

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JANUARY 27, 2003
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1. Present at Roll Call:** Acting Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Ann Schwab, Jim Walker, Stephen Lucas, and Russell Mills; Absent: Commissioners Mary Schreiber and David Wood. Staff; Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Assistant City Attorney Alica M. Rock, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson

- 2. Election of Officers**

COMMISSIONER WALKER NOMINATED MICHAEL CANDELA FOR CHAIR.
COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

COMMISSIONER WALKER NOMINATED MARY SCHREIBER FOR VICE-CHAIR.
COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 16, 2002

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda** None

- 2. Presentation on Events and Activities at the Kiwanis Club Community Observatory**

Kris Koenig, President of the Kiwanis Club, gave a slide presentation on the activities at the observatory during the past year. Eleven thousand people visited last year and the AstroCamps were so successful he would like to hold them for 12 weeks in 2003. He requested several changes be considered: 1) build up the berm in front of the building so people will need to use the walkway. 2) build an amphitheater of 25 feet diameter on the south side of existing building for lazer shows, 3) add 8' x 8; granite telescope pads for use by the public, and 4) realign the entry road to include speed bumps and configure the lot using cement or wood piles to designate parking spaces and cut speeding. Kiwanis is ready to act on the projects pending review, approval,

and environmental review.

From the public, Michael Jones said it is good to have their facility in the Park , but it is not in the Master Management Plan. He is concerned that it was not built through the proper process and about the large number of people who use it.

Park Director Beardsley said this is not an action item and the requests could go to the Master Management Committee. Chair Candela said to put the requests on the next meeting agenda.

Commissioner Schwab excused herself from voting on anything regarding Bidwell Park because she lives within 500 feet of the Park. ACA Rock explained there is a presumed conflict of interest on an issue within 500 feet of any Council or Commission member's residence. There may be a decision from FPPC within three weeks to limit the exclusion to an area in the immediate vicinity.

Chair Candela asked that Item 4.4 be discussed before Item 4.3

4. Request to Reconsider Action Taken on December 16, 2002 Regarding Changes to the Scope of the Environmental Review for the Proposed Annie Bidwell Trail

Chair Candela requested this item be on the agenda so new members can have a chance to state their position. He said a few years ago BPPC agreed to have only a footpath near Big Chico Creek in the vicinity of Day Camp as part of the Annie Bidwell Trail. That has changed to include considering a multipurpose trail and acquiring more information in the Environmental Impact Review. He suggested BPPC could narrow the scope of the EIR and save some money because the multipurpose trail was not included in the original plan.

Michael Jones said the Council policy is for a trail within sight and sound of the creek where possible and a multipurpose trail where ever practical. There is a narrow window of time to do a botanical study on that part by the creek. It needs to be done during March through May. A delay now could postpone the trail for a year.

Susan Mason, an appellant on last month's decision to expand the EIR, thinks there has been a compromise agreed upon to allow the EIR to be done now.

Josephine Guardino said the issue is that people are concerned there would not be a multipurpose trail in that area if south trail is closed as Michael Jones proposed.

Randy Abbott pointed out there needed to be a compromise made between interested parties to go forward with the EIR information and bring in professional opinions. One

problem is that there will be more erosion the longer we wait. He would rather City spend money fixing existing trails but the real need is to come up with a 100 year plan.

Park Director Beardsley said the compromise is to gather information on three different classes of trail in the vicinity of Day Camp and use that information to decide the best choice. The intent is not to make a commitment now, but to get the information.

Commissioner Mills supports getting all the information. The Park now has many trails that were never planned for and this is an opportunity to make informed decisions before that happens in it the acquisition as well.

No Action Taken.

3. Review and Consideration of Modification to the Environmental Review for the Annie Bidwell Trail

In response to an appeal of the motion to approve the EIR process on the proposed Annie Bidwell Trail made at the December 16, 2002 general meeting, staff met with various individuals on January 16, 2003 to discuss modifications to the level of environmental review and proposed trail alignment for the Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails. Results of that meeting were included in the Commissioners' packet and recommended for approval. Park Director Beardsley said the appeal has not been dropped, but there is agreement to move ahead in the process on the issues as outlined and come back to BPPC and Council for final decisions.

Randy Abbott said a critical point of the compromise is to bring part of the trail up to Class C. Consideration now is down to looking at seven focus areas instead of the original 23. Park users are against making new trails while the old ones deteriorate. On January 7, 2002 he had 270 signatures on his appeal to Council. If you reintroduce this long creekside segment, the process will be back in appeal and not allow things to go forward smoothly.

Michael Jones almost supports the compromise except 1) project description should include closing the existing parallel trails and 2) routes need to be established clearly but flags get moved. He would like to use survey markers no one else can see. GPS cannot get a good reading in heavy growth in this area.

Susan Mason said she has no problem with Michael Jones marking his trail route every 300 feet so it won't change later. The EIR is going to make recommendations about closures so decisions on that should be made later. She entered a letter signed by appellants presenting their agreement to a compromise on what should be studied in the upcoming trail EIR.

Josephine Guardino said a GPS could get a reading if used at the right time. Mitigation will be discussed as part of the Environmental Impact Review process. Many are uncomfortable with having a trail built on the south side in an area set aside for sensitive habitat and without a management plan in place. There is not a lot of support for it.

Commissioner Walker said the Yahi Trail is magnificent as it is now, but parallel trails may not be a bad idea to handle lots of people. Commissioner Lucas said to keep the EIR as broad as possible. The cost will not be much greater.

Commissioner Mills said the loop in the upper area below the pond is not a good place for a trail and he does not support spending money on a study of that section.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE MODIFICATION OF THE EIR AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MILLS 2ND THE MOTION WHICH FAILED 2-2. AYES: WALKER AND MILLS. NOES: LUCAS AND CANDELA.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE MODIFICATION OF THE EIR WITH A CLEAR STATEMENT THE MULTIPURPOSE LOOP IS INCLUDED FOR INFORMATION ONLY. COMMISSIONER LUCAS 2ND THE MOTION WHICH WAS RESCINDED.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO APPROVE MODIFICATION OF THE EIR AND A SEPARATE STUDY OF THE LOOP TO GET THE COST OF DOING JUST THAT PART.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE AS PROPOSED MINUS THE PEDESTRIAN LOOP. COMMISSIONER WALKER 2ND THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-0.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO PREPARE THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION ANALYZING THE LOOP COST SEPARATELY SO THE EIR CAN MOVE FORWARD. COMMISSIONER WALKER 2ND THE MOTION WHICH PASSED 3-1. AYES: LUCAS, WALKER AND CANDELA. NOES: MILLS.

BREAK 9:25 to 9:35.

5. Review and Discussion of Removing the Lead and Rehabilitating the Former Pistol Range - Upper Bidwell Park

Commissioner Schreiber asked that this issue be discussed in conjunction with the work currently underway to clean up the former rifle/skeet range near Horseshoe Lake. The pistol range is a small, contained area isolated from the public and formerly used for Police target practice.

Park Director Beardsley said it would be a separate funding item from the work started on the rifle range. There is no information on this area and it may not require the same remedial options but we can get to know if it is a critical location.

Bruce Grey of the Chico Rod and Gun Club commented on the general difference in munitions and the kinds of targets used between the police (pistol) range and the gun club (rifle) range. There have also been other firing ranges in the park's history. He suggested a salvage operation might be involved to save costs.

Tom Barrett encouraged a study but doubts there is much recovery value. Soil could be contaminated and the area should be fenced off to keep people from mining for bullets.

Michael Jones said the proposed trail goes through the pistol range area so he would move the trail away.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO PROPOSE CITY COUNCIL TAKE A LOOK AT THE PISTOL RANGE TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT AND AREA OF CONTAMINATION. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-0.

Staff will put up signs.

6. Trail/Safety Meeting of January 8, 2003 (Commissioners Wood and Candela)

a. Report on action taken by the City Council regarding an appeal of BPPC 12/16/02 decision relating to environmental review of the proposed Annie Bidwell Trail

This item is on the Council agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

b. Consider establishing a trail difficulty program for Upper Bidwell Park

Committee is looking at three logos for rating and at colors to use. They still need more submittals from users. Determination is qualitative, not specific, and the IMBA code is a part of it.

c. Request from Michael Jones to adopt the Middle Trail - Upper Bidwell Park

Michael Jones said the trail is an old fire route made by a bulldozer. The ground needs to be wet for him to do the work but the gates are closed at that time. He would like to have a gate key.

Josephine Guardino said trail maintenance in the past has been done improperly and she would like some form attached to the Trails Manual to identify what a volunteer is working on and follow up to see how the work was done.

Park Director Beardsley would like to have direction from Committee about letting volunteers have a key. He said staff has been monitoring volunteer maintenance recently.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE JONES' ADOPTION OF MIDDLE TRAIL WITHOUT REROUTES. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-0.

d. Review and consideration of trail safety/use language for the Trail Brochure

The committee is moving toward recommendations of a boilerplate as education. It is coming back to the next meeting.

e. Discussion of new bicycle technologies

Bicycle technology is progressing so more people are going to more places. Commissioner Candela said BPPC cannot monitor that process but just be aware.

f. Review and discussion of techniques and methods to increase public awareness for proper trail use

Committee agrees more information is better and there has been good discussion on several methods of educating the public. More of the bike community are attending the meetings and two groups want to adopt a trail.

Josephine Guardino said there are over 80 miles of trails in Upper Park. When

the ground is wet pedestrians walk along the outside and make them wider. It is an enforcement issue to stop that damage. New trails should not be built if we cannot take care of the existing ones.

Michael Jones said one suggestion is to put IMBA rules on new sign posts. Ted Thomsen said signs are good but the information is not always clear and a lot of riders are not responsible anyway.

Commissioner Walker said we have to pay more attention to mountain bikers and let riders know we will be hard on those who do damage.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Lindo Channel encroachment information is included in the packet. Park Department is still getting cost estimates of the clean up of rifle/skeet range. We may have to fence off about 16 acres, including Horseshoe Lake, if the process is slow.

Another Skateboard Park ad hock meeting is scheduled in March. A restroom facility has been funded and they are still looking into the surveillance process.

The next Baroni Neighborhood Park meeting is set for 2/12/03. Money has been allocated for a master plan.

An overview of public officials' obligations under conflict-of-interest rules is included in the packet.

Committee request should be given to the Park Director and assignments will be confirmed at the 02/24/03 meeting.

- 2. Monthly Reports** Received and filed.
- 3. Incident Reports** Received and filed.
- 4. Correspondence** None

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Susan Mason requested, as part of the EIR process, the park be made more handicap

accessible from Parking Lot I (Crusher Dust Trail) to Day Camp.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 to the next regular meeting of February 24, 2003.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SIGN IN SHEET
JANUARY 27, 2003

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1.	Michael R. Jones	2411 Notre Dame Blvd
2.	Kris Koenig	1025 Rushmore Avenue
3.	Susan Mason	PO Box 3036
4.	Josephine Guardino	467 East 9 th Street
5.	Bruce E. Grey	145 West 20 th Street
6.	Randy Abbott	1151 East 10 th Street
7.	Tom Barrett	1026 Bryant Avenue
8.	Ted Thomsen	1377 Woodland Avenue

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 24, 2003
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Ann Schwab, Jim Walker, Stephen Lucas, Russell Mill, Mary Schreiber and David Wood. Staff: Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Assistant City Attorney Alica M. Rock, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of January 27, 2003

This item was removed from consent agenda by Chair Candela.

2. Application and Permit for Park Use from Celebration of People, Inc. to Use Children's Playground Saturday, May 4, 2003 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a Celebration of Youth Art and Music Fair.

3. Application and Permit for Park Use of Wildwood Park for the 2003 Season from Butte United Soccer League for use until June 30, 2003 and Chico Central Little League for use until July 11, 2003

4. Application and Permit for Park Use from Kiwanis Club Community Observatory for AstroCamp Dates in June, July and August, 2003

This item was removed from consent agenda by Commissioner Walker.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 2 AND 3 OF CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 27, 2003

Chair Candela corrected the motions in item 4.3 regarding modification to the EIR for Annie Bidwell Trail.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

b. Application and Permit for Park Use from Kiwanis Club Community Observatory for AstroCamp Dates in June, July and August, 2003

Commissioner Walker said he was impressed by a visit to the Observatory but questions the use of the facility for over night camps. Kris Koenig, President of the Kiwanis Club, explained there are ten students per session and three to six docents, who have been given police background checks. The children sleep on the floor with the roof open all night, use the portable restroom, have antibacterial wipes available, and are escorted any time they go outside.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR ASTROCAMPS. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

2. Review and Consideration of Request from the Bidwell Park Golf Course to Make Improvements to Property Included in their Lease.

