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**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
November 16, 2016
CITY HALL
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California**

13 **Commissioners Present:** Anne Cribbs, Jennifer Hetterly, Abbie Knopper, Ed Lauing, David
14 Moss, Keith Reckdahl

15 **Commissioners Absent:** Jim Cowie

16 **Others Present:**

17 **Staff Present:** Daren Anderson, Rob de Geus, Peter Jensen, Amy Johnson, Kristen O'Kane

18 **I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY:** Kristen O'Kane

19
20 **II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:**

21
22 Chair Lauing: The next item on the agenda is any agenda changes or requests or
23 deletions. Do we have any of those? That stands pat.

24
25 **III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

26
27 Chair Lauing: Next would be oral communications. Members of the public can address
28 the Commission on any subject that's not on the agenda. If we have a lot of speakers,
29 which happily we do tonight, we're going to allow about 2 minutes per speaker, not for
30 everybody. I have a number of speaker cards that apply to Action Item Number 2. Are
31 there any speakers on something that's not on the agenda? No, okay.
32



1 **IV. BUSINESS:**
2

3 **1. Approval of Draft Minutes from October 25, 2016 Parks and Recreation**
4 **Commission Meeting.**
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6 Approval of the draft October 25, 2016 Minutes as corrected was moved by
7 Commissioner Hetterly and seconded by Commissioner Cribbs. Passed 4-0 Knopper
8 abstaining
9

10 **2. Update on review of Aquatics Program Analysis**
11

12 Chair Lauing: The second item on the agenda is an update on the review of the Aquatics
13 Program analysis. I think we should do speakers before you make a presentation. Will
14 that be all right?
15

16 Jazmin LeBlanc: (inaudible)
17

18 Chair Lauing: You want it after, okay.
19

20 Rob de Geus: Good evening, Commissioners. Rob de Geus, Director of Community
21 Services. Good to see you this evening. Jazmin's going to lead us through the
22 presentation. You all know Jazmin, who's our Strategy and Operations Manager. We
23 have a new working title that I'm trying to remember. We also have some guests. We
24 have Tony Batis, who runs the PASA program over here. We have Carol Macpherson in
25 the audience, that has run the Rinconada Masters program for 43 years. They started the
26 program. Two very important partners in our aquatics program. We have Tim Sheeper,
27 who runs the aquatics program—he's at the table here—and was responsive to the RFP
28 that we put out, that we'll talk about again here. We also have a lot of guests. Thank you
29 for coming. That's probably my fault; I invited them here. We've been getting some
30 emails about concerns about potential changes to the schedule and how that might impact
31 some of the programs that exist out there. We want to hear their voices, so I invited them
32 here. I'm glad we've got a good turnout.
33

34 Chair Lauing: That's great.
35

36 Mr. de Geus: With that, I'll pass it onto Jazmin, and we'll get along with the presentation.
37

38 Ms. LeBlanc: Thanks. Jazmin LeBlanc. I'm going to quickly go through where we are
39 and what our program offers right now. Our current aquatics program ...
40

41 Male: Could you use a microphone please?
42

1 Ms. LeBlanc: Yeah. Can you guys hear me better? I'm going to speak up. We offer a
2 year-round, adult lap-swim program. In the summers only, we also offer family
3 recreation swim, learn to swim lessons for youth, facility rentals for private pool parties.
4 We have a year-round, competitive youth swim team, PASA Palo Alto Stanford
5 Aquatics, and a year-round, competitive adult swim team, Rinconada Masters. The
6 reason we're all sitting here tonight is because over the last 3 years, we've had trouble
7 staffing the pool, which has gotten to emergency levels in some cases. In addition, we
8 know that customers have been asking for additional hours of pool time and also
9 additional swim lessons. In the summers of 2015 and '16, we ended up having to contract
10 for summer swim lessons with Team Sheeper. They were able to come and do a quick
11 response to our RFP to get summer swim lessons to occur. We could not get enough staff
12 to provide the lessons that we had put in our catalogs. We continue to see staffing
13 shortages while we frequently have to call on the Recreation Coordinator to come sit and
14 actually work as a lifeguard into the fall. We even need to use Team Sheeper's staff just
15 on an hourly basis to keep the lap swim program running as it is right now. In terms of
16 the increased demand, when we looked at some recent years for youth swimming lessons,
17 we could see that 50 percent of our lessons were full or wait-listed and that 70 percent of
18 the swim lesson participants indicated to us that they would enroll in swim lessons if they
19 were offered in the spring or fall. In addition to that, we've done some pretty in-depth
20 surveys where we've gotten responses back indicating that half of the residents here
21 would like to have more opportunities for recreational swimming. That's important or
22 very important to these residents. We would like to be responsive to the needs of City
23 residents. We are hoping to achieve the following with our Aquatics Program. We're
24 hoping to be able to expand the swim lesson season and also provide more evening and
25 weekend lessons, which are the most impacted times. We don't offer weekend lessons
26 now, but evenings are the most impacted times. We'd also really like to respond to
27 customer demands to increase recreational swimming, and we'd like to add open hours
28 for lap swim and recreational swimming outside of the 9:00 to 5:00 weekday hours. We
29 issued a Request for Proposal in December '15 that allowed for respondents to propose
30 operations of any and all pieces of the swim program that we have. We received two
31 proposals, and we went forward with Team Sheeper's bid. We felt that it was the best bid
32 that we got. The criteria that we used. We're looking at City and resident costs; the
33 quality of the service and customer satisfaction; and the diversity of programming and
34 accessibility that we saw in those proposals. To continue on that, we really are aiming to
35 try to make this program better. That's our goal. We want to be able to support the
36 existing programs that we already have, which is Rinconada Masters, PASA, lap swim,
37 recreation swim, learn to swim lessons, and aquatic exercise programs. Actually we don't
38 have that yet, but it would be great if we did. We'd like to develop and grow existing
39 programs where we have capacity, and be sure that we are really efficiently scheduling
40 the use of the pool to balance increasing demand and making our programs more
41 successful and making sure that all residents feel like they have good access to the pool.
42 I'm going to let Rob chime in here.



