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City of Sebastopol
Staff Report

City Council Meeting of May 7, 2002

To: City Council
From: Kenyon Webster, Planning Director
Subject: Amendment of Policy 62 Establishing the Laguna Park Implementation Committee
Recommendation: Approve Revisions
Funding: No Impact

The Laguna Park Implementation Committee was created in 1997 to oversee the development of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve pursuant to the City's Laguna Park Master Plan. Beginning in 1998, the Committee has reviewed successive construction and restoration phases, with Phase IV, the loop trail around the Barlow spray field, set to be completed this month. All of the various restoration and construction projects have occurred on City-owned land.

At this time, the City has completed work on most feasible Laguna Park Master Plan projects on lands within its control. In light of the completion of major elements of the Preserve, and due to concerns with the number of City citizen committees and resulting workload impacts on staff, staff raised the issue of whether there was a continuing need for the Committee. At several recent meetings, Committee members have been discussing the mission of the Committee, including whether there is a continuing need for the Committee. At their meeting on April 1, 2002, the Committee members were in consensus regarding the following:

- There is a continuing need for the Committee, so as to ensure that the objectives of the Laguna Park Master Plan continue to be carried out in ongoing management of the Laguna Preserve, in relation to future trail and restoration opportunities (including linkages to properties outside of the Master Plan area), and in relation to development projects adjoining the Laguna.
- Appointees to the Committee should be committed to the principles of the Master plan and to Laguna protection and restoration.
- The Committee serves as a valuable clearinghouse for policy issues relating to the Master Plan, and one goal of the Committee should be to reduce workload impacts on City staff. The Committee agreed meetings should be on an as-needed basis.
- Since a significant portion of the Preserve has been created, the name of the Committee should be changed from Laguna Park Implementation Committee, to Laguna Advisory Committee.
- The Committee recommends that the composition of the Committee be revised, to 1) delete the member appointed by Sebastopol Tomorrow (this organization no longer effectively exists) and substitute an at-large Sebastopol-area resident; and

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- 2) to delete the requirement that the existing at-large position be required to be a City resident, and instead allow this position to be filled by a Sebastopol-area resident. The change from City to Sebastopol-area resident is recommended to have a larger pool of potential applicants.
- That meetings of the Committee be able to be called by staff or at the initiative of any two members.

The attached Policy revision incorporates the Committee's recommendations, and also makes other changes to update the Policy.

Staff does recommend that the status of this and other City citizen committees be periodically re-evaluated in light of the City's limited resources.