Lance Fong, General Manager, requests permission to build an additional shed for carts, add skylights to the rest rooms in the clubhouse, and install a wall and sign at the front gate to clearly identify the entrance to the golf course. Staff recommends approval of the requests with a building permit issued and a review by Commission of the sign itself. Chair Candela said the sign should be reviewed by the City Planning Department and be guided by the Master Management Plan. Commissioner Mills said such a sign was not approved earlier and he does not think making a statement with such a sign is appropriate in Upper Park.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE ALL THREE ITEMS WITH THE PROVISION BPPC APPROVE THE DESIGN OF THE SIGN. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

3. Review and Implementation of Lindo Channel Encroachments - Policies and Procedures

At its meeting of February 4, 2003, Council requested a review on the status of encroachments in Lindo Channel. Park Director Beardsley provides Commissioners with a report and background information and said the situation has not changed much in the last year. Nine properties are on appeal and awaiting final determination: three in Category III (permanent structures), four in Category IV (non-permanent structures) , and two in Category Va (gardens and other intentional plantings). Those in Category III

were waiting for the outcome of state legislation that might permit the City to trade or sale property. The legislation is now dead so they need to be looked at again. The balance of the encroachments are to be removed within 60 days. Staff recommends the matter be referred to committee.

From the public, Michael Jones said it is clear there are three property owners interested in a land swap. Council told staff to remove the encroachments, so why is the question back? Park Director Beardsley said the Commission has the oversight and responsibility to apply the policy.

Commissioner Wood said Commission has already reviewed this and Council overturned it. He is a former encroacher and his neighbors have removed their structures, so does he need to be excused from the issue? ACA Rock will look into it. Commissioner Mills said he has past experience with the encroachment policy and volunteers to serve for Commissioner Wood if he is removed temporarily.

Commissioner Schreiber said there should be a physical visit to each site to look at it and make a decision. Commissioner Mills said he is surprised there are so many in category IV and V on the list. Are there extenuating circumstances for someone with a lawn not to remove it? Are Commissioners to look at cases or policy? Park Director Beardsley said to look at cases and circumstances.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO REFER LINDO CHANNEL ENCROACHMENTS TO THE PRESERVATION/STREAM COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

4. Consideration of Bidwell Park and Playground Commission Meeting Time

Commissioner Schreiber recommends starting the general meetings at 6:30 p.m. to be finished earlier. Commissioner Schwab already has commitments at that time and Chair Candela is in Oroville until at least 5:30.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO BEGIN GENERAL MEETINGS AT 7:00 P.M. STARTING MARCH, 2003 FOR ONE YEAR. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Street tree planting is completed, with about 250 trees done. Now crews work on sign and signal pruning along thoroughfares for safety issues. There will be minor

modifications made at Caper Acres and additional signs on Lindo Channel greenway to let people know it is public property. The new plan for Plaza Park probably will be presented in March. Staff would like to hear from a volunteer group who would remove the fence at First and Verbena.

2. Incident Reports

Received and filed. Park Director Beardsley said the good weather brings increased activity, but also brings a problem of more incidents at the Skateboard Park.

3. Correspondence None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 to the next regular meeting of March 31.2003.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SIGN IN SHEET
February 24, 2003

	Name	Address	
1.	Kris Koenig	1025 Rushmore Ave	Chico 95928
2.	Michael Jones	2411 Notre Dame	Chico 95928

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MARCH 31, 2003
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Ann Schwab, Jim Walker, Stephen Lucas, Russell Mills, Mary Schreiber, and David Wood; staff: Urban Forester Chris Boza, ACA Alicia M. Rock, Park Director Dennis Beardsley, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

Park Director Beardsley introduced Michael Collins, a student at CSUC who, with Volunteer Coordinator Steve Hogue, made up the new sign that will be installed at Bear Hole before Memorial Day. Mr. Collins said the sign was his service project for a sociology class. He wrote the text and used photos taken about 100 years ago for a geology survey. The commission, staff and public thanked him for his work.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of February 24, 2003**
- 2. Consider Application and permit from Balls Edge Concerts for 2003 Concert Series for Various Saturday Night Concerts - City Plaza**

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda** None
- 2. Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Improvements for the DeGarmo Community Park Master Plan, Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD)**

For Information Only

Mary Cahill, CARD General Director, gave some background on the site and said that the impact of development in this area brings a need for more resources. The project would cost between \$14 million and \$18 million as presented. An aquatic facility has also been discussed.

Greg Melton, architect, said the theme of the park is to blend with the environment of the surrounding agricultural land. The architecture will be similar to ranch buildings and the theme carried out to playgrounds, integrated parking lots, restrooms, and the recreation center. There will be many native trees to create shade and some sloping of the land to break it up and give character. The goal is for multi-use as much as possible. One new addition is a four-way intersection at the Esplanade with full traffic lighting.

There are four building phases planned. El Rancho Little League is getting their own facility and they will help with the Phase I baseball fields, which should be available in 2004. Phase II builds the connection to Esplanade, picnic structures, soccer fields and parking. Phase III is for the maintenance facility, and Phase IV includes other accesses to the park, parking, restrooms, and two softball fields. He does not have a time frame for completion of all.

3. Review and Consideration of Fiscal Year 2003-04 Park-Related Community Organization Funding Requests

Chico Creek Nature Center requests \$60,960. Tom Haithcock, Interim Director, spoke in support of the amount, which has been granted since 2000.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO SUPPORT FUNDING \$60,960 TO NATURE CENTER. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

Chico Cat Coalition requests \$13,430, which is slightly higher than last year.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO SUPPORT FUNDING \$13,430 TO CHICO CAT COALITION. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

Gregg Payne requests \$2,000 for wind chimes in Bidwell Park. This item is discussed further under 4.5(b) on page 6.

4. Review and Consider Recommendation to Reallocate a Portion of the City of Chico's "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal

Protection Bond Act of 2000" (2000 Bond Act - Proposition 12) to the Bidwell Park Rifle/Skeet Range Clean-up - Upper Bidwell Park

Currently \$93,788 of Prop12 funds are allocated to replace the pedestrian/bicycle bridge in Lower Park in the vicinity of Highway 99. However, the bridge is on a 150 foot right-of-way owned by Caltrans and probable widening of the highway would affect the bridge. Also the Caltrans project is not expected to be completed before 2008 or 2009 and Proposition 12 funds must be spent by 2008. Therefore, staff recommends the funds be reallocated to going forward on the high priority of cleaning up the rifle/skeet range.

Prop 12 funds cannot be used for removing the PAH's and lead, but could be used for site design, construction documents, and facility improvements. Until completion of Caltrans construction, the foot bridge would be monitored for safety.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.
COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

5. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of March 5, 2003

A. Review and consideration of request from the Kiwanis Club to make site improvements in the vicinity of the Kiwanis Club Community Observatory

Kris Koenig, President of Kiwanis Club, outlined the proposed requests regarding rerouting the road, developing a pedestrian right-of-way, making designated parking spaces in the existing lot, construction of crushed granite telescope pads and building a subterranean seating pit. In addition, proposal was to raise the berm to keep people from running into the parking lot. He said they are not asking to expand but want to meet the current use.

Park Director Beardsley suggested that putting some logs in the center of the parking area with signs directing one way traffic and constructing a fence to direct pedestrians would be quick and fairly inexpensive measures to take right now. Other issues may require an EIR. There is a lot of interest in updating the existing Master Management Plan to include projects in this area but it would be expensive and take a long time so we should do what we can in the meantime. Funding of \$53,000 is allocated to update the Master Plan, but that is not enough for the full job.

Commissioner Walker said the existing Master Management Plan says new facilities that increase use intensity should be prohibited, limited or need a negative declaration. He likes the observatory but it will expand and already needs more parking. It is not a stand alone project and it does impact the area around it. He would like to have one master plan for Horseshoe Lake area and another for the disc golf area. Perhaps the \$53,000 allocated could pay for a focus plan. The park benefits most from long term planning.

Commissioner Mills said the language in the existing plan is vague and can support either side. It has not been updated since it was approved in 1990 so we should not wait and hold up this request as though it was a giant project. The observatory is not in a sensitive area and Hooked on Fishing has more impact.

Commissioner Schreiber said we should be making better use of this area. She hopes the observatory grows and they come back to ask for more space.

Commissioner Schwab said to look at the intensive use of the area as a whole and make sure we are using it in the best way. Plan for the best potential.

Commissioner Wood said a lot of the old plan stills holds up, but some things cannot be envisioned. His concerns are about the need for more parking in Upper Park and what the signs would look like.

Commissioner Lucas does not believe the required new studies would be extensive or prevent this project. Community support makes this an asset that could not have been be assessed in a master plan. No Master Plan can clearly designate every part of an area.

From the public:

Brendan Diamond, a volunteer at the observatory, said when lines are long inside, visitors are taken out to the area proposed for the seating pit where there is a view.

Susan Mason does not object to the observatory but the August event might bring in thousands of people. The original negative declaration considered only the footprint of the building housing the telescope and nothing of the surrounding area.

Lacy W. Stalnaker took his sister to look at the stars and saw the laser show

outside. He is interested in doing more of both.

Josephine Guardino values both science and education but has concerns with the process of approving projects in the park. The park is designated as a conservation resource area in the General Plan, which is a conflict to some uses. This negative declaration was missing information on wildlife and plant studies. She is concerned about what Horseshoe Lake will look like after the skeet range clean up is completed, so don't fast track anything for that area until after the cleanup is done. A focus study may be valuable in this high density area later.

Anthony Watts sees a safety problem with the parking lot that should be addressed quickly as a liability issue. The observatory has proven itself to be a great success so fix the small tweaks. There is no native soil there and an environment study would be a waste of time. Pads would be a good addition and safer to use.

Julie Shaw teaches art classes at Butte College and takes her students to the observatory. She supports this gem of Chico.

Wayland Dogger is a member of Audubon Society and volunteers at the observatory. He has not seen anything out there that would impact any sensitive bird species.

Greg Payne thinks no Master Management Plan could replace seven intelligent people on the Commission making individual calls on each issue.

Park Director Beardsley confirmed that anything outside the building was not covered in the original declaration. The process now would be to identify the changes proposed and study the level of environmental review needed. That would require review by the Planning Department and seeking new funding.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROAD AND PARKING AREA AND CONSTRUCTION OF A RAIL FENCE. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO SUPPORT CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL FOR ALL PROJECT REALIGNMENT OF ROADWAY. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2. AYES. COMMISSIONERS MILLS, SCHREIBER, WOOD, LUCAS, AND CHAIR CANDELA. NOES: COMMISSIONERS WALKER AND

SCHWAB.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO SUPPORT CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTING AN OPEN SKY SEATING AREA AND TELESCOPE PADS. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2. AYES. COMMISSIONERS MILLS, SCHREIBER, WOOD, LUCAS, AND CHAIR CANDELA. NOES: COMMISSIONERS WALKER AND SCHWAB.

Break from 8:50 to 9:00.

b. Review and consideration of request from Gregg Payne to place a wind chime in Bidwell Park

Mr. Payne said Chico Art Commission has a mini grant program for up to \$2,000 encouraging local artists to propose art projects.. He would like to do an art project combining harmony, math and art and needs to know it is feasible before working out details of engineering and costs. His chimes could be hung any where out of reach, maybe to existing lamp bases, last a long time, require no re-tuning, and decibels can be adjusted to suit needs. Chico Creek Nature Center, Children's Park, Park Plaza and Wildwood Park are places to consider but the grant does not require it to be in a park.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO GRANT CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF WIND CHIMES PENDING LOCATION AND OTHER FACTORS. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

6. Report from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of March 20, 2003

a. Consider establishing trail difficulty designations for Upper Bidwell Park

Designation of trail difficulty is color coded on the draft map provided and some were changed at the March 20 meeting. The final map and information will be used in future publications.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO ADOPT THE TRAIL DESIGNATIONS. COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0

b. Review and consideration of trail safety language for the trail brochure

Commissioners reviewed "Rules of the Trail" and made some suggestions and

corrections. Commissioner Wood would add information giving the schedule of trail openings. Commissioner Mills would like the Trail/Safety Committee to look at changing some of the park rules.

