

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** King Lear [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 12:06 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Cc:** Ellen Akerlund-Gonella; Paul Gonella; Sue Pierce; Tanya DeMare; Gabrielle Tiemann; Donna Verna  
**Subject:** Re: Bocce

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Donna:

The point about "not requesting" is simply that we have nothing at stake in this matter. The emphasis is on the word "requesting", not on Grant Park. We consider this to be an opportunity for south Los Altos seniors, but if the City does not accept it, we are OK.

So, if the Senior Commission cannot represent the desires of our 4500 seniors aged 75 and above in the greater Los Altos area, who does?

King

> On Aug 4, 2020, at 11:14 AM, Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov> wrote:

>

> Thank you King. I was confused by the statement:

>

> "Our charitable funds are not requesting that bocce ball courts be added to Grant Park. We are just giving the City an opportunity to benefit south Los Altos seniors. We have no stake in the outcome."

>

> I just want to know what other amenities that the seniors may be interested in to "benefit south Los Altos Seniors." Not just bocce ball. I just would want the seniors to have a voice and indicate what they want before we accept the donation. I am looking for justification beyond the low number of seniors that are currently playing bocce ball. In the end, it is up to the PARC to make a recommendation and the City Council to take action.

>

> Also the motion the Senior Commission made in December is superseded by the motion made in March. However, the background in the staff report will include the December motion.

>

> I appreciate your perspective and input on this matter. I look forward to hearing from Donna.

>

> Sincerely, Donna

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: King Lear [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 10:34 AM  
> To: Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov>

> Cc: Ellen Akerlund-Gonella [REDACTED]; Paul Gonella [REDACTED]; Sue Pierce

[REDACTED]; Tanya DeMare [REDACTED]; Gabrielle Tiemann [REDACTED];

Donna Verna [REDACTED]

> Subject: Re: Bocce

>

> Hi Donna:

>

> My inputs are correct and I am not changing anything.

>

> The senior commission voted in December that they recommend bocce for grant park to benefit seniors. Check the minutes. The action you refer to was in January and is consistent with, and does not cancel, the December vote.

>

> Regarding voting by "seniors" on what they want, good luck with that. If the City rejects this offer, very few seniors will know about their lost opportunity, or care. That was true when we put in the courts at Hillview. If we had done a poll prior to installing those courts almost everyone would have asked, "what is bocce?" But many lives were improved once people discovered the value of the game with the courts right next to the senior center. Thousands of lives would benefit over the next 50 years if we do this project. With courts at both ends of town an energetic program for seniors would be enabled. The experience at Hillview and around the country (do a search on bocce and seniors) is all the proof one could want of the demonstrated value of bocce as a senior recreation program.

>

> Leaders look at facts and make decisions. Followers keep asking for more data, more polls, hire a consultant, etc. Do you assume those people who speak against this issue actually understand the value of bocce better than recreation professionals? No. The opposition has nothing to do with facts. You might as well recommend rejecting the offer because neighbors do not want bocce ball courts in their park. That is a recommendation and reason that would satisfy all those campaigning against the proposal.

>

> The \$30K offer from Los Altos Legacies is for bocce in Grant Park and the offer expires on 12/31/2020 if not accepted by then. The City must accept the gift "for bocce ball courts in Grant Park", no other use. Otherwise, the City can do whatever it wants with Grant Park and \$30K is not a large expense. Our offer simply covers the fact that this proposed project in Grant Park, in synch with the courts at the new community center, was not planned and is not funded in the current budget.

>

> I cannot speak for LAREF on the timing of their grant nor on potential alternate uses of the funds. Check with Donna Verna on that.

>

> Regards, King Lear

>

>> On Aug 4, 2020, at 9:51 AM, Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov> wrote:

>>

>> King, thank you for your letter attached and confirmation that this is what you want shared with the Commission at their August 12 meeting. Given that the letter represents an update and clarification to the intent of the funds, I am recommending that the letter be an attachment to the staff report. However, I wanted to address your comments made in Item #4:

>>

>> "To accept the offer from Los Altos Legacies, the City Council must place the offer on their agenda and vote prior to the expiration date of 12/31/2020."

>>

>> Is this a condition from the donors (Legacies and Rotary endowment)? This is not a requirement from staff or City Council.

>>

>> "The Senior Commission supports adding bocce ball courts to Grant Park to benefit seniors."

>>

>> At its regular meeting of March 2, 2020, the Senior Commission recommended that the bocce ball court proposal be included as a part of a greater master plan process to include desired improvements of Grant Park and the Grant Park Community Center. I interpret this to mean, the Senior Commission supports bocce ball if the community supports bocce ball at Grant Park.

>>

>> The question I heard from the PARC in the past is:

>>

>> 1) Can the City accept the 50K now to be used for an outdoor "senior" activity or equipment, to be determined through the Grant Park Master Plan process that includes community outreach to the Grant neighborhood and senior community at large? The condition being that the donation go to an amenity that supports seniors, voted for/selected by the seniors. If the Legacies and Rotary want to approve where the funds are spent, no matter what the seniors/community say what they want, then see option 2 below:

>>

>> 2) Can the City not accept the donation at this time and wait until the community outreach process is completed, to determine/justify what the seniors want? At that time, the City can approach the Legacies and Rotary for a specific ask that represents the desire/priorities of the seniors through a scientific, fair and engaging process. The desire of the seniors/community may not be bocce ball.

