

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020, AT  
7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS  
ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

**ROLL CALL**

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

ABSENT: None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION**

1. Item #1

Dog Park Workshop Planning

Workshops will be held on Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00pm at the Garden House at Shoup Park and Saturday, February 29 at 10:00am at the Grant Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room, for two (2) hours each.

Public comment:

Los Altos resident Frank Martin does not want green space taken away from current parks. He researched and proposes two alternate sites: Woodland Library or Fremont/Grant. He alternately proposed fencing-in a portion of an existing park (ex: Marymeade Park).

Los Altos resident Dave Backs believes that Lincoln Park is unsuitable to be either an off-leash or fenced-in dog park because the ambiance would change, and the area would become unsuitable to be used as a regular park. He believes that there is a strong probability that the survey that indicated that Lincoln Park is the most-liked park was deeply flawed and unscientific.

Los Altos resident John Corrigan is also against a dog park in Lincoln Park. He believes that a bulk mailing to the entire city (including non-dog-owners) is the best and most fair way to receive balanced input. He also gave additional feedback about making future surveys fairer and more neutral.

Los Altos resident Janet Corrigan thanked the Commission for the care, attention, and transparency of this process. She additionally spoke of a survey from October 2017 that appeared to have been made by a member of the community (vs. the City of Los Altos). She submitted a Public Records request today. She believes that the workshop should be used to gather additional information. She would like the Commission to consider hiring an

independent surveyor to gather unbiased information. She proposed “off-leash hours” as a compromise.

Los Altos resident Peter Mehring on behalf of Esther Mehring (his dog). He spoke positively on behalf of other communities that use off-leash hour and complimented the Commission and their process. He is in favor of off-leash hours and/or a dog park in Los Altos.

San Martin resident Catherine Stansbury thanked the Commissions, their effort, and the process. She described herself as a dog activist and advocated for a fenced-in dog park in Los Altos, specifically at Lincoln Park. She also advertised her meet and greet, scheduled on January 25<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Park from 12pm to 4pm.

Los Altos councilwoman Lynette Lee Eng spoke about the process for gathering information. She recommended setting clear expectations regarding what information the Commission is searching to receive. She also encouraged educating the public on the process during the Public Workshops.

Action:

A motion by Commissioner Weinberg, seconded by Chair Yeh, contained four components. First, the beginning of both public dog park workshops and on the hour each hour after, an oral presentation will be made that includes the history, the process, the criteria and the intent of the meeting and the entire journey. Secondly, presentation boards with that same information will be available for people who do not or cannot hear the oral presentations. Third, each person who attends the workshop will be provided colored dots to be able to vote yes and no for each of the four (4) proposed locations and the following two topics (“I like the idea of a fenced-in dog park, but not at this location” and “I like the idea of off-leash hours, but not at this location”). The final component of the motion provides that a fishbowl be available for additional written anonymous comments.

Amendment – Commissioner Spielman proposed an amendment that would include a questionnaire with six (6) questions at the dog park workshops.

Commissioner Weinberg did not accept the friendly amendment to his motion.

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

Oppose: Spielman.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 6-1-0.

A motion by Commissioner Spielman, which proposed to present a very short questionnaire with an open-ended section for comments to catch qualitative data that could be missed by only using the dot method, was not seconded. The motion failed.

Commissioner Dailey moved to have two levels of information (Level A would encompass as much as the Commission determines is fairly comprehensive and appropriate for the general and Level B would be a more specific disclosure for those who are more interested) and the subcommittee gets determines what goes into Levels A and B. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindermeier.

Commissioner Weinberg suggested that in addition to the presentation materials, written copies of the full staff report should be available for those who want more detail. Commissioner Dailey accepted this friendly amendment.

Commissioner Morris suggested that pro and con bullet points based on the staff report be displayed on the (voting) poster boards and in the informational presentation. Commissioner Dailey accepted this friendly amendment.

The amended motion is as follows:

Commissioner Dailey moved that the Commission will provide the full written staff report upon request and a pro/con bullet point list, based on the staff report, will be displayed on the poster boards and in the presentation.

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

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

2. Item #2  
Reschedule March 11, 2020 Regular Meeting

Public Comment: None.

Action:

Chair Yeh motioned, and Commissioner Weinberg seconded. to move the regularly scheduled March meeting to March 18, 2020 due to the conflict with Annual California Park and Recreation Society Conference.

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

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Park-in-Lieu Funds Presentation (February 3)
2. 2019-20 Work Plan and Joint Meeting with City Council Prep (February 3)
3. Capital Improvement Program Review/Update (February 3)
4. Status of Dog Park Public Workshop Planning (February 3)
5. Public Workshops regarding fenced-in dog park and off-leash hours program (February 12 and 29)
6. Discuss Fenced-in Dog Park and Off-Leash Hours Program Input from Public and Consider a Recommendation to City Council (March 18).
7. Review Bocce Ball Proposal (March 18)
8. Finalize 2019-20 Work Plan and Joint Meeting with City Council Prep (March 18)
9. Re-organize Commission with Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (April 8)
10. Establish a Park Expansion Subcommittee (April 8)

11. Establish a Park and Facility Energy Independence Subcommittee (April 8)
12. Annual Joint Meeting with City Council (May)
13. Recreation Program Proposal – Senior Programs & Services
14. Grassroots Ecology Presentation
15. Orchard Commons Committee Presentation
16. Halsey House Presentation
17. Community Garden (Vice Chair Eckmann)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Yeh adjourned the meeting at 10:22 p.m.