

Barney Water District
Parks/Pool History - Condensed from Board Minutes
12/04

★ In 1966/67 the Burney Lions Club, concerned that the Ball Park (Washburn Bue) would soon be offered for sale to pay delinquent taxes, approached the Water District about assuming ownership of the park. Sale of the property to a public agency would assure continued recreational use by the community without the tax liability. The Lions Club stated that "this would be just for a matter of time until a Recreational District can be formed. There is a lot of public interest in the park, and ... considerable work has been done by a lot of people and organizations in order to keep the park for recreational use for this town ... The Lions Club has spent quite a bit of money this past year on nails, cement, sand, etc. and want to keep the project going, but do not want to own it. (We) are willing to help out in a limited way financially."

Shasta County Counsel advised that the Water District was legally eligible to take over the ownership and management of the Ball Park, with recreational powers limited to the use of water.

★ The Lions Club committed to cover any additional costs for liability insurance, and various community organizations pledged annual financial support for construction and maintenance. "We do not expect the Water District to use their help in this work, or spend any of their money... In the event a Recreational District is formed, the property will be turned over to them."

★ The Water District Board agreed to acquire the Ball Park property with the understanding "that we in no way, shape or form, operate the ball park, but just merely take over the ownership." In April 1967, Mount Burney Ball Park was deeded from Mount Burney Ball Park Corporation to Burney County Water District and renamed Washburn-Bue Park.

★ May 1967 - The Burney County Water Recreation Fund was established to accept community donations for the Ball Park and the Burney Recreation Committee was formed. The committee made recommendations to the Water District Board for the use of these funds and checks were issued through the Water District Office.

In March 1968, the Burney Recreation Committee presented a plot plan and financial pledges for Washburn-Bue Park that included plans for a swimming pool.


April 1968 - Member of Burney Recreation Committee resigns.

July 1968 - Burney Recreation Committee reports that "things are not going as well financially for the park as ... hoped and expected... people are not backing it as was expected."

September 1968 - The Water District was denied funds from the State Recreation Bond Act. The park was not included in the County General Plan and it was implied the denial of funds was due to lack of improvements.

December 1968 - A separate group of individuals, representing Pop Warner, Little League, etc., and interested in park development, requested information on park progress. The spokesperson was a former member of the Burney Recreation Committee who resigned in April. The group was dissatisfied with the Burney Recreation Committee's lack of progress and proposed forming a non-profit corporation, composed of representative organizations, to lease the park grounds.

They presented construction estimates for building a pool and suggested funding it with a recreation tax and loans. The Board suggested they get together with the acting recreation committee and come forward at a later time.

 February 1969 – The consensus of a park committee meeting and another meeting of business and youth groups was that the formation of a recreation district was needed. Shasta County Counsel advised meeting with the Fire District to discuss formation of a community service district. Burney Recreation Committee Chairperson resigns his position, yet continues to make park progress reports at board meetings.

April/May 1969 – Park improvements continue, including the installation of two drinking fountains.


June 1969 – Due to park scheduling conflicts an activity calendar is developed and maintained by the Burney Recreation Committee.


July 1969 – Profits from events at the park sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce are used first to make back payments on the Civic Hall. Any balance is donated to the park.

August 1969 – The Burney Recreation Committee requests the Water District publish a full financial statement of the Washburn-Bue Park in the paper; to include the years since the Water District assumed responsibility of the park.

September 1969 – The Burney Recreation Committee elected a new chairperson.

October 1969 – The Burney Recreation Committee reported park improvements (new grass) and hoped to have a representative from each organization attend their monthly meetings.

 April 1970 – Unable to attend the Water District Board meeting, the new Burney Recreation Committee chairperson left a report stating his inability to organize a committee. He suggested getting a director and hiring a custodian for the park, and outlined plans by two different community groups to build a playground and cattle chutes for a junior rodeo. The Board directed a letter be written encouraging him to continue to try to form a committee and reminding him that the Water District did not want to manage or be responsible for any expenses.

 June 1970 – Still unsuccessful at forming a committee, the Burney Recreation Committee chairperson submits his resignation effective as soon as a replacement is found. Although certain organizations continued to use and develop the park, the lack of a formal committee and their reporting to the Water District Board resulted in the establishment of a number of rules:

- By-laws and regulations would be adopted before further monies would be spent.
- A set number will attend all meetings.
- A calendar of events will be available at all times during the summer months.
- Monthly meeting minutes will be on file at the Water District.
- Each organization that uses the park must have at least one representative attend all meetings.