>>

>> Please let me know your thoughts as I would like to include these options in the report. I am open to talk over the phone as well. My report and the agenda will be posted on Thursday.

>>

>> Sincerely, Donna

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: King Lear [REDACTED]

>> Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:44 AM

>> To: Casey Richardson <crichardson@losaltosca.gov>

>> Cc: Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov>

>> Subject: Bocce

>>

>> Dear Commissioners:

>>

>> It is very unusual for a grant to be offered to an organization that has not applied for it and has not planned for the project. A poorly led organization might consider this a challenge to its authority and competence. A well-run organization would look at it as an opportunity to better-serve the public.

>>

>> Our charitable funds are not requesting that bocce ball courts be added to Grant Park. We are just giving the City an opportunity to benefit south Los Altos seniors. We have no stake in the outcome.

>>

>> Commissioner votes will be recorded so the public can see who is making the recommendation. Your reasons for the recommendation are important. The key word is transparency. Note that the Senior Commission voted to recommend bocce ball courts in Grant Park to benefit seniors.

>>

>> The two-page paper I am attaching was coordinated with our two charitable funds and is still current.

>>

>> If anyone has questions, please email them to me and I will be happy to answer.

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>> Thank you, King Lear

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## Casey Richardson

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**From:** roger heyder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020 8:11 PM  
**To:** City Council; Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Public Comment - Parks and Rec meeting August 12, 2020

Hello,

These are comments for the public record on Agenda Items 2 and 3 of the August 12, 2020 Parks and Rec meeting.

Item 2 -

It is unclear what relevance the Justice Vanguard discussion has relative to Parks and Rec. Apparently the BLM art work decision has been passed to the Arts Commission. If there is specific relevant content for Parks and Rec, it should appear in the agenda as such. Otherwise there has been no actual public notification on this relevant content, and it should not be discussed.

Providing an open forum is becoming an unacceptable standard practice at Parks and Rec. Recently GreenTown Los Altos presented primarily on Reach Codes. Again a topic that has little to no relevance to Parks and Rec. At least their presentation was provided in the agenda.

If there are no relevant topics for Parks and Rec, it would be much more appropriate to simply cancel the meeting.

Item 3 -

Los Altos should be implementing programs and facilities based on resident need and desire, as opposed to a 'payoff'. 'Free money' is not an appropriate motivation to implement a bocce ball court, or anything, unless a LARGE number of residents want and have requested it. Having a small group request and fund a project, possibly for their own benefit, is grossly inappropriate.

Again this seems to be an alarming trend. Silicon Valley Clean Energy apparently has offered money to Council to agendize an item on Reach Codes, which in Los Altos currently translates to a Natural Gas Ban. Silicon Valley Clean Energy business will be positively impacted by a natural gas ban, so this might again be viewed as a 'payoff'. Even worse, Council shifted residents over to SVCE, such that they had to contact PG&E to remain with PG&E. This means that effectively revenue from many Los Altos residents is being used by SVCE to fund an effort to ban natural gas in Los Altos.

Los Altos should make every effort to remain above being 'paid' to do something. If it is the right thing to do, then just do it, and if it is not, don't do it. Many residents value quality of life over how much money the city can squeeze out of doing the wrong thing.

I would strongly suggest that the Parks and Rec meeting be canceled, unless some specific agendized content specifically relevant to Parks and Rec can be provided.

regards -- Roger Heyder

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Roberta Phillips [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Parks Commission meeting 8/12 Meeting Letter

Dear Donna

Will you please forward this letter to the Park and Recreation Commissioners.

Dear Commissioners

On the agenda for 8/212 there are 2 items I would like to discuss.

Bocce at Grant Park:

I thought a decision was made that Bocce Ball Court would be discussed as an option in the Grant Park Master Plan. I do not know why it is again on the agenda. Many people I spoke to are asking for as much open space/ green space as possible. Some want a full sized basketball court. The building needs a lot of work. As you know in less than 5 months we will have 2 new Bocce Courts at the new Hillview Community Center. I don't understand why a small town like ours needs 4 Bocce Ball Courts.

I am concerned that Jonathan Weinberg is running for City Council and Pete is his campaign manager. I ask that IF Jonathan is getting endorsements or financial contributions for King Lear or the Legacy Group ( part of LACF) that he reveals publicly any ex parte conversations or communications and the content, and if this is occurring that he recuses himself from any decision on this topic. With an abundance of caution, even the appearance of a quid pro quo is troublesome. Remember that Lynette Lee Eng recused herself this year, when Grant Park was redesignated as a Park ( form single family zoning) in the General Plan.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

I am unaware of any problem that exists regarding Social Justice in our Parks. What problem are you trying to solve ? I have lived in Los Altos for 32 years and my children attended the Los Altos schools system. Diversity was honored. We had many sleepovers with their friends who were of all colors, religions and races. My neighbor's house to my right is Black, my neighbor to the right of my house is Asian, and my neighbor to our back, on our flag lot, is from India. We have all gotten along, looked out for each other, had barbecues together, and worked on projects of replacing fences and paving driveways. I believe discussions about justice and equality for all is appropriate. Am I missing something ? I am open to learning if there is an issue I am unaware of.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips  
[REDACTED]

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Mariel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 9, 2020 8:29 PM  
**To:** Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission  
**Subject:** Basketball Courts at Grant Park

Dear Parks and Req. Commission,

We noticed that the bocce ball court at Grant Park is on the agenda and wondered if you have considered full size basketball courts instead? Basketball courts are not readily available during school hours, and even on weekends and evenings, they do not satisfy the demand for full size courts. My kids both play basketball and we routinely have to travel outside of LA and MV to get access. This limited accessibility impacts both for kids and adults.