From the public, Josephine Guardino questioned if equestrians, including groups and children, were required to wear helmets. She recently saw a woman badly hurt by a fall from a horse. Helmets are not required, but Chair Candela would like to send the question of helmet regulations back to the Committee.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE "RULES OF THE TRAIL" AS MODIFIED. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

c. Status report on the Adopt-A-Trail program

Commissioner Wood said five trails have been adopted and volunteers are working well under the supervision of staff. Chico Bike Club has worked on a section of trail they used in last year's race and now that section has been downgraded in difficulty designation. Others want to adopt and the program is doing well. Recognition signs will be put up after 60 hours of work.

Three staff members have been trained and will rotate through the supervisory position. Any one who is interested in adopting a trail can call the Park Department. The commitment is for one year and all must sign waivers.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MOVED TO APPROVED THE ADOPTIONS. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

d. Access to trails by volunteers when trails are closed

Commissioner Woods said there are advantages to getting workers into areas when the gates are closed for wet conditions. But volunteers would not be allowed in on Sunday and Monday, when gates are routinely closed to everyone.

e. Review and discussion of trail closed signs

Ranger Bob requested changing four signs on trail closure to make them clearer to the public. Photos were in the packet. Staff would also produce uniform wording style throughout the park.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE SIGNS. COMMISSIONER LUCAS

SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

f. Discussion of general trail policies

This item is to look at how the Trail Manual has been working since adopted and review the interpretation and application of standards.

Commissioner Wood there are no specific recommendations but he would like to reexamine the policy that all trails should have Class B designations. He would like to make them all Class D to keep them more narrow.

Commissioner Mills said Class B shows they are multi-use and Class D has no standards so that would be a big step. Single track is for cyclist and others need more width to avoid conflicts between multi users. Commissioner Schreiber asked to put the item on the April agenda for more public input.

From the public, Josephine Guardino said making potential freeways in upper park would change the flavor and there should be a variety.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO PUT TRAIL POLICIES ON THE APRIL AGENDA. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

7. Consideration of Application and Permit for Park Use from North Valley Productions for a Public Concert, Saturday, September 6, 2003 - Cedar Grove - Lower Bidwell Park

This site has not recently been used for a single performance public concert so now Park Director Beardsley would like to consider issues of parking, possible objections from neighbors, and setting a precedent. There has been a good effort made for this event. Steven Schuman, from North Valley Productions, said his goal is to have no additional lighting in the park so they would be out before dark.

COMMISSIONER SCHWAB MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.
COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

5. REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

There are many meetings scheduled next week for committees, a Skateboard Park

meeting on April 10, and Council will meet tomorrow to consider legislation on Lindo Channel encroachments and the tree ordinance. No meeting is scheduled for Baroni Park neighborhood park but many questionnaires have been returned to begin the design process.

2. **Monthly Reports** Received and filed.

3. **Incident Reports** Received and filed

4. **Correspondence** None

6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Josephine Guardino recommended a pamphlet on lead that all should read. She is concerned about dust at the rifle range clean up that might affect events at the Observatory and the indoor shooting ranges. Dust is highly contaminated and can stay in the air for 30 days. The public should be notified if they are exposed to high levels of lead dust there.

Hugh Kern said the decision to remove the elm trees in Plaza Park is based on inaccurate and dishonest documentation and the time line for removal and replacements is wrong. Park Director Beardsley said this item is on the agenda for the Tree/Safety Committee meeting next week and the public can attend the meeting.

Commissioner Walker said it would be good to attend the public meetings on the Highway 99 improvements and “have a noticed public hearing”. The Commission can make a recommendation during the 30 day public comment period.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 to the next regular meeting of April 28, 2003.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND
SIGN IN SHEET
MARCH 31, 2003

	Name	Address
1.	Mary Cahill	CARD
2.	Tom Haithcock	Chic Creek Nature Center
3.	Brendan Diamond	501 Paseo Campaneros
4.	Susan Mason	PO Box 3036 95927
5.	Lacy W. Stalnaker	1485 Manzanita Avenue 95926-1613
6.	Josephine Guardino	467 East 9 th Street 95928
7.	Anthony Watts	31 Rondo Court 95928
8.	Julie Shaw	1641 Mulberry St 95928
9.	Wayland Dogger	2620 Lakewest Drive 95928
10.	Gregg Payne	1345 Laburnum 95926
11.	Steven Schuman	1747 Broadway 95928
12.	Hugh Kern	535 Cypress St 95928

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
APRIL 28, 2003
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Russell Mills, Jim Walker, Ann Schwab, and David Wood; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, Assistant City Attorney Alicia M. Rock, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.
Absent: Commissioners Mary Schreiber and Stephen Lucas.

Special Recognition and Awards - Groups and Organizations who Volunteer in Bidwell Park

Volunteer Coordinator Steve Hogue introduced Carol Myers from Park Watch, Vaming Xiong from Upward Bound, and Dr. Lori-Beth Wey from Chico Cat Coalition and gave each a certificate thanking them for the work their organizations have done in the Park in the past several years. He also announced there will be a picnic at Wildwood Park on June 21, 2002 honoring all volunteers.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 31, 2003

This item was removed from Consent Agenda by Commissioner Walker.

2. Permit Application from Ensemble Theatre of Chico - Shakespeare in the Park June 28, 2003 to August 21, 2003 - Cedar Grove Meadow and Picnic Area

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEM 2 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.
COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

**1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 31, 2003**

Commissioner Walker said to add that, during Business From the Floor on page 9, he asked for Commission to set a noticed public hearing on Highway 99 improvements.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

2. Review and Consideration of Content and Location for a “Poem Rock” in Bidwell Park

Commissioner Schwab excused herself from this item because she lives too close to the proposed location.

In August 2002, John Staple proposed to create a poem rock in Bidwell Park for a grant given by the Chico Arts Commission. BPPC gave conceptual approval pending content and location. Mr. Staple now proposes to include a poem by local poet George Keithley entitled “Morning Song”. Master Management Committee recommends the rock be placed at a location near the end of Vallombrosa Avenue.

Commissioner Walker said the park is a work of art as it is but he was moved by the poem and the concept of this project. Commissioner Mills would approve placement of the rock on the condition it be inspected and approved by an engineer.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED.
COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-0.

3. Consideration of Appeal from Bette Mertz to Remove One Sycamore - 353 St. Augustine Drive.

Urban Forester Boza said staff denied this application to remove a tree on the public right-of-way because the tree has no problems and it is City policy to remove a tree only if dead, dying, diseased or unsound.

Mrs. Mertz said she loves trees but wants to remove this one before surface roots cause damage. She would like a smaller, decorative tree and would bear the cost of removal and replacement.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MOVED TO REPLACE THE TREE IF THERE IS NO COST TO THE CITY. THERE WAS NO SECOND.

No action taken and the original decision is upheld.

4. Review and Discussion of the Bidwell Park Trails Manual

At Commission’s request, staff prepared an overview of how the Trails Manual is being used and applied. Copies of the document have been given to Commissioners and is at

www.ci.chico.ca.us

No Action Taken

5. Review and Consideration of Proposed Design for the Restrooms - Humboldt Neighborhood Park (Skateboard)

Consultant Greg Melton, of Lion Image, presented the design on the master plan for the restrooms and the art components. There are two options for the restrooms. CXT is prefabricated concrete coated with graffiti-proof material popular for small parks. It costs less, is easier to install and maintain, and can be made attractive with art attached on a steel panel. ROMTEC costs more, is made of blocks and would be constructed on site. A stainless steel drinking fountain would be attached to the outside of either model and stainless steel fixtures inside.

Park Director Beardsley said keeping the Park and restroom clean and adding art makes it all more respected. Skaters would design some of the project and do the work on vertical surfaces inside the park. An artist would be selected to do the art work inside the restroom.

For information only.

6. Report on the Volunteer Committee Meeting of April 7, 2003

Review and Consider Volunteer Program

Commissioner Schwab said the committee met to review volunteer programs and discuss ways to recognize contributions of various groups, as was done tonight. They may award pins for years of service, and there will be the picnic on June 21. Commission Mills ask that his students with American Society of Civil Engineers be included for their efforts at the Park.

No action recommended.

7. Report from the Stream/Preservation Committee of April 7, 2003

a. Review and discuss the status of the “Lindo Channel Encroachments - Policies and Procedures” - Lindo Channel Greenway

Staff reported on the status of the encroachment policies, existing encroachments, and actions that have been taken during the past three years.

b. Review and consider the status of existing encroachments into the

Lindo Channel Greenway

Council has approved a draft of legislation that would provide options to resolving some existing encroachments. Assuming the legislation will be approved, Commission made recommendations on a case-by-case basis.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF ENCROACHMENTS WITHIN 60 DAYS AT 44 GUYNN BRIDGE COURT AND AT 50 GUYNN BRIDGE COURT. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF ENCROACHMENTS WITHIN 60 DAYS AT 1045 SIR WILLIAMS COURT. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO DEFER ACTION ON 375 COHASSET ROAD PENDING LEGISLATION. COMMISSION SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO EXTEND THE ENCROACHMENT TWO YEARS FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AT 824 BROOKWOOD OR UNTIL LEGISLATION IS DETERMINED, WHICH COMES FIRST. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

Commissioner Mills suggested the graveled parking lot at Pleasant Valley Mobile Estates be separated from the mobile home in considering the encroachment appeal and propose to trade some portions of the land. Park Director Beardsley said he would determine if the lot is included and, for now, assume it is the mobile home only.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO DEFER ACTION ON THE MOBILE HOME AT PLEASANT VALLEY MOBILE ESTATES PENDING LEGISLATION. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO DEFER ACTION AT 8 GUYNN BRIDGE COURT PENDING LEGISLATION. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0

Chair Candela and Commissioner Wood excused themselves from discussion on 1690 Filbert Avenue, 1694 Filbert Avenue, and 835 Madrone Avenue for possible conflict from living too near. That produced a lack of quorum and these properties will be discussed by Commission at the May meeting.

8. Report from the Tree/Finance Committee Meeting of April 8, 2003

a. Review and consideration of request to plant palm trees at East Sixth and Main Street

Planning Commission has approved the planting of palm trees as an architectural feature on a proposed building at 6th and Main Streets with the condition all trees be in compliance with City requirements. Urban Forester Boza said the existing street trees would stay in place, some sycamore and maples will be added in the public right-of-way, and all take precedence over the palms. Applicant would be responsible for taking out the palms if need be.

Commissioner Mills said the City is accepting responsibility for them if approved. Commissioner Schwab said they enhance the architectural beauty of the building and, if owner accepts responsibility, they are no more a liability than others.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED NOT TO ACCEPT THE PALM TREES AT 6TH AND MAIN. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 3-2. AYES: CHAIR CANDELA, COMMISSIONERS MILLS AND WALKER. NOES: COMMISSIONERS SCHWAB AND WOOD.

b. Receive and consider evaluation of Elm Trees - City Plaza

A twenty year removal/replacement program began in 1993 and two trees have been removed each year over the past ten years. In 2002, Denise Britton, of Britton Tree Service, St. Helena, was retained to re-examine the remaining elms for health and structural integrity. Ms. Britton's report has been submitted. She recommends ten trees be removed in the next five years and then the twelve remaining trees be evaluated again. She set priorities for maintenance and removal and recommended crown thinning and crown pruning specifications. Staff would like to do additional crown reduction work to lower the height of some.

From the public, Hugh Kern said the decision for removal is subjective. After the first four are removed, someone should inspect the rest. Thickness over radius can change so trees will need more analysis.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CONSULTANT'S REPORT AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS. COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

- 9. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of April 9, 2003**
- a. Review and consider request to expand existing playground area - Children's Playground**

Commissioner Walker said two ladies came to the meeting and said they want to upgrade the playground for more positive use of the area and that they have a plan for financing it. They would expand the playground area and add benches for more family use. Also they have a plan for financing the work.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO GIVE CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL TO THE PLAN. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0

- b. Review and consider request from the Chico Dog Fanciers Association to allow dogs off leash for dog flyball and agility events.**

Cathy Augros of Butte Humane Society, with Lynda Piercy and Jim Zakrzewski of Chico Dog Fanciers, showed slides demonstrating activities included in flyball and agility events. Dogs are on leash except when actually in competition, which is usually for about 60 seconds. They would like to change leash laws for the park so they could hold such events at Hooker Oak. The first would be in November, 2003.

