

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 25, 2025 – 12:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Tom Lando, Chair
Dave Donnan, Vice Chair
Christopher Norden, Board Member
Michael McGinnis, Board Member
Jason Roye, Board Member

Board Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Annabel Grimm, General Manager
Phil Aviles, Finance and Human Resources Director
Holli Drobny, Administrative Director
Erin Morrissey, Recreation Director
Scott Schumann, Parks and Facilities Director

Legal Counsel Present: Jackson Glick, Attorney at Law

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00PM, and a roll call was taken, as noted above.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Kamrar provided input on the operations of the Aquatic Center. Sue has been a swimmer for over 40 years and has significant experience with aquatic facilities. Susan provided insight into the consumer experience and encouraged the District to use the Oro Valley Aquatic Center in Arizona as a model.

Correspondence was received via email related to the Henshaw Neighborhood Design and is attached to the minutes.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

3.1. Henshaw Neighborhood Park Design (Staff Report FA-25-014)

An updated rendering was presented to the Board and public comment was accepted related to the project:

- Jaycey Krogh spoke in appreciation of the updated rendering, specifically the open field, but express concern about recreation programming and opposition to renting the fields.
- Jim Campolo, whose house faces the property, expressed his support for the previous speaker and their comments. He suggested removing the lights on the field and expressed concern about the street infrastructure and the pending traffic in the area.
- Rachel Thompson noted her participation in the meetings and the surveys and that the current rendering is not what she heard the neighborhood wanted. She requested that the Board consider light pollution and expressed concern about the street infrastructure and pending traffic in the area.

Director Norden expressed appreciation for the staff and the efforts put into community input, and requested that the field not be programmable, in order to support the design. Director

Donnan reported that the District is out of space and that the mission of the District is to provide space for youth to play sports. He expressed support for the development and programming of the park. Director Roye reported that the Facility Committee received additional information about community input and expressed appreciation to the staff. Director Lando asked for more information about lighting and was not in support of programming.

Scott Schumman, Director of Parks and Facilities, explained modern lighting systems to ensure lighting does not affect neighbors. Annabel Grimm explained the financial implications of not allowing organized programs on the proposed fields as well as the capacity issues the District is currently facing. Erin Morrissey, Recreation Director, shared that some fields have become unusable due to damage. Director McGinnis said that collaboration with the school districts is important.

M/S/C/ (Directors Lando/McGinnis) Board of Directors approved the construction of Henshaw Neighborhood Park, with the stipulation to remove the lights and require that the field not be available for District programming or league play but would be available for reserving and rental. and direct staff to proceed with design development consistent with Board and community input.
The motion was unanimously approved.

- 3.2. Annexation of Community Facilities District (CFD) for the Operation and Maintenance of Henshaw Neighborhood Park (Staff Report 25-056 and Resolution 25-015) – *Action Requested: Adopt a resolution for the annexation of territory located in the future annexation area of Community Facilities District no. 2023-01 (Park Maintenance) into CFD 2023-01, and to levy a special tax to pay for certain public services (annexation No. 1, tax zone no. 2 – Orchard Creek Estates, Autumn Leaf, and Rodeo subdivisions).*
On June 22, 2023, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 23-012 establishing Community Facilities District (CFD) No. 2023-01 (Park Maintenance) and providing for a Future Annexation Area.

The agenda item was removed and continued until the next Regular Board Meeting.

- 3.3. Humboldt Skate Park Renaming (Staff Report FA-25-015)

The District received a formal request for memorialization and renaming the Humboldt Skate Park to honor Brent Schnieder and his everlasting impact on the skateboarding community.

M/S/C/ (Directors McGinnis/Roye) Board of Directors approved the request to rename the Humboldt Skate Park to Schneider Skate Park.

The motion was unanimously approved.

- 3.4. Use and Rental of District Facility Policy (Staff Report 25-048)

To safeguard District assets and ensure facility usage supports the District's mission, staff have updated policy # 2210 – *Use and Rental of District Facilities*.

