

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020,
AT 7:00 P.M. WITH REMOTE ACCESS VIA RING CENTRAL WEBINARS**

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Lindermeier, Vice Chair Spielman, Commissioners Corrigan, Weinberg, and Morris

ABSENT: Commissioners Dailey and Yeh, who had both previously communicated plans to join the meeting late

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONER YEH JOINED THE MEETING AT 7:08 P.M.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - INFORMATIONAL

1. Insights of the Halsey House: Background, Landmark Status, other Considerations, and Recommendations from Jon Baer

Public Comment: Rory van Tuyl spoke about making the Redwood Grove Nature Preserve (Park) more accessible to the public. He felt that the bureaucracy regarding this issue was unnecessary and should not be the focus of the Commission.

Cindy Andrews recounted an anecdote of her son being present at the Halsey House in the Redwood Grove Preserve during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. She affectionately told her story and expressed that many community members have fond memories of Halsey House and the Grove.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

2. **Commission Minutes**
Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2020.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Spielman, seconded by Commissioner Yeh, the Commission approved accepting the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2020, with no corrections.

Approve: Lindermeier, Spielman, Yeh, Corrigan, Weinberg, and Morris.

Oppose: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passed unanimously: 6-0-0.

Approve minutes of the Special Joint Meeting with the Historical Commission of September 21, 2020.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Spielman, seconded by Commissioner Yeh, the Commission approved accepting the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2020 with minor corrections.

Approve: Lindermeier, Spielman, Yeh, Corrigan, Weinberg, and Morris.

Oppose: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passed unanimously: 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Roberta Phillips spoke regarding the September Parks and Recreation meeting. She asked that commissioners and public commenters refrain from name-calling.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

3. Bocce Ball Courts Donation

Receive updated information and forward a recommendation to City Council to defer acceptance or not acceptance of revised offer of \$40,000 from the Los Altos Legacies and Rotary Endowment Fund to build two bocce ball courts in Grant Park

CHAIR LINDERMEIER INITIATED A FIVE-MINUTE BREAK AT 9:00P.M.

COMMISSIONER DAILEY JOINED THE MEETING AT 9:05P.M.

Public Comment: Carol Overman ceded her time to Frank Martin.

Lily Tsao ceded her time to Frank Martin,

Melissa Malley ceded her time to Frank Martin.

D.L. (no first or last name given) ceded his time to Frank Martin.

Frank Martin, acting as a spokesperson for himself and the previous 4 (four) residents, spoke regarding the Bocce Ball donation offer, in general, and regarding the survey he conducted of Los Altos residents, specifically. (His survey findings were included in the “Bocce Ball Correspondence Packet, Updated 10.14.2020” on the PARC section of the City of Los Altos webpage, located here: <https://www.losaltosca.gov/parksrecommission/page/parks-and-recreation-commission-meeting-remote-webinar-access-ringcentral>.) The main contentions he highlighted included that Bocce Ball courts are unnecessary, too big, and unwanted at/in Grant Park.

Zahra Ardehali protested accepting the bocce ball donation. She expressed that the process seemed like “buying” park lands, and she felt that it was (or should be) illegal.

Monica Chandra spoke in support of updated amenities in Grant Park. She expressed thanks that the expiration date was removed from the donation. She requested deferring acceptance of the donation until the Grant Park Master Plan is complete and encouraged moving forward with the Master Plan as soon as possible.

Cindy Andrews profusely thanked the Commissioners for their time and work on the Parks & Recreation Commission. She spoke about the history of Grant Park. She acknowledged that she is a Bocce Ball player, and she further stated that she does not think Grant Park is a suitable location for it, recommending City Land rather than existing Los Altos Park Land.

Semele Heller recommended declining the bocce ball donation offer due to loss of green space, a negative impact on all residents, and the idea that bocce ball would change the character of the park. She expressed that a comprehensive Grant Park Master Plan is immediately necessary.

Colleen Blake expressed that she believes that the Parks & Recreation Commission should make substantial work on the Grant Park Master Plan and defer a decision on whether to accept the donation. She offered suggestions on how to gather stakeholder input and provide periodic progress reports.

May Bakken spoke about the activities that she has seen take place at Grant Park (both before and during the COVID pandemic). She expressed concern over the potential increase in traffic if Bocce Ball courts are put into Grant Park.

Eric Quick expressed that he is a regular Grant Park visitor. He spoke about the need for a Master Plan for the neighborhood park and articulated his hopes that the Los Altos Legacies will continue to support the community in ways that are more widely accepted by the community.