Staff recommends approval of the request on a one time basis to assess the situation and consider possible changes for the CMC.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A ONE TIME EVENT. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Park Director Beardsley said about 25% of the questionnaires on Baroni Park have been returned. Clean up of the rifle range should begin within 60 days. Council approved funding \$47,970 for a camera and other improvements at Humboldt Park, reallocated the grant funds for rifle range clean up, and agreed to update the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan. A citizen's advisory group and a technical advisory groups will be involved. Annie Bidwell Trail and the disc golf facility are now on hold.

2. Monthly Report

Urban Forest Boza reported Caper Acres is getting a new water line and upgraded

electrical system. It will be open on the regular schedule during the work. PG&E will be clearing lines in sag areas of Upper Park. The C Tree program, teaching the public to trim trees, is starting again in May.

3. Incident Reports Received and filed.

4. Correspondence

A letter from Linda Crum, Secretary of the Chico Equestrian Association, giving the association's annual report.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR none

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. to the next regular meeting of May 27, 2003.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SIGN IN SHEET
APRIL 28, 2003

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Hugh Kerns	535 Cypress Street, Chico 95928
2.	Denice Britton	7168 Beverly Lane, Paradise 95969
3.	Cathy Augros	2579 Fair Street, Chico 95928
4.	Lynda Piercy	PO Box 1096, Durham 95938
5.	Jim Zakrzewski	9455 Lott Road, Durham 95938

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MAY 27, 2003
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Russell Mills, Jim Walker, Ann Schwab, Mary Schreiber, Stephen Lucas, and David Wood. Staff: Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, Assistant City Attorney Alicia M. Rock, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from Regular Meeting of April 28, 2003

This item was removed from Consent Agenda by Commissioner Mills.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

**1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
Minutes from the regular meeting of April 28, 2003**

Commissioner Mills corrected an address for encroachments to 1690 Filbert Avenue on page 4. Commissioner Schwab had said the palm trees “enhanced the architectural beauty” of the building on page 5.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

2. Review and Consideration of Request to Discuss Protocols for Committee Activities

Commissioner Mills said he would like to adopt a policy stating that committees serve at the convenience of the commission and not have the authority to either initiate or enact policy. It would not preclude committees from initiating and acting on routine, non-policy matters. In that way, all Commissioners would have equal authority and the public would be more involved. When a committee brings an item to the agenda and makes a recommendation, it projects a bias.

Commissioner Lucas prefers not to limit access for ideas by requiring it to be initiated at

commission meetings. Commissioner Schwab sees only good things from more public participation. Park Director Beardsley said he would prefer not to be in the position of determining the importance of items and he likes the committee structure. Both commission and committee agendas are posted on the web site but only the commission is in the Enterprise Record.

From the public, Jeff Smith said realistically the public does not get committee agendas so, if an item comes from committee, the public has not had a chance to give input. Randy Abbott said most park users are not political activists. There was a problem when large numbers of people showed up for Annie Bidwell Trail meetings but their comments were not passed on to the commission. Susan Mason said she did not know for a long time she could get all agendas. The web site is not a reliable source. Josephine Guardino said the public has been upset about the policy issues being introduced and discussed at some meetings .

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO DIRECT PARK DIRECTOR TO DRAFT AN ADDITIONAL BPPC AGENDA POLICY SAYING COMMITTEES FUNCTION ON AN ADVISORY LEVEL AND SIGNIFICANT POLICY ISSUES WOULD ORIGINATE AT THE COMMISSION LEVEL. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH FAILED 3-4. AYES: MILLS, SCHWAB AND WALKER. NOES: CANDELA, SCHREIBER, LUCAS AND WOOD.

3. Review and Consideration of Gate Openings and Closings in Bidwell Park

The current contract ends June 30, 2003. The budget is for \$23,000 but the only bid received was for \$50,610. Park Director Beardsley said the contract covers a range from openings at 5:30 a.m. to closings at 11:00 p.m. He would like recommendations for options to reduce the financial implications of the contract. Times could be consolidated and/or staff could do some of the job.

Commissioner Wood suggested changing the times with daylight savings time instead of each month with the sun and consolidate openings of Cedar Grove restrooms and parking lot. Commissioner Walker suggested open Upper Park Road at noon so people can walk or bike before cars produce dust. From the public, Jeff Smith said it is possible to delay gate closure at Horseshoe Lake.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO OPEN CEDAR GROVE PARKING LOT AND RESTROOMS AT 5:00 A.M. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

4. Report from the Stream/Preservation Committee of April 7, 2003

a. Review and discuss the status of the “Lindo Channel Encroachments - Policy and Procedures” - Lindo Channel Greenway

Staff reported on the encroachment policy, existing encroachments, and provided an extensive report on the status of current encroachments on ten specific sites that have been the subject of Council discussion.

No Action

b. Review and consider the status of existing encroachments into the Lindo Channel Greenway

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO DEFER ACTION AT 1690 FILBERT AND 1694 FILBERT PENDING FINAL LEGISLATION. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1. AYES: MILLS, WALKER, SCHWAB, CANDELA, SCHREIBER AND LUCAS. NOES: WOOD

Chair Candela is excused from voting on 835 Madrone Avenue because he lives too near.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO DEFER ACTION AT 835 MADRONE PENDING FINAL LEGISLATION. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

5. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of May 7, 2003

a. Review and discussion of oak regeneration areas in Bidwell Park

Commissioner Walker said he is glad the issue is coming up now because growth takes so long. Commissioner Mills said he is glad to see valley oak and walnuts being used as street trees along Vallombrosa. Committee continued discussion.

b. Review and discussion of future planning in Bidwell Park

Park Director Beardsley provided information to Council about the costs and process for updating the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP). The process would be to update the Plan to current management practices, take the updated Plan to a citizens’ advisory group for recommendations, then ultimately to Council. That may be done within a year but some items may have

to go on a to-do list for a five year update. Other projects being considered by Council and staff include disc golf course, Annie Bidwell Trail, vegetation management plan, Plaza Park master plan, and trails manual.

From the public, Susan Mason said a lot of people are excited about participating in the task force and they would be able to save the City money. Josephine Guardino asked about the value of BPMMP . She read from a document of 1905 saying Annie Bidwell donated the park not for its worth but for the beauty but changes have occurred and it is not the same as what Annie left. She wants a clear outline of how resources are being protected and an annual audit of how that is being done. Greg Payne said Annie left a wonderful thing but citizens had the idea to acquire new pieces of land and now that requires review.

Commissioner Mills thinks Lindo Channel and Bidwell Ranch should be integrated into BPMMP. Park Director Beardsley said to go ahead with BPMMP because Lindo Channel is being looked at separately for management issues. He does not know how BPMMP will be funded. We are looking only at the framing now

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR UPDATING BPMMP. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

BREAK 8:40 to 8:50.

c. Status report on the rifle/skeet /trap and pistol range clean-up

City Attorney is still working to secure the Voluntary Clean-Up Agreement with California Department of Toxic Substances. There will be an update next month.

6. Report from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of May 12, 2003

a. Review and consider making Upper Park Road open all year to hikers, equestrians and bicyclists from parking areas E to O

Existing policy classifies roads as trails which are subject to use restrictions for equestrian and bicyclists during wet weather conditions. Under such a policy, Committee would like to discuss keeping upper park road open as described above.

Park Director Beardsley said the gate at Diversion Dam was installed six years ago because the road is not good above there. But probably cars are making the damage, not equestrian or cyclists. He thinks most riders will abide by the rules if the opening is extended. Commissioner Mills asked that Ten Mile House Road exception be put on an agenda.

From the public, Greg Payne did not know he was breaking the law by riding there. If you allow people to ride on the road it might decrease problems on other trails. Dennis McKenney said riders need a place to ride in winter where there is no negative impact. Susan Mason said it is a good idea to do a trial. Doug Cershe thanks the Commission for reconsidering the road closing.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE OPENING UPPER PARK ROAD ALL YEAR TO HIKERS, EQUESTRIAN AND BICYCLISTS FROM PARKING AREAS “E” TO “O” FOR ONE YEAR AND THEN EVALUATE RESULTS. COMMISSIONER. MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

b. Review and consideration of putting names and levels of difficulties on trail posts - Upper Bidwell Park

Trail posts with names have been approved, so now it is recommended that degree of difficulty be put on also.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE PUTTING NAMES AND LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY ON TRAIL POSTS SIGNS. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

c. Review and consideration of Amendment No. 7 to the Bidwell Park Trails Manual - tread repair

Staff has prepared a graphic showing the “lasagna” style water bar or tread build up. The tread style has been tried and works well. Committee recommends it be included as Figure 22.a in the Trails Manual.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRAPHIC AS FIGURE 22.a IN THE TRAILS MANUAL. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

5 REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director’s Report

Park Director Beardsley said one proposal for Baroni Park has been received and is being reviewed.

Urban Forester Boza said the failure of an elm in Plaza Park last Sunday did a fair amount of damage. A second tree partially failed. He is doing a reevaluation of all the elms in the park and will bring back the information. A slab of the trunk at 15 inches showed decay which increased significantly until there was only a thin shell at 4 inches. Trees are now being tested below grade.

The highly invasive Pepperwood weed has been found near the old walnut orchard. It cannot be allowed to be established or would choke out everything. The water line at Caper Acres is complete. It has control from one location, automatically adjusts the level of watering based on need, and automatically shuts off if a line brakes. That should save a significant amount of water usage.

2. **Monthly Reports** Received and filed.
3. **Incident Reports** Received and filed.
4. **Correspondence**

A letter of thanks from Linda Crum, Chico Equestrian Association Secretary, for the tractor work done near the CEA arena.

6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Commissioner Walker said he is hoping this time would be used by Commissioners and public to make comments or ask questions. He wanted to commend staff for getting people out quickly when the tree failed at Plaza Park. He also gives staff credit for warning people of the dangers of big water in Chico Creek. The port-a-potty is not yet at Salmon Hole, but will be this summer.

Josephine Guardino asked if the poles at the disc golf course were dangerously placed and lead to a person getting killed. Who is liable for safety at the course? Park Director Beardsley said there is no active management right now as it is not an approved project so the question of liability is in limbo.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 to the next regular meeting of June 30, 2003.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
SIGN IN SHEET
May 27, 2003

	Name	Address
1.	Jeff Smith	125 Oleander Avenue
2.	Randy Abbott	1151 East 10 th Street
3.	Susan Mason	PO Box 3036
4.	Josephine Guardino	467 East 9 th Street
5.	Greg Payne	1343 Laburnum
6.	Dennis McKenney	459 Larch Street
7.	Douglas G. Cershe	2732 Silver Oak Drive 95973

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JUNE 30, 2003
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Russell Mills, Jim Walker, Ann Schwab, Mary Schreiber, and Stephen Lucas; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, Assistant City Attorney Lori Barker, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioner David Wood,

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of May 27, 2003**
- 2. Consideration of Application and Permit for Park Use from the American Judo and Jujitsu Federation Event September 20 and 21, 2003 - Five Mile Recreation Area**
- 3. Consideration of Application and Permit for Park Use from the Butte United Soccer and Chico Cal Soccer Leagues for use of Wildwood Park August 1, 2003 to November 15, 2003**
- 4. Review and Consideration of Request from the Bidwell Park Golf Club, Inc. to Pave a Segment of the Cart Path in the Vicinity of No. 1 and & Greens and No. 8 Tee**
This item was removed from Consent Agenda by PDB
- 5. Request from Earl and Susan Nance for Garden Permit in Lindo Channel**

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 1, 2, 3, AND 5 OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

- 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Review and Consideration of Request from the Bidwell Park Golf Club, Inc. to Pave a Segment of the Cart Path in the Vicinity of No. 1 and & Greens and No. 8 Tee

PDB said the recommendation memo said 900 square feet of cart path would be paved and it should say 900 linear feet. The path would be about eight feet wide.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0

2. Review and Consideration of the Evaluation of the American Elm Trees in City Plaza (Plaza Park)

Urban Forester Boza gave a brief history of the trees. They were planted by General John Bidwell in 1873 when it was thought the county court house would be built in the plaza. About 18 inches of earth fill were added in 1900 to prevent flooding in the square, which covered the original root system. The elms were topped about 1980 and that resulted in decay columns in most trees and decay pockets in the root systems.

In 1992 a consultant recommended removal of the trees over the next ten years. City Council asked it be done over 20 years and that has been followed at an average of two per year while staff continues to evaluate the conditions and select which trees to take out. In 2000 staff purchased a resistograph which registers data on graph paper showing the condition of the tree interior. It shows the "T over R" ratio where .3 is the beginning of failure and 2.5 means it will fail. Other considerations are type of canopy, degree of lean, potential targets, and the crown shape.