1
2 Mr. de Geus: Thank you, Jazmin. I think the last slide is an important one, and
3 important for the members of the public that are here to understand. While we're trying
4 to solve a problem at the pool, particularly related to swim lessons, where we just aren't
5 able to staff up sufficiently to meet the demand, we also think that there is opportunity to
6 improve the Aquatics Program overall. I know that our Rinconada Masters head coach,
7 Carol, believes that too, and so does Tony. We think Tim has a pretty innovative way of
8 thinking and can be a great help to us in the Aquatics Program. Having said that, I don't
9 think we're there yet in terms of what we would like to recommend. We have these seven
10 sort of program areas. With the learn to swim program, we're at a point where we have
11 enough information that we would like to go to the City Council and lock in a contract
12 for Team Sheeper, Tim and his group, to continue the swim lesson program as he's done
13 for the last 2 years. In addition to that, expand the lesson program into the spring and
14 into the fall. We have many families that would like their kids to learn to swim in
15 advance of summer. We're not providing that opportunity and that need. It's a real safety
16 need. We have the pool sitting idle frequently in the spring. I'm talking mostly about the
17 children's pool, the cloverleaf pool. The expanded lesson program will largely be in that
18 pool. We're ready to make that commitment. We think that Team Sheeper can also help
19 support and grow some of the other program areas, but we need more time. We need
20 more time to hear from the public, from the Masters swimmers, the lap swimmers, the
21 families that swim with PASA and also from those that don't swim at all yet. They just
22 don't have access. The times just don't work for them. To understand that voice, which
23 is a very important one. As far as we are this evening, our recommendation is really
24 about expanding the learn to swim program with more outreach to occur for the other
25 programs. We think that'll take a couple of months really to give that enough time to
26 understand how we might improve the overall Aquatics Program.

27
28 Ms. LeBlanc: This is our proposed learn to swim program with Team Sheeper. What
29 you can see is there is an increase in pricing, but we have done what we think is a—we
30 have focused in on group youth swim lessons to try to keep the prices as low as possible
31 and to still be accessible to our residents. You can see that we're proposing actually a \$6
32 subsidy that the City would cover for residents doing group youth swim lessons. You can
33 see there is an increase in the other lesson prices. We would point out that we've been
34 paying for this subsidy. We've been paying the nexus of roughly \$40 per lesson per
35 student who's coming in for private youth lessons for the last 2 years. It limits how many
36 lessons we're able to offer. In some way, that's nice that we can give people a really low-
37 cost way to get private youth lessons. On the other hand, it means that we can only
38 provide so many. What Team Sheeper is proposing is to be able to provide quite a bit
39 more in the learn to swim program for a longer period of time and more lessons in
40 general.



1 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is only the group youth lessons—is that the only one that has
2 the subsidy?

3
4 Ms. LeBlanc: Yes.

5
6 Commissioner Reckdahl: All those prices are at cost then?

7
8 Ms. LeBlanc: Yes.

9
10 Mr. de Geus: That's a good question, Commissioner Reckdahl. The last time we spoke
11 about this which was September—was that right? Our understanding is that one of the
12 chief concerns that the Commission had was the group lessons and to make sure that
13 they're affordable, that they wouldn't be a barrier for a family to have their kids learn to
14 swim because of cost. We have a very, very low fee right now. Even if we were to
15 continue the program in-house, we would increase the fees to be closer to what other
16 public pools are charging. As we looked at this, we thought if we balanced the cost of
17 additional swim lessons with residents where the City's subsidizing half of the increase
18 and then the resident the other half, that's a reasonable compromise. We can add many
19 more offerings of swim lessons throughout the spring, summer and fall.

20
21 Commissioner Cribbs: I had a question about the adult lessons, the private adult lessons.
22 How are the charges for those?

23
24 Mr. de Geus: I understand we currently have an outside vendor already providing
25 support for the outdoor swim lessons. We have a special contractor that helps us with
26 that.

27
28 Commissioner Cribbs: They're now at 64 for residents, and then you're recommending
29 37?

30
31 Mr. de Geus: That's Tim Sheeper's proposal.

32
33 Ms. LeBlanc: It's a different model that they're proposing.

34
35 Mr. de Geus: Our lessons are an hour, and his are 30 minutes.

36
37 Commissioner Cribbs: I get it. Thank you.

38
39 Mr. de Geus: Carrying on with the learn to swim program, which is really the change
40 that staff is recommending at this time. It's not such a great change, because we had Tim
41 and his group provide the lessons for the last 2 years and have done a good job. But
42 expand the program. I mentioned that we would invite Tim this time around so that you

1 could hear a little more about his program and how it's different and some of the unique
2 things that he provides. I've had a chance to get to know Tim and his team somewhat and
3 have been over to the pool they manage in Menlo Park. I think they do a very good job.
4 That's not to say we want exactly what they have in Menlo Park. We don't, I think, for a
5 whole lot of reasons. Tim is here to provide a service for Palo Alto residents and what
6 fits with our group. This shows you an example of how many increased lessons and
7 times of the year that we'll have lessons. Tim, if you wouldn't mind sharing a little bit
8 about your program and how you see the differences that a family and kids will
9 experience swim lessons with your program versus the one we've been operating.

