

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS (cont.)

Director Skeels requested that Chairperson Almeida have Mr. Hart contact him to discuss his ideas.

OLD BUSINESS

How Are We Doing?

Chairperson Almeida noted the staff is recommending continuing this item to the next meeting.

Recreation Facilities

Parks and Recreation Director Skeels said the subcommittee met to review the latest list of proposed facilities.

Commissioner Waters advised that the City Council has been talking about using the Eagles Club site as a location for a new library and moving the Teen Center from its present building to the old library site. He suggested holding off on upgrading the Teen Center storage area and the park behind the Community Center until the Council has more definite plans.

Commissioner Waters noted that there has been discussion about building a gymnasium at the Baylands as part of that development, so the idea of having a gymnasium at the Northeast Ridge might not happen. He said people have expressed interest in a recreational complex with a full gymnasium, health club, and room for classes and activities like the Brisbane Dance Workshop.

Director Skeels drew attention to the updated list of facility projects. He recommended that commissioners review the list and identify possible additions to be considered as capital improvement projects in the upcoming budget process or as amenities for the Baylands. He said the City Council will evaluate priorities and determine which projects can be funded.

Baylands Public Space Discussion

Parks and Recreation Director Skeels noted that the Commission held a workshop with the City's consultant, Peter Dangermond, at the last meeting and decided to continue the discussion and attempt to prioritize some of the ideas for public space and recreation. He said the concept of an arts facility will be discussed in more detail with local artists.

Principal Planner Swiecki advised that the staff is planning to hold a brainstorming session with local artists to identify ways of incorporating art at the Baylands.

Baylands Public Space Discussion (cont.)

Director Skeels encouraged the Commission to consider the types of uses that should be included in the Baylands. He observed that the Commission still has an opportunity to propose new ideas for Mr. Dangermond to consider in his report to the City Council. He drew attention to the three follow-up questions summarizing the key issues, the map showing open space areas at the Baylands, and the chart showing uses and activities identified in the past. He noted that the list is grouped in terms of types of uses, active and passive uses, and indoor and outdoor uses.

Commissioner Waters reported that he had received comments from a number of people about bicycle activities such as a BMX course and bike skills area. He recommended keeping this idea on the list.

Commissioner Marmion said she would like to see picnic areas, connected bike and walking paths, active and passive recreation, restored wetlands, landscaping with native plants and trees, public restrooms, and plenty of parking. She observed that the community needs a gymnasium. She recommended having a soccer field with an adjacent play area for kids and a dog park.

Chairperson Almeida suggested reviewing and discussing the items on the list, beginning with golf.

Commissioner Waters questioned whether a golf course was realistic, given the space required, and the water usage and maintenance costs involved. Commissioner Marmion commented that a small driving range might be a better alternative.

Chairperson Almeida agreed with Commissioner Waters that a full-size golf course would take too much space and cost too much.

Director Skeels recommended trying to identify the uses and activities that should be included. He noted that golf was listed with revenue-generating activities.

Commissioner De La Torre pointed out that golf course maintenance costs are typically quite high. Commissioner Waters agreed, and said San Francisco is currently struggling to fund its golf courses.

Commissioner Waters proposed keeping tennis courts on the list, and other commissioners agreed. Commissioner Waters noted that tennis courts should be part of an overall sports complex that includes fields for soccer, baseball, and softball.

Commissioner Marmion expressed support for having a gymnasium and workout facility. Commissioner De La Torre disagreed, citing high maintenance costs as a major obstacle for a small city like Brisbane. Commissioner Marmion noted that one solution might be to have the gym operated by an outside entity.

Baylands Public Space Discussion (cont.)

Commissioner Waters commented that the community desperately needs a gym and health facility. He acknowledged that maintenance and operating costs were an issue, but recommended charging membership fees and having an outside entity operate the facility. He pointed out that the recent community survey showed considerable support for a soccer field, gymnasium, and hiking and biking trails.

Chairperson Almeida noted that an indoor ice skating or roller-skating rink might be a nice amenity because people currently have to travel out of town for skating activities.

Commissioner Waters questioned the demand for a skating facility.

Commissioners agreed that another full-size pool was probably not needed, and racquetball courts could be considered as part of a recreation complex.

Commissioner Waters expressed support for a BMX track or mountain bike skill center.

Commissioners reviewed the items under Group 2. They concluded that miniature golf and go-carts were not priorities.

Commissioner Waters observed that there were a number of comments about improving the existing skate park or building a new permanent facility. Commissioners agreed to keep this item on the list.

Commissioners expressed interest in considering a climbing wall.

Commissioners reviewed Group 3 uses and agreed that bocce ball and horseshoes could be part of a gathering place or picnic area.

In response to Commission questions about lawn bowling, Director Skeels commented that requires a very low turf height, necessitating a high level of maintenance.

Commissioners noted that a sports complex could accommodate all the uses identified in Group 4.

Commissioners expressed interest in a botanic garden, a performing arts center with an outdoor amphitheater, a cultural or interpretive center, and different types of museums. Commissioner Waters observed that a cultural center could include a garden and displays for children. After some discussion, commissioners agreed that a cultural center should encompass interpretive, science, and educational activities, as well as space for art studios and classrooms.

Baylands Public Space Discussion (cont.)

They recommended not considering a petting zoo or charter high school.

The Commission considered the passive uses in Group 6 and recommended keeping all of those items on the list.

