

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M.
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD,
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

PRESENT: Chair Yeh, Vice Chair Eckmann, Commissioners Spielman, Morris, Lindermeier, Weinberg and Dailey

ABSENT: None

Introduction of William Wells, newly-hired Facilities Coordinator for Recreation and Community Services

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Commission Minutes

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Weinberg, the Commission approved the minutes for the meeting of December 11, 2019 by the following vote:

Approve: Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: Yeh, Weinberg.

Motion passed: 5-0-2.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Eckmann, seconded by Commissioner Dailey, the Commission approved the minutes for the meeting of January 8, 2020 with two changes by the following vote:

Approve: Yeh, Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey, Weinberg.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 7-0-0, unanimous.

Public Comment:

Los Altos resident Harry Guy wanted to call attention to his written submission, emailed to the Commission the afternoon of the January 2020 PARC meeting. He asked for the minutes to include correspondence. Donna Legge and the Commission outlined a timeline policy for submitting written comment for disbursement to the Commission via email (ideally, no less than 24 hours before a meeting) so that the communication can be included in the distributed (Public) Correspondence Packet.

2. Overview of the Park-In-Lieu Funds

Staff presentation by James Sandoval.

Public Comment:

Roberta Phillips, a Los Altos citizen, spoke giving praise to the City for highlighting the Park-In-Lieu Funds and requested that the information be shared with other Commissions and the City Council.

Action: None

3. Dog Park Public Workshop Planning Update

Staff presentation by Donna Legge (Recreation & Community Services Director) & Trevor Marsden (Management Analyst Fellow)

The following tasks and topics required discussion and/or voting by the Commission:

- a) Proposed Dot Voting Exercise
- b) Pros/Cons have been developed for both fenced-in options (at South Lincoln Park and McKenzie Park) but need to be developed for the off-leash hours pilot program (at Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park).
- c) Criteria has been established for the fenced-in dog park locations. Should it be established for the off-leash hours program parks as well?
- d) Size and scope of South Lincoln Park proposed location

Action: Commissioner Dailey motioned that the size and scope of the proposed South Lincoln Park fenced-in dog park location be reduced to “less than 7000 square feet.” The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weinberg.

Approve: Yeh, Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: Weinberg.

Motion passed: 6-0-1.

- e) Recommend off-leash hours/date ranges proposed by City Staff (attached)

Action: Commissioner Spielman motioned to adopt (for the off-leash hours pilot program) the hours proposed by City Staff. Commissioner Weinberg seconded

Approve: Yeh, Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey, Weinberg.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 7-0-0, unanimous.

- f) Caterpillar threat at McKenzie Park
- g) ADA Requirements/Responsibilities

- h) Consider expanding the dog park subcommittee with one additional PARC member

Action: Commissioner Eckmann moved that Commissioner Morris be added to the Dog Park Subcommittee. There was static and the identity of the person who seconded the motion was inaudible.

Approve: Yeh, Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey, Weinberg.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 7-0-0, unanimous.

- i) Staff and Subcommittee will finalize dog park memo and staff report
- j) Add arborist's comments for McKenzie Park consideration
- k) Staff and Subcommittee will finalize power point
Non-action: This Power Point will be disseminated to Commissioners prior to the first dog park workshop.
- l) Other

Action: Commissioner Morris motioned to not allow children to vote with stickers/ballots at the Dog Park Workshops. Commissioner Dailey seconded

Approve: Yeh, Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey, Weinberg.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 7-0-0, unanimous.

Non-action: It was determined that Staff and the Subcommittee would determine how to handle verifying the residency of voters, the flow of the workshops, etc.

Public Comments:

Los Altos resident Dana Tasic expressed belief that there is a huge opposition to a dog park at Lincoln Park. She indicated that 25 to 30 neighborhood residents are part of a collective force opposing the proposed LP location. She believes that a dog park in LP would negatively affect the neighborhood, use of the sidewalk, and mixed use of the area. She's frustrated that this issue is coming up again.

Los Altos resident Henry Moore spoke about root rot related to overwatering. He believes that dog urine isn't a large issue but spraying water to keep dust down in a fenced-in dog park will kill the oak trees.

Los Altos resident Mike Shadduck lives near McKenzie Park and doesn't understand why the park needs to be changed (after he praised the original park renovation). He is against fenced-in dog parks in general, at both locations. He also is not a proponent of the way the Workshops are going to be conducted. He feels that defending McKenzie again is unnecessary (previously -- against a pool, school location). He is not opposed to off-leash hours.

Los Altos resident Anne Scott lives in the Lincoln Park area and is against a fenced-in dog park in both listed locations. She also expressed incredulity at the idea that the Commissioners and City Staff are adequately prepared for the workshops.

Los Altos resident Tom Johnson believes that there is not overwhelming support for a dog park and believes that open space is more important. He expressed doubt about the online survey (that was conducted by an outside source) and expressed greater approval of the survey conducted by Linda White.

Los Altos resident Derek Pitcher expressed serious concern about the caterpillar issue at McKenzie Park. He believes that the arborist who has submitted comments to the City didn't thoroughly study the park. He believes that off-leash hours could be appropriate at every park in Los Altos.