Commissioner David Wood arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Twenty-three original elms remained on May 18, 2003 when elm # 210 fell unto Broadway during a period of high winds. Elm # 212 was damaged and needed to be removed the next day. Based on new information and analysis, staff now recommends twelve elms be removed this year, seven in 2003, and the remaining two in 2005. The elms are a significant part of the city sky line but have reached the end of their useful life span and should be removed and replaced.

Risk Manager Bob Koch explained that, for a City of be found liable for damages, the following must be determined:

- 1- Does an unsafe condition exist on public property
- 2- If such a condition is found to exist then
 - a) did they City know about it and
 - b) if so, what was done to eliminate the dangerous condition.

This is a significant public risk. The city belongs to a risk pool and would pay for the first \$500,000 damages. The risk pool pays for the rest.

From the public, Susan Mason notices a lot of little kids in the plaza and City should notify groups they should move to Children's Park. Tom DeGeovanni said the majority

of the citizens have accepted the trees need to come down. We were lucky when the last one fell. It is not just about loss but renewal for the second plaza park.

Commissioner Wood asked about the possibility of producing sprouts from these trees that could be planted later. Commissioner Schwab asked to pursue that plan or maybe taking some of the wood and having it milled and sold or made into something. Chair Candela said Commissioners came to look at the failed tree and the roots just were not there. He urges Commission to be aggressive and take all of them down.

COMMISSIONER SCHWAB MOVED TO REMOVE ALL OF THE ELMS IN PLAZA PARK THIS YEAR. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

The next step is to go to the Finance Committee for about \$63,000 additional funds. Then Council will make the final decision. This also changes the Plaza Park master plan being designed so work needs to be done there.

Break from 8:30 to 8:40.

3. Consider Request from Jenni Julien to Offer Chair Massages for a Fee at the One Mile Recreation Area, Five Mile Recreation Area, and City Plaza

PDB said we historically solicit proposals for any fee-based service in the parks. Usually the cost of meeting requirements of the agreement has keep concessions out of Bidwell Park. Right now there is a horse back riding vendor and proposed bicycle and surrey concessions.

From the public, Jenni Julien said she is new to Chico and impressed with the park. She is certified and insured and offers chair message of ten minutes for one dollar per minute. Or she could ask for donation. Her hours of business are open but she does not want to conflict with DCBA activities.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO SOLICIT A CONCESSION FOR CHAIR MESSAGE AND FRAME IT ACCORDING TO APPLICANT'S NEEDS.

COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2. NOES: SCHWAB AND SCHREIBER

4. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee June 4, 2004 Meeting
Request from Chico Equestrian Association for Improvements

The Chico Equestrian Association (CEA) wants to construct a portable round pen of approximately 50 feet in diameter. The question if this additional arena should be open

to the public is undecided. The other arena is required to be open to the public 72 hours a week

From the public, Bob Baylor, President of CEA, said a round pen exercises and calms horses before they go into the park. They have raised funds for the round pen and have many expenses to keep this facility in the Park. Limiting use to members only would spur membership participation at a fee of \$35.00 per year. There are 90 members now but have lots of use from the public. Susan Mason disagrees with opening the pen to the public because CEA incurred original expenses and needs to encourage new memberships. Randy Abbott said the pen is a good facility

Commissioner Wood said he is concerned with the threat of law suits and accumulative impacts on the park. He wants assurance this won't interfere with other projects being looked at. And he prefers to have the public pay a fee to use it. PDB said this area is already dedicated to CEA in the Master Management Plan and there will be a EIR done for the round pen. Commissioner Walker said it will fill a need but needs to be open the same three days a week to the public so it won't be a private organization operating on public land.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF A ROUND PEN AND PROCEED WITH THE EIR. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH FAILED 3-4. YES: MILLS, SCHWAB AND CANDELA. NOES: WALKER, SCHREIBER, LUCAS AND WOOD.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO PROCEED WITH THE ARENA IF IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC THREE DAYS A WEEK. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1. NO: COMMISSIONER WOOD.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JULY 28, 2003
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Jim Walker, Ann Schwab, Mary Schreiber, Stephen Lucas, and David Wood; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioner Russell Mills.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of June 30, 2003

2. Consideration of Application and Permit for Park Use from the California State University Chico Athletic Department for a Cross Country Footrace on Saturday, October 25, 2003

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Schwab.

3. Consideration of a Habitat Conservation Area for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetles Adjacent Holly Avenue - Lindo Channel

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Schwab.

4. Application and Permit Request from the Chico Area Recreation and Park District for the 2003 National Yo-Yo Contest, Saturday, October 4, 2003 - City Plaza

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Schwab.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2003.
COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

a. Consideration of Application and Permit for Park Use from the

California State University Chico Athletic Department for a Cross Country Footrace on Saturday, October 25, 2003

Commissioner Schwab supports the footrace, but had a question about the need for only one portable toilet for 130 people. She also noted the event time was from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. but they would not be out of the park until noon. Therefore, would Peterson Drive be closed until noon? Park Director Beardsley answered that one rented toilet is enough for more than 130 people, and Peterson Drive will be open.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.
COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

b. Consideration of a Habitat Conservation Area for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetles Adjacent Holly Avenue - Lindo Channel

From the public, Susan Mason said this looks like a good mitigation site, but it also appears to be on both sides of a bike path. Guidelines say such an area needs to be fenced off, so the bike path would be a problem. She also asked who would pay for monitoring the site. Park Director Beardsley answered that fencing had not been discussed and he would check on it. All expenses come from the capitol funds for this project.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

c. Application and Permit Request from the Chico Area Recreation and Park District for the 2003 National Yo-Yo Contest, Saturday, October 4, 2003 - City Plaza

Commissioner Schwab noted the application date was for Saturday, October 4, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2003. Park Director Beardsley said the set up on Friday night would be not conflict with other events in the Park.

COMMISSIONER SCHWAB MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION WITH THE ADDITIONAL DATE OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

2. Approval to Nominate the “Kids and Creeks” Program for the 2003 Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award

Commissioner Schwab, chair of the Volunteer Committee, said she received a nomination solicitation and would like to nominate “Kids and Creeks”. She and Park

Ranger Roxanne Baxter have begun working on the presentation and she would like BPPC Chair Candela to be the nominator. There is no monetary award but it would help the program be recognized and get future grant applications.

From the public, Roxanne Baxter said there has been a comprehensive tape prepared on the program which can be shown to the public. A documentary has been started and will take a year to cover all of the activities. She thanked Commissioner Schwab for her help.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF “KIDS AND CREEKS”. COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

3. Request from the Master Management Plan Committee July 2, 2003 Meeting

Request from Marilyn Warrens to discuss the proposed Memorial Rose Garden

Ms. Warrens has contacted the CARD Board and received a list of information she must provide them before they can consider putting the rose garden at the Hooker Oak location. She is asking for help on how to respond. Park Director Beardsley suggested she ask the CARD Board for conceptual approval, then bring the items to a future Master Management Committee meeting to be discussed.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO CONCEPTUALLY SUPPORT A MEETING WITH CARD BOARD AND MOVE AHEAD WITH THE MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director’s Report

Urban Forester Boza reported that work on removing the Plaza elms began today and all should be down by Friday. The area is fenced. Staff is there to observe and record the work. Decay pockets exist in limbs, but five feet down the wood can be solid so testing in some areas would not show the defects. Some cuttings have been held to start propagation and will become available at the Little Red Hen. The contractor has sold the wood, but some from the trees that fell in May have been held for milling. The Friday and Saturday night concerts have been moved to Children’s Playground.

Park Director Beardsley said the Rifle Range Clean Up Agreement has been approved; City and DTSC are working on the plans. There is a need for 1.5 million dollars to complete the work and that probably won’t be granted this year. State budget details are unknown, but there will be a large, negative impact in the City. However,

Proposition 40 bond money is available to be used in the future. There are many needs and priorities which will be set. Meetings on Baroni Park continue.

2. **Monthly Report** Received and filed.
3. **Incident Reports** Received and filed.
4. **Correspondence** None.

6. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Susan Mason said Prop 40 money might be \$294,000. Since the First and Verbena Park has been taken out of the neighborhood park budget, staff should consider using that site for open space and develop it at little cost. She also noted the volunteer work at removing invasive plant is becoming more active. We need to be more careful with which plants to remove and educate the public. Chair Candela said that issue should go to the Preservation/Stream Committee.

Randy Abbott asked about how regulating agencies are notified of projects such as establishing a habitat conservation area. Commissioner Lucas said a project is outlined, and EIR is done, comments go out to the agencies, they respond if they are involved, and the City follows up with reports on the monitoring.

Laura Nissim has been removing ivy from the oak trees at Five Mile and has discovered a lot of little redbud trees. But privates send out so much that other plants don't have a chance and they are hard to stop. Staff will take out some of the big trees and she will clean up the little ones. The public asks her questions while she is working so it would be good to get more information out. Commissioner Lucas said to put it on the web site. Commissioner Schwab suggest the Enterprise Record reporter in attendance could put it in her column (and she did).

Commissioner Walker said he was at the observatory Saturday night. It is open every Thursday through Sunday evening and was busy.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 to the next regular meeting of August 25, 2003.

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
JULY 28, 2003
SIGN IN

	Name	Address
1.	Susan Mason	PO Box 3036 Chico 95927
2.	Marilyn Warrens	2190 North Avenue
3.	Randy Abbott	1151 East 10 th Street
4.	Laura Nissim	PO Box 642 Paradise

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2003

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Russell Mills, Ann Schwab, James Walker, Mary Schreiber and David Wood; staff Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, Assistant City Attorney Alicia M. Rock, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson. Absent: Commissioner Stephen Lucas.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of July 28, 2003**
- 2. Application and Permit Request from the Chico State Cycling Club to Use Upper Bidwell Park on Saturday, October 18, 2003**

This item was removed from Consent Agenda by Commissioner Walker.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0. YES: CANDELA, SCHWAB, WALKER, SCHREIBER AND WOOD. ABSTAIN: MILLS.

Commissioner Lucas arrived at 7:05.

- 3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Application and Permit Request from the Chico State Cycling Club to Use Upper Bidwell Park on Saturday, October 18, 2003

Commissioner Walker said the map of the route was not included with the application and asked where the race would occur. He is concerned newcomers to Chico would be encouraged to race on the trails. Park Director Beardsley said it stays on the north side along Upper Rim Trail and drops down along "B" Trail the same as last year. Wood said the users improved the trail last year and ran a nice race.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.
COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

2. Review and Consideration of Pathway/Bridge Safety - One Mile Recreation Area

In March, 1993 Commission indicated they wanted a sign posted at the One Mile bridge saying “please walk bikes”. The bridge and route has a Class One designation and riders have a right to ride across. However, the bridge is more narrow than other Class One routes so there is a concern for safety. The wording is merely a suggestion but the public may try to enforce it in favor of pedestrians who like to stand over the water. Park Director Beardsley thinks a change of wording would be appropriate

From the public, Ed McLaughlin said the sign should be altered so it does not appear to support some rule that does not exist. He suggested making a wider bridge in the future. There have been numerous conflicts between bikes and pedestrians there in the past.

Donald Fiscus said the bridge is a public safety hazard and too narrow to allow bikes to ride on it. Susan Mason agrees that it is easy for a walker to be run down by a bike.

Michael Reilley said parents have told children to walk bikes there for years. It is only common sense and courtesy and should not have to be a law. Don’t destroy history at One Mile, but move the bike path to the Mangrove bridge when the City has money for that. David Welch suggested saying something about having bikes yield to pedestrians.

Chair Candela said the question is how to accommodate all of the users and suggesting using the international triangle sign the means bikes should yield to other traffic. Commissioner Lucas said the problem is when people congregate so a sign might say it is multi-use. Commissioner Wood asked about a definition of loitering when enforcing a law. ACA Rock said “obstructing” is easier to define and enforce then “loitering”. Chair Candela asked that the Trail/Safety Committee look at the issue of changing the 12 R’s to include not obstructing the bridge.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MOVED TO REMOVE THE CURRENT SIGN AND POST ONE THAT SAYS “NARROW BRIDGE, USE CAUTION”. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1. YES: CANDELA, WOOD, SCHREIBER, MILLS, SCHWAB, AND WALKER. NOES: LUCAS

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

The Volunteer Clean Up Agreement with DTSC on the rifle range has been signed and now staff is having discussions on financing the project. Work will not be started until the full amount needed is available. One way to save money would be to contain toxic material under a parking lot surface and avoid cost of trucking it off. Commissioner Wood would not welcome such an asphalt parking lot in Upper Park. Commissioner Walker said that any plans for parking in the area will have an impact on the future and should be considered with the Master Management Plan. Park Director Beardsley said staff is trying to isolate the clean up problem and get it resolved. The public will be involved in any discussions.