10
11 Tim Sheeper: Yes, absolutely. Thanks for allowing me to come to talk to you tonight.
12 This table helps us out. It shows that currently there's 9 weeks of swim lessons offered
13 for the community. Our proposal is to do 30 weeks. What that is, is 10 weeks before
14 summer, pretty much the 10 weeks of summer, and then the 10 weeks following summer
15 to give you 30. Instead of running the model where it's 4 days a week of swim lessons,
16 where a family could sign up for 2 weeks in a row and get eight lessons, there's a couple
17 of options. First, we'll offer lessons 7 days a week. In the summer, they could still go
18 with that model of the session base which the community is used to, or they can go on a
19 perpetual model, which is getting a lesson every week at a day and time that they pick.
20 We could run a hybrid model with what the City currently has and something that will
21 allow people to do a perpetual basis for the 30 weeks, much like booking a piano lesson
22 or a karate lesson or something per week. The different levels of instruction. Palo Alto
23 currently has seven different levels, and ours would be a little broader. We'd offer 13
24 different levels. We'd add a water babies, water tots, swimming essentials, and then a
25 bunch of different levels on top at the higher end. We call them swim lessons elite and so
26 on. There's just a little broader range of offerings. In the table, it talks about the number
27 of aquatics camps. We're also talking about giving swim lessons in a week-long aquatic
28 camp, which is really popular. They can get a 45-minute swim lesson as part of their day
29 camp where they're at the aquatics center for 5 hours, and they get their swim lesson.
30 Maybe I could talk a little bit about the difference in our swim lesson or what we try to
31 do with our swim lessons. Ours is very skill based. We teach one skill, and we focus on
32 one skill at a time in our swim lessons. We get the individuals, the students to get a
33 mastery of that skill. We have them perform that three times before they move onto the
34 next skill. It's a layered system; they can't move on until they perfect one skill. It helps
35 to build a really strong foundationally sound swimmer rather than just somebody who can
36 be safe in the water. Of course, they're safe in the water, but it builds lifelong swimmers.

37
38 Mr. de Geus: We're almost finished with our presentation. Thank you, Tim, for that.
39 You'll have a chance, of course, to ask questions of us and Tim. Now, we need to think
40 about the other programs that exist at the pool and how might we evaluate what we can
41 do there. The main thing I might iterate here is that we're not looking to change the
42 existing programs in a negative way. Some of the emails that have been coming in



1 suggested that's an interest. It's not. We want to manage and operate the pool in a
2 responsible way and be good stewards of this great asset, and see if we can have more
3 Palo Alto residents take advantage of it. How do we do that? That's really the question.
4 I think with the swim lesson program, Tim provides a great solution. I think there may
5 be other improvements we can make to the overall program. I look forward to talking
6 with the swimmers more about what that might be. We could improve opportunities for
7 lap swimmers. I'm confident we can. I've talked with Carol at length many times about
8 the Masters program and her interest in growing that program. We don't want to grow it
9 without her; we want to grow it with her, with Carol and Tim working together to build
10 the Masters program in a way that doesn't take away from what exists today but builds on
11 it. I think it would be a wonderful thing, and we'd get more Palo Alto residents
12 participating in that great program with Carol as the head coach, of course. The same is
13 true for the PASA program, which certainly seems like it's at capacity. I was at a meet
14 the other week, and it was a zoo out there. There's also limits to what the pool can
15 handle. If I'm hearing some of the concerns correctly, the pool is at capacity at certain
16 times. In the mornings in particular, I think that's the case. It really isn't going to be an
17 opportunity to do a whole lot. We think there is an opportunity to do a little more sharing
18 in different ways, and we would like to test some of that. Where it is at capacity, adding
19 just more program is going to diminish the experience for everyone. We're not interested
20 in doing that. In any case, we're going to work with the different groups and the
21 swimmers to see how we might operate the pool more effectively and not only support
22 the existing programs but grow those programs. Over the next couple of months, we
23 hope to be able to come back to the Commission in the new year with some additional
24 recommendations. That's where we are. Next slide, I think. This is just an example of
25 the current schedule that we have. We have a very sort of block-type schedule, where
26 one group uses the entire pool. They stop, and another group comes, and they use the
27 entire pool. We're still looking at the data closely. Is it really using the pool in the best
28 way? Is it at capacity at all these times? Is there an opportunity to do a little more
29 without compromising existing activity and programs? We think there is. We've drafted
30 a few different schedules to sort of play around with some ideas, but we don't have
31 anything really yet to propose. We think there's opportunity. This is another time—Tim,
32 maybe you can help a little bit, talk about a more integrated Aquatics Program overall. I
33 have to say I have some interest in that. When we run a program—I think about the golf
34 course which we operate also. We have a maintenance company that's a standalone
35 maintenance company. We have a restaurateur that's a standalone restaurateur. We have
36 a golf professional, Brad Lozares, who's a separate group. We have the City that's also—
37 we're trying to make sure that everybody's on the same page and we're running a
38 seamless golf course where the customer doesn't see the differences in customer service.
39 It's challenging. It's not very efficient. If we can have a more integrated program, where
40 there is an operator that's overseeing more of the programs so that they can be sensible,
41 efficiency sharing of the pool. We think there's an opportunity there that will result in
42 more residents having access to the pool and participating in the program, able to lap



1 swim, able to join the Masters program, things like that. Tim will share what's happening
2 at the Burgess pool. They have a very integrated program there. My experience in
3 observing that is it's very interesting to see, but it does seem overwhelming to me and, I
4 think, probably not what Palo Alto wants to see at Rinconada. We're not bringing Tim in
5 to replicate what's at Burgess. He's coming in to provide a service for Palo Alto
6 residents, and it has to be in Palo Alto residents' interests. He understands that, as do I.
7 We have to understand what is in their interests, and that's the process we're going
8 through now. Tim, if you wouldn't mind talking a little bit about that integration.