Two bocce ball courts are planned at the new Hillview Center.

We respectfully ask that you please consider full size basketball courts as it will balance the needs of the community much better.

Sincerely,  
Mariel Stoops

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Carol O [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Bocce ball at Grant Park.

I am a resident since 1981.

Please please NO bocce ball at Grant Park intended for a very small special interest group. We do not need the noise or traffic in this neighborhood. We already have enough traffic due to cut through work traffic.

Also, I am sure you agree that COVID-19 is going to be around for a while and I do not want to have to try and avoid a large group when I go on my daily walks. We should not be a destination point.

Thank you,

Carol Ovelman  
[REDACTED] Fallen Leaf Ln  
Los Altos, CA 94024  
[REDACTED]

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Megan Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:33 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** No bocce ball at grant park

Sent from my iPhone

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:13 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Grant Park Bocce Ball

I am one of a small group of local residents that worked hard to save some land for Grant Park. We are honored by a small notice in Grant Park. One building remains of Grant School, then part of the Cupertino School District who sold the land for the houses you can see. Only by the efforts of local residents was any of the land saved to make Grant Park. Having saved some parkland, how was it to be used? It was decided on a soccer field because the open space had other uses. Once again local residents are called to protect their park land. The space could be whittled away by other activities: tennis, skateboarding, or even a swimming pool. Next time school land is up for sale the Bocce Ball group can lobby the Council to buy the land.

David Armitage Farndon Avenue

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Patricia Cleary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:49 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Bocce Ball Court at Grant Park

We need open space, not bocce ball courts, at Grant Park. As long term residents of the Grant Park neighborhood(47 years), we believe something this disruptive to the limited open space available to South Los Altos residents should have their backing. Is there a demonstrated need for a second bocce ball facility in Los Altos? We prefer the park usage continue in its present form.

Sincerely,

Mike and Pat Cleary

[REDACTED] Elnora Court  
Los Altos

Sent from my iPad

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Paul Kelleher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 8:26 PM  
**To:** Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission  
**Subject:** Basketball Courts at Grant Park

Dear Parks and Rec. Commission,

I think it is great that donors have stepped up and made it possible to install bocce courts at Grant Park. I think this would be a great opportunity to leverage that work at Grant to expand the project to include improvements to the basketball court at Grant Park. The current Grant Park basketball court is an odd, grossly shortened court. Not only is it not currently suitable for full court play, there is hardly enough space between the baskets to run two half court games without the risk of mid-court collisions. There are plenty of outdoor kiddie scale baskets at the LASD schools, but very few outdoor courts with standard 10' baskets and full size half or full court play areas. The outdoor courts at the local high schools are generally locked down and off limits for local youth. LAHS, which had unfenced outdoor courts available to the public, has recently lost them to the big classroom expansion project.

Please consider providing additional outdoor basketball court space for our local teens and high school players at Grant Park and elsewhere in the City. Park and Rec staff are certainly aware of the nearly insatiable demand for rental of the two City owned gyms at the LASD middle schools for basketball and other court sports. I have coached many seasons of youth basketball in Los Altos, and I was amazed that given this demand for court time there were hardly any full size 10' basket outdoor courts available for use by local youth. Basketball courts are relatively inexpensive compared to other recreational hardscape and require very little maintenance.

Regards,

Paul Kelleher  
[REDACTED] Linden Avenue, Los Altos

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Pat Marriott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:55 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

The reason I keep digging into this is that I have major concerns about the bocce ball courts getting so much visibility and divisiveness just a few months before the council elections. King Lear has a way of inserting himself – and his band of former mayors – into every election season.

He wrote:

*I think it is embarrassing to suggest that City bureaucracy requires more than one year to decide. If the City should decide in some other year to build bocce ball courts in Grant Park, then presumably the City would have had time to plan the expenditure in their normal budget cycle. \$30K is a small amount in the city's budget.*

The dog park has been under discussion for at least two years, but apparently he doesn't have a vested interest in that. And he makes it sound as if the city has no other projects on the table, e.g., the police building. \$30K – of taxpayers' money! – is NOT a small amount, given COVID and the economic crisis the entire state, country, world is suffering.

King seems to think he really is the king and everyone should put him at the top of the list, regardless of any other city issues. It's offensive.

pat

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**From:** Donna Legge [mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Pat Marriott  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Lol. Thanks Pat. The video really shows how the discussion went - all over the place. It approach could have gone I. any direction. It just takes a consensus - one less than half of Commission members.

Thanks, Donna

Donna Legge  
City of Los Altos  
Recreation & Community Services Director  
Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

**From:** Pat Marriott [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 8/11/20 2:19 PM (GMT-08:00)  
**To:** Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Now I'm really confused. You wrote of the June 17 meeting:

03:11:49 is where the agreed to put the Grant Park Master Plan first and separate from Bocce Ball

If they were separate items from the beginning, why did they need to come to that agreement?

pat

Someday we'll actually meet and laugh about all this. I hope. ☺

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**From:** Donna Legge [mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 1:30 PM

**To:** Pat Marriott

**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

No vote was needed to separate. They have been separate items from the beginning. The Bocce Ball started in January and the discussion of a mater plan started in March. Each commission chose how they wanted to discuss, which was different from each other. The Senior Commission combined them and the PARC kept them separate.