The creek restoration project at Sycamore Field will be done in September. The Lindo Bank stabilization project will be done in October. One Mile irrigation and lighting should be in construction in 2004. A consultant will present some concepts at the next Baroni Park meeting. Goats will be at the walnut orchard within a couple of weeks.

Urban Forester Boza said information gathered during the removal of the elms in Plaza Park gave no surprises. There will be a complete report to Commission in October. Commissioner Mills suggested the Plaza Park Master Plan should become a priority, but it will take time and money.

- 2. **Monthly Reports** Received and filed
- 3. **Incident Reports** Received and filed
- 4. **Correspondence** None

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Susan Mason noted there were two significant fires in Upper Park this summer and asked staff to look into the long term effects, such as inventory the burned trees and assess potential erosion, and update the wildfire management plan for the park. Staff is working on vegetation management regarding possible erosion.

Commissioner Wood would like the Preservation/Stream Committee to look at vegetation along Chico Creek in Lower Park.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting of September 29, 2003.

SIGN IN SHEET

	Name	Address
1.	Ed McLaughlin	284 East 2 nd Avenue
2.	Don Fiscus	555 Vallombrosa
3.	Michael Reilley	678 Vallombrosa Way
4.	David Welch	13 Hilda Way
5.		

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Russell Mills, Ann Schwab, James Walker, Mary Schreiber, Stephen Lucas, and David Wood; staff park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes From Regular Meeting of August 26, 2003

2. Application and Permit Request from the California State University, Chico Department of Physical Education & Exercise Science to Use Upper Bidwell Park for a Cross Country 5K, 10K and Fun Run on Saturday, November 8, 2003

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Schwab.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed From the Consent Agenda

Application and Permit Request from the California State University, Chico Department of Physical Education & Exercise Science to Use Upper Bidwell Park for a Cross Country 5K, 10K and Fun Run on Saturday, November 8, 2003

Commissioner Schwab asked about having the gate closed to Upper Park during the run. Park Director Beardsley said the gate closure for the event would be by the former Rifle Range, not the one at Wildwood Park.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PERMIT. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

2. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee for the September 3, 2003 Meeting

Review and Discuss First and Verbena Avenue Park Site

Staff recommends making a resource analysis of the 13.38 acre site as the first step for an overall master plan. It has been suggested to restore the site to a parksite and the issue of improvements is left open. Funding sources may come from grants for restoration projects.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO SEEK FUNDING FOR THE RESOURCE ANALYSIS. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

3. Report from the Trail/Safety Committee for the September 8, 2003 Meeting

a. Review and discussion of the bridge at the One Mile Recreation Area

Commissioner Mills said the committee recommends a new, all-purpose bridge be built downstream from the existing bridge. Such a bridge would not be super expensive and could be tied into the existing bike routes to guide riders away from Sycamore Pool Bridge. Commissioner Schwab would like to widen the bridge and separate bike riders from pedestrians. Commissioner Wood would always be inclined to use the Sycamore bridge because the water is more attractive there.

Park Director Beardsley said these changes might feed into building the crossing under the Mangrove Bridge that would connect downtown to the park and provide bike trails all the way to Ten Mile House Road.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO SEND THE ISSUE TO THE BIKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER EVALUATION. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

Commissioner Mills said the California Vehicle Code requires that pedestrians not obstruct reasonable bike passages. That means both parties do whatever they can to make traffic work well. Changing the 12R's to include rules on yielding would create a problem for enforcement. The existing sign is wise. Commission agreed to leave the sign and not recommend a change to Chico Municipal Code Chapter 12 R.

b. Review and consideration of request to install a memorial bench - Upper Bidwell Park

The location initially proposed for this bench was not consistent with Commission direction for such improvements in Upper Park, so a new location was proposed above Horseshoe Lake. The bench would be constructed from recycled plastic, have a recessed plaque and no concrete pad. The bench would not have a back.

From the public, Randy Rickert said the bench is what he would like to give from contributions made at the death of his wife. She loved the park and he would accept placement at the proposed location.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE BENCH DESIGN AND LOCATION AT THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH RIM TRAIL AND BLUE OAK TRAIL. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2. YES: CANDELA, WALKER, SCHREIBER, LUCAS AND WOOD. NOES: MILLS AND SCHWAB.

c. Report and discussion of the “Adopt-a-Trail” program

Park Director Beardsley reported the program is working very well. There is good public participation lead by staff who are trained for trail maintenance. He urged anyone interested in adopting a trail to call the Park office.

4. Report from the Tree/Finance Committee for the September 9, 2003 Meeting

a. Review and consideration of standards for street trees

City Council asked that the BPPC consider placing palm trees on the approved list of street trees and review current design standards. Committee recommends not to allow palm trees on the approved list and not to change the design standards. Palm trees are mostly decorative and would not provide the shade desired in a public right-of-way. This question does not come up often, and requests for exceptions can be addressed case-by-case.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED NOT TO APPROVE PALMS AS STREET TREES OR CHANGE DESIGN STANDARDS, BUT ADDRESS EXCEPTIONS CASE BY CASE (RETAIN STATUS QUO). COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

b. Review and discuss the Park Department Capital Improvement Program and availability of grant funds, including the 2002 Resources Bond Act (Proposition 40)

Committee reviewed the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program report and heard requests from other groups. It was agreed to postpone any action until the meeting of October 27, 2003.

5. Report from the Tree/Finance Committee for the September 16, 2003 meeting

Review and discuss the Park Department Capital Improvement Program and availability of grant funds, including the 2002 Resources Bond Act (Proposition 40)

Staff provided an updated chart giving information on funds provided by the 2002 Resources Bond Act for local parks programs and allocations to the City of Chico, County of Butte, and CARD. It also described what projects are eligible to be funded. Chico is believed to be eligible for between \$474,885 and \$870,000 from Prop 40.

Committee is recommending a prioritized list of six projects, and suggesting several more for possible consideration. After Commission's approval or modification, the final recommendation will go to Council for review and approval. Priorities now are: 1) dam at One Mile Pool, 2) new facility at Chico Creek Nature Center, 3) electrical/water improvements at Children's Playground, 4) a joint project with CARD. One option would be replacing the restroom at Hooker Oak, 5) Five Mile irrigation renovation, and 6) Neighborhood Park development, probably Baroni or Ceres. Total funds allocated to these projects would be \$975,000.

Commissioner Mills proposed to move the new bridge near One Mile higher on the list if other funds are not found. Grant money may be available through bike transportation funds. He also would like the money for neighborhood parks to go to Cedar Grove. Commissioner Schreiber would like to move along with the Nature Center building.

Commissioner Walker would like to take time to study the issue and make a decision next month. Commission agreed.

Break from 8:40 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

The public addressed the funding of projects. Tom Haithcock, Director of the Chico Creek Nature Center, thanked the Commission for their support. Kathy Jones and Michael Harris, teachers for CUSD, said the new facility will be a big help for educational purposes. Susan Mason pointed out the Nature Center handles tourist information and the new facility will include more exhibits about the City and the Park.

6. Consider Setting Future Adjourned Meetings

Bidwell Golf Course Board of Directors requested to meet with the Commission on site for about two hours to discuss current operations and future plans. The Noticed Public Hearing was set for Thursday, November 6, 2003 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A tour of Big Chico Creek Ecological Preserve would be an opportunity to see their management techniques, such as vegetation and resource management practices, and how they may apply to Bidwell Park. There is an exception to the Chico Municipal Code allowing Commissions to tour outside of the area of jurisdiction. This would also be a Noticed Public Hearing. Staff will put together a Saturday date in November or December.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Council allocated the \$1.5 million for clean up of the rifle range. There will be a full report next month on the project. Commission can be involved early in discussions for design and parking. Park Director Beardsley asked for volunteers to join the planting party at the Sycamore Bend restoration site on October 8 and November 8. The Baroni Park meeting last week brought several changes and there will be a workshop on site in November. Urban Forester Boza said the Tree Trimmers Jamboree will be in Chico on June 12 for the five western chapters of the International Society of Arboriculture.

2. Monthly Reports Received and filed.

3. Incident Reports Received and filed

4. Correspondence

Letter from Mrs. Murray regarding enlarging the bridge at One Mile.

Letter from Denny Bruce regarding use of the bridge at One Mile.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Walker said he saw CSUC art students conducting a class in the Plaza. It is the first time the buildings can be seen from the park. Commissioner Walker received comments on how nice the Plaza looks and how nice it is to have the Friday Night Concerts at Children's Playground.

Commissioner Schwab announced the Park Watch general meeting and bar-be-que at Wildwood on October 4. Dates for Stream/Preservation and Master Management Committees were decided.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. to the next regular meeting of November 25, 2003.

SIGN IN SHEET

1. Tom Haithcock 641 W. Sixth Avenue
2. Kathy Jones 24 Burney Drive
3. Michael Harris 3220 Mt. Whitney Court
4. Susan Mason PO Box 3036, Chico

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2003

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Russell Mills, Ann Schwab, James Walker, Mary Schreiber, Stephen Lucas, and David Wood; staff, Park Director Dennis Beardsley, Urban Forester Chris Boza, and Administrative Secretary Janice Heckerson.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of September 29, 2003

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Chair Candela..

2. Approve Application and Permit for Park Use from California Army National Guard for Training in Upper Bidwell Park.

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Chair Candela..

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS None

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from Regular Meeting of September 29, 2003

In item 4.3 (b) the motion carried 5-2. In item 4.4 (b) the date should be October 27, 2003.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

b. Approve Application and Permit for Park Use from California Army National Guard for Training in Upper Bidwell Park

Chair Candela asked how often the training has been done in the past year. Park Director Breadsley said the National Guard had a permit last year and is asking for a renewal. The permit allowed for 12 training session but he does

not think they were there that often. There are only four or five people at a time and they are granted no exceptions to existing rules. Commissioner Mills said a sign should be posted designating the maneuvers are training only.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION AND POST A TRAINING SIGN ON THEIR VEHICLE. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

2. Review and Discussion of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the State Route 99 Auxiliary Lane

This project concerns adding northbound and southbound auxiliary lanes on SR99 between SR 32 and East First Avenue interchanges and the widening of East First Avenue between Sheridan and Sarah Avenues. This short stretch of highway has a very poor safety record.

Andy Newsum, BCAG Project Manager, John Clark, Executive Director, and Debbie Loew, consultant with Jones and Stokes, appeared before Commission to provide information. Mr. Newsum said the first phase of construction would be to improve the off ramp and a portion of East First Avenue. There are two alternatives for BPPC to consider in the widening of SR99 over the Park. An auxiliary lane in each direction could be constructed either inside or outside of the existing highway. State right-of-way is wider than either would require. Sound walls of 14 feet would be built for either alternative. They could remain in future construction if the outside widening is done now. Inside construction would bring together the highway that is already there and require a little widening along the outside. Loss of trees over six inches would be about 600 for outside and 300 for inside. Construction equipment would access the Park from the end of Woodland and at times could be set aside to restrict such traffic for the safety and convenience of the public. A third public hearing will be held November 20, 2003 and input from BPPC would be welcomed after their November 24 meeting.

From the public, Kelly Meaher said the freeway is dangerous but so is encroachment into the park. He could not find any mitigations for this project but no Bidwell Ranch and no development near Upper Park could mitigate for encroachments into Bidwell Park. David Bose said Caltrans trimmed away all of his bushes and then denied anything was being done.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO DISCUSS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

3. Report from the Tree/Finance Committee for the September 16, 2003 Meeting

Review and discuss the Park Department Capital Improvement Program and availability of grant funds, including the 2002 Resources Bond Act (Proposition 40)

Commission is asked to recommend a prioritized list of projects to be funded by Proposition 40. The amount of funding available is not certain yet. City of Chico will received \$474,885, County of Butte may pass through some of their allocation, and City and CARD may fund a joint project. There is a potential for a total of \$855,000.