Ted Sullivan, community member, requested language clarifying the priority of park and facility use for the public. Director Lando requested adding a sentence to clarify that the parks are open

to the public and place the policy on consent agenda for the October meeting.

3.5. Cancellation of the Regular Board Meeting

Preparations by District staff are needed for the upcoming fundraising gala on Friday, September 26, 2025.

M/S/C/ (Directors Norden/Donnan) Board of Directors cancelled the Regular Board Meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.

The motion was unanimously approved.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Authorization of Grant Application for State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (Staff Report 25-057 and Resolution 25-016)

Applying for the SLCGP Subaward aligns with the District's ongoing efforts to improve digital security and protect sensitive information.

M/S/C/ (Directors McGinnis/Norden) Board of Directors approved Resolution 25-016, authorizing the District to apply for and accept funds from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Subaward.

The motion was approved 4-1.

Ayes: Lando, McGinnis, Norden, Roye

Noes- Donnan

5. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Elizabeth Shye, a new Recreation Supervisor, was introduced to the Board.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 12:55PM to the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chico Area Recreation and Park District.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(2): Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(1): Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Grievance

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Information was provided to the Board; no action was taken.

Re: Henshaw Park Planning

To the Board of Directors

We live within a block of the proposed Henshaw Park. We are concerned that the CARD lead “democratic planning and design process”, which was presented as neighborhood-centered, is being sidestepped by outside groups and individuals contacting CARD staff directly to advance their own agendas. This undermines neighborhood participation and consensus and it raises serious concerns about increased traffic, congestion and quality of life impacts for those of us who live closest to the proposed park.

We've attended and participated in all developmental meetings of this park as well as responded to previous surveys and suggested activities with respect to that piece of property over the past 35 years.

(i.e. opposed suggested dog park a few years ago). We recently saw a post on Next Door Neighbor by someone suggesting that a dog park or dog area be added to the already agreed upon design of the park. This person stated that the CARD staff was agreeable to the suggestion and suggested that others reach out to CARD to promote this idea. At NO TIME was this discussed in a positive light at our neighborhood development meetings. As a matter of fact, when asked, CARD staff assured the group that no dog park or similar activity would be considered at the Henshaw Park site. This type of after the fact recruitment and advocacy is not neighborhood centered and is just like the citywide Pickleball Facebook Group throughout the city that promoted courts this park after initial neighborhood planning groups had specifically rejected Pickleball courts due to noise. The CARD staff facilitating these neighborhood centered meetings seem to also solicit

and promote city-wide input which has resulted in our neighborhood park becoming a community park. This was NOT the focus of either the original plans shortly after we purchased our home in 1990 or the recent neighborhood planning meetings at the Masonic Center.

Again, we are concerned that this type of after the fact advocacy and promotion of changes, (using social media to drum up outside support), has/will influence CARD's decisions which will directly affect us on a daily basis.

We would like clarity on the following:

1. What is the official process for ongoing input regarding Henshaw Park now that new ideas are being introduced outside of neighborhood meetings?
2. How can nearby residents ensure their voices remain central in determining what happens in our neighborhood park?
3. What safeguards are in place to prevent citywide interest groups from reshaping neighborhood parks against the wishes of those most affected?

We respectfully ask CARD to reaffirm its commitment to honoring the final neighborhood-driven plans for Henshaw Park and/or outline how local residents can continue to participate in any and all future decisions.

To the CARD Board of Directors:

We understand that the final plan for Henshaw Park includes programmable soccer fields. Our understanding of the plan was casual neighborhood park with some parking & meadow area for casual play in a congested neighborhood. These organized fields for rent will overload the adjacent neighbors & impact their lives. We know you have a desire to make money off rentable fields. We suggest you buy property alongside a freeway & build soccer fields there. This adjoining school site should be protected from development at this time & playground spaces should be part of the school district's development plan.

