

Casey Richardson

From: james wing [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Donna Legge; Lynette Lee Eng
Cc: Chris Jordan
Subject: Halsey House

Parks Commission Chair Lindermeier and Distinguished Commission Members

Subject: Parks Commission 6-17-20 Meeting Agenda Item 2, Halsey House Update

Please do not make Council recommendation at this time because restoration report is incomplete and does not outline a “phased restoration” plan. Council only needs to know complete scope of project and recommendation of where to start. Council direction on Halsey restoration project is to use grant funding that realistically is obtained with small grants over several years. Mountain View restoration of Rengstorff House took 17 years of small grants and that may be the model for Halsey House.

You are stewards of accessibility to our parks and making Redwood Grove accessible for families to freely explore our “gem of a nature preserve” a priority. We remember recent loss of accessibility due to elevated pathway reconstruction [5 months] and redwood tree removal [3 months]. Report should provide estimate of restricted public access during restoration.

Restoration report is incomplete because of following items:

- Northeast side of Halsey House is in Adobe Creek floodplain. Floods in 1976 and 1983 had standing water in northeast rooms. Flash flood in 2013 filled crawl space with water. Report does not include any mention of flood problems or how to address Corps of Engineering requirements for construction in floodplains and special conditions needed for exemptions.
- The two Halsey House electrical power poles on Redwood Grove property have wood rot and present a fire hazard if electrical power is restored. They connect to PG&E transformer located on Los Altos Hills end of Fremont Road and are responsibility of Los Altos not PG&E. Before any restoration can start, on site electrical power is needed that is not from noisy gas-powered generators.
- Fire Department pump truck access or Halsey House exterior fire proof materials are not noted in report. Fire hazard for Halsey House is on south side of house, with fire on southwest ridge jumping to Halsey House structure. Southside Halsey House Fire Department high capacity pump truck access is limited to end of Manresa Way and will use hydrant on Manresa Way near south Redwood Grove pedestrian gate. Southside access truck inside Redwood Grove needs to be provided before any restoration can start. Existing northside 8-ton bridge is not needed for Fire Department heavy pump trucks because any restoration will require interior water sprinklers. Fire Department does have a low capacity pump truck that can cross current bridge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Wing

Milverton Road

Casey Richardson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:44 PM
To: Casey Richardson; Donna Legge; heritage-oaks-dog-park@googlegroups.com
Subject: Request to speak during PARC meeting on "Items Not on the Agenda"

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

I am a neighbor of Heritage Oaks Park and I wanted to speak to you about several points related to the City's proposal for off-leash dog hours.

First, four of us from the Heritage Oaks Park neighborhood had the opportunity to speak with Commissioners Morris and Spielman last week to discuss our concerns regarding the City's proposal. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with these members of the Dog Park Subcommittee and look forward to future opportunities for constructive dialogue.

Second, I wanted to provide an informal update to the survey results that were presented to the Commission at its May 20 meeting. As you heard, virtually none of the residents of the Heritage Oaks Park neighborhood knew about the off-leash pilot proposal until two days before your May 20 meeting, and only two households that I know of attended the workshops in February. Thus, the results of the survey conducted at those workshops do not reflect the Heritage Oaks Park neighborhood.

I know of 50 adults in the neighborhood who oppose off-leash hours at Heritage Oaks Park -- there are very likely far more, but I am personally aware of 50 adults. Using the survey results that were in the PowerPoint presented to you, if we add those 50 people to the survey results, 56% of respondents have said they oppose off-leash hours at Heritage Oaks Park specifically or at all parks in Los Altos. My point is simply that the survey results would have been quite different if my neighborhood had expressed their opinion on the survey conducted at the workshops.

Third, at the May 20 Commission meeting a few Commissioners noted during discussion that approximately 38% of Los Altos households own dogs, and then seemed to assume that 38% of Los Altos households would want and take advantage of off-leash dog hours if they were provided. I am not a dog owner, but I have been amazed at how many dog owners do NOT support off-leash dog hours in an unfenced area. Some are opposed because their dogs are small, or young, or old, or not under voice control. Some are opposed because they understand the public safety issues to other people in the park and on adjacent streets by unfenced off-leash dogs. I do not know what percentage of dog owners want off-leash hours, what percentage are opposed to the concept, and what percentage have no opinion. But, I am sure that the assumption that all Los Altos dog-owning households are in favor of unfenced off-leash dog hours is inaccurate. In fact, many of the individuals who spoke at your last meeting in opposition to the proposal are dog owners.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.
Respectfully submitted,
Jane Clayton

Casey Richardson

From: Jane [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Donna Legge; Casey Richardson; Sean Gallegos; Manuel Hernandez;eward@losaltoshistory.org
Subject: [External Sender]Letter to Recreation Commissioners 6/17/20

To: Los Altos Recreation Chair and Commissioners

Subject: RE: Halsey House-RWG

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this Commission meeting conversation regarding the Halsey House in the Redwood Grove Nature Preserve.

The Friends of Redwood Grove (RWG) have been organized since 2014. We continue to be an active group - with a small steering committee leading the way. Our interest in RWG remaining an active nature preserve and the preservation and adaptive reuse of the Halsey House are our overall goals.

Additionally, we have been a fundraising group seeking financial support from individual members of the community and grants that could help us with the project. We raised approximately \$35,000 in small donations for the initial city RFP which was used to hire Mark Sandoval. \$25,000 was the cost of the RFP and approximately \$10,000 remains in our designated fund with the Los Altos Community Foundation.

Following are several issues we wish to comment on:

1. The “Sandoval Report for Adaptive Reuse” (from the RFP)

a. The Friends identified several grants that were available from Santa Clara County, but in doing so we then realized that the Sandoval Report for Adaptive Reuse was not sufficient, a Historical Structure Report (HSR) was also needed. Therefore, at the time we were unable to apply to the county for grants, but we did, with support from the City of Los Altos, apply to, and received from, the State of California a grant to develop a Historical Structure Report.

The Friends are now satisfied that these two documents constitute a complete report. We feel that we can now work with the suggested steps to preserve the Halsey House building.

b. Unfortunately, the Friends feel that the Sandoval Report has suggested a plan that is far too expansive and intrusive for the RWG area. The total cost is too expensive. We do not recommend using this plan. Other simpler plans could be designed that would better fit our community needs. We are looking to adapt the interior of the historic house for public use - nature preserve collections, small passive classes, Recreation Dept.

summer camp headquarters, while keeping the exterior preserved. We do not ever wish to see parking or commercializing of the property. The Friends see RWG as a passive nature preserve.

2. Historical Structural Report (HSR) - Preserving the existing building.

a. Follow the plan to not let any more damage occur to the Halsey House - continuing abatement of rats and stabilization of the roof and building with funds that were appropriated by the City Council several years ago.

b. Create a time-line for stages of improvement: develop a plan for a new interior and create outside restrooms for public use.

c. Treat the entire property with respect and make it a valuable working asset for the community

d. Hold off making any recommendations to City Council at this time.

3. Communication

We would like to be able to continue what was once on-going discussions between representatives from the Historical and Parks and Recreation Commissions as well as City staff - working together and sharing our ideas and plans.

Friends of Redwood Grove,

Marie Backs, Chair

Jane Reed, Co-chair