- Establish caretaker regulations for free rent.
- Insurance certificates for any special event must be presented to the Water District Board before approval of the event.

Failure to abide by the rules above would result in the consideration to close the park to group use.

July 1970 – Several new officers of the Burney Recreation Committee attended the board meeting to present past meeting minutes and a proposed resolution.

February 1971 – The Burney Recreation Committee reported plans for a meeting soon.

June 1971 – The Board will request an activity schedule and that a committee representative attend the next board meeting.

 July 1971 – The Burney Recreation Committee Chairperson reported his term had expired as the Lions Club representative. The committee had not accomplished much in the last six months, but decided to try to continue to work on the park.

August 1971 – The Recreation Committee reported new officers, plans for monthly meetings, and submittal of meeting minutes to the Board.

October 1971 – Reports of plans to install playground equipment at the park.


February 1972 – A board member was contacted by a representative from the Park Committee regarding an ice skating rink at the park. Since no one attended the board meeting, the matter was dropped.

May 1972 – The Board decides to request the park committee chairperson attend the next board meeting.

June 1972 – A park committee representative reported the game schedule was set up and all improvements during year were from donations.

July 1972 – Park committee reported a new entrance and lights installed at the park, including contract with PG&E for power service.

August 1972 – Park committee reported about new lights and activities.

 September 1972 – Park Committee Chairperson resigns. Burney Basin Committee, a subcommittee of the Chamber of Commerce, inquired about enlarging the rodeo portion of the park.

October 1972 – Burney Basin Committee will meet with the Park Committee to discuss improvements to and fundraising for the rodeo portion of the park.

November 1972 – Burney Basin Committee has not been able to locate a member of the Park Committee.

May 1973 – Burney Basin Committee proposed to replace existing fence and bleachers in exchange for a three-year contract for use of the east side of the park. The Board suggested the Burney Basin Committee and the new Park Committee reach an agreement on a master plan for development of Washburn-Bue Park. In the meantime, Burney Basin Committee can use the park in July, but only repair facilities.

★ June 1973 – The Burney Basin Committee reported that it was impossible to repair the current facilities and presented proposed improvements. The Board granted a three-year use contract that included requirements for insurance coverage, keeping the park open to the public, and regular reporting to the Board.

★ July 1973 – Reference to Main Street Park Committee.

October 1973 – While Burney Basin Committee, a subcommittee of the Chamber of Commerce, fulfilled a 3-year contract for use of a portion of Washburn-Bue Park, The Chamber of Commerce directs their activities and improvements to the Main Street Park.

★ The Water District Board declined a request to consider a tax for parks.

January 1974 – Burney Basin Committee plans to withdraw from the Chamber of Commerce and incorporate separately. At that time, they will consider administration of the entire park

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation requested a progress report regarding the Main Street Park and sign.

★ March 1974 – Burney Basin Days Committee agrees to manage the supervision of the entire Washburn-Bue Park.

August 1974 – The Chamber of Commerce and the Burney Basin Days Committee will pursue Shasta County park funds totaling \$26,000 for both parks.

October 1974 – Main Street Park requested \$12,500 for toilet facilities and a wading pool. Washburn-Bue Park requested like amount. The Civic Club rejected us of funds for maintenance.

April 1975 – State funds available through Shasta County have been approved for both parks and will be available in 1976.

May 1975 – Washburn Bue Park will receive \$14,000 in State Park funds. The Board is concerned about long-range plans and will invite the Burney Basin Days Committee, the Ball Club and groups to attend the next board meeting.

July 1975 – Burney Basin Days Committee presented a development plan for Washburn Bue Park and requested a 3-year contract extension for use of the rodeo grounds.

November 1975 – State requested adoption of map for the community as a master plan.

January 1976 – The board moved to discontinue the policy of free water to all parks.

March 1976 – The Burney Basin Days Committee reported on increased costs of insurance, water and sewer for Washburn Bue Park. Only the Rough Riders had assisted financially.


Money collected from softball teams in 1975 to cover expenses was not turned over to the district.

 The Water District Board requests the formation of a committee for park management.