9
10 Mr. Sheeper: Looking at the current summer schedule that you have up, it's a
11 combination of the block schedule that you talked about and the integrated schedule.
12 You have a little bit of both. For example, the morning is the block schedule. The
13 afternoon and the evening is integrative. Just to use and see more of that integrative
14 throughout the entire day is the direction that I would like to see with Rinconada pool.
15 It's something that's already in place; I'd just like to see a little more of it so that the pool
16 is serving more of the community more of the time.

17
18 Mr. de Geus: This is the non-summer schedule. Again, we think there's opportunity here
19 to do some more integration, even more of a block schedule here. By the way, this is just
20 the main pool, not the children's pool. The children's pool schedule is closed essentially
21 much of the time outside of summer. We'd like to open that up for more recreation
22 swimming, more swim lessons. Even some periods of time during the non-summer
23 schedule, even the main pool doesn't have activity. That's the yellow maintenance time.
24 There's an opportunity for maybe more lap swim, additional aquatic programs that the
25 community might be interested in. I think we're at the last slide. Is that right, Jazmin?
26 We're at a point that we would aim to recommend a contract with Team Sheeper for the
27 learn to swim program. We have a catalog that we need to put out for the summer.
28 There's some urgency there. We've put it together already, and it gets printed in late
29 December and out in January. We have our summer camp fair and all those things. We
30 do need to know what we're planning to do with the swim lesson program. Very much
31 would love to be able to offer an expanded swim lesson program for residents this spring,
32 if we can do it, and I think we can. As far as any changes to the other programs at this
33 time, not recommending any at this time. Interested in hearing from the variety of user
34 groups. We've done a couple of surveys. There's a survey out currently, which we've
35 received a couple hundred responses on. It's really interesting. We certainly are hearing
36 that people want to see more access and more opportunity for their different swimming
37 interests and needs. We'll be doing additional intercept surveys. Just going to the pool
38 and talking to people, particularly important with lap swimmers that aren't an organized
39 group. They just come, and some come very regularly, some obviously not as regularly.
40 Just trying to get a sense of where they're at. Perhaps a community meeting we're
41 thinking also. We're continuing to study the data and looking at each of the months of
42 the year and what have we been experiencing in terms of lap swim or Masters, when they

1 have 14 lanes and at that particular time of the day, is it at capacity and we have all
2 swimmers or are several lanes empty frequently. If that's the case, is there an opportunity
3 there that we could more efficiently use the pool? That's where we are. That's the next
4 steps, and then back to the Commission in January/February timeframe.

5
6 Chair Lauing: What's that going to be? More recommendations?

7
8 Mr. de Geus: It could be. I think so. We'd see if we think it does make sense to expand
9 Tim's contract to support some of these other areas. I have to say we're working closely
10 with Tony from PASA and Carol with Rinconada Masters and meeting together as a
11 group and with Tim to understand what their interests are, how they want to grow the
12 program, where they think it's going to be a real problem. We had a couple of schedules
13 that we put out as an example, and it was clearly going to be a problem for at least one of
14 the programs. That's exactly what we need to know, so then we adapt and see what is
15 just the right fit. They've been great, by the way, Carol and Tony, extremely supportive
16 and have been doing a phenomenal job for many years for Palo Alto. I don't want to
17 speak for them, but I think there's real hope here for improving and enhancing their
18 programs as well as the overall program for Palo Alto. With that, happy to answer any
19 questions or listen to the public.

20
21 Chair Lauing: We really welcome all of you. Love to hear voices directly from the
22 public. I'm pretty sure this group here is more than all we've seen in 2017, which is great.
23 It shows interest around this. We also have quite a few speaker cards. I'd like you to be
24 sort of prompt. I'll announce who going to go up, and then who's going to be next so you
25 can get ready. Assuming that there's going to be some overlap in some of the comments,
26 which is fine, we'd like to keep it to 2 minutes because we have about 20 speaker cards
27 here. That's going to take a while to get through. Twenty-one. To give everybody a
28 chance, we're going to run a timer here and be somewhat strict about that just in the spirit
29 of cooperation. The first person—you need to use the mike because this is all being
30 recorded as well as being broadcast. You need to be at the mike so that we can record.
31 Yes, Commissioner Cribbs.

32
33 Commissioner Cribbs: Thank you very much. I just wanted to say in the interest of full
34 disclosure, as I'm sitting here as a Commissioner, I have known Carol Macpherson since
35 we were kids together and swam at Santa Clara Swim Club. I also sat in the room where
36 she and Tom Osborne and Cindy Baxter and I started the Masters program at Rinconada,
37 when we were looking for a place so that the swimming could go on year-round. I have a
38 real attachment to Rinconada Masters. I have been a member, but I'm not currently. I
39 coached at Palo Alto Swim Club in the 1980s and know Tony and Tisha incredibly well.
40 I'm so proud of what they've done for Palo Alto, carrying the name forward in the
41 swimming world. I'm also on the Board of Directors of the Rich May Foundation. We
42 recently, within the last year, hired Team Sheeper to monitor and take care of our field in

1 East Palo Alto. He is absolutely doing a great job. Those are my connections as I'm
2 asking questions. I thought everybody should know that. I'm also so happy to see all the
3 swimmers in the audience. Thank you.
4

5 Chair Lauing: The first speaker is going to be David Levison, to be followed by Carol
6 Macpherson. These are pretty much in the order that we got them submitted.
7

