

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 15, 2018

COMMISSION: PRESENT: Chair Sunshine, Friedel, Koepfel

COMMISSION: ABSENT: Blauvelt, Cimino

STAFF: PRESENT: Recreation Director Dick Whitley
Recreation Supervisor Nick Stone

1. Roll Call

Chair Sunshine called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Presentations

There were no presentations

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the Consent Calendar

4.1 Approval of Minutes: January 18, 2018

M/s Friedel/Koepfel, to approve the January 18, 2018 minutes as submitted.

Ayes: Friedel, Koepfel, Chair Sunshine

Absent: Blauvelt, Cimino

5. Business Items

5.1 Request to Install Non-Standard Memorial Bench

Commissioner Koepfel stated his wife serves on a theater board with Ms. Mary Clyde, one of the applicants, and served with Ms. Lisa Graeber until the time of her death. He believes he can consider the issue without bias and in a fair and objective manner. The Commission had no objections to Commissioner Koepfel's participation in this item.

Recreation Director Whitley presented a staff report.

Mr. Bill McKown stated the request was for a custom designed memorial bench for Ms. Lisa Graeber, long-time resident of Larkspur. He understood the City's desire to standardize the design in terms of maintenance and repair. Ms. Graeber chose this bench design prior to her passing and he asked the Commission to make an exception, stating that this bench is not that different. The custom design with a backless, flat surface,

similar to a table, would lend itself to sitting down and having a picnic. They would be happy to submit a slightly larger deposit to cover repairs, etc.

Commissioner Friedel asked if there were other benches around the proposed locations. Recreation Director Whitley stated "yes- along that path".

Commissioner Koeppel stated there seemed to be two issues: 1) Will the Commission recommend acceptance of this non-standardized bench?; 2) If so, is this particular bench appropriate? There is not a lot of information about this particular type of bench but they would not need to get into those details if the answer to the first question is "no".

Commissioner Friedel agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Koeppel. The other area they need to address is setting a precedent. The design is lovely but she would be very concerned about recommending that permission be given for a specific bench for one entity.

Chair Sunshine stated the Commission recently went through a process to standardize park furniture for a variety of reasons including aesthetics, maintenance, and the desire to have a common look and feel. They need to stay true to this spirit. She was not in favor of setting a precedent.

Commissioner Koeppel asked if this type of request has been made in the past. Recreation Director Whitley stated "not to his knowledge". Commissioner Koeppel understood the discussion regarding setting a precedent but since the request does not come up very often he wondered if they should consider this one-time exception. The bench is pretty similar to the look and feel of the standard bench. It looks like it would fit in.

Commissioner Friedel agreed is it very similar in terms of the look and feel. The backless bench would allow people to sit and share a lunch, have a conversation, etc. However, as soon as one is approved it would be difficult for the Commission to not allow others. How do they decide who is or is not "worthy"?

Chair Sunshine stated they went through a thoughtful process in developing the program for park furniture. There were meetings, discussions, and a lot of research that went into the decision. The program provides options that are really lovely, including a backless bench. She was not in favor of granting the request.

Commissioner Koeppel stated deciding who was or was not "worthy" would be the least of his concerns. He was more concerned about the appearance of the bench and whether or not it conforms to the look and feel of the program. This request is close enough and it would be a nice addition to the community. He can see the benefit to this type of design.

M/s Friedel/Koeppel, to deny the request and not deviate from the established memorial bench standard design.

Ayes: Friedel, Chair Sunshine

Noes: Koeppel

Absent: Blauvelt, Cimino

6. Director's Oral Report

Recreation Director Whitley reported the City held a "Heart of Larkspur-Volunteer Recognition" Event tonight. The renewal notices for the Community Garden went out several months ago. Nine plots opening up for the very patient people on the wait list. He was in the process of assigning the final garden plot. The first "Garden Work Day" is March 24th. The City Manager plans to attend the March 15th Commission meeting to discuss the updated 2050 Plan document. Director Whitley will be attending the California Parks and Recreation Society Conference in Long Beach. Recreation Supervisor Stone will be the staff representative for the March 15, 2018 meeting.

7. Commissioner's Reports

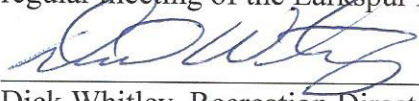
Commissioner Koepfel stated he attended the "Heart of Larkspur" Event tonight. He reported that Ms. Helen Heitkamp, who recently passed away, was recognized at the event. Ms. Heitkamp served on the Larkspur Planning Commission and Heritage Preservation Board for many years. She was considered an authority on the history of Larkspur. Chair Sunshine stated she has a copy of Larkspur, Past and Present, written by Ms. Heitkamp and others.

8. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. in memory of Ms. Helen Heitkamp.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Larkspur Parks and Recreation Commission.



Dick Whitley, Recreation Director