From the public Steve Visconti, Parks Manager for CARD, said he would appreciate receiving \$100,000 toward construction of a new restroom at Hooker Oak. He also would like consideration for \$50,000 to replace the playground by the old Hooker Oak tree. It was built in 1970's of wood and is deteriorating.

Susan Mason thinks it is a good idea to support building at Chico Creek Nature Center and funding a joint project with CARD for handicapped restrooms. Investigate the inflatable dam before funding that because water quality may require abandonment of Sycamore Pool eventually.

Tom Haithcock, Director of Chico Creek Nature Center, would like a building at the Chico Creek Nature Center to be a priority. They are prepared to raise money to fund any additional costs. Jeanne Boze, a member of the Board of Directors at Chico Creek Nature Center, thinks Annie Bidwell would be proud to hear talk about improving the Center. It would be great to have the expansion well under way by the 100th anniversary in 18 months.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO CONSIDER SYCAMORE POOL DAM, CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, CARD JOINT PROJECT, FIVE MILE IRRIGATION RENOVATION AND CEDAR GROVE IMPROVEMENTS IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE AS FIRST PRIORITY THE BUILDING AT CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER FOR \$200,000. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-3. AYES: MILLS, WALKER, CANDELA AND SCHREIBER. NOES: SCHWAB, LUCAS AND WOOD.

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE AS SECOND PRIORITY INSTALLING AN ADJUSTABLE DAM AT ONE MILE POOL FOR \$500,000. COMMISSIONER LUCAS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2. AYES: MILLS, SCHWAB, SCHREIBER, LUCAS AND WOOD. NOES: WALKER AND CANDELA.

COMMISSIONER SCHWAB MOVED TO APPROVE AS THIRD PRIORITY THE UPGRADE AT CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND FOR \$50,000. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE AS FOURTH PRIORITY A JOINT PROJECT WITH CARD OF RESTROOMS AT HOOKER OAK AT \$100,000. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE AS FIFTH PRIORITY RENOVATION AT FIVE MILE FOR \$25,000. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE AS SIXTH PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS AT CEDAR GROVE FOR \$100,000. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

BREAK FROM 9:00 TO 9:10

4. Report from the Preservation/Stream Committee October 6, 2003 Meeting

Review and Discuss the Vegetation Management Program

This item was discussed in preparation of the Annual Report to be given Commission soon. Friends of Bidwell Park was formed to offer up-to-date horticultural information on species in the Park. Commissioner Walker is excited to hear about the work of Friends. They have a website and would like more people to become involved.

5. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee from October 8, 2003 Meeting

- a. Review and consideration of an application and permit for public use from North Valley Productions for a concert series in Cedar Grove in 2004. In addition, North Valley Productions is requesting the ability to sell liquor.**

The recommendation is to allow up to six productions between April and November 2004, with a maximum attendance of 1,500 at each.

Steven Schuman, of North Valley Productions, said artists need to be scheduled six months in advance so there will be plenty of notice to the public. The performances will not conflict with Shakespeare in the Park. He will book blue grass and family music, not heavy rock and roll. Performances will be scheduled between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to lower costs for lighting and security. Last year he booked a concert and used parking at the Chico Creek Nature Center and school parking lot with no complaints.

Commissioner Lucas said a large number of people have asked him to bring up allowing liquor in the Park so he is their messenger. Commissioner Wood said he and many others feel alcohol would be alright in the Park. Other laws cover drunk in public.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO ALLOW UP TO SIX CONCERTS AT CEDAR GROVE BETWEEN APRIL AND NOVEMBER 2004 FOR UP TO 1,500 ATTENDANCE. COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1. NOES: SCHWAB.

COMMISSIONER SCHWAB MOVED NOT TO PERMIT A REQUEST TO SERVE LIQUOR AT CEDAR GROVE. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-1. NOES: WOOD.

b. Proposal to change traffic patterns on South Park Drive to accommodate bicycle access to Marsh Junior High School

This item was carried over to the next committee meeting so members can look at studies and make additional observations. A traffic surveyor saw that students are traveling in both directions to both Marsh Jr. High and Parkview Elementary schools so there is more to be considered.

c. Consideration of request from Kathie Russo regarding Oak woodland renewal

Ms. Russo requested the appointment of a Citizens Committee for Oak Woodland Renewal. Committee recommends that the excellent work on regeneration projects continue but that a separate committee is not needed at this time.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Neighbors of Baroni Park had an excellent on-site meeting and are doing a second survey. The Lindo bank stabilization project should be completed next week, prior to seasonal rains. The Internal Affairs Committee does not support changing wording on the sign at One Mile bridge. Forest Avenue bridge was put in place last Friday and the new deck will be put in tomorrow.

2. Monthly Reports Received and filed

3. Incident Reports Received and filed.

4. Correspondence

-from Joan Maxwell regrading a potential new bridge at One Mile
-from Denny Bruce regarding bicycles and pedestrians on the existing bridge at One Mile
-from John L. Burghardt on behalf of the Chico Rod and Gun Club regarding extension of the existing lease (referred to November 5 meeting of Master Management Plan Committee).

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Park Director Breadsley said the regular December meeting will have to be moved up to avoid the holidays, probably to December 15.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 to the November 6, 2004 meeting at Bidwell Golf Course.

SIGN IN SHEET
October 28, 2003

	Name	Address
1.	Kelly M.	333 Main
2.	David Bose	1075 Sierra Vista Way
3.	Steve Visconti	Chico Park and Recreation
4.	Susan Mason	PO Box 3036
5.	Tom Haithcock	1968 East Eighth Street
6.	Jeanne Boze	5657 Sawmill Road, Paradise
7.	Steven Schuman	1747 Broadway

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2003

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Russell Mills, Ann Schwab, James Walker, Mary Schreiber, Stephen Lucas, and David Wood; staff, Park Director Dennis Beardsley and Administrative Secretary Cheryl Tobin. Absent: Urban Forester Chris Boza.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 27, 2003

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Schreiber.

2. Minutes from Regular Meeting of November 6, 2003

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Hearing on the Adoption of a Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Approval of the Master Plan Update for City Park Plaza Bounded by Broadway, Fourth, Fifth, and Main Streets in Downtown Chico, Identified as Assessor's Parcel No. 004-160-010 (City of Chico)

The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission held a public hearing to consider a recommendation for the City Council to adopt a mitigated negative declaration and monitoring program and to approve the Master Plan for the City Plaza. The Commission reviewed the recommendations for the City Council meeting which is scheduled for December 2, 2003. The purpose of the public hearing was to review the mitigated negative declaration and take comments. The City Council will consider adopting the mitigated negative declaration, the recommendation from the Commission in regard to the master plan, and funding for the plans and specifications, to prepare the project for construction. Once the plans and specifications have been completed, this item would then be taken before the Council for available funding.

Commissioner Walker inquired about the proposed parking changes on Main and Broadway. The plan calls for diagonal parking, where there is currently parallel parking. Commissioner Walker inquired if the proposed plans would reduce the lanes from three to two and asked for clarification. Public Works Director McKinley

clarified the differences between diagonal parking and parallel parking. McKinley stated that the width of Main and Broadway, curb to curb is 58', which allows for 8' parking lanes on each side, and three 14' lanes across. With diagonal parking, 3' of the park would be taken up, utilizing 8' of a parking lane and using approximately 6' of the excess lane width across Main and Broadway, still leaving three lanes of traffic and two sides of parking; one diagonal and one parallel on Main and Broadway.

Commissioner Mills asked if there was a preference on parallel or diagonal parking. Public Works Director McKinley stated back-in diagonal parking was preferred, generally. Back-in parking offers better visibility with on-coming traffic and bicyclists, as opposed to diagonal parking (pull-in) or parallel parking. Commissioner Wood was concerned about the safety issue of back-in parking on 4th and 5th Streets instead of Main and Broadway. There is not adequate lane width to allow for diagonal parking on 4th and 5th Streets.

Commissioner Mills asked about Item D on the mitigated negative declaration, the Cultural Resources section. He inquired what the process would be if a cultural item was discovered during the construction process. Senior Planner Murphy stated that if an item were found, work would be stopped and a qualified archeologist would be contacted. If this statement is not included in the document, it could be modified to include this language. Commissioner Mills inquired about the lighting for the Park. The Park Commission preferred the candy-cane lighting as the light would shine down versus outward.

Commissioner Mills asked about the materials to be used for the hardscape. The goal is to keep the surface as impervious as possible, balanced with a low maintenance surface. Commissioner Schwab asked if it had been considered if diagonal parking would allow vendors to sell their goods out of their vehicles and would that block the sidewalk. Public Works Director McKinley stated there was enough room to allow this.

Commissioner Mills asked about the restroom facilities. The negative declaration assumes there will not be any facilities, is there a preference for a portable toilet trailer or permanent restrooms. The Commission discussed using the portable toilets on trailers and only using them during an event, then removing them. Commissioner Walker preferred to have a permanent restroom on the 4th Street side.

Commissioner Wood stated he did not want to give up park space to accommodate vendors. From the public, TJ Glenn stated he did not want portable toilets. Randy Abbott, from the public, stated he would like to see permanent restrooms in City Plaza,

as a courtesy to the community. He would also like the community to consider allowing vendors to utilize City Plaza.

Wayne Cook, from the public, commented he liked the openness of the City Plaza and would like to see permanent restrooms in city Plaza. He would like to see a bandstand with attached restrooms. Commissioner Lucas agreed that having a permanent restroom would be a courtesy to the public.

COMMISSION WALKER MOTIONED FOR BACK-IN DIAGONAL PARKING.
COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED (6-1).

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING THE CITY PLAZA MASTER PLAN AND ACCEPT THE MODIFICATIONS. COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED (6-1). (COMMISSIONER SCHWAB OPPOSED).

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 27, 2003

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
COMMISSIONER MILLS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

b. Minutes from Regular Meeting of November 6, 2003

COMMISSIONER MILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.
COMMISSIONER WOODS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

2. Review and Discussion of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the State Route 99 Auxiliary Lane Project

Commissioner Schreiber excused herself due to a conflict. Commissioner Walker asked if the work to be done was to be done within the boundary of the chainlink fence that runs parallel to the freeway. Park Director Beardsley said the State of California does not require any additional right of way for the project. The Commission voted that if State Route 99 needs to be widened, its preferred option would be to expand the outside of the existing facility. In addition, Commission requests that Park Department staff be advised on a regular and routine basis on the status of the project, including

coordinating any access through Bidwell Park. If access is required as proposed, to move equipment and materials through Bidwell Park, public use of South Park Drive should not be interrupted for more than short periods of time. As much public notice as practical is also requested and should be provided to the Park Department. The project is expected to take approximately 12 - 18 months to complete.

The Commission discussed the impacts to the neighbors near State Route 99 and tree removals. Randy Abbott asked about tree removals and if there was to be a sound wall installed with either option of inside or outside widening.

Commissioner Mills said with outside widening, 101 trees would be impacted. With inside widening, 106 trees of 12" diameter or greater, would be impacted. Outside of the Park, 332 trees would be impacted and with inside widening, 218 trees, 12" diameter or greater. The Commission supports the outside widening.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOTIONED THAT IF THERE WAS WIDENING, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS OUTSIDE WIDENING. COMMISSIONER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-2. (COMMISSIONERS MILLS AND SCHWAB OPPOSED).

3. **Review and Discussion of Preliminary Plan for the Clean-up of the Former Rifle/Skeet and Pistol Ranges - Upper Bidwell Park**

Randy Kopania, EMKO Environmental, Inc., gave a presentation and spoke on the history of site usage and how it led to chemical impacts at the shooting range, the regulatory program the City has elected to follow, and the technical issues of the cleanup of the lead around Horseshoe Lake. He identified risks, cleanup levels and the cleanup approach EMKO planned on using. This included the implications of the cleanup and subsequent restoration of Horseshoe Lake. Greg Melton, of Land Image, gave a presentation on the concepts and options for the parking area around Horseshoe Lake. He presented various options for paving the restoration area or leaving it gravel. Commissioner Mills asked that since the surface underneath is impermeable, when rain falls, where would the water drain to. Would the water run off the surface or would a stormdrain be installed? Andy Kopania stated that there are regulatory requirements on how much slope is required for the runoff and it would be designed to flow into Horseshoe Lake.

The Commission discussed where the containment cell would go and where the digging would be; where as a community, what improvements would be desired in the future. This item will be carried to the Commission in December for permission to proceed. An environmental review will need to be completed as well.