8 David Levison: I've been a member of the Rinconada Masters swimming program for 40
9 years. Carol Macpherson has been my coach the whole time along with Cindy Baxter,
10 who retired several years ago. One of the reasons I moved to Palo Alto was to be close to
11 Rinconada pool so I could ride my bike to the workouts. In college, I was on the
12 swimming team, but I was a relatively mediocre swimmer. I always believed I had more
13 potential than I had demonstrated. In the Rinconada Masters program, coaches Carol and
14 Cindy worked with me and developed my stroke mechanics and conditioning to such an
15 extent that I won eight national titles over the years including several in the grueling 400
16 meter individual medley and 200 meter butterfly. Now that I am 66 years old and retired
17 as a competitor, I depend on the Rinconada Masters program, which has been such a
18 major part of my life, to keep me healthy and fit. You might imagine that it came as a
19 great shock to me when I found out that seemingly out of the blue and without consulting
20 any of us swimmers, the City is proposing to degrade both the Rinconada Masters
21 program and the lap swimming program by going from the present system, which nearly
22 every swimmer in both groups is happy with, to a poorly thought out hybrid system,
23 which we don't need or want. Right now the lap swimmers have exclusive use of all 14
24 lanes early mornings on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and the Rinconada Masters
25 have exclusive use of all 14 lanes early mornings on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.
26 Giving us each seven lanes six days a week during the same time period is unworkable.
27 Lap swimmers want to do their own thing, but Masters swimming involves organized
28 workouts and timed swims. Trying to combine the two during the same time period
29 would lead to chaos. Please leave our mornings status quo. It would be a personal
30 disaster for me if the Rinconada Masters swimming program I have been perfectly happy
31 with for 40 years were to be destroyed.
32

33 Chair Lauing: Thank you. After Carol will be Anne Harrington. After Carol.
34

35 Carol Macpherson: Am I next?
36

37 Chair Lauing: Yeah, you're next, definitely.
38

39 Ms. Macpherson: I'm going to read mine so it'll be faster, so I can stay within the 2
40 minutes.
41

42 Chair Lauing: Thank you.

1
2 Ms. Macpherson: My name is Carol Macpherson, coach and founder of Rinconada
3 Masters along with Cindy Baxter, who's retired. In 1973, we started Rinconada Masters,
4 and we were the second Masters team on the Peninsula, San Mateo being the first.
5 Within 1 year, we had over 100 swimmers. Rinconada ran two national meets at Santa
6 Clara within the first year and won the first one with 90 competitors; competed in the
7 World Games at Stanford in 2006 with 27 relays, being four person per relay. We had a
8 lot of swimmers at that time. Anne Cribbs ran that. Every year we put on a meet at the
9 Rinconada Pool, which is for the community of swimming in the Pacific Association.
10 We do that to help out with meets like the Pacific does the same thing. Let me get my
11 place. Since then we have evolved to more of a conditioning team but have still
12 swimmers competing in meets, open waters and triathlons. We have trained three
13 swimmers for the English Channel, which all three of them made it. That was good.
14 That's like 26 miles or something. It's grueling. We also trained a swimmer who just
15 recently—Jeff, who's here tonight—swam the straits of Gibraltar. We have a new,
16 revised website now and are attracting more swimmers each month. We are now slowly
17 building our numbers back up. We need the Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
18 and Sunday workout times to stay the same. That is where most of my swimmers train.
19 We are willing to share the Tuesday, Thursday and Tuesday, Thursday night. Tuesday,
20 Thursday night we're already sharing with Palo Alto Swim Club. We've been doing that
21 for 3 years. The noontime is just hard for people. During the summer, my swimmers
22 don't want to come because there's so many kids in that dressing room, it's not worth even
23 looking at. It's bad. Swim for fitness was a program that I founded 3 years ago, and that
24 was to feed into the Masters program. I take adults, some that can't swim, some that just
25 want stroke technique, and I train them so they can move into the Masters team with no
26 problem. The Masters do not need the other hours at this point. It was suggested by
27 Team Sheepier that we take Tuesday and Thursday for Masters. Right now, we really
28 want to build our Monday, Wednesday, Friday program. When we overflow with that,
29 then going into Tuesday, Thursday would be an option, but right now we don't need that.
30 Just as a matter of fact, when I was 7 years old I learned to swim at Rinconada. I've been
31 there forever. We've been there 43 years with the Masters team. Also years ago, Cindy
32 Baxter and I taught swimming lessons at the Rinconada pool for about 10 or 12 years, I
33 think. We did that there too. What I would like is a 3-year subcontract with Sheepier or
34 the City and to see what happens after the 3 years. Thank you.

35
36 Chair Lauing: Thank you. Anne Harrington, and next up will be Gwen Fisher. Please
37 try to stay to the 2 minutes.

38
39 Anne Harrington: Good evening. I'm Anne Harrington, a longtime resident and a
40 longtime lap swimmer, one of the ... There are a number of things I thought about
41 speaking about, but I'm just going to talk about two things. I'm really glad to hear that
42 there's going to be increased outreach to the lap swimmers and recreational swimmers.

1 This has come as somewhat of a shock. I certainly second keeping Tuesday, Thursday
2 morning for the lap swimmers, because that's when people who work come and swim. I
3 have reservations about the way the financial arrangements are being set up, as described.
4 There's been a lot of discussion about this pool as an asset, and it really is. A setup where
5 90 percent of profits are going to another organization while the City is bearing the
6 operational cost, the ongoing expenditures and maintenance and depreciation doesn't
7 seem like a very good return on investment to me. My main concern is this pool is a
8 community asset. It's been built with the dollars and good will of the community over
9 many, many years. To turn it over to an outside organization, essentially giving up
10 control while bearing the cost, would truly be a privatization of a public asset. I don't
11 think we want to see that. City staff would be relinquishing control, having no say over
12 the schedule or daily operations essentially. I know the Master Plan recognizes that there
13 might be benefits from public-private joint ventures, but this isn't like the Magic Bridge
14 joint development. This is turning a public asset over to a private entity to run and profit
15 from. At a time when there is increasing pressure nationwide to privatize our parks,
16 please don't do that here.

17
18 Chair Lauing: Thank you.

