

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 3, 1991

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice thereof having been published according to law, an affidavit of which publication is on file in the office of the City Clerk, Mayor Hinchman called for the Public Hearing to consider recommendation of the Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission to ban the conducting of organized track meets/events and bicycling in the nature area at Lodi Lake Park.

RECOMMENDATION OF LODI PARKS  
AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO BAN  
THE CONDUCTING OF ORGANIZED TRACK  
MEETS/EVENTS AND BICYCLING IN THE  
NATURE AREA AT LODI LAKE PARK

CC-27(c)

The matter was introduced by Parks and Recreation Director Ron Williamson and Park Superintendent Scott Essin.

The City Council was advised that at a meeting held in January 1991, the Nature Area Advisory Committee recommended to the Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission that all track meets/events being held in the Nature Area, along with bicycling be banned.

Their reasoning was the interpretation of the Richard Bigler (Lodi Lake Park Master Plan) where he called for limited and moderate use of the Nature Area and in light of the tremendous damage that is currently taking place in the area. The NAAC indicated that major track events and bicycles are going off of the main rails and causing widening and destruction to the area by nonsensitive people/citizens, etc. The Committee also indicated that this is their effort to interpret the Bigler plan and make the Commission aware of area problems/concerns.

The Parks and Recreation Commission heard the recommendation at their meeting of February 5, 1991, and solicited comments from both NAAC representatives at the meeting and citizens. After an hour of comments, the Commission asked that the issue be put on the March Commission Agenda to give them a month to talk to residents and get opinions on what to do. It was also decided by Chairman Bob Johnson that the Parks staff bring back an interpretation of the Bigler Master Plan and what its position is on uses of this area. The item was again put on the agenda in March with representatives from NAAC, Lodi Lake docents, park rangers and general citizens (approximately 20 people) present. Positions on this subject on this subject were presented. Scott Essin, Parks Superintendent, recapped the Master Plan. Citizens spoke out on bicycling almost exclusively, dealing with restrictions, children and families enjoying the area, etc. After an hour of presentations it was brought back to the table for a vote. A motion voting in favor of banning organized track events and bicycles in the Nature Area, and Elvera Melby and Dennis Jones voting against the ban.

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Addressing the City Council regarding the matter were:

- a) Jay Bell, 335 Louie Avenue, Lodi;
- b) Bob Phillips, 15 South Rose Street, Lodi;
- c) Joel Sypnieski, 1301 South Washington Street, Lodi;
- d) Barbara Brown, Park Ranger, Lodi Parks and Recreation Department;
- e) Robert Riggle, 712 North Cross Street, Lodi;
- f) Jim Sanders, 1517 Mariposa, Lodi;
- g) Todd Greenwood, 747 Greenwood Drive, Lodi;
- h) Ken Hajek, 1609 Saratoga Way, Lodi;
- i) Glenn Robison, 1056 Mason, Lodi;
- j) Terry and Tina Zezzo, 1201 South Central Avenue, Lodi;
- k) Eddie Irons, 2081 Sylvan Way #808, Lodi;
- l) Lodi Parks and Recreation Commissioner Steve Scott;
- m) Larry Skelton, 1700 Lake Street, Lodi;
- n) Renee Jones, 2401 West Tokay Street, Lodi;
- o) Pat Brown, 777 Palm Avenue, Lodi;
- p) Lucy Reller, 16870 Tretheway Road, Lodi;
- q) Lodi Parks and Recreation Commissioner Bob Johnson;
- r) Bill Dias, 9631 Peltier Road, Lodi; and
- s) Janet Pruss, 2421 Diablo Drive, Lodi.

There being no other persons in the audience wishing to address the City Council regarding the matter, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro Tempore Pinkerton then moved for introduction of Ordinance No. 1509 to ban the conducting of organized track meets/events and bicycling in the nature area at Lodi Lake Park.

The motion died for lack of a second.

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Following additional discussion, on motion of Council Member Pennino, Hinchman second, the City Council, by the following vote directed the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to be considered at the April 17, 1991 City Council meeting which would allow bikes on the main trails in the Lodi Lake Nature Area and allowed already established organized track meets in the subject area:

Ayes: Council Members - Pennino, Sieglock and Hinchman

Noes: Council Members - Pinkerton and Snider

Absent: Council Members - None

ORDINANCE NO. 1509

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL  
AMENDING LODI MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 12.12 - PARKS  
BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION 12.12.255  
ENTITLED "LODI LAKE NATURE AREA: PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES"

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LODI CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Lodi Municipal Code Chapter 12.12 - Parks - is hereby amended by adding thereto a new Section 12.12.255 entitled "Lodi Lake Nature Area: Prohibited Activities", to read as follows:

Chapter 12.12

Parks

12.12.255 Lodi Lake Nature Area: Prohibited Activities

No person shall, within the Nature Area of Lodi Lake Park (as designated by appropriate signs):

A. Ride, walk or operate any bicycle, tricycle, or similar human-powered conveyance. This section shall not apply to any law enforcement or Parks Department employee while carrying out his or her official duties;

B. Conduct or participate in any track and field or athletic event or competition, including but not limited to races, relays, vaulting, or jumping.