Thanks, Donna

Donna Legge

City of Los Altos

Recreation & Community Services Director

Office: 650.947.2889

----- Original message -----

**From:** Pat Marriott [REDACTED]

**Date:** 8/11/20 1:03 PM (GMT-08:00)

**To:** Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov>

**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Hi Donna,

I wasn't considering the need for a vote for agenda items, but on the decision to separate bocce from the master plan. I assumed a vote was needed for that, thus would be documented in the minutes.

Take care,

pat

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**From:** Donna Legge [mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:27 PM

**To:** Pat Marriott

**Cc:** Casey Richardson

**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Suggestions by commissioners to place items on a future agenda, is not considered a vote since the staff liaison will work with the Chair to determine the final future/next agenda (per Commissioner Handbook and City attorney). It is a consensus, not a vote, because it can always change. Only votes are in minutes. However, we can see what we can do to help document the discussion. Most of the time, it appears this is not issue – only with unique ones that are contentious, etc.

Thank you again. Donna

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**From:** Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge <dlegge@losaltosca.gov>  
**Cc:** Casey Richardson <crichardson@losaltosca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Hi Donna,

I do understand action minutes. If PARC decided to separate bocce from the master plan, I assume there would have been a vote, which would have been an action, which would/should have been recorded in the minutes.

Thanks again,

pat

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**From:** Donna Legge [<mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:10 PM  
**To:** Pat Marriott  
**Cc:** Casey Richardson  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Thank you Pat. Staff will look at how we can be more clear, moving forward. At the June 17 special meeting the minutes reflected the following:

#### **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. GreenTown Los Altos Presentation (July)
- B. Dog Park Subcommittee Recommendations
- C. Grant Park Master Plan (July)
- D. Bocce Ball Proposal

A simple solution would be to add "(August)" after Bocce Ball, per the discussion and recommendations from the Commission at that meeting. As a reminder, the City does "action minutes."

Minutes are modeled after the City Council form of minutes known as "action minutes" and include a record of the legislative actions from the meeting. They do not include summaries of comments or discussion made by Commissioners or members of the public.

Thank you again for sharing your frustration.

Sincerely, Donna

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**From:** Pat Marriott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:07 AM  
**To:** Donna Legge <[dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Hi Donna,

I really do appreciate YOUR ongoing patience. It wish I didn't have to take up so much of your time asking these questions, but it's difficult to figure out what happened when.

It's not just residents who can't keep track of the many activities going on in the city. I've talked to some commissioners (not just on PARC) who don't remember exactly what happened at some meetings.

That's why the minutes are so important. I rely on commission minutes for tracking key decisions. Listening to the audio is just too difficult.

If PARC voted to separate bocce from the master plan on June 17, shouldn't that be recorded in the minutes? It is not. There is no mention of bocce ball or the master plan in the June 17 minutes other than under the list of potential future agenda items.

[https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks\\_and\\_recreation\\_commission/meeting/48695/item\\_2\\_-\\_draft\\_2020\\_06-17\\_special\\_meeting\\_minutes.pdf](https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks_and_recreation_commission/meeting/48695/item_2_-_draft_2020_06-17_special_meeting_minutes.pdf)

Again, I sincerely thank you.

pat

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**From:** Donna Legge [<mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:44 AM

**To:** Pat Marriott

**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Hi Pat. Thank you for your ongoing patience. Unless King speaks during the public comment period, he is not part of the presentation. The PARC has not addressed the Bocce Ball acceptance or not acceptance of the donation. They are now following up to close the loop and forward a recommendation to City Council, along with the Senior Commission recommendation. The Commission has made recommendations for what items are scheduled on the agenda.

Per the minutes of the June 17 Special Meeting Minutes, the Grant Park Master Plan was scheduled in July.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/11171s2z28vgmn9/2020%2006-17%20PARC%20Recording.mp4?dl=0>

03:02:15 is where they started to discuss the scheduling of Bocce Ball vs the Grant Park Master Plan

03:11:49 is where they agreed to put the Grant Park Master Plan first and separate from Bocce Ball

At the July 8 meeting the PARC discussed the scheduling of the Bocce Ball Donation for the August 12 meeting. Go to the recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/eg29emoz3th54co/2020%2007-08%20PARC%20Regular%20Meeting%20Recording.mp4?dl=0>

03:09:50 is where they scheduled the meeting

03:14:00 is where they discussed the separation of the items

King's response to why they have a hard deadline of December 31, 2020 for Legacies offer:

The gift is offered to provide equal outdoor recreation for seniors in Grant Park to that being built in Hillview Park at the new community center. The intent is to provide these courts on a concurrent schedule. The bocce courts will be finished in early 2021 in Hillview. South Los Altos seniors deserve equal treatment. Since the city has not planned this expenditure, we are offering this gift. Our initial offer of \$10K was in December 2017.

We feel that the city does not need more than a year to decide to accept this gift for this appropriate project. I think it is embarrassing to suggest that City bureaucracy requires more than one year to decide. If the City should decide in some other year to build bocce ball courts in Grant Park, then presumably the City would have had time to plan the expenditure in their normal budget cycle. \$30K is a small amount in the city's budget.

Thanks, Donna

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**From:** Pat Marriott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 5:00 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge <[dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Hi Donna,

It is indeed confusing.