19
20 Ms. Harrington: Palo Alto can and should do better than that. Find a way to manage the
21 pool in-house or a minimum arrangement that doesn't cede total control.

22
23 Chair Lauing: Linda Fletcher, you're up. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Did I skip Gwen?

24
25 Gwen Fisher: I'm Gwen.

26
27 Chair Lauing: Good, good, good.

28
29 Ms. Fisher: As I said, I'm Gwen Fisher. I've been a Palo Alto resident for about 15
30 years. I've been a user of the pool for 15 years. All my children learned to swim there. I
31 was a lifelong runner; my knees have told me no. I have been a lap swimmer for 9 years,
32 4 days a week for 9 years, committed lap swimmer on Tuesday, Thursdays. As a non-lap
33 swimmer, I can understand. When you look at Team Sheeper's proposal, that looks like a
34 great idea. We all share; we all get a little. Let me give you a visual. Think about
35 somebody who says to a football team, a baseball team and a soccer team, "You're all
36 going to use the same turf for your practice. You're all athletes. You'll all get a little. No
37 problem. Your workouts will be great." It doesn't work. The same with the sharing of
38 our pool. We are different types of athletes, different types of swimmers. We have
39 different needs, different wants. In our group, the lap swimmer group, we have
40 everything from octogenarians to pregnant moms to women and men rehabbing injuries,
41 post-surgery rehab, me being one of those. I couldn't have rehabbed my shoulder in the
42 pool if I had to share these lanes with everybody. To think that would work is very

1 misleading. I want to give you some numbers from just yesterday morning, a chilly, dark
2 November morning prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Pool opens at 6:00. 6:04, 17
3 swimmers in the pool. That's already more than—that's one swimmer per lane with
4 several having more than that. At 6:40, I got out, and I counted the numbers. Twenty-
5 seven swimmers were swimming; three were getting ready to get in. Thirty swimmers at
6 about 6:45. Team Sheeper's plan is proposing that all 30 are swimming in six lanes. My
7 arm span is just a little bit short of what the width of the lane is. His proposal is to have
8 five of us swimming and sharing that space and figuring out a way to make that work.
9 We don't have a coach that organizes us by speed or technique. We would have to fight
10 and muddle and figure out a way to do it. It won't work. It won't work. Masters is happy
11 with their schedule. We're happy with our schedule. We don't want more. They don't
12 want more. We're happy. Please leave it as it is. Thank you.

13
14 Chair Lauing: Thank you.

15
16 Linda Fletcher: I can keep this really short, because I can say ditto. I'm Linda Fletcher.
17 I'm a lifelong Palo Alto resident. I'm going to plot my age; I'm 53. I was born swimming
18 at Rinconada pool. I was swimming pregnant. Both my kids swam at Rinconada pool.
19 We're lap swimmers. We're a family. We don't have a person that's heading our
20 program. We don't have somebody that's standing up for us, but look at how much we
21 came out. We support each other. We go to the pool in the morning. We are
22 recuperating; we're pregnant; we are supporting each other through stressful times, no
23 more stressful times than what we're going through right now. Also being a teacher, we
24 are telling our kids we're really striving for wellness in our community. There's nothing
25 better than getting in the water, relaxing. If we have to change that by crowding into
26 lanes and sharing and trying to join Masters and do a workout that's scheduled, that's
27 timed, it doesn't work for all of us. Our family sat with Masters swimmers outside.
28 We're all in agreement we like sharing the pool. We can work this out. For our
29 wellbeing, please listen to our families. Thanks.

30
31 Chair Lauing: Cathy Mak is next up, followed by Cindy Ainsworth.

32
33 Cathy Mak: Hi, I'm Cathy Mak, and I'm also a Palo Alto resident. I've been swimming
34 for almost 10 years at the pool now as a recreational lap swimmer. I go early in the
35 morning before I go to work, before my kids get up and get them out the door to school.
36 I love the loose knit community of people that I swim with in the mornings, but we all
37 have our own styles of swimming and we all have our own speeds. We're just there to do
38 what we want and what we love. I think that speaks strongly that the block schedule
39 that's currently in place, as people have mentioned before, works best, where lap
40 swimmers can swim at their pace and in their space, and Masters swimmers have their
41 own dedicated time in the pool to help them achieve the goals that they want to as
42 Masters swimmers. I understand that the status quo of the pool might not work now, and

1 there's many issues with swim lessons, which I don't really fully appreciate. I think that's
2 something that can be worked out on a part-time basis. I think the wholesale handing
3 over the pool to private management is not in the interest of the community, and it's not
4 in the interest of the swimmers. It would be best if the City takes their timeline that was
5 proposed in their September meeting, which was handing over the pool to management
6 by January of 2017, to reconsider that and say, "Is this something we should bring to the
7 broader community? Is this something that we should think about not wanting to give up
8 this valuable resource and not give it to a private investor?" Thank you.

9
10 Chair Lauing: Cindy Ainsworth next, followed by Timothy Groves.

11
12 Cindy Ainsworth. I'm Cindy. I've lived in Palo Alto—I don't know—35 years probably.
13 I've been a lap swimmer at Rinconada most of that time. I think people have already
14 made clear that the block schedule—we really like the block scheduling, the way it
15 works. I just want to acknowledge the City for having listened to us. If you want people
16 to work with you on tweaking the schedule, clearly you have lots of people who would
17 really love to help you find a schedule that's going to work.

18
19 Chair Lauing: Timothy and then Terri Baxter-Smith.