May 1976 – Board requests information on the development of the Civic Park and report on funds applied for.

June 1976 – Grant funds for Burney Civic Park cannot be used for maintenance and will be used for a water-related project.

August 1976 – The Civic Club donated funds to maintain the park after construction.

 The California state grant fund agreement called for the District to maintain both park properties. A contract between the Burney Water District and the Burney Lions Club was drawn to address District concerns about future maintenance and liability for park development. The Lions Club agreed to maintain and operate Washburn Bue and Burney Roadside Parks.

September 1976 – Balances in the Washburn Bue fund and the Burney Civic Club fund maintained by the Water District were turned over to the Burney Lions Club.


October 1977 – Washburn Bue Park received \$12,600 and Main Street Park received \$15,786 in state grant funds.

February 1978 – Lions Club agreement amended to include 1976 Bond Act.

May 1978 – Proceeds from beer sales at softball tournament donated for park improvements.

June 1978 – Water rate for parks set at \$11 per month.

A park complaint resulted in recommendations regarding curfew, patrol by ball clubs to discourage noise and partying after games, encouraging use of restrooms, and keeping the area clean.

 January 1979 – On the advice of Legal Counsel, the District rejects a request from the Lions Club to impose a service charge on customers for park maintenance, insurance, etc.

★ May 1979 – The Lions Club asked the Board to assume the insurance expense for the parks, reimburse last year's insurance expense, and add a voluntary charge of ten cents per month on each consumer's bill. The consensus of the Board was that this was not a problem of the District.

The District agreed to hire and supervise CETA employees to help maintain and repair the parks according to a plan prepared by the Lions Club.

February 1981 – The Board approved pursuing up to \$25,000 in grant funds from the Shasta County Recreation Commission for improving park and recreation facilities.

June 1981 – The Lions Club agreement was amended to include the 1980 Parklands Bond Act.

The 1976 grant, which hasn't been received, will install lighting at Washburn Bue Park. The 1980 grant will install a backstop, bleachers, paving, and sprinkler system at Washburn Bue Park. The new field will be designed for soccer. At the end of the 1980 grant everything but the tennis courts will be complete. These project must be consistent with the park and recreation plan for the district.

October 1981 – The 1976 grant money was received.

★ **SWIMMING POOL YEARS**

October 1983 – Report of Swimming Pool Committee meetings and consideration by the District to handle the pool.

January 1984 – The Swimming Pool Committee asked that the pool come under the auspices of the District. They have monies committed and have discussed leasing property from the School District.

June 1984 – Intermountain Swimming Pool Association explained a questionnaire to be inserted with the water bills.

July 1984 – The Leo Club and Boy Scouts are cleaning the swimming pool site.

The Board commits to a ballot measure in March 1985 to fund the construction of the pool.

August 1984 – Intermountain Swimming Pool Association (ISPA) discusses projected expenses and anticipated problems with maintenance and repairs based on the experiences of other community swimming pools.

September 1984 – ISPA prepared another survey to assess the community's willingness to pay an assessment for maintenance of a pool. The results will be used to apply for grants.

October 1984 – The Board adopts resolutions to apply for two state grants.

Public Hearing – Received comments from the public, and adopted a resolution for a special election for the swimming pool.

December 1984 – ISPA reports progress.

January 1985 – Public Hearing to answer questions about the swimming pool. Purpose of the hearing and election is to show that the community will support a pool. State grants that were submitted cannot be approved without the support.

February 1985 – Public Hearing to provide information and answer questions about the swimming pool.

March 1985 – The Board requests that ISPA remain active to help “get things going” and make recommendation to the Board.

April 1985 – Progress with land negotiations, construction costs, and donations.

May 1985 – The Board adopts an ordinance to construct, operate, and maintain a swimming pool. The District will begin charging \$2 fee July 1, 1985.

June 1985 – ISPA reports progress on land acquisition, construction costs, and grant applications.

August 1985 – Land transfer agreement complete. The Water District purchased the swimming pool property from the School District for \$1.

The Board agrees to support the Fall River Joint Unified School District’s request that the water district be the “carrier” of Land and Water Conservation funds to resurface tennis courts, install two new tennis courts, and erect lights on all tennis courts and the baseball field.

September 1985 – ISPA report regarding construction costs, donations, and grant progress.