When did PARC vote to separate bocce from the Grant Park master plan? I can't find that in any minutes.

In any case, why is Lear making another presentation to PARC? I looked at the draft minutes from the July PARC meeting. It says

**POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Social Justice Role for Parks & Recreation Commission
- B. Dog Park Subcommittee (September)
- C. Bocce Ball (August)
- D. Joint Meeting with Historical Commission regarding Halsey House

Lear has already made his pitch, so how/why he is on the agenda again? Who made that decision?

Thanks again,

pat

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**From:** Donna Legge [<mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 2:02 PM  
**To:** Pat Marriott  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Hi Pat. Sorry for the confusion. Two different recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council regarding the acceptance or not acceptance of the donation for the bocce ball courts in Grant Park. Only the Senior Commission has made their recommendation. We are seeking the recommendation for the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) this week. The recommendations may not be the same.

The PARC agreed to the Grant Park Master Plan but separated the recommendation from the Bocce Ball proposal. Whereas, the Senior Commission wrapped the both concepts together.

I will ask King why there is an expiration.

Sincerely, Donna

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**From:** Pat Marriott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 9:15 AM  
**To:** Donna Legge <[dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Hi Donna,

So if the senior commission's recommendation was to include bocce in the master plan process, why is King Lear making ANOTHER presentation at your next meeting. My impression is that there's a subcommittee working on a master plan, so why another sales pitch to the entire commission? How did he get on the agenda and why aren't proponents of any other options on the agenda?

Do you know why his offer expires in December?

Thanks again,

pat

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**From:** Donna Legge [<mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov>]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 09, 2020 10:10 PM

**To:** Pat Marriott

**Subject:** RE: PARC agenda

Pat, thank you for your email.

Per the staff report, the Senior Commission made several recommendations. The last and most recent recommendation was made on March 2, 2020 when the Senior Commission further discussed the Bocce Ball proposal and recommended that the bocce ball courts be included the greater master plan process. The intention is for the Master Plan process to include a public process to survey and engage the community/Seniors at that time.

Sincerely, Donna

**Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director**

City of Los Altos | 1 N. San Antonio Road | Los Altos, CA 94022

Office: 650.947.2790 | Direct: 650.947.2889 | [dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Pat Marriott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:26 PM  
**To:** Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission  
**Cc:** city.council@cityofpaloalto.org  
**Subject:** bocce ball courts

Commissioners:

Once again, bocce ball courts at Grant Park will be on the PARC agenda at the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. My concerns:

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### SENIOR COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

According to a July 2<sup>nd</sup> letter from King Lear, "The Senior Commission supports adding bocce ball courts to Grant Park to benefit seniors."

That is not true.

On March 2, 2020 the Senior Commission recommended that bocce ball courts be included the Grant Park master plan process, which would include a public process to survey and engage the community/seniors at that time. From the minutes:

*Action: Commissioner Torbeck motioned that the Bocce Ball Court proposal be included as a part of the greater Master Plan process to include desired improvements of Grant Park and Grant Park Community Center.*

If there will be community outreach/surveys/whatever as part of the master plan, why is PARC pulling bocce ball out of that process?

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### FINANCIAL OFFER EXPIRES IN DECEMBER

In response to the question as to why Lear and the Legacies put an expiration date on their financial offer, Lear wrote:

*"I think it is embarrassing to suggest that City bureaucracy requires more than one year to decide. If the City should decide in some other year to build bocce ball courts in Grant Park, then presumably the City would have had time to plan the expenditure in their normal budget cycle. \$30K is a small amount in the city's budget."*

The dog park has been under discussion for at least two years, but apparently Lear doesn't have a vested interest in that project. He makes it sound as if the city has no other projects on the table, e.g., the police building, completing the new community center, finalizing objective zoning codes, making Hillview Park an official park, etc. And \$30K – of taxpayers' money – is NOT a small amount, given COVID and the economic crisis the entire state, country, world is suffering.

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### ELECTIONS

Jonathan Weinberg, chair of PARC, is running for city council. His campaign manager is Pete Dailey, also a PARC commissioner. Scott Spielman, another PARC commissioner, is also running for council.

King Lear and his associates have always been vocal and financial backers of council candidates. A cynical person might think there was a link between a PARC decision on bocce ball and campaign contributions.

With elections just months away, why is a bocce ball decision so urgent that it must be made before December?

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I strongly urge you to fold bocce ball courts into the Grant Park Master Plan, where they will be fairly considered with all other ideas. If the Legacies' only interest is serving Los Altos seniors, their money should still be on offer when the master plan is completed – if bocce ball is deemed a high priority. If it is not, draw your own conclusions.

Thank you for listening,

Pat Marriott

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Frank Martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:48 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge; Frank Martin; Pat Marriott; Roberta Phillips; Nancy Phillips  
**Subject:** GRANT PARK BOCCE BALL

Donna,

Please include this email in your documentation and forward to the parks and recreation commissioners.

August 11, 2020

### **Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Staff,**

We do not need Bocce Ball courts at Grant Park when we already have had a set at Hillview for many years with very low participation. Not to mention, we will also have new ones at the new Hillview Community Center.

Preserving the tiny amount of green space next to the basketball court should be your priority – at least until a Master Plan for this park is developed and thoroughly vetted. Why the rush to build Bocce Ball courts when we have had dog parks and off-leash hours on the agenda for over 10 years.