20
21 Timothy Groves; Hi. I'm Tim Groves. I'm a Palo Alto resident. I first joined the
22 Rinconada Masters in 1978. I'll just say two things briefly. One is it's a great program.
23 As long as I can remember, we've relied on Monday, Wednesday, Friday in the early
24 mornings. I'd sure love to see that continue. If there needed to be a safety valve, it might
25 be in midday or evenings as Carol suggests. I'd also like to say that—I might be stepping
26 outside my expertise here—it's normal for the City to have contractors to do things on the
27 assumption that contractors know what they're doing. I think Tim Sheeper knows what
28 he's doing. At that point, it becomes a matter of (inaudible) the services. Thank you.

29
30 Chair Lauing: Thanks very much. Terri, Terri Baxter-Smith. Next up is Richard—
31 excuse me—Hermance.

32
33 Terri Baxter-Smith: I will talk really fast here. I am Terri Baxter-Smith, assistant coach
34 of Rinconada Masters. I am the daughter of Rinconada Masters cofounder Cindy Baxter.
35 Graduated from Paly High School in 1982. My mother and father graduated from Paly in
36 1949 and 1950. All my aunts and uncles and brothers and sisters graduated from Paly. I
37 say this because of my connection to our community and also to Rinconada Masters. I'm
38 a 1980 Olympian. I made the 1987 Pan American Games. My background in aquatics is
39 quite extensive. I was a YMCA aquatics directors in western Pennsylvania and assistant
40 pool director at Franklin & Marshall College in central Pennsylvania, and I coached age
41 group swimmers for 13 years. Rinconada Masters has always had a contract since our
42 inception in 1973 with the City of Palo Alto. We are a self-governing entity with an

1 advisory board. We have put together just recently a recruiting committee. We purchase
2 our own equipment, and our coaches are certified by United States Masters Swimming;
3 therefore, we need no lifeguards on the pool when we're swimming. Our main concern is
4 the reduction in lane availability beginning the summer of 2017. Our most popular
5 workout times are Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings and Saturday and Sunday
6 mornings. Our team finds it necessary to keep the 14 lanes available to use and not
7 reduce it down to eight lanes on the weekdays and ten lanes on Saturdays and Sundays.
8 Our Masters swimmers are not opposed to having multiple people in a lane to share lanes.
9 When having multiple people in one lane, the swimmers need to be of the same ability
10 level; that is extremely important. We have a very diverse group of swimmers on our
11 team. They consist of competitive and noncompetitive swimmers of all ability levels,
12 people who swim for rehab, people who swim due to health issues. We have 80 and 90
13 year olds on our swim team, and we also have swim for fitness on the weekends. Carol
14 and I can accommodate and coach all of these wide range of abilities and needs.

15
16 Chair Lauing: Thank you.

17
18 Ms. Baxter-Smith: To condense these groups down to eight lanes or nine lanes, I assure
19 you we will lose swimmers. They will not have fun. Their fitness routine will be
20 compromised, and they will go elsewhere. Our goal is to increase our membership but at
21 the same time make swimming for the Rinconada Masters enjoyable, meaningful
22 experiences for all ability and physical levels. Thank you and ...

23
24 Chair Lauing: Thanks.

25
26 Ms. Baxter-Smith: ... happy Thanksgiving.

27
28 Chair Lauing: Richard, and next up is Barbara Reeder, if I have that right. Go ahead,
29 Richard.

30
31 Richard Hermance: My name is Richard Hermance. My wife and I have lived in Palo
32 Alto for 35 years, and we've been lap swimmers at Rinconada pool for 35 years. We
33 were surprised when 2 weeks ago we first heard about a proposal to change the
34 management and program at the pool. As longtime lap swimmers, we were disappointed
35 that our inputs were not solicited prior to issuing the RFP. I realize that you are only
36 being asked tonight to approve employing Team Sheeper to manage the swimming
37 lessons program for summer 2017. However, I want to provide you some inputs
38 regarding the proposed changes to the lap swimming schedule that Team Sheeper
39 included in his response to your RFP. We swim three times a week at either the early
40 morning lap swim or the noon lap swim. Usually there are two swimmers in each lane,
41 and this has been a consistent number over the years during these peak demand times.
42 Mr. Sheeper's proposed plan adds lap swim hours throughout the day but cuts down the

1 lanes during high-use periods. Reducing the number of lanes during high-use times
2 forces three or four people into each lane, which is not satisfactory as you've already
3 heard. Lap swimming during the current early morning hours and midday peak demand
4 times needs to be a dedicated activity using all of the lanes to best meet the needs of
5 working people. In addition, I question the need to outsource the management to a third
6 party. The pool has always been a unique benefit for Palo Alto residents, and the City
7 should be able to provide the programming and services that will best satisfy the needs of
8 our residents. For example, Team Sheepar is going to raise the rates to use the pool. The
9 City should be able to do this. Team Sheepar is going to increase the salary for
10 lifeguards. The City should be able to do this. Finally, the City already has employees,
11 namely Tyler Stetson, who do a terrific job and understand better than anyone the needs
12 of lap swimmers. His knowledge, work ethic and people skills cannot be outsourced.

13
14 Chair Laung: Barbara Reeder and then Jeff Everett.

15
16 Barbara Reeder: Hello. My name is Barbara Reeder, and I have lived in the same house
17 in Palo Alto about 4 1/2 blocks since November of 1962. I'm a lap swimmer. I've taken
18 my children to that pool along with their neighborhood friends, my grandchildren. My
19 husband and I are noontime lap swimmers. I call it our exercise, play and stress
20 reduction. It has definitely contributed to my health and wellness. I think it is really sad
21 to see the changes—hear about the changes that are being proposed. There is some
22 sharing that goes on during noontime. There's someone that gives a lesson in one lane.
23 I've only noticed that there's one student. I don't think that there's a huge demand for the
24 lessons. I think Tyler Stetson, particularly this last summer, did a remarkable job as far
25 as accommodating noontime lap swimmers with the children's swim program. It worked
26 really smoothly as far as I was concerned. The other observation that I made during this
27 past year is that there was a delightful young woman who offered free Zumba lessons,
28 taking one or two lanes. She discontinued those free lessons because they weren't being
29 used. In terms of what's (inaudible), I think that between the Masters program and the
30 lap swimmers, we've been delighted with this community service. I will be unhappy
31 personally to see it substantially change.