Ground-breaking ceremonies took place September 28, 1985, 2:00 pm.

The Board requests information about a wading pool at the Burney Civic Park, having several reservations regarding liability.

November 1985 – The Board does not approve a request from the Lions Club to install a water fountain that they feel would be a hazard.

CDF offers bulldozer to clear the land for the pool.

December 1985 – The District pursues alternative liability insurance coverage since their current provider will discontinue serving public agencies in 1986.

★
Ballot
measure

★

The Board moves to check with County Counsel the legality of a property lien or disconnecting service for customers refusing to pay the pool assessment on their water bills.

January 1986 – ISPA update on grant progress.

February 1986 – The Water District received verbal confirmation of \$125,000 grant approval. A special meeting was held to discuss plans to ready the property for construction.

Since the District's liability insurance will not be approved until July, the Board moves to suspend any activity on the pool property until the insurance problem is settled.

★ March 1986 – Insurance coverage becomes a bigger problem. The most likely insurance company to insure the District may refuse coverage due to concerns about the increased liability presented by the pool and parks. The District begins pursuing creative means to insure the district, including deeding the parks and pool to other organizations, such as the Lions Club.

★ Since insurance is due to expire April 1, 1986, emergency plans are made to run the Burney Water District without liability insurance. Liability insurance cannot be obtained for at least two weeks. Since workers are covered by workers' compensation insurance and the vehicles can be insured with a local agency, field workers will work only at the Treatment Plant and office workers will use company vehicles for errands. Bill Suppa will handle most district operations and emergencies, such as backed up sewers and broken main lines. Letters will be sent to employees informing them of a possible layoff in the event that the insurance problem continues and Treatment Plant work is complete.

March 31, 1986 – A local insurance agent has a promising prospect willing to insure the District, including parks and pool. She'll know more in about a week.

★ April 15, 1986 – At this point, only one insurance agency is willing to insure the District – without a pool. The Board begins to consider withdrawing its commitment to the swimming pool in order to run the Water District. Additional considerations are given to returning the state grant funds, closing the parks after June 1st, and discontinuing the sale of alcohol at special park events. The search for insurance coverage continues.

Field workers have enough work to continue working at the Treatment Plant for another couple of months.

★ May 1986 – The District expects to have liability insurance coverage by June 1st. Since this insurance coverage does not include the pool, pool plans cannot progress.

★ ISPA's calls to the State reveal some hope in Proposition 51. (Proposition 51, the "deep pocket initiative," distributes non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, in proportion to a defendant's share of the liability.) They encourage the Board to postpone making any decisions about the pool until after the June election.

The District will continue collecting the \$2.00 fee. In an effort to address increasing public questions, ISPA will write a letter explaining the pool situation.

June 1986 – ISPA updates on donations, solicitations for insurance, and construction plans.

★ Grants are available through Prop 43 for small districts with recreational facilities. The Burney Water District may be ineligible due to requirements for a full-time Recreational Manager and a major portion of the budget committed to parks.

July 1986 – Plans for pool construction advance with the absence of liability insurance. ISPA reports on continued insurance inquiries, swimming pool construction drawings.

Consideration is given to discontinue collecting the \$2.00 fee after December 1986 if insurance has not been secured by then. The Board will revisit this subject in January 1987.

August 1986 – The District may have a commitment for insurance in September.

The Lions have installed the whale at the Burney Civic Park and request permission to hook water up to it with a foam rubber pad underneath. The District will check with the insurance company.

The District will investigate their entitlement to the 1% property tax that is allocated for parks and recreation.

September 1986 – Insurance investigations continue as well as pool planning.

October 1986 – More insurance coverage denials, but the search continues.

Plans to finish both park grants.

November 1986 – Lengthy discussion, but still no insurance.

Results of park inspections were sent to the Lions Club, requesting repairs be made.

★ December 1986 – ISPA is investigating forming a Recreation District due to the insurance problems.

January 1987 – The District will continue collecting the \$2.00 pool fee.

February 1987 – The hazards at the parks have not been repaired as requested. Another letter will be sent to the Lions Club. Supervisor Hathaway advises the County will not allow new Districts to be formed.

★ March 1987 – California Special Districts assured the Burney Water District they will insure the District, with a pool, beginning August 1, 1987, however the premium is presently unknown. The Board decides to continue collecting the \$2.00 fee until July 1, 1987. At that time, if

insurance is not available, the \$2.00 fee will be discontinued along with any plans to construct a pool.

