petaluma - Presentation on the upcoming Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 Tree Planting Scope and Schedule as part of the Urban Forest Management Grant (UFMG) award which will include proposed sites along the Petaluma Urban Separator, Denman Reach, Casa Grande Rd, Kenilworth and Sonoma Mountain Schools - Carolyn Lacerra and Wendy Jacobs, ReLeaf Petaluma and Cindy Chong, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities.

Clarifying Questions for this agenda item:

K Greenspan asked about the irrigation plan for the younger trees at Denman.

C. Lacerra Younger trees have irrigation already at Denman. Along the pathways, Rebuilding will use the water buffalo for them.

K Nau mentioned that the gophers and mice will chew through the irrigation tubing so they stop working. She also mentioned checking with the LADs to ensure the irrigation is turned on for the trees.

Public Comment for this agenda item: None

Commissioner Comment for this agenda item:

K. Greenspan Thank you for the presentation, we love everything ReLeaf touches.

H Simmons Thanks for the presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for the meeting of September 18, 2024.

Greenspan- Motion, Simmons Second. Motion Approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

COMMITTEE COMMENT

K. Greenspan said that PBAC did not meet this month.

H. Simmons stated that parks look great, and mentioned that PCSF trees look dry and need water. Mentioned the patchwork at Lucchesi Turf field, and asked about the item being brought to City Council, and confirmed that the item will not be brought to RMPC prior to Council.

M Bertuccelli spoke about the Tree Committee and is excited about replacement of street trees and design of Lucchesi Park Skatepark. Tree Committee is also working on Arbor Day celebration and updated street tree checklist.

K. Nau mentioned that the City Council had a meeting about the downtown overlay, and stated that the public comment period concludes on October 21. The next Council meeting is on the land use in the General Plan, and comments can be made on the City website. Nau spoke about the recent Museum events – Mexican heritage, Day of the Dead, and other events and workshops. Parks look great, but would still like to see more dogs on leashes.

C. Chisham spoke about the unveiling of the mural at the fairgrounds, Naga, the dragon sculpture, and the Public Art Committee projects.

S. Earl mentioned how busy Prince Park has been and revisited the Adopt a Park program. Spoke about Lafferty Ranch and the docent led hikes that are up there, and encouraged everyone to do the same. Earl spoke about the AC Swim Club's clinic that was held with an Olympian, and how great it was that we were able to host in Petaluma.

M. Kelly hopes resources are able to put into Lafferty Ranch because it is such an amazing place. Mentioned the Museum events as well.

STAFF COMMENT

C. Chong spoke about the fire that took place at Lucchesi Park, and the parks maintenance shed and equipment that was lost in this fire. Parks maintenance have been busy cleaning out the owl boxes, started the organic turf management system in many parks. Facilities Tech Manuel has joined the team and he has been a great addition to the team.

D. Halter wanted to start comments introducing another staff member tonight, Nicole Stark, Management Analyst II. She has joined our team from Public Works, and we are excited to have her join Parks and Recreation! Tentative Council date for November 18 for the Lucchesi Turf item. Senior Center staff hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner, and we have the Gazebo Grand Opening happening next week. Final Movie in the Park next Friday, November 25 playing "Coco." Our team is actively working to bring new Adult Sports to our department in the New Year. Fall Break camps for kids are coming soon. We are welcoming new Tiny Tots Teachers, new Building Attendants, and new Recreation Specialists and growing our Parks and Recreation team.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.