Nevertheless, when you discuss this topic I would like to know the answers to the following questions:

- (1) What are the facts to take away Grant Park open space for Bocce Ball or leave as place space without first hearing what neighbors want like for example we just did for a pilot program for dedicated fenced in dog park and off-leash hour projects? Why?
- (2) What other uses for Grant Park open space including leaving alone would benefit more residents or make more sense instead of Bocce Ball? Why?
- (3) Does Los Altos need two parks with Bocce Ball courts knowing that Cupertino, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale have only one – and Saratoga, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and Los Gatos have none? Why?
- (4) Why should we decide whether or not to build Grant Park Bocce Ball courts without completing a Master Plan that considers all options first? Why?
- (5) Would Grant Park Bocce Ball be considered if there was not a time sensitive \$40,000 donation pledge knowing the real cost is at least \$96,000 without a shade structure or lockers. The same shade structure at Hillview is budgeted at \$80,000. And, the land that will be displaced for the dictated location by King Lear is worth over \$900,000 and will be lost forever if we go forward. Why?
- (6) What are the facts to reduce open space at any of our tiny parks for Bocce Ball knowing that other towns only have courts at far larger parks such as Cuesta, Henderson, and Blackberry Farm? Why?

Commissioners, once you address these questions why not simply include Bocce Ball with many other ideas that should be developed for the Grant Park Master Plan.

If King Lear wants to serve seniors surely he can still offer a donation if Bocce Ball survives the scrutiny that is deserved on behalf of all of our residents.

Thanks for listening.

Frank Martin

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Guy Piekarz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:23 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Bocci ball area at Grant Park

Hi,

It has come to our attention that there's a pending proposal to covert some parts of the scarce green park into a bocci ball court. We, as residents of the neighborhood can't think about a worse use of public space, which will accommodate a very small interest group. Not to mention the need to fund part of the project with public money.

How many bocci ball players are out there that this is even being considered? If anything, using this space for a proper dog park would serve a much larger population.

We do hope that this careless proposal will be taken off the table the same way it was brought up.

Sincerely,  
Ifat & Guy Piekarz  
(Newcastle Drive, Los Altos)

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** alfred scopp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge

I prefer green space rather than expensive bocce court in Grant Park, thus preserving grass for children and adults.

Sincerely,

Dr. AL Scopp  
[REDACTED] Richardson Ave  
Los Altos

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Bingjun Sun [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:09 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** objection to the proposal of building bocce ball courts in Grant Park

Hi Donna,

I am a resident living near Grant Park. I was shocked when I heard from a neighbor about this news.

Different from Hillview, Grant Park is a small park. The proposed area is the only lawn except the soccer field.

When the soccer field is occupied by dogs and soccer players every day, this area is the only lawn that babies, toddlers, and their parents can play.

This area is used by hundreds of people (not 20 or 56 people) living in SLA around Grant Park.

I don't understand why we ignore hundreds of people using the existing area, but favor something for only 20 or 56 people (or maybe only half, since we already have bocce ball courts in Hillview)?

Also I don't understand why Los Altos, such a small city, needs so many bocce ball courts?

Also Cuesta Park nearby and parks in Sunnyvale and Cupertino also have bocce ball courts, which are empty every time when I visit there.

Why do we need so many bocce ball courts that are empty for most of the time?

Why do we need so many bocce ball courts just for 20 or 56 people in total (every 5 or 14 persons need a bocce ball court?), while the other hundreds and thousands of people have no enough public green space?

Why do we want to replace green space with empty courts just for the interest of 20 or 56 people, ignoring the interest of hundreds and thousands of people living around?

Why don't we find some other places that are not being used actively by hundreds of people, such as:

- the east side of woodland library (it has a 40 ft \* 140 ft empty lot, while a bocce ball court is 13 ft \* 91 ft),
- Heritage oaks park, which has a 100 ft \* 200 ft empty lot, and
- Lincoln park, which is quite long (about 3000 ft), much more than enough for multiple bocce ball courts?

Thanks,  
Bingjun

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Xiaomeng Wu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 8:32 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Concerns about Bocce Ball court in Grant Park

Hi Donna,

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to build a Bocce Ball court in Grant Park. It is a small and quiet park, and the only park serving south los altos. It will destroy a very large green space and not to mention the traffic impact on the neighbourhood. Moreover, it uses tax payers' money to build a not-so-popular recreation activity facility. There is already one in Cuesta Park, which is 2 miles away.

Please ask every household in the nearby community to make such a big decision.

Thank you for your time

--

Xiaomeng Wu

[REDACTED]

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Karen Tsai [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:36 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** No Bocci Ball in Grant Park

I was made aware of this proposal Wong discussed at the upcoming meeting. I strongly oppose the idea of sacrificing space to build another public bocci ball court at Grant Park.

1) For a sports that is not widely practiced amongst the citizens, the amount of space carved out for it is not justified. (I don't have the number but I would challenge you to show me survey of enough interest for such a facility in this neighborhood)

2) For similar reason above, my tax dollar (est. \$50k-80k depending on the scope) going into funding this is even more indefensible especially when the city is probably tight on budget due to Covid.

Please vote no.

Karen Tsai

Sent from my iPhone

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Vecchiet Family [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:14 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** bocce courts at Grant Park

Hi Ms. Legge,

I fully support adding Bocce courts to Grant Park. The side yard by the basketball courts is rarely used and bocce courts would engage more older folks to use the park.