The Lions Club commits to park repairs.

April 1987 – Promising news regarding insurance and pool planning continues.

The Board waives monthly water and sewer billing for the parks to provide funds for maintenance.

June 1987 – A 400-signature petition protesting the \$2.00 swimming pool maintenance fee was presented to the Board.

July 1987 – Pool committees have been formed: Road Committee, Construction Committee, Finance Committee, Grounds Committee.

 August 1987 – A new insurance quote is expected by next month's Board meeting.

September 1987 – Pool plans progress.

Rough Riders offer to donate property adjoining Washburn-Bue Park if the District pays back taxes.

October 1987 – Pool progress continues.

November 1987 – Discussions begin regarding hiring a pool manager.

December 1987 – progress

January 1988 – More progress

February 1988 – The Board accepts the Swimming Pool pass rules.

March 1988 – Construction was waiting on County permits.

April 1988 – Plans to hire a part-time pool manager this year.

May 1988 – Permit processes progressing slowly.

June 1988 – A provisional permit to start construction received from County. ISPA will give public notice in the paper that the pool will not be open in 1988.

July 1988 – progress

August 1988 – Progress.

September 1988 - Progress

October 1988 -

Pool opens Summer 1990

Pool Committee remains active / helping / advising
until ~~Jan~~ ^{May} 1991.

March 1992 - 10 yr Pool budget indicates pool will
be using up reserves by late 19905

• Met w/ Pool Comm Jan 1993

1994 - 10 yr projectn; local service clubs help
w/ open & close of pool. consider rate increases

Burney Lions Club
Burney Recreation Committee
Separate group - Pop Warner, LL
Burney Basin Days Committee
Main Street Park Committee
Chamber of Commerce
The Civic Club
The Rough Riders

- 1990 Lions - parks maintenance a problem
Consider CSD
Tom Mark / State Controller's Office / attorney
- 1991 Lions Club wants to back out of park maintenance.
Consider forming Parks + Rec Dist.
- 1993 Lions Club concerns for Park Maint - use TM Fair
D. Deby proceeds - what if lose contract

1944 – the Burney County Water District was in the process of being formed after there were a number of meetings to try to resolve the water problems for the town of Burney. On November 27th 1944, the State Legislature officially formed the Burney County Water District. (Jarrett & Suppa, 2)

1946 – There was a tax levied on the property within the boundaries of the Burney Water District to raise revenue to expand the water system and pay Mr. Haynes for the system.

In October there was fifty acres of the Washburn and Bue Subdivision taken into the Water District. (Jarrett & Suppa, 3)

1947 – In October Washburn and Bue donated a lot for a new well site. (Jarrett & Suppa, 4)

1957 – In January, the District had to make application with the State Board of Public health for a permit to serve water to the people of Burney and in this permit the Health Department set up rules and regulations governing water and its purity for human consumption. (Jarrett & Suppa, 6)

1966 – The end of 1965 and the beginning of 1966 up to June's Sewer Bond Election were very busy times. Even though we had problems with contamination from ~~septic~~ tanks the bond issue failed by 36 votes. There were 901 ballots cast with 564 in favor and 334 opposed and three rejected ballots. (Jarrett & Suppa, 9)

1967 – Early I 1967 the ballpark was taken over by the Burney Water District (Jarrett & Suppa, 9)

1968 – In June, a public hearing was held to discuss the septic tank problem and the possibility of another Sewer Bond Election.

In September the second Sewer Bond Election was held. The measure was defeated for the second time by a vote of 312 in favor and 360 opposed (Jarrett & Suppa, 9)

1971 – In July the Sewer Bond Election for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system passed by a vote of 549 yes and 87 no. (Jarrett & Suppa, 11)

1972 – After eight years of trying to get a sewer system in the town of Burney and three elections, a bond measure finally passed. (Jarrett & Suppa, 12)

An application was filed with the State of California to acquire surplus property on Main Street in Burney that is now a park owned by the District and operated and financed by the Burney Lions club. (Jarrett & Suppa, 12)

1977 – In October of 1977 the District received two grants for the parks. \$12,600.00 for Washburn Bue Park and \$15,786 for Burney Civic Park. (Jarrett & Suppa, 16)