



DATE: July 12 2017

AGENDA ITEM #2

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission
FROM: Adult Playground Subcommittee
SUBJECT: Information Item - Adult Playground Action Plan (Report: June 14, 2017)

BACKGROUND

The adult playground subcommittee met with staff liaison Manny Hernandez on May 23, 2017. The subcommittee recommends that PARC pursue installation of adult playgrounds in Los Altos parks in three phases:

- Phase One:** Develop plan to install adult playground at Grant Park.
- Phase Two:** Develop plan to install adult playground at Hillview. Additionally, review and consider upgrading or relocating the existing playground alongside the third base foul line of the Hillview Little League field.
- Phase Three:** If Phase One and Two are successful, identify a possible north Los Altos location. The Hetch Hetchy Trail and the orchard on Los Altos Avenue are two possible locations.

The Grant Park and Hillview phase would be gym-style with the equipment mostly grouped together. The Hetch Hetchy or orchard phase layout and equipment is unknown at this time.

The rationale for these three phases is as follows:

(a) The subcommittee and staff liaison believes that Grant Park is an ideal candidate for an adult playground because (1) it is in the center of a large neighborhood in the southern part of the city, and (2) it offers new amenities to ongoing senior and other programs taking place at the park.

(b) Hillview will be undergoing major renovations/reconstruction over the next several years. As the project gets planned out, PARC will have the opportunity to review the plans and propose an adult playground layout and location appropriate to the site and the programs offered there. In the meantime, the adult playground at

Grant will provide the City with at least one park (Grant) with an adult playground and other related amenities while Hillview is closed for reconstruction. The adult playground at Grant will also serve as proof of concept and a design experiment for the adult playground at Hillview (and perhaps other parks).

(c) The Hetch Hetchy project phase is anticipated to be the most challenging. Hetch Hetchy is not City owned property so cooperation will be needed from other government bodies. However, the trail is widely used and might offer greater opportunities for a public/private partnership. Given the resistance the City has previously encountered at Hetch Hetchy, the need to prove the concept, and the fact that this would be a par-course style playground (due to the trail style of the park), the subcommittee currently feels that it is appropriate to make Hetch Hetchy the third phase of this project.

The subcommittee took very concerned note of the fact that the Hetch Hetchy trail was not being properly maintained and that lack of maintenance posed a danger to both animals and people. It is the hope of the subcommittee that when phase three of the project is adopted, the public-private partnership will help foster an adequate and more frequent maintenance schedule, especially in the spring time.

The subcommittee highly recommends to PARC that it consider the needs for ongoing maintenance at Hetch Hetchy independently of this project.

Next Step: The subcommittee identified three next steps: (1) to contact the senior and (when it is back in session) the youth commissions to get their input to see whether their constituencies would be interested in having adult playgrounds, (2) for the subcommittee and staff liaison to view the Grant Park site and begin visually planning the adult playground, and (3) once a layout is designed and researched, for PARC to recommend an "Adult Playground at Grant Park" CIP.

The subcommittee recommends that it first meet with the senior commission. Assuming that the senior commission believes that its constituency would enjoy/use an adult playground, the subcommittee would then ask for the recommendation of an expert in senior fitness who could accompany the subcommittee and staff liaison's visit to Grant to help plan an adult playground.

Therefore, with the commission's approval, the subcommittee would like to approach the senior commission with the following agenda:

1. Brief presentation to the senior commission
 - a. Description of adult playgrounds

- b. Discussion of senior-friendly machines
 - c. Highlight opportunity for adult playgrounds to be used as part of the senior programs at Hillview and Grant
 - d. Explanation of the phased-planning of the project
2. Questions for the senior commission
- a. Would seniors in Los Altos use an adult playground?
 - b. Would the adult playgrounds be useful as part of the senior programs at Hillview and Grant?
 - c. Does the senior commission have any specific requests in terms of equipment that seniors would most want to use?
 - d. Can the Senior Commission recommend an expert in senior fitness that can consult (at no charge) with the Adult Playground Subcommittee when we perform a site inspection
3. Caveat: Subcommittee to bear in mind and make clear (as necessary) that adult playgrounds are not a senior-specific idea. However, to be inclusive, and to provide maximum benefit to the community, the subcommittee seeks constructive input from the senior commission

DISCUSSION

The subcommittee requests that PARC:

- A. Generally approve the three phase approach
- B. Consider and give input on the subcommittee's recommended approach, agenda and questions to ask the senior commission
- C. Approve the subcommittee's request to approach the senior committee as outlined above, and then report back to the full commission.

(Although an adult playground at Hillview is phase two, once input is received from the senior and youth commissions (assuming the input from those commissions is positive), the subcommittee recommends that it present to the recently constituted Hillview task force as early as is feasible.)