

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION  
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. WITH REMOTE ACCESS VIA  
RINGCENTRAL WEBINARS**

**ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice Chair Spielman, Commissioners Dailey, Yeh, Corrigan, and Morris

ABSENT: Chair Lindermeier

The meeting was called to order and chaired by Commissioner Yeh, at the request of Chair Lindermeier (who was unable to attend the meeting)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Historical Commissioner Russell Bartlett spoke to request clarification that the meeting was only for Parks & Recreation Commissioners.

Gary Hedden spoke on behalf of GreenTown Los Altos. His comments promoted the “500 Trees” Campaign, which can be found at the following link: <https://www.greentownlosaltos.org/500-trees>. He also spoke regarding new lunch classes that GreenTown will be having remotely, through the Recreation Department. These classes can be registered for using the following link: <https://www.losaltosca.gov/recreation/page/view-all-classes-0>.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION**

1. **Commission Minutes**  
Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 13, 2021.

**Public Comment:** None

**Action:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Dailey, seconded by Vice Chair Spielman, the Commission approved accepting the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2021 as written.

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

Oppose: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion passed unanimously: 5-0-0.

2. **Halsey House Structure Recommendation**

Review options and forward a recommendation to the City Council on the future of the Halsey House structure in Redwood Grove

- A. City Staff Halsey House Commission Memo
- B. Halsey House Subcommittee Recommendations
  - a. Vice Chair Spielman
  - b. Commissioner Dailey

**Public Comment:** Rory van Tuyl spoke to support the demolition of Halsey House. He stated that the Commission should adopt Commissioner Dailey's report as the recommendation to Council in part because the nature of Redwood Grove is far more important than the building.

Marie Backs advocated for the continued adapted use of Halsey House. She spoke of the history and highlighted the detailed proposal she had previously sent to the Commissioners.

Larry Baron highlighted that programming should not be tied to the Halsey House, as it can be done outside, in the Underground, etc. He expressed that he believes that the Recreation staff is capable of programming choices.

Lois (no last name given) expressed that her children have a greater appreciation for the environment and for nature due to the Halsey House. She stated that the memories made there were invaluable, and she thinks the traditions should continue.

Gary Hedden spoke about the history and the environment of Redwood Grove, promoting restoration.

Tim (no last name given) expressed that he believes demolition is the best option for Halsey House. He spoke about the missed opportunity to save the building, years ago, and stated that he believes that programming can be held outdoors in Redwood Grove, in the Garden House, and in the Underground.

Joe Beninato praised the reports from the Halsey House Subcommittee members. He went on to elucidate the value of the Redwood Grove experience while maintaining the Halsey House building, itself, is a hazard.

Jon Baer explained that he believes that the environment and the Halsey House are inextricably tied together. He went on to say that he believes that programming will suffer if Halsey House is demolished.

Janet Corrigan spoke about a lengthy personal history with Halsey House. She said that she does not believe that the Parks & Recreation Commission should be making this decision on its own. Her final comments suggested that removing Halsey House because of the potentially problematic historical implications of the Halsey Family is inappropriate.

Roberta Phillips raised concerns about reaching out to Santa Clara County Fire Department to determine the fire risks. She further stated that sometimes history is good, and sometimes is bad, but it should not be buried or erased.

Nancy Breneau stated that she has followed this issue for many years, as a very close neighbor. She further stated that Halsey House is not tied to the Nature Preserve, and she explained that reforestation of the area with Native trees would be a better use of City funds. She also stated that she believes the Underground at Shoup Park could be updated and renovated as a year-round Nature Center.

**Action:** Vice Chair Spielman moved that based on our understanding of the success of historical programs at Redwood Grove, the history of the site, and the potential for future programs, the Parks & Recreation Commission recommends a full or partial restoration of Halsey House. Additional follow-up information is necessary, including: a historical evaluation, legal assessment, the costs of the four (4) options [full restoration, partial restoration, a new building, or demolition], engineering facts resolution, public outreach, funding options, and programs that would require a building. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion.

Friendly amendment: Commissioner Dailey suggested stripping all verbiage after “full or partial restoration of Halsey House.”

Vice Chair Spielman declined the friendly amendment.

Friendly amendment: Commissioner Morris suggested adding the word “pending” before the sentence that started with “Additional information.”

Vice Chair Spielman and Commissioner Morris accepted the friendly amendment.

The amended motion read: Vice Chair Spielman moved that based on our understanding of the success of historical programs at Redwood Grove, the history of the site, and the potential for future programs, the Parks & Recreation Commission recommends a full or partial restoration of Halsey House, pending additional follow-up information, including: a historical evaluation, legal assessment, the costs of the four (4) options [full restoration, partial restoration, a new building, or demolition], engineering facts resolution, public outreach, funding options, and programs that would require a building.

Vice Chair Spielman modified the motion to read: Vice Chair Spielman moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommends full or partial restoration of Halsey House.

Friendly amendment: Commissioner Yeh suggested substituting the words “full or partial” with the word “substantial.”

Vice Chair Spielman and Commissioner Morris accepted the friendly amendment.

The amended motion read: Vice Chair Spielman moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommends substantial restoration of Halsey House

Approve: Spielman, Corrigan, and Morris.

Oppose: Dailey and Yeh.

Abstain: None.

Motion passed: 3-2-0.

**Action:** Commissioner Dailey moved to submit the Subcommittee’s reports in their entirety to City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corrigan.

Approve: Spielman, Daily, Yeh, Corrigan, and Morris.

Oppose: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Motion passed, unanimously: 5-0-0.

**Action:** Commissioner Spielman moved to submit all [redacted written comment and a video clip of the 2/10/2021 PARC Meeting's verbal] comments regarding Redwood Grove and Halsey House be submitted to the City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris.

Approve: Spielman, Corrigan, and Morris.  
Oppose: Dailey and Yeh.  
Abstain: None.  
Motion passed, 3-2-0.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

3. Monthly staff report  
Receive information and announcements from City staff

### **COMMISSION REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

- A. Work Plan Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Commissioner Morris asked if Dog Park Subcommittee members would/should be doing public outreach regarding the Dog Park Pilot Program at Hillview Baseball Field? Director Legge said that she would initiate a discussion with Subcommittee members before the program goes live.
  - b. Commissioner Morris spoke about attending her first Complete Streets Task Force meeting. She highly recommended attending the meetings virtually, as the Task Force is interested in public input.

### **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Discussion of Procedures for Subcommittee Norms – April 14, 2021
2. Review and Update 2020-21 Work Plan – March 10, 2021
3. Status of Park Plan Action Items – March 10, 2021
4. Park and Facility Maintenance Update – March 10, 2021
5. Parks and Recreation Commission Reorganization – April 14, 2021
6. Joint Meeting with City Council – May 4, 2021
7. Hillview Zoning by Community Development – TBD

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Yeh adjourned the meeting at 11:35 p.m.