

# Community park planned for Polo Grounds

Santa Cruz County planning commissioners decided last week that a portion of the 62-acre Polo Grounds in Aptos should be reserved for a community park.

The Polo Grounds — so named because years ago it actually was used for polo — is located at the end of Polo Drive, just north of the Rio del Mar freeway exit.

The county is now reviewing a proposal by a consortium of churches to build a retirement community there.

In a report to the Planning Commission, the county plan-

ning staff recommended a part of the property be reserved for a community park. According to the report, when the Aptos area is fully developed, it should have 26 to 65 acres of community parks. A community park must contain 10 to 25 acres, according to the county's General Plan.

Even with the Aptos Village Park and the eventual development of a park in Seascapes, the Aptos area would still be short of the needed park space, the report said.

The Planning Commission voted 3-2, with Commissioners

Skip Eberly and Ed Hall dissenting, to designate a part of the Polo Grounds for a community park. The exact location of the park on the property has not been determined.

In another item at last Wednesday's Planning Commission meeting, a decision was put off on a proposal to expand the Safeway supermarket in the Rancho del Mar center in Aptos. The planning staff recommended that the shopping center owner be required to make substantial improvements on State Park Drive and Soquel Drive as a

condition of approval. Planners want the center owner to widen Soquel Drive from two to three lanes.

The owner, James Fenton, told the commission he would like to see an assessment district formed so that neighboring property owners could share the cost, estimated at \$250,000, of the required improvements.

The commission will continue the discussion at its April 10 meeting, when an engineer's report on the traffic improvements and their costs should be available.