It appears that pay for play soccer fields were not part of the early discussions and surveys. We live in Christopher Nolan's area and have owned a home here for 26 years.

If it's the park district's intent to raise revenues through park development, this is not the place to do it. While our home is not that far away, we feel badly for the people who live on Henshaw & adjacent streets who will be impacted by overflow car parking in the immediate neighborhood area. These residents don't deserve to have this impact put upon them.

If you move forward with the current plan we hope that a 300+ car parking lot is built on the site.

Regards,

Stephen & Margaret Jones

1 Wellington Court

Chico, CA 95973

9/23/25

Board of Directors
Chico Area Recreation and Park District
545 Vallombrosa Ave,
Chico CA 95926

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing regarding the proposed development of Henshaw Neighborhood Park. My family purchased our home in 2009, just a third of a mile from the proposed location, with hopes that one day our young family could enjoy a small, rural neighborhood park. For the past sixteen years, that space has instead remained a natural habitat, which has become a peaceful walking path for us and many of our neighbors.

As you know, the recent removal of over 35 acres of walnut orchards for housing has drastically changed the character of our community. Our once serene neighborhood is now filled with torn-up roadways, heavy dust, commercial-sized streetlights shining into our bedrooms, and the daily noise of 148 homes under construction. To say our way of life has been disrupted would be an understatement.

A major safety concern with this new growth is the lack of roadway infrastructure improvements. Neighbors who walk, exercise, or stroll with their families and pets must now exercise far more caution than before.

When the idea of Henshaw Neighborhood Park was introduced, many of us participated in community meetings and surveys. Unfortunately, what is now being proposed feels disconnected from the needs and character of our neighborhood. Instead of a small, quiet park, the plans resemble a larger

community park, complete with programmable fields and courts that require parking and inevitably bring noise and traffic. This is not appropriate for a small parcel of land directly adjacent to homes.

I ask you to consider:

- Which other neighborhood parks include programmable fields, basketball and pickleball courts?
- Do those parks have adequate parking?
- Are they located this close to residential homes?

From my experience, the answer is generally no. These types of amenities belong in larger community parks, not small neighborhood parks.

Our neighborhood needs a park that reflects what was originally envisioned: a simple, peaceful space where residents can gather, walk, and enjoy nature. We urge you to reevaluate the design to better align with both the needs and wishes of the community.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our city. We hope you will hear the voices of the families most directly impacted.

Respectfully,

Tim & Rachele Thompson

4 Wellington Ct, Chico CA 95973

530.519.0320

To the Board of Director of CARD,

We understand that once again approval for the Henshaw Park is being discussed at your meeting of 9-25-2025.

For the record, we attended all the neighborhood planning meetings for the park. At no time was a berm discussed for the soccer fields. Additionally, it was only at the final meeting that the CARD staff disclosed that the soccer fields could be rented. This type of piecemeal planning is concerning as the neighbors did not have full information regarding all the plans for this park.

We fully support a neighborhood park in this location,. however, we are concerned that this neighborhood park has become a city park that will sponsor activities that will attract large groups of people into this semi-rural residential community. Furthermore, the infrastructure is poor in regard to curbs, gutters, roads, off-site parking, etc.

We urge you to reject the current plan and return to a planning process that is transparent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna and Kim Gaghagen

Hi Chris,

We are 25+ year homeowners on Alamo Ave between East and Henshaw, so our proximity to the proposed park is significant. We attended meetings, we participated with on line surveys. We are not in favor of the soccer fields and expanded use of the 12 acres. we are concerned about traffic, parking and public safety. Our concerns were not assuaged at the most recent meeting at Chico Masonic. We are concerned members of the board, community and those NOT in close proximity of the designated park area have 'out voiced' the neighbors in favor of a NEIGHBORHOOD PARK.

Please consider steps and opportunities for improved communication, safety, parking and traffic as you continue to better vet this park design and execution.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca and Walt Newman

Cell 530 520 2579