Commissioners Wood and Walker stated they would prefer a gravel parking lot. There were no comments from the public. The Commission was encouraged to go view the site. This was an informational item with no action needed.

BREAK FROM 9:25 PM - 9:35 PM

4. Review and Discuss Availability of 2002 Resources Bond Act (Proposition 40)

The Commission discussed recommendations for allocating funds from the 2002 Resources Bond Act (Proposition 40) pass through funding for priority projects. The Commission had already taken action on the first two priority items on page five of the report. The monies represent priorities on projects in the event pass through monies are available from Butte County Proposition 12. These are still under review.

At its 11/6/03 meeting, the Commission, based on a re-evaluation of an opportunity to obtain a grant under the Calfed Watershed Program, modified its recommended allocations for Proposition 40 funding. In addition, the Commission approved a Motion of Intent to modify its earlier action regarding recommended allocations from any pass through funding under the 2002 Resources Bond Act (Proposition 40).

The cost estimate to complete the replacement of the dam is \$514,740 of which \$30,000 has already be identified in Proposition 12 funds, leaving an unfunded budget of \$484,740. The Park Director recommended that \$240,000 in Proposition 40 be allocated for this project, and that the balance of the construction funds be submitted for funding to Calfed Watershed Program. Applications are anticipated to be submitted in January or February 2004. That recommendation and the proposed allocation for the Chico Creek Nature Center (\$200,000) are being presented to the City Council for consideration on 12/2/03.

Once there is a confirmation of funds available, these projects can proceed. Commissioner Wood questioned the bridge at Day Camp. He noted there is approximately \$220,000 in bond funds set aside to be used by 2008, would this be enough money. Park Director Beardsley stated the plan is to have the Master Management Plan completed as the money has been earmarked and was set aside for the trail projects. Commissioner Wood suggested holding back the project from this budget so as not to lose the opportunity for the money. Park Director Beardsley said the Trail Master Plan has now been put in with the Master Management Plan. This plan is a high priority and should be completed by 2005.

Commissioner Walker asked the details on the increase for the Chico Area Recreation

and Park District joint project. Beardsley said there were two items; one for the Hooker Oak restroom of approximately \$100,000, and the Commission added \$50,000 for ADA to replace the play equipment where the old Hooker Oak tree was. Currently there is wooden play equipment that needs to be replaced so as to be up to ADA standards. This is a high priority project for CARD and the City of Chico. Commissioner Walker inquired why the Five Mile irrigation renovation increased from \$25,000 to \$75,000.

Mary Cahill, General Manager of CARD, presented a brief history of the 2002 Bond Act and spoke about the good working relationship between CARD and the City of Chico. CARD had requested a joint project with the City with overlapping funds. The request from CARD was to identify a joint project out of the first allocation and either agency could be entitled to those funds, however, the City would take those funds for the CARD's project. If the County does not pass through those funds, there is no joint project. All the computations are based on a per capita basis, based on population. The State bases its allocation on population. The City of Chico has 68,000 and CARD has 28,000. The threshold on the per capita is 50,000. Any agency under 50,000 automatically receives \$220,000. This only applies with per capita grants, not RZH. There is not an agreement on the cross-over, however, the intent to share funds is there. The Commission discussed the projects and the options available.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOTIONED THAT SHOULD THE PASS THROUGH MONEY COME THROUGH, THESE DOLLAR AMOUNTS LISTED ABOVE ARE APPROVED. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED 7-0.

5. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of November 5, 2003

a. Review and Discuss Request from the Chico Rod and Gun Club to Extend the Existing Lease

The existing lease with the Chico Rod and Gun Club expires November 30, 2005. The Club requested consideration for the lease to be renewed for an additional five years, with two, five-year extensions. The Commission decided to postpone any action until October 2004. No motion was needed on this item.

6. Report from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of November 10, 2003

a. Review and Discussion of the Bridge at the One-Mile Recreation Area

This item was referred to the Bike Advisory Committee for clarification on trail classifications. This Committee is to meet on December 5, 2003, then report back to the Commission in December.

7. Consideration of Alternative Meeting Date for December 2003

The Commission adjourned to its next meeting to December 22, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOTIONED TO APPROVE TO HOLD THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 22, 2003, AT 7:00 P.M. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 7-0.

8. Discussion of Concepts and Ideas for the Area in the Vicinity of Horseshoe Lake - Upper Bidwell Park

This item was referred to the Master Management Plan Committee which will be meeting December 3, 2003.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Park Director Beardsley stated November has been a busy month. There will be a Bike Advisory Committee meeting on December 3, 2003. The bank stabilization project in Lindo Channel is 99% complete. The Forest Avenue bridge will have modifications over the next three weeks. The Baroni Neighborhood Park questionnaires are going through the final review. The Big Chico Creek Ecological Preserve field trip will be scheduled in January.

Commissioner Wood said he and Susan Mason would like to suggest an Adopt-A-Project program, such as using CDF crews or other volunteer groups for various projects in the park, such as for trails, vegetation removal, etc. The idea would be for volunteer groups to donate money for projects instead of their time. A program such as this would need to have structure and was referred to the Volunteer Committee.

2. Monthly Reports Received and filed

3. Incident Reports Received and filed.

4. Correspondence - None.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m. to the next regular meeting of December 22, 2003.

SIGN IN SHEET
November 24, 2003

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
1. TJ Glenn	1258 Hobart Street
2. Randy Abbott	1171 E. 10 th Street
3. Wayne Cook	

BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
MINUTES
DECEMBER 22, 2003

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present at Roll Call: Chair Michael Candela, Commissioners Ann Schwab, James Walker, Mary Schreiber, Stephen Lucas, and David Wood; staff, Park Director Dennis Beardsley and Urban Forester Chris Boza. Absent: Commissioner Russell Mills.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes from Regular Meeting of November 24, 2003

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Walker to correct an error on page 4.

2. Consider Application and Permit from Balls Edge Concerts for 2004 Concert Series for Various Saturday Night Concerts, Theater and Comedy - Children's Playground.

This item was pulled to discuss the later start times, the longer season and a check of prior rules violations.

3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from Regular Meeting of November 24, 2003

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.
COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

2. Consider Application and Permit from Balls Edge Concerts for 2004 Concert Series for Various Saturday Night Concerts, Theater and Comedy - Children's Playground.

Commissioner Walker inquired if there had been an increase in the amount of concert dates and if the length of the concerts had been extended from last year's permit with the change from City Plaza to Children's Playground. The change in location should not create any problems. He also inquired what the City's recourse would be if there were any problems or violations of the rules with any of the concerts. Park Director Beardsley stated that any future applications could be cancelled and the Commission would be notified. DNA's concerts are very well ran. Commissioner Schwab was concerned about the lighting and any problems associated with the concerts. There have been no problems and the lighting is adequate at Children's Playground, even with the shorter days of Fall.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PERMIT,
COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

3. Approval of Application and Permit for Public Use from Parent Education Network for "Pastels on the Plaza 2004" - September 11, 12, and 13, 2004 - City Plaza.

Commissioner Schwab inquired if there would be a conflict for Parent Education Network with the proposed City Plaza remodel work. Park Director Beardsley stated there were no conflicts anticipated for 2004, however, in 2005 there is a possibility.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOTIONED TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED 6-0.

4. Report from the Master Management Plan Committee Meeting of December 3, 2003.

1. Discussion of Concepts and Ideas for the Area in the Vicinity of Horseshoe Lake - Upper Bidwell Park.

After hearing the presentation, the Commission discussed a number of items, including the fate of the bunker. Commissioner Lucas would like to see the project move forward and to keep the bunker in place. If need be, the bunker would go to implement the Plan B option.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOTIONED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROJECT

LAYOUT AS PRESENTED, KEEPING THE BUNKER IN PLACE . COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 4-2. (COMMISSIONERS SCHWAB AND SCHREIBER OPPOSED).

The Commission also discussed the clean-up process and the timeline.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOTIONED TO MOVE APPROVE THE CLEANUP PROCESS, PENDING DTSC AND CEQA REVIEWS. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

b. Review and Consideration of Programs by the Chico Area Recreation and Park District Utilizing the One Mile Recreation Area for Various Youth Recreation Programs.

The Commission received comments on the proposed CARD activities schedule for Summer 2004. Kayak Paddle Classes: The Commission was concerned about the impact to early morning pool users. City Council approval would be required to modify boating rules.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOTIONED TO APPROVE TWO, FOUR-HOUR SESSIONS, ALLOWING THE PARK DIRECTOR TO ADD A THIRD FOUR-HOUR SESSION IF NEEDED. COMMISSIONER WOOD SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED 6-0.

Mini Ranger Camp. The discussions for the Mini Ranger Camp and the Outdoor Education Workshops coalesced into one discussion. The main discussion point centered around the overlap between the Nature Center and CARD.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOTIONED TO ALLOW THE MINI RANGER CAMP, LESS THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION WORKSHOPS. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED 6-0.

Outdoor Education Workshops. The primary discussion here centered around the new crossover in historical programs. The Chico Creek Nature Center is concerned about the erosion of their funding if CARD moves into a service area typically covered by the Nature Center. Commissioners Schreiber, Wood, Schwab, Lucas and Candela expressed concerns. Commissioner Wood requested CARD provide one of the schedules for the January meeting. Commissioner Lucas suggested the information for the January 7, 2004, Master Management Plan Committee Meeting. NO ACTION

WAS TAKEN PENDING A REVIEW OF THE CARD IMPACT TO THE CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER.

Campout. Commissioner Walker preferred a Hooker Oak program. Commissioners Candela and Lucas stated they were fine with the use of One-Mile.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOTIONED TO APPROVE A ONE YEAR TRIAL BASED UPON AN ACCEPTABLE SITE PLAN AND NEIGHBORHOOD NOTIFICATION. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED 6-0

c. Review and Discussion of the Bidwell Park Golf Course.

Commission acknowledged receipt of staff report, with full discussion in February or March of 2004. No action taken.

d. Review and Discussion of Traffic and Pedestrian Circulation on South Park Drive in the Vicinity of Cedar Grove and Centennial Drive - Lower Bidwell Park.

Commission reviewed the Committee recommendation for inclusion into the Master Management Plan review process.

COMMISSIONER WALKER MOVED TO INCLUDE TRAFFIC/BIKE CIRCULATION WITH THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

5. Report from the Trail/Safety Committee Meeting of December 8, 2003.

a. Review and Discussion of the Bridge and Traffic Circulation in the Vicinity of the One-Mile Recreation Area - Bidwell Park.

The Commission reviewed the traffic circulation at the One-Mile Recreation Area and discussing each point on its own merit. The Commission decided that any improvements to the bridge would be paid for using Fund 305 money.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOVED TO RETAIN THE CLASS I STATUS. COMMISSIONER SCHWAB SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-1. (COMMISSIONER CANDELA DISSENTING).

COMMISSIONER WOOD MOTIONED TO HAVE NO CHANGES TO THE BRIDGE UNTIL IT WAS NEEDED. COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER SECONDED THE

MOTION WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

COMMISSIONER LUCAS MOTIONED TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON TYPES AND INTENSITY OF USES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SCHWAB, WHICH CARRIED 6-0.

COMMISSIONER SCHREIBER MOVED TO NOT PROCEED WITH A DESIGN TO REPLACE THE BRIDGE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WOOD, WHICH CARRIED 4-2. (COMMISSIONERS CANDELA AND SCHWAB DISSENTING).

The Commission also discussed language to be placed on a sign at the bridge and at an underpass at Annie's Glen. Direction was given to staff to develop new ordinance language covering six bridges and two dams. It was requested to have draft language prepared for the January 2004 meeting. Commission directed the concept of an underpass at Annie's Glen to the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

b. Review and Discussion of Monthly Trail Days.

On the first Saturday of each month, staff is available to work with volunteers on various trail maintenance activities, primarily in Upper Bidwell Park. The Committee discussed the program which will continue in 2004 on a monthly basis. The Commission briefly discussed this item. It was decided that no changes would be made to the program.

c. Review and Discussion of benches in Lower Bidwell Park.

Commission reviewed the issue of benches in Lower Park. The item was tabled (or dare I say, benched) and assigned to the Master Management Plan and Volunteer Committees.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Director's Report

Park Director did not add any additional information to report from what was provided in the packets.

2. Monthly Reports Received and filed

3. Incident Reports Received and filed.

4. Correspondence - None.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. to the next regular meeting of January 26, 2004.