Bob (no last name given) communicated that taking away open space from the park would be in direct opposition to what the neighbors want for their local park. He also said that he does not believe that Los Altos needs two sets of courts (and referenced the courts that will be installed at the new Los Altos Community Center, on Hillview).

Joe (no last name given) questioned the legality of virtual Commission meetings, stating that residents were unable to adequately represent themselves and their viewpoints in this format. He went on to articulate his hope that the money would be donated even if it were decided that priorities other than bocce ball were to be implemented at Grant Park.

Roberta Phillips echoed previous statements, stating that a Grant Park Master Plan is the highest priority. She also broached that a new kitchen in the Grant Community Center’s Multi-Purpose Room should be strongly considered.

Action: Commissioner Yeh made a motion that had been prepared by the Grant Park Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Commission Dailey. The motion read as follows:

The Parks & Recreation Commission does not accept or reject the donation at this time as doing so would be premature.

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall recommend to City Council to direct and authorize PARC to develop a new master plan for Grant Park, which will include soliciting the public on which amenities they would like featured at Grant Park and which amenities they would not want incorporated. Such amenities may include, but are not limited to, expanded basketball courts, updated play structure, extended and upgraded walking path, pump track, bocce ball, renovated kitchen, fitness stations along the walking path, benches, tables, additional parking and other amenities selections. In the event bocce ball is amongst one of the amenities receiving support following public engagement, PARC will consider the donation at that time.

Within that process, workshops with the public may be conducted to determine what features, amenities, and equipment Los Altos residents desire in Grant Park.

A friendly amendment was made by Chair Lindermeier that would include the word trees (among the list of amenities). She withdrew that amendment.

A friendly amendment was made by Commissioner Morris that would remove all wording beginning with “such amenities may include” and would end after “donation at that time.” Commissioners Yeh and Dailey approved that amendment. The amended motion read as follows:

The Parks & Recreation Commission does not accept or reject the donation at this time as doing so would be premature.

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall recommend to City Council to direct and authorize PARC to develop a new master plan for Grant Park, which will include soliciting the public on which amenities they would like featured at Grant Park and which amenities they would not want incorporated. Within that process, workshops with the public may be conducted to determine what features, amenities, and equipment Los Altos residents desire in Grant Park.

Approve: Dailey, Yeh, and Weinberg

Oppose: Lindermeier, Spielman, Corrigan, and Morris.

Abstain: None.

Motion failed: 3-4-0.

Action: Vice Chair Spielman moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission request from City Council the authorization to produce a Grant Park Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corrigan.

Approve: Lindermeier, Spielman, Dailey, Yeh, Corrigan, Weinberg, and Morris.

Oppose: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passed, unanimously: 7-0-0.

Action: Commissioner Dailey moved to table any further discussion of the donation offer. The motion was seconded by Commission Yeh.

Commissioner Dailey withdrew his motion after Commission discussion.

Action: Vice Chair Spielman moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommends that City Council request that the Los Altos Legacies and Rotary Endowment Fund remain

flexible in the allocation of monies offered on the first or second priorities of the Grant Park Master Plan. Commissioner Corrigan seconded the motion.

Commissioners Dailey, Morris, and Corrigan offered a friendly amendment (the wording of which was agreed upon by discussion) that would remove “first or second” before “priorities” and add “based on” in the same place.

Vice Chair Spielman and Commissioner Corrigan approved the amendment. The amended motion read as follows:

The Parks & Recreation Commission recommends that City Council request that the Los Altos Legacies and the Rotary Endowment Fund remain flexible in the allocation of monies offered, based on the priorities of the Grant Park Master Plan.

Approve: Lindermeier, Spielman, Dailey, Yeh, Corrigan, Weinberg, and Morris.

Oppose: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passed, unanimously: 7-0-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Receive information and announcements from City staff

COMMISSION REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Weinberg thanked the public speakers for their participation.
- B. Vice Chair Spielman, Commissioner Weinberg, and Commissioner Dailey spoke regarding Halsey House Subcommittee progress.
- C. Commissioners Morris and Dailey spoke regarding a statement that the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) Subcommittee prepared.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. J.E.D.I. Statement prepared by Subcommittee – November
2. Halsey House and Redwood Grove – January
3. Review Work Plan and Approve Commissioner Corrigan’s Assignments – November
4. Park in Lieu Funds Update – November
5. Los Altos Community Center Update / Virtual Tour – December
6. Discussion of Commission-to-Community Outreach – TBD
7. Status of Park Plan (for Each Los Altos Park) – Staff Report – TBD

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lindermeier adjourned the meeting at 12:54 a.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2020