

To: The Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission.

2 July 2020

From: King Lear, representing the Los Altos Legacies Board.

Subject: Gift offer (now \$50K total) for outdoor recreation (bocce ball courts) in Grant Park for south Los Altos seniors, equivalent to that provided at Hillview Park.

1. The Need:

The City of Los Altos has designated two parks to host senior activities: Hillview Park and Grant Park. Hillview Park has had outdoor recreation facilities (two bocce ball courts), enjoyed by seniors for almost 20 years. The courts hosted outdoor fun, social, and physical activities for men and women. Most players are in their 80's. Based on this positive experience two bocce ball courts are included in the community center project.

Grant Park has no outdoor recreation appropriate for seniors.

2. The Proposal:

Los Altos Legacies in December 2017 voted to offer \$10K to help pay for bocce ball courts in Grant Park. The offer was made verbally to Manny Hernandez. In 2019 the offer was increased to \$20K. In December 2019 the board increased the offer to \$30K and set an expiration date of 12/31/2020. If the City does not accept the offer by that date, the offer expires.

In December 2019 the Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund board offered the City \$20K for bocce ball courts in Grant Park. The total offer is thus \$50K. The gift might cover the total cost of the project, given the current economy. LAREF has not set an expiration date for their offer, so far.

The board members of these charitable funds have no self-interest in making these offers. 50 years of fun, sun, and social benefits for seniors at Grant Park is the only goal.

Although the key beneficiaries are seniors, the bocce ball courts can be used by all ages. A nine year-old girl can be on a team with her 90 year-old great grandfather.

3. The study by staff, Dave Brees:

The study estimated the cost to be \$57K for two courts with benches, equivalent to the planned courts beside the new community center. No shade structures were included in this cost estimate. A number of potential sites for the courts in Grant Park were listed. One site ("D" in the report) is within line of sight of the senior

lounge front door and could connect with a straight path and gate. The Deodora trees would provide a nice setting and partial shade for courts and benches. Site “D” has no current or planned use other than the temporary storage shed. Some smaller Deodora trees would be removed leaving the three largest Deodora trees to fill in the open space.

Bocce ball courts are actively used by seniors if there is a nearby senior center. The courts draw new seniors to the center and the center draws seniors to the courts. The center manages reservations, holds the equipment, and hosts after-game socializing. Nearby restrooms are also required for success. This connection with a senior center is the reason the offers are specified for Grant Park.

4. Action by the Parks and Recreation Commission:

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. If the Commission wishes to impact this decision it needs to forward a recommendation in the near future.

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

5. What about a potential Grant Park Master Plan?

If the City accepts \$50K to address an unmet need now, and if the City agrees to locate the facility in a space not in use and unlikely to be used (such as location “D”), then there would be no impact on a future plan. Neither land nor money would be taken from other potential improvements.

This logic assumes the storage shed is temporary while the new community center is being built. It also assumes that any future plan for Grant Park will continue to include programming for seniors.