SECTION 2. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed insofar as such conflict may exist.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be published ...e time in the "Lodi News Sentinel", a daily newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the City of Lodi and shall be in force and take effect thirty days from and after its passage and approval.

Approved this            day of

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID M. HINCHMAN  
Mayor

Attest:

ALICE M. REIMCHE  
City Clerk

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State of California  
County of San Joaquin, ss.

I, Alice M. Reimche, City Clerk of the City of Lodi, do hereby certify that Ordinance No.1509 was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lodi held April 3, 1991 and was thereafter passed, adopted and ordered to print at a regular meeting of said Council held \_\_\_\_\_, 1991 by the following vote:

- Ayes:            Council Members -
- Noes:            Council Members -
- Absent:        Council Members -
- Abstain:        Council Members -

I further certify that Ordinance No. 1509 was approved and signed by the Mayor on the date of its passage and the same has been published pursuant to law.

ALICE M. REIMCHE  
City Clerk

Approved as to Form

BOBBY W. McNATT  
City Attorney

ORD1509/TXTA.01V

MAR 18 '91

City Manager's Office

Dear Mr. Peterson,

As a concerned Yodi citizen, I urge you to reverse your recommendation to ban all mountain bike riders and joggers from the Nature Area at Yodi Lake.

Being a nature lover myself, I am all for preserving the wildlife in the area. Therefore, why should all bikers be punished for what a handful of teenagers have done by making a ramp to jump their bikes on?

Yodi Lake Nature Area is the only place safe enough to ride our bikes. Ironically, my husband was almost hit by a car while riding on the city streets. The only place we ride now is the Nature Area. If this ban gets into effect, would you want someone's life, maybe even a young child's, on your shoulders? There is no other place for mountain bikes to go that is safe. These bikes are not designed for city streets or pavement.

I am enclosing copies of my husband, and my own, letter to the editor. I have spoken to Mr. Williamson and Bob Johnson on this matter and they both support

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my views on this matter. I'm  
sure a lot of people will support  
your decision not to ban bikers  
and joggers from city parks.

Thank you for your time and  
we will see you at the March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Council meeting where we plan  
to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jim M. Bezze

As a 'good citizen', I can very  
encourage and, frankly, applaud  
by the 'good' and 'decent' and  
commitment to take to ban all  
bicycles and joggers from the  
natural area of 'good' park.  
It is a shame that a handful of  
people who have made their own  
ramps to jump their bikes have  
ruined it for the many families  
who enjoy riding their bikes  
through the area.  
As Pat Brown, who is the  
chairman of the Natural Area Advisory  
committee put it "the bikes are  
making the major car free look  
like they are going to fall into  
the river." Unless we have a  
superman in our midst, I see no  
way that a bicycle rider could  
possibly push an car into a river.  
This is due to natural erosion,  
the boom, and should not be  
blamed on a bike user.  
This is a 'city park' and should  
be used as a 'haven' to keep the  
mountain bikes, which are not  
designed to ride on the pavement,  
off such hazardous areas as  
our own city streets.

Moreover, I feel this whole thing is being blown way out of proportion. What is being done by the committee is making criminals out of your average nature loving bicyclists.

I urge all citizens who disagree with the decision to ban bicycles and joggers to show up at the March 20<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and show their support.

Maybe, if we pull together on this matter, we could avoid such tragedies in the future, as someone getting hurt or, God forbid, killed on our city streets because we have no place safe to ride our bikes.

Tina Zerco  
Lodi

Dear Editor

As an avid mountain bike rider, I am very disappointed in the Yodi Park and Recreations Commissioners vote to ban joggers and mountain bike riders in the natural Area of Yodi Park.

Not one, I myself, love the outdoors and nature. I love going to the park on my bike because it's my way of relaxing after a long week of work. I especially love riding in the wilderness area for the fact that it is so quiet and a nice way to get in touch with nature.

We seen groups of deer grazing, beautiful birds pondering about. There have been times we gone supposedly early in the morning just to smell the sweet morning dew throughout the wilderness area. I know that area like the back of my hand. We picked up trash back there. We even found a wallet and returned it.

On many times we ridden back there, I rarely run into other bikers when I do, they're like me riding slow enjoying the surroundings we seen parents stopping, teaching their kids different birds, plants, and bees.

If we bikers, mountain bike owners in particular, can't enjoy riding in this area, where are we to go?

The most aggravating part is seeing people tie large ropes around the prettiest of trees and swing back and forth to fall into the river. Is that not hazardous to these trees? Why are us mountain bike riders being penalized for those and other actions?

What if we were to start a volunteer bike program? Ironically, I thought about this two years ago while riding through the mature area, seeing young people trashing the place, drinking and leaving empty beer cans, and old dirty blankets from teenagers who go back there to "make out". Why are we bike riders having people point their fingers at us for the blame.

I, for one, am in favor of protecting anything that has to do with nature. I think a volunteer program like this to have a bike patrol person(s) supervise the area is a good idea, and I, myself, would love to be the first to start it!

Terry Zizzo  
Lodi