With respect to Group 7, water-related uses, commissioners indicated a preference for allowing only paddle boats in the lagoon but keeping kayaks and other boats in the Bay.

Commissioner Waters noted that members of the public proposed walkways and boardwalks at the lagoon to enhance bird-watching opportunities. He proposed considering a small bridge. Commissioners emphasized the need to protect bird habitat. Commissioner Waters suggested creating a park with seating areas next to the lagoon. Commissioners expressed support for creating an overpass across Highway 101 and considering building a pier extending into the Bay.

Commissioners agreed that all of the uses in Group 8 should remain on the list. They suggested combining play areas and picnic areas.

Commissioner Waters commented that Area 7 on the map might be a suitable location for a large gathering area with a water feature and sculpture garden.

Commissioner Waters recommended adding a children's playground to the list. Commissioner De La Torre expressed support for providing informal play areas near fields.

Allen Nixon, Brisbane, said he liked the ideas on the list. He suggested considering a running track, bike trails, and a soccer field. He noted that many schools are charging for use of their soccer fields and other fields, making their use too expensive for many kids. He advocated having big open spaces to provide areas for unstructured play.

Ken Walker, Brisbane, emphasized the need for a full-size soccer field. He recommended an artificial surface so the field can be used year-round. He suggested having a running track around the field as well as running paths throughout the open space. Mr. Walker urged the City to avoid creating "facility silos" by isolating and separating uses. Instead, he proposed connecting fields to each other and to nearby open space, using hills as topographical features, and building multi-purpose facilities. Mr. Walker expressed his opinion that a soccer field should be the City's first priority. He also expressed support for a gymnasium complex.

Parks and Recreation Director Skeels reported that he received emails from Igor Litvin and Michael Foley recommending a full-size soccer field at the Baylands.

Commissioner Waters said he liked the idea of keeping sports complexes on the Bayshore Boulevard side of the Baylands to provide good access and contain traffic. He proposed more

Baylands Public Space Discussion (cont.)

open space and park-like settings on the eastern portion of the site.

Mr. Dangermond said that although his meetings with the Planning Commission and Open Space and Ecology Committee focused on different subjects, most of the ideas for the public space are compatible with each other. He noted that the Open Space and Ecology Committee emphasized the need to provide connections for wildlife as well as people, and connectivity is one of the key points the consultants will consider when making recommendations.

Mr. Dangermond noted that there were a number of interesting ideas for the interpretive center, including displays about native butterflies, San Bruno Mountain, the area's history, green technology, and the relationship between the Baylands and the surrounding region.

Mr. Dangermond asked commissioners to elaborate on the idea of a charter high school, a use mentioned at previous meetings. Commissioner Waters acknowledged that people in Brisbane have been talking about a high school for 10 to 12 years because Brisbane students have to be bused to other communities to attend high school. Principal Planner Swiecki said a group of about 25 parents is actively pursuing this possibility.

Director Skeels commented that the topic came up during the General Plan update, and the Commission decided that educational facilities were not within the PB&R Commission's purview.

Commissioner Marmion estimated that there were currently about 75 eighth-graders at Lipman, and she questioned whether this level of enrollment would be sufficient for a high school. She said most Brisbane students are eager to attend high school elsewhere.

Mr. Dangermond noted that high school facilities can also be used for adult education and art classes.

Mr. Dangermond commented that the notion of incorporating a water feature with fountains and streams might serve as a unifying element for the whole development.

Mr. Dangermond asked about the status of the shooting range near Ice House Hill, and commissioners indicated that area was not a sanctioned or official shooting range. Mr. Dangermond said there were some suggestions about expanding the horse-grazing area to include a farm.

Chairperson Almeida advised that the owners of the horse stable recently signed a five-year lease. Commissioner Marmion said she would like to retain the horses in that area.

Baylands Public Space Discussion (cont.)

Commissioner Waters expressed support for creating an organic farm, demonstration garden, or farmers' market.

Mr. Dangermond talked about a park outside Las Vegas with a running track made from recycled tires. He said the facility became so popular that a similar track was built in an older park that had an underutilized playground and picnic area, and that park has become quite successful because of the upgrade.

Commissioner Waters recommended that the City consider a recycled material when it is time to upgrade the ballparks in Brisbane.

Mr. Dangermond said the consultants' next task will be to bring the many uses together in a unified and integrated plan. He thanked the Commission for its helpful comments.

Mr. Dangermond indicated that he would be meeting with the Bay Trail coordinator and a group of local artists the following week to incorporate their feedback. He noted that a draft plan will be presented to the City Council within two or three weeks, and the City Council will determine what mix of uses will be included in the community's preferred alternative.

Director Skeels indicated that he met with the County parks director earlier that day to discuss connecting the Baylands trails with trails on San Bruno Mountain and along the shore.

Monte Carlo Night

Parks and Recreation Director Skeels reported that almost all details had been arranged for Monte Carlo Night on March 7. He said he was still looking for some community group to operate the bar. He added that he hoped that Silverspot Nursery would agree to handle the bar.

Director Skeels noted that there is also a need for volunteer blackjack dealers. He encouraged commissioners to volunteer or let the staff know if they know anyone who might be interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Chairperson Almeida proposed electing officers at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Assignments

Commissioner Marmion proposed reviewing subcommittee assignments at the next meeting when all commissioners would be present.