

**CITY OF CHICO  
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)  
MINUTES OF THE  
JANUARY 29, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

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**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Thomas-Petty at 6:00 pm.

**1.2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:**

Jesse Alexander  
John Blachley  
Nichole Nava  
Anjanette Shadley  
Jenny Scheer  
Megan Thomas-Petty

**Commissioners Absent:** Jeff Glatz

**Staff Present:**

Kathleen Collier, Administrative Assistant  
Linda Herman, Park & Natural Resources Manager (P&NRM)  
Skyler Lipski, Deputy Director of Public Works O&M

**2. CONSENT AGENDA:**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

**2.1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 12/11/23 BPPC MEETING**

**Action:** Approve minutes of the BPPC's 12/11/23 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Scheer informed Staff that there was one error in the minutes under Roll Call that said she was absent at this meeting. The remainder of the minutes are correct.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction of the minutes provided by Scheer was made by Vice-Chair Alexander and seconded by Commissioner Nava. The motion carried as follows:

**AYES:** Commissioners Blachley, Nava, Scheer and Shadley, Vice-Chair Alexander, and Chair Thomas-Petty.

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Glatz

**3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT NONE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Members of the public may address the Commission at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Commission cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

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There were no public comments.

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5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

6. **REGULAR AGENDA**

6.1. **CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE CHICO ROD AND GUN CLUB TO FENCE THE FACILITY'S PARKING AREA (LOT D) AND TO ALLOW OUTDOOR ARCHERY AT THE FACILITY.**

At its 12/11/23 meeting, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) considered a request from the Chico Rod and Gun Club ("Club") to install gates at the Club's leased parking lot area (Lot D) in Upper Bidwell Park to limit non-member vehicles, except during the required public use periods and events. The Club also requested permission to allow outdoor archery at their facility. The Commission requested additional information from Staff and continued this discussion to their January meeting. (*Report – Linda Herman, P&NRM*)

**Recommendation:** The Park & Natural Resource Manager (P&NRM) requested the Commission provide comments and recommendations on Chico Rod & Gun Club's request, and any revisions or requirements that may be needed for a revised lease with the Club.

Chico Rod & Gun Club members James LeDonne and Neil Potts provided information to the Commission on this item.

Commissioner Nava voiced concerns about the loss of public parking and potential parking fee revenues. She also suggested that the archery waiver form presented by the Club include language that protects the City as well.

Commissioner Scheer also voiced concerns about the loss of public parking and asked if the parking lot could be opened during the day such as 8 am to 8 pm. Club member LeDonne proposed the idea of removing a small dead oak tree to expand public parking area near the second most easterly entrance to the parking lot.

Commissioner Blachley asked that the tree be assessed by the Urban Forest Manager or a biologist to determine its actual health and whether it provides potential wildlife habitat before removal.

Chair Thomas-Petty also voiced concerns regarding the loss of public parking and asked if security cameras could be installed to help with the vandalism rather than close the parking lot. She also asked about public safety and whether the Club's insurance policy has adequate coverage for the outdoor archery activities.

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Public member Larry Willis voiced opposition to the gate installation.

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Commissioner Shadley asked for clarification on when the parking lot would be closed to the public and when it will not. LeDonne responded that the intent is to open the parking lot to the public only during Club events and when Club members are present. He also said an electronic gate opener would be used in the future to allow the public to exit, but not enter, the parking lot after it is closed.

Shadley also suggested possibly continuing the discussion of the parking lot closure component since there are still concerns and unanswered questions from the Commission. If not, then she would motion to approve closing the lot.

Chair Thomas-Petty called for Commissioner Shadley to make a motion.

Commissioner Shadley made a motion to approve the installation of the gate and the closing of the parking lot when Club members are not present. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blachley.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Blachley, Nava, Scheer and Shadley.

NOES: Vice-Chair Alexander, and Chair Thomas-Petty.

ABSENT: Commissioner Glatz

A motion to approve the outdoor archery area was made by Commissioner Nava and seconded by Chair Thomas-Petty. The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Blachley, Nava, Scheer and Shadley, Vice-Chair Alexander, and Chair Thomas-Petty.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Glatz

**6.2. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE CHICO FIRE DEPARTMENT TO INSTALL A GRAVEL HELICOPTER LANDING PAD NEAR BEAR HOLE IN UPPER BIDWELL PARK.**

The Chico Fire Department requested the BPPC consider establishing a 60-foot radius gravel area near Bear Hole in Upper Bidwell Park for emergency/rescue helicopter landings. (**Report – Linda Herman, P&NRM**)

**Recommendation:** The P&NRM requested the Commission to provide comments and a recommendation on Chico Fire Department's request.

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There were no public comments on this item.

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A motion to approve the installation of a gravel surfaced emergency response helicopter pad near Bear Hole in Upper Bidwell Park was made by Commissioner Scheer and seconded by Commissioner Nava.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Blachley, Nava, Scheer and Shadley, Vice-Chair Alexander, and Chair Thomas-Petty.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Glatz

**6.3. CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLING A SECOND GATE AT THE PARK PETERSEN DRIVE ENTRANCE INTO LOWER BIDWELL PARK.**

Staff requested the Commission consider allowing the installation of a second gate at the Petersen Drive entrance into Lower Bidwell Park to help prevent vehicle parking after the park closes. (**Report – Linda Herman, Park & Natural Resources Manager (P&NRM)**).

**Recommendation –** The P&NRM recommended the Commission approve the additional gate installation.

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There were no public comments on this item.

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A motion to approve the installation of a secondary outer gate at the Petersen Drive entrance into Lower Bidwell Park was made by Commissioner Nava and seconded by Vice Chair Alexander.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Blachley, Nava, Scheer and Shadley, Vice-Chair Alexander, and Chair Thomas-Petty.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Glatz

#### **6.4 APPROVAL OF THE 2024 BPPC REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR**

The Commission was requested to approve the proposed BPPC regular meeting dates for 2024.

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There were no public comments on this item.

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A motion to approve the 2024 Meeting calendar, with the exception to move the November 25th meeting to November 18<sup>th</sup> due to the Thanksgiving holiday was made by Commissioner Blachley and seconded by Chair Thomas-Petty.

The motion carried as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Blachley, Nava, Scheer and Shadley, Vice-Chair Alexander, and Chair Thomas-Petty.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Glatz

#### **7. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.**

The following items were provided for the Commission's information only.

**7.1. Parks Division Report – Linda Herman, Park, and Natural Resources Manager**

**7.2. Street Tree Division Report – Richie Bamlet, Urban Forest Manager**

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. to the next regular BPPC meeting on February 26, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building located at 421 Main Street, Chico, California.

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Date Approved: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Prepared by:

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Linda Herman, Park & Natural Resources Manager

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Date

Distribution: BPPC