

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 15, 2016



The December 15, 2016 Special Meeting of the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Board of Directors was called to order by Board Chair Shess at 7:07 p.m. in the McHale Room at the Community Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Vice Chair Dennis Donaghu led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

BOARD PRESENT: Bonato, Donaghu, Glover, Ortega, Pierce, Shess, Sterrett

STAFF PRESENT: Bradley, Hunn, Hurtado, Kubota, Lacy, Miller, Riley, Thoits

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Ortiz, Walnut Creek resident, mentioned she is representing the Friends of Creeks and Urban Cities and is the President. She said they are a group of community members that have been involved since the 1980's. She said they are in support of purchasing all 10 acres of the Oak Park property site that Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District and the County are involved in litigation. Ortiz stated they got a petition signed by 3,397 residents who are in support of the purchase of the property to build fields, library and other community needs. The group participants paraded around the room and in front of the Board with colored garland that represented each signature.

Darcy Matthews, Pleasant Hill resident, expressed her support and brought her children who went to preschool with the District and are in high school now and involved with the community. She wants the District to purchase all 10 acres of the Oak Park site. She said it takes the next generation to step up and asked how they can help the District to save the 10 acres.

Board Chair Shess closed public comment.

REPORT FROM EX-OFFICIO KATELYN DOWNING, COLLEGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Ex-Officio Downing gave the following report:

Teen Council news:

- The Teen Council is working on the Red Hot Valentines high school dance scheduled for February 3.
- They are working on fundraising ideas for the New Year.
- The Council has scheduled the Battle of the Bands for March 24 and has a website for voting on the choice of bands to perform. Voting closes on January 14.

College Park news:

- The Poetry Out Loud competition was on December 14 and Katelyn won the competition and she will now participate in the county wide competition. She recited the poem that won the competition.
- An intruder drill was conducted during RTI today.
- Winter Break will be Dec. 19 – Jan. 2.

CONSENT CALENDAR (Attachment A)

- a. To Approve Bills to be Paid, warrants #23477-23532 (Exhibit 1)
- b. To Approve Minutes of November 17, 2016 and December 1, 2016 (Exhibit 2)
- c. To Approve Resolution 2016-12-15, Having Submitted an Application to the Contra Costa County Community Development Department for Community Development Block

Upon motion of Donaghu and seconded by Sterrett, the Board approved the consent calendar as presented.

ACKNOWLEDGE SERVICE OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS DENNIS DONAGHU AND SHERRY STERRETT

Chair Shess offered the opportunity for Board Members to acknowledge the service of retiring Board Members Donaghu and Sterrett.

Board Member Bonato said she has attended several events recognizing and celebrating Donaghu and Sterrett regarding their service to the community. She appreciates the spirit they have brought to the Board and is thankful for their independent thinking. She said it has been a privilege to work with them. She thanked and blamed Dennis for her being suddenly the longest serving Board Member and it was Dennis that encouraged her to apply when Board Member Karen Mitchoff left the Board of Directors. She spoke about a memory she had with Sterrett at the beginning of her term. She said that Sherry was her compatriot. She will miss her leadership and Sterrett has left a legacy. She thanked both Donaghu and Sterrett for all their years of service and wished them well in their retirement.

Board Member Glover spoke about how he grew up in Martinez, but spent a lot of time in Pleasant Hill and his first job was working for Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District. He said he has built a friendship with members of the Board and they cannot hang out together because of the Brown Act, but now he can have dinner with Donaghu and Sterrett. He can't thank Sterrett and Donaghu enough for their time and efforts they have put into the District. He said on behalf of everybody, his family, they have built a legacy that benefits the community. He will miss the comradery they built, the battles and more. He will celebrate the commitment both of them have made.

Board Chair Shess commented that Sterrett and Donaghu have brought so much benefit that can be seen and that cannot be seen for the community. He thanked them for all the time they have spent and for leaving them with wisdom that manifests within the community.

General Manager Lacy expressed some words from past General Manager Bob Berggren who could not be here tonight due to illness. She said Berggren wanted to express how he enjoyed working with Donaghu and Sterrett all these years and he said they have accomplished so much and thanked them for all their outstanding years of service. On behalf of herself and current staff, she thanked Donaghu and Sterrett for their dedicated service for taking care of staff and the residents. She personally thanked them for bringing her here to be the General Manager and looks forward to many years with the District.

Board Member Sterrett said that she had her say at the reception honoring her and Donaghu. She agreed that there are many hours put into serving as a Board Member. She has had the pleasure to serve for the community as a School District Board Member, City Councilmember and also the Recreation & Park District Board Member, but also serving as the Campaign Manager for the Measure E Campaign. She said that she will volunteer for the District.

Board Member Donaghu said he has been living in Pleasant Hill for more than 45 years. He thanked the staff for the kindness they have shown him. He said he coached Lance Hurtado's brother when Lance was young and now Lance is the Recreation and Parks Manager. He said it has been a pleasure working with the Board and one of the better things he has done is to encourage Sandy Bonato to apply for the vacancy. He thanked everyone for great years serving as a Board Member.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF 2016 BOARD CHAIR ZAC SHESS

Board Vice Chair Donaghu commented that Shess stepped up to the plate as the Board Chair for 2016 and he was thrown a curve ball with former General Manager Bob Berggren announcing his retirement. Donaghu continued to describe the challenges Shess faced and mentioned land that came up for purchase and how the County threw some knuckle balls. As a result, the negotiations and discussions are ongoing. He stated there are several other situations that came up, which Shess handled professionally. Donaghu commented that Shess is no longer a rookie, but a veteran now. He said that Shess has promoted better relations with the City. He thanked Shess for his term and he also thanked another important person, Zac's wife Debbie for supporting him. Donaghu congratulated Shess for an excellent job and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