After all, parks should be for kids of all ages.

regards

Tony Vecchiet

[REDACTED] Morton Ave, Los Altos

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Janet Warrington [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Cc:** Jon Saunders  
**Subject:** No to Bocce Ball Court at Grant Park

Dear Donna Legge,

No Bocce Ball Court should be built at Grant Park without ample time for input from residents regarding a Master Plan for Grant Park. What is the rush to make this decision now? With the pandemic and crumbling economy, why now?

Now is not the time to incur this frivolous expense, requiring tax payers to pay an additional \$56,000 or more to build the courts and more if a shade structure is built, \$80,000, and even more if lockers are added! This does not include the value of the displaced land that is at least \$553,000 for the dedicated open green space of 2,516 feet just for the courts and not accounting for the larger green space disrupted by the proposed court.

Why is there a time limit on this donation? It puts pressure on the council to circumvent the will of the residents of Grant Park. It should raise serious questions about the underlying motives of the donors.

***" Never buy anything from someone who is out of breath."***

Burton Malkiel

Best regards,

Janet Warrington

[REDACTED] Christina Drive,

Los Altos CA 94024

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** zhengning xu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:33 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** I strongly object to taking away green space at Grant park

Hi,

This is Jenny, a resident of Los Altos, Grant park community. I strongly object to taking away green space at Grant park. There is already an under used Bocce Ball courts in Cuesta park nearby, why should we need a new one by taking away the green space?

Please keep the green grass, we really need this.

Jenny

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:49 AM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Bocce Ball Courts at Grant Park

Hi Donna,

My husband and I wanted to let the council know that we are not in favor of a bocce ball court at Grant Park. Our little park is small enough and there is barely enough green grass as it is. There are other bocce ball courts in the area should people want to play this sport. I am not sure there is enough interest in our neighborhood to incur the additional expense and loss of space at the park.

Please make sure our voice is heard, thanks so much.

Robyn and Dick Budelli

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Michael Coyle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:46 AM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Bocce Ball

Hello...

I am a resident in the Grant Park neighborhood of Los Altos. I read recently that there is a proposal to build a bocce ball court at Grant Park. I would like to understand how I can object to this, which I believe is a waste of space and money. None of the kids in the families we know are bocce players, and it isn't something that is likely to see much use from the families that I see frequently (until COVID, of course) using Grant Park.

Thanks,  
Michael Coyle

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** sheryl johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:14 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** No bocce ball court at Grant Park

No to bocce ball court at Grant Park!

I know the city can spend the money more effectively than for just a few people. Maybe upgrade the kitchen at Grant Park. Maybe put in a labyrinth! That is something everyone can use, something for all ages.

My neighborhood does not need more traffic. Nor the additional noise and air pollutions the additional traffic creates for my neighborhood. Delivery semis are even driving down the streets in this neighborhood.

Sheryl  
A Grant Park Resident

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Rita [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 5:16 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Bocce Ball Court

As a Los Altos Resident and taxpayer, I do not feel the need to put a Bocce Ball court into Grant Park which is too small and will take out more green area.

Rita Mitchell

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Big Wave\_Dave [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Cc:** Casey Richardson  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Re: Concern about plans to alter Grant Park for special interest Bocci Ball court

Thanks for that,

Here are some data points courtesy of Burlingame Parks & Rec:

Bocce Ball facility (park where it resides) is staffed during regular hours.

Costs \$27/hour to rent for residents, \$32 for non-residents.

Rental of Bocce-Ball sets is \$10 with a \$40 deposit.

For weekend rental/reservation, you reserve during the week and pickup the equipment [similar to how we handle Grant Park multipurpose room]

I reached out to Burlingame Parks manager to ask what it costs to maintain. I'll forward that if/when I hear back.

Regards,  
David

On Wed, Aug 12, 2020 at 2:21 PM Donna Legge <[dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)> wrote:

Thank you Dave. See excerpt from staff report:

A regular discussion by the PARC includes what types of amenities would serve the greater population for the least amount of space that is a valuable commodity given the limited acreage (45 acres) the City of Los Altos has available as parkland.

Based on the number of park and facility amenities that have been identified, and a desire of the community to create a destination in the southern portion of the Los Altos, staff is recommending that City Council approve engaging a landscape architect/park planning consultant to prepare a Grant Park Master Plan including a comprehensive public process to determine short and long-term priorities for desirable park amenities in Grant Park.

At its regular meeting of July 8, 2020, the PARC appointed Commissioners Dailey, Morris and Yeh to serve on a Grant Park Master Plan Subcommittee to evaluate Grant Park and conduct a preliminary needs assessment, working with staff if/when a recommendation for a consultant is deemed appropriate.

Sincerely, Donna

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**From:** Big Wave\_Dave [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge <[dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Casey Richardson <[crichardson@losaltosca.gov](mailto:crichardson@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern about plans to alter Grant Park for special interest Bocci Ball court

Hi Donna, (and Casey)

Thanks so much for your reply.

It's not so much about the money except for the additional recurring cost of maintaining any new special purpose facility -- It's about the neighborhood and what has the most benefit for our kids and the neighbors in general, given the impacted resource of Grant Park. Should we build a softball diamond? Should we build tennis courts? Should we build a Par Course or a putting green? One could make an argument for any of those the same way as a Bocce Ball court and any of those should be evaluated on the merits and cost to the surrounding community.