Los Altos resident Reena Kapoor lives near Grant Park. She would like off-leash hours in most of the parks in Los Altos (although she is not a proponent of fenced-in dog parks). She expressed passion for several issues – including reports of caterpillars.

Los Altos resident Michael Shafran does not believe that Lincoln Park is ideal for a dog park. He believes that the Commissioners need more information and that the information needs to be more straightforward.

Los Altos resident Jill Reimann spoke on safety issues regarding Lincoln Park (dogs, people, and the environment). She believes that LP cannot handle a “de facto community area for dogs” and still be safe.

Los Altos resident Dave Backs wanted to speak about the 5-page document he emailed in this week. He cited that he has been to many PARC meetings, and he subsequently formed a neighborhood group. They are additionally opposed to Lincoln Park as a fenced-in park for the following major reason: the size is inappropriate (especially considering that it was reduced).

Los Altos resident Harry Guy spoke to give direction and comments regarding the workshops. He believes pros and cons should be presented (such as with a ballot measure). He also believes that anyone can and should attend the workshops, but only City Staff, Commissioners, and residents should be allowed to present. He believes that stickers will provide a visual bias and that voter ballot cards would be a better approach.

Los Altos resident Janet Corrigan yielded her time in, stating that her comments have already been covered.

Los Altos resident John Corrigan spoke first about the direct mail approach (online campaigning, direct messages through Next Door, and door to door visits – 52% dog owners). His highlight question about Los Altos land yielded the result that over 70% desired open land (as a top priority).

Cupertino resident (and Cupertino PARC member) Carol Stanek stated that she believes that separating opinions about fenced-in dog parks and off-leash hours should be paramount. She thinks PARC should examine the ADA repercussions prior to bringing the issues to City Council. She expressed doubts about the staff-recommended hours. ((Establish of pilot program for a dog park was resident driven and related to a single park.))

Los Altos resident Doug Baine lives near McKenzie Park and is adamantly against a fenced-in park at his location. He is in awe about how a non-resident has taken up so much time and energy on the dog park issue. He admits that he's an outspoken advocate for his neighborhood park. He is also a proponent of protecting the open space at Lincoln Park. He wants the parks-in-lieu fees to be used to purchase space elsewhere.

Los Altos resident Frank Martin wants only residents and adults to be able to vote at the workshops. He wants off-leash hours at many parks. He recommends mirroring Mountain View's model.

Los Altos resident Nikki Selden is a PTA parent at Los Altos High School who lives near Lincoln Park. She believes that adding an additional thing (park, churches, etc.) to that area will be a major traffic hazard.

Los Altos resident Stacey Walter lives near Lincoln Park and appreciates the PARC's work on this process, but has the following concerns: the first survey (March 2018) mentioned North Lincoln Park (vs South, as currently proposed) and that all current parks are unsuitable (based on the City's criteria) to be a fenced-in dog park. She requested that voting be suspended for any particular site, evaluate other options (City-owned sites), and facilitate more discussion among residents.

4. Energy Independence for Parks & Facilities Subcommittee

Public Comment: None

Action: Commissioner Spielman moved that Chair Yeh and Commissioners Lindermeier and Weinberg become the Sustainability and Energy Independence Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Weinberg seconded.

Approve: Yeh, Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey, Weinberg.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 7-0-0, unanimous.

5. Parks Expansion Subcommittee

Public Comment: None

Action:

Commissioner Dailey motioned that a Parks Expansion Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission be comprised of himself and Commissioners Morris and Lindermeier. Commissioner Spielman seconded.

Approve: Yeh, Eckmann, Morris, Spielman, Lindermeier, Dailey, Weinberg.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 7-0-0, unanimous.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Information and Announcements from City Staff

- a) Roster attached (later removed from website)
- b) Three (3) dates in 2020 City Council Meeting Attendance Schedule had dates of 2018. This needs to be corrected and disseminated.
- c) Recreation's Winter Activity Guide is out, and classes have begun
- d) 2020 Egg Hunt Volunteers are needed
- e) Recreation Staffing Update

- a. Recreation Coordinator position available – online
- f) Bocce Ball Proposal Update – the Senior Commission voted not to establish a Subcommittee and not to conduct a survey. Voting on the Proposal will be on the next agenda (in March).

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. 2019-20 Work Plan and Joint Meeting with City Council Prep (March 18)
2. Capital Improvement Program Review/Update (March 18)
3. Discuss Fenced-in Dog Park and Off-Leash Hours Program Input from Public and Consider a Recommendation to City Council (March 18).
4. Review Bocce Ball Proposal (April 8)
5. Re-organize Commission with Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (April 8)
6. Annual Joint Meeting with City Council (May 5)
7. Recreation Program Proposal – Senior Programs & Services
8. Grassroots Ecology Presentation
9. Orchard Commons Committee Presentation
10. Halsey House Presentation
11. Community Garden (Vice Chair Eckmann)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yeh adjourned the meeting at 11:22 p.m.