Board Chair Shess thanked the Board. He said that it has been quite a year of change, two Board Members decided to retire and the General Manager as well. He never felt alone. He said he appointed Sterrett and Bonato to the sub-committee for spearheading the search for a new General Manager because he knew they would bring us great candidates. He said that it has been difficult this year, but hiring the new General Manager, Michelle Lacy, was the best decision of the year. He said he is proud of the Oak Park property negotiations and they will make a decision that will be in the best interest of the District. Shess mentioned that the rental revenue has been tremendous with over a million. He said staff from the rental coordinators to the building maintenance staff to everyone else have been wonderful; it takes a village to run it all. Shess also mentioned that the District's credit rating has gone up. He pointed out that the pathways at Pleasant Hill Park were repaired and look great. He stated there are buildings that are showing their age and they will have to make decisions on those facilities. He is confident that they will challenge and tackle the issues in the New Year.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS JENNIFER ORTEGA AND ANDREW PIERCE

General Manager/Clerk of the Board, Michelle Lacy, conducted the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board Members Jennifer Ortega and Andrew Pierce.

Break for refreshments

Board Chair Shess asked the Board Members to introduce their family members. Board Member Pierce stated his family had to leave due to ensuing meltdowns, but mentioned his wife and his three boys ages 6, 4 and 2. When he first moved to the area over 4 years ago, he came to a Recreation and Park District Board Meeting to ask about upgrades to Shannon Hills Park. He was impressed with the District. He has served on the Civic Action Committee with the City of Pleasant Hill. He noticed that people really care about where they live and he looks forward to working with the Board, staff and listening to what the residents want and need. He congratulated Dennis Donaghu and Sherry Sterrett and stated he has some big shoes to fill.

Board Member Jennifer Ortega thanked everyone for coming out in the cold and rainy weather. She is grateful and honored to serve on this esteemed Board. She thanked her family, husband

Raul, her daughter Analise, her parents Cheryl and Dave and some friends, including Emily Richards who she served on the Pleasant Hill Education Commission along with Matt Rinn, who will now serve as a City Councilmember. She said they moved to Pleasant Hill seven years ago. She was impressed with the plans for the new Senior Center, Teen Center and Community Center. She became a connoisseur of the parks when she had her child and got a sense of how tremendous and how well kept the parks were and all the special events from the Egg Hunt to Breakfast with Santa. She wanted to be a part of the Board and a great supporter of the community. She thanked Sherry Sterrett and Dennis Donaghu for their time on the Board and hopes she can call on them when needed.

Board Member Bonato introduced her family, spouse Jim Bonato and daughter Emily and community family members. Board Member Bobby Glover introduced his girlfriend Nicole who could not attend and is home with their daughters, 4 year old Hayley and 6 month old Ronni, also his District family. Board Chair Shess said his oldest son, Cole, is a freshman at Chico State University and will be home tomorrow, his son Jackson is at home, but introduced his wonderful wife Debbie sitting in the audience.

SELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2017

Board Member Bonato stated normally the Vice Chair would move into the position as Chair, but Vice Chair Dennis Donaghu retired from the Board and she suggested keeping continuity and requested to have Board Chair Shess continue as Chair for 2017. She also motioned to have Board Member Bobby Glover take on the Vice Chair position.

Upon motion of Bonato and seconded by Glover, the Board unanimously voted to have Board Chair Shess continue as Chair for 2017 and Bobby Glover as Vice Chair. Board Chair Shess thanked the Board for their confidence and is happy to continue as Board Chair.

Upon motion of Glover and seconded by Pierce, the Board voted to have Sandy Bonato as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS TO STAFF

Pierce made the following announcements/questions:

- He had nothing to report or announce.

Ortega made the following announcements/questions:

- She attended the Holiday Festival on December 7. She said it was impressive how it improves each year. She congratulated staff for putting on a wonderful event.

Bonato made the following announcements/questions:

- She was not able to attend the Holiday Festival for the first time in a long time due to the surgery on her foot. She did thank the General Manager for saving two wands for her grandchildren.
- She attended the staff holiday party.

Glover made the following announcements/questions:

- He attended Breakfast with Santa for the first time. He said staff does a fantastic job and compliments go to Paul Cotruvo for playing music and having the kids up on stage.
- He attended the staff Holiday Party. He said he enjoyed the event and watching various employees joining in on the singing with Paul Cotruvo. It was great to see the comradery amongst staff. He complimented the new General Manager for cultivating this environment.
- He looks forward to the Senior Volunteer Holiday Luncheon tomorrow.

Shess made the following announcements/questions:

- He thanked everyone for all their work in planning and putting on the reception.

- He attended the Holiday Festival on Wednesday, December 7 and said staff was awesome. He announced he is not volunteering next year because he wants to roam and see more of the Holiday Festival.
- He also attended Breakfast with Santa for the first time and said it is a wonderful event and commented that Paul Cotruvo is amazing.
- He wished everyone a great holiday season.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

The General Manager made the following announcements:

- She acknowledged and thanked staff who were in attendance tonight to welcome the incoming new Board Members and wish the outgoing Board Members well. They are not required to attend, but chose to attend the meeting.
- She was inducted into Rotary of Pleasant Hill and is an official member now.
- She announced that the volunteers for the Senior Holiday Luncheon will need to be at the Senior Center by 11:30 a.m.
- District Offices will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26. She will also be out on Tuesday, December 27.
- She wished everyone a happy holiday season and enjoy the next three weeks off until the next Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Shess adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m. in honor of former Board Members Dennis Donaghu and Sherry Sterrett.

Michelle Lacy, Clerk of the Board