As-is, the field, basketball courts, playground, sand-pit, the forested area adjoining the field and walking path around the field perimeter are extremely well utilized. Carving out a space for a special use activity that benefits a few while taking away from the many is mis-guided.

Sincerely,

David Muñoz

Alford Ave.

On Wed, Aug 12, 2020 at 10:54 AM Donna Legge <[dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)> wrote:

Dave, thank you for your email. I will forward it to the Parks and Recreation Commission who is meeting this evening to discuss what recommendation to make to the City Council who will make the ultimate decision at a future meeting. The City was offered a donation of \$50,000 to build two bocce ball courts at Grant Park. The commission will discuss whether to accept or not accept the donation. You are welcome to attend the virtual meeting. We will notice you when the item appears again or goes to City Council.

For more information, go to <https://www.losaltosca.gov/parksrecommission/page/parks-and-recreation-commission-remote-webinar-access-ringcentral>

Sincerely, Donna

**Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director**

Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison

City of Los Altos | 1 N. San Antonio Road | Los Altos, CA 94022

Office: 650.947.2790 | Direct: 650.947.2889 | [dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)



*We Create Community through People, Parks and Programs*



**Although our offices are closed, we are continuing to serve the public remotely. Feel free to call or email the City for questions as many services have been modified. We thank the community for their cooperation and understanding. We can slow the spread of COVID-19 when we work together.**

**For more information on COVID-19, call 211 or text 'coronavirus' to 211211. Looking to donate or volunteer? Please visit <https://www.csacares.org>**

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**From:** Big Wave\_Dave [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Donna Legge <[dlegge@losaltosca.gov](mailto:dlegge@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Concern about plans to alter Grant Park for special interest Bocci Ball court

Hi Donna,

I live on Alford Ave. a block away from Grant Park. We use Grant Park almost every day. Ever since the Burke family organized the neighbors to keep the Grant School property from being completely sold off to developers, the park has been a fantastic and vital resource for all the neighbors -- we should keep it that way.

If you allow a Bocci Ball court that incurs our (city) expense, on a space as impacted as Grant Park, that's an abuse of the citizens since it only serves a handful of special interests while destroying multiple use areas.

Given a Bocci Ball court is planned for the Hillview site as I've recently learned, I think it's absurd to consider such development. Please stop it.

Sincerely,

David Muñoz

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Greg Sharrow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:11 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** No bocce ball courts at Grant Park

Open, multi-use space is far more versatilely usable than single-use infrastructure. Let people play lawn bowls instead- it's the same game except on grass, and when they pick up their balls and go home, the field is a field again. A bocce ball pitch is a permanent specialized sandbox that must be fenced against "misuse". We say "Keep Grant Park Green"- no to more sand, more fences, more squandering of precious open space. Remember, Grant Park will eventually need to be a school again, so let's keep our expectations in line with reality.

Thank you for your attention to this important and time-sensitive issue.

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Gene Sinclair [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Grant Park Bocce Ball Courts

Dear Donna,

As a 34 year resident of the Grant Park area and until COVID, a frequent visitor to the park with my children and grandchildren, I think bocce ball courts there would be a waste of money, space and effort.

They would have to be secured from traffic to stay in playing shape. They would require constant maintenance. Any scheme for their reservation and use would have to be unnecessarily complex – and frankly, no one would use them.

The park is fine just the way it is.

Thank you,

Gene

### Gene Sinclair | Principal

GW & Wade, LLC | 540 Cowper Street, Suite 100 | Palo Alto, CA 94301 | 650.618.6388

GW & Wade, LLC | 93 Worcester Street | Wellesley, MA 02481 | 781.239.1188

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## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Vilma Sinclair [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** Donna Legge  
**Subject:** Bocce ball court at Grant Park

As a 37 year resident of Grant Park neighborhood, I have seen the school closure, the land being sold for housing, and our park be dictated by what North Los Altos wants. We barely got a park many years ago, when the city tried to fight even the small park we ended up getting.

So now, I see on Next Door that a bocce ball court is planned to take away more space? Seriously, we can't find something more suitable to do with the money? The demographics in our neighborhood do not warrant a bocce ball court. I have seen such courts in other areas, empty, not maintained, and useless!

And as a senior, you probably would not walk to the court even if it was in your neighborhood. My feeling is that if you want to play bocce ball you would drive to a nearby court. And the argument that:

Orta said he's tired of bocce ball only being considered a senior sport. He and many other players regularly teach children and their parents how to play, he said, and it's a way for local residents to bond and help the city by maintaining the facilities they use.

I have played bocce ball with kids, it's not exactly their preference. That is a weak argument. And as far as local maintaining the courts, that is also questionable.

And lastly, why are we even talking about this during a Pandemic that has all the local parks closed!

My vote is a definite NO! As I said, I have lived in Los Altos most of my life, and as a Senior myself, I do not want my tax dollars to go to a pet project of someone who does not even live in our neighborhood.

Vilma Sinclair

## Casey Richardson

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**From:** Adam Stein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:43 PM  
**To:** Donna Legge; Daphne Stein  
**Subject:** No bocce ball court at Grant please

Hello Donna.

Big fans of nearby Grant Park open space. Taking some of that away, creating a seldom used court by families/young kids and putting the fee onto taxpayers is not ok.

Please decline.

Regards.

Adam and Daphne Stein  
[REDACTED] Holt Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024