



DATE: January 13, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 3

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Equal Access to Public Places and Recreational Opportunities Resolution

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Discuss resolution options and forward a recommendation to City Council

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## **BACKGROUND**

On January 10, 2017, a group of Los Altos residents addressed the City Council requesting that the City reaffirm its commitment to being a diverse, supportive, inclusive, and protective community. At its regular meeting of February 14, 2017 (Valentine's Day), staff proposed a resolution based on a sample from the City of Palo Alto that reaffirms that the City of Los Altos is committed to maintaining a community which is diverse, supportive, inclusive, and protective of all individuals regardless of religion, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-07 (Attachment A).

At its regular meeting of July 8, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) approved Commissioner Dailey's recommendation to place the "Role of Parks and Recreation and Social Justice" on the next PARC agenda to discuss and show support for Black Lives Matter art in Lincoln Park.

At its regular meeting of August 12, 2020, the PARC reviewed a proposed Resolution that was drafted by Commissioner Dailey. The PARC recommended that a Subcommittee be formed to further explore the topic of social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) and report back to the Commission. The PARC supported Commissioner Dailey to work with Commissioner Morris on the established Inclusive Playground Subcommittee and recommended that it be expanded to encompass the JEDI approach to offering recreation opportunities as well as physical cognitive access to parks and playgrounds.

At its regular meeting of November 16, 2020, the Social JEDI Subcommittee shared a revised resolution to be considered by the PARC. The PARC recommended that the proposed Resolution be given to staff to check that the language/wording comports with best practices in this domain before bringing it back to the Parks & Recreation Commission for consideration.

## **DISCUSSION**

As recommended, staff has incorporated suggested edits in red (Attachment B).

It is staff's understanding that the intent of the proposed resolution is to provide current and future Commissions with guidelines and considerations when making recommendations to

City Council that are applicable to providing “equal access to public places and recreational opportunities.”

Staff is recommending that the PARC consider one of the following recommendations to City Council:

1. Approve proposed Resolution initiated by the PARC, with finals edits
2. Update and revise existing Resolution No. 2017-07, as a city-wide initiative
3. Consider amending Los Altos Municipal Code, Ordinance 2.08.080: “Powers and Duties of the Parks and Recreation Commission” as highlighted below:

The parks and recreation commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the council in all matters pertaining to parks and public recreation and shall cooperate with all other governmental agencies and civic groups in the advancement of sound parks and recreational planning and programming, shall make budget recommendations to the council with regard to parks and recreation, and shall submit an annual report to the council, committed to equal access to public places and recreational opportunities.

4. Other

Attachments:

- A. Resolution No. 2017-07
- B. Proposed Equal Access to Public Places and Recreational Opportunities Resolution

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO A DIVERSE, SUPPORTIVE,  
INCLUSIVE AND PROTECTIVE COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, Los Altans value a community characterized by diversity, multiculturalism and unity; and

**WHEREAS**, many Los Altans are active as volunteers in preparing for and responding to emergencies, both natural and man-made, and in ensuring the physical and emotional needs of all are considered and met whenever possible; and

**WHEREAS**, each person is naturally and legally entitled to live a life unmolested by harassment, discrimination, persecution or assault, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups, businesses or governments; and

**WHEREAS**, there exists significant and growing concern in Los Altos based upon recent national and regional incidents of hate crimes, discrimination, sexual harassment and assault, and the fear of a trend toward more of these crimes in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, there also exists concern in our community of risks to marginalized communities of persecution, denial of constitutional and human rights, and relaxation of laws protecting people from discrimination, harassment and assault; and

**WHEREAS**, many Los Altans continually communicate their rejection of bigotry and affirm their commitment to a diverse, supportive, inclusive, and protective community; and

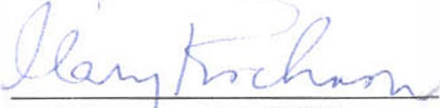
**WHEREAS**, Los Altans value all members of the community, regardless of religion, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos hereby reaffirms its commitment to a diverse, supportive and inclusive community and resolves as follows:


1. The City of Los Altos rejects bigotry in all its forms, including, but not limited to, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism, nativism, misogyny and homophobia; and
2. The City of Los Altos does not tolerate discrimination, hate crimes, harassment or assault; and
3. The City of Los Altos will oppose any attempts to undermine the safety, security and rights of members of our community; and
4. The City of Los Altos recognizes, values and will proactively work to ensure the rights and privileges of everyone in Los Altos, regardless of religion, ancestry, country of birth, immigration status, disability, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity; and
5. The City of Los Altos will promote actual safety, a sense of security and equal protection of constitutional and human rights, leading by example through equitable treatment of all by City officials and departments.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES: BRUINS, MORDO, PEPPER, PROCHNOW  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: LEE ENG

  
Mary Prochnow, MAYOR

Attest:

  
Jon Maginot, CMC, CITY CLERK

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS  
RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION'S COMMITMENT TO EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC PLACES  
AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIO-  
ECONOMIC LEVELS, AGES, ABILITIES, ETHNICITIES, RELIGIONS,  
GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS, AND OTHER IDENTITIES**

WHEREAS, per Ordinance No. 2.08.080, the parks and recreation commission serve in an advisory capacity to City Council in all matters pertaining to parks and public recreation and shall cooperate with all other governmental agencies and civic groups in the advancement of sound parks and recreational planning and programming, shall make budget recommendations to the council with regard to parks and recreation, and shall submit an annual report to the council; and

WHEREAS, Title II applies to State and local government entities, and, in subtitle A, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs, and activities provided by State and local government entities. Title II extends the prohibition on discrimination established by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, to all activities of State and local governments; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-07, affirming the City's commitment to a diverse, supportive, inclusive and protective community; and

**WHEREAS,** the Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that historically, there has not been equal access to public places and recreational opportunities in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** the Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that equal access to public places and recreational opportunities contribute to the quality of life of all people that live work and play in the city of Los Altos; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission embraces the California Park and Recreation Society vision statement to "Create Community Through People, Parks and Programs," with a mission to strengthen community image and sense of place; support economic development; strengthen safety and security; promote health and wellness; foster human development; increase cultural unity; protect environmental resources; facilitate community problem solving; and provide recreational experiences; and

**WHEREAS,** the Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that equal access to parks and recreational opportunities, cultivates community ties and produces public benefits by connecting people more deeply to the fabric of the community. This sense of connectedness create livable and desirable communities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City Council of the City of Los Altos recognizes that the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to equal access

to public places and recreational opportunities for people of all socio-economic levels, ages, abilities, ethnicities, religions, gender, sexual orientations, and other identities.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neysa Fligor, MAYOR

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea Chelemengos, MMC, CITY CLERK