32
33 Chair Laung: Mr. Everett. Thank you. After Mr. Everett is going to be Al Kenrick.

34
35 Jeff Everett: Hi. My name's Jeff Everett. I'm here to speak on behalf of Carol's proposal
36 for the Rinconada Masters. In brief, the access to the night and morning workouts and
37 the quality of the workouts and the attentiveness of the coaching has been a key factor in
38 realizing my dream of swimming the English Channel and most recently the strait of
39 Gibraltar. Thank you, Carol. I hope that we can continue with the great program. Thank
40 you.

1 Chair Lauing: That's absolutely terrific. Mr. Kenrick, and then Joanne Chace, I believe it
2 is.

3
4 Al Kenrick: My name's Al Kenrick, and I'm a lifelong resident of Palo Alto. I also
5 learned to swim at Rinconada pool. I'm here to throw my support to not changing the
6 open swim hours. I think the Masters program and the open swim hours both meet
7 different needs. Consistency is really important for any kind of exercise. Having a
8 system that works is working for a lot of people. I've swam at Burgess before, and there
9 was four or five people in a lane. It's just not the same, and it's not very enjoyable. I urge
10 you to not change the current schedule.

11
12 Chair Lauing: Joanne, and then Sharon Sass, I believe.

13
14 Joanne Chace: Hello. My name is Joanne Chace. I've lived in Palo Alto since 1970. I
15 too—thank you, Dave. I'd like to add my support to the notion that the Masters program
16 is working very well as it is, that we need structured workouts, that we can have more
17 people to a lane. I would be very happy, we would all be happy to have more people
18 move into the Masters program. I'm here to say it's not so hard to do. When I joined the
19 program in 1975, I went to talk—I dropped in at the pool; I talked to Carol. I said, "I
20 love to swim, but I don't swim very well. I can swim pretty well, maybe some 100
21 yards." She said, "Can you swim 600 yards?" I said, "I can swim 600 yards I think." I
22 started out in 1976 swimming my 600 yards. I've been swimming for a long time with
23 that program. Now, my morning swim is 3,000 yards. That is the advantage of having
24 good coaching and having structured workouts. I would like to thank Carol and Terri and
25 all the others who put that program together and held it together over the years, and to
26 invite anyone who would like to share my lane with me and work to that length any
27 morning. Come on. When I started the program in 1975, I was in my 40s. Now that I'm
28 doing the 3,000 yards, I'm 83.

29
30 Chair Lauing: That's a longevity program. That's wonderful. Is this Sharon?

31
32 Shawn Sass: Shawn.

33
34 Chair Lauing: Sorry, Shawn. I didn't quite ...

35
36 Shawn Sass: My name is Shawn Sass [phonetic]. I'm ...

37
38 Chair Lauing: Jay Rosser is next. Excuse me.

39
40 Ms. Sass: I'm both a lap swimmer and a Masters swimmer at Rinconada pool. I've been
41 swimming there for 15 years and love it. I think it's really great to see everybody here
42 tonight considering that 2 weeks ago nobody really knew about this happening. It's really

1 nice to see everybody here and coming out and expressing their opinion. I think a lot of
2 us have a similar viewpoint. One of the biggest issues here is sharing the pool, having
3 shared users at the same time. Right now it really works to have lap swimmers on their
4 day, Masters swimmers on their day. It's a mess when you try and combine them
5 together, because the lap swimmers have their own ages, speeds, strokes, time of arrival.
6 It's very difficult to know if you're going to get a lane or not or if you're going to be
7 sharing with three people, four people. Right now, the way it exists, you know you're
8 probably going to have a lane, maybe two people at the most, occasionally three, rarely.
9 That works for lap swimmers. It's nice to have our Masters team. It's a great team.
10 We've had it for a long time. We have people of all ages who swim on it. We have
11 people who are 90 years old, who are on our team. They kind of need their own lane. It's
12 the one team in this area where these swimmers can come and actually do their workouts
13 and be a part of a group and even compete at that age. Our 90-year-old swimmer
14 competes. I would hate to see that go. I hope in considering the proposed schedule you'll
15 keep all of this in mind and what everybody said here tonight. Everybody is very
16 passionate about this. They came here in short notice to speak what they really feel about
17 this pool. It's a community; it's a core community. It's a culture. It's not just looking at
18 facts and numbers at a desk. It's knowing everybody who swims here and working with
19 them to get a solution that can keep what we have and that culture that we have. Thank
20 you.

21
22 Chair Lauing: Thank you. Jay Rossiter and then Lisa Krieger.

23
24 Jay Rossiter: Hi everybody. It was great to—this is my first time ever being at a City
25 Council meeting. I've lived here for 22 years. This brought me out, and it's great to
26 actually see everybody involved. I'll just be brief because you've already heard a lot from
27 everybody. Since I'm here, I just wanted to—I don't know whether you record each
28 person or what you do. I'm a lap swimmer. One of the key points that I agree with, that
29 I've heard tonight is people who swim, lap or Masters, have different goals and they have
30 different abilities. Especially for many of us, your abilities go up and down and your
31 goals go up and down over time, depending on how you feel and how you're doing
32 physically also. I think what happens is as the pools get denser and usage gets denser, the
33 quality goes down. I know from myself—I swim everywhere. I swim in all countries
34 and cities and pools. When it gets dense, then the quality goes down because you end up
35 with a herd kind of thing going on where you have to keep up with the person in front of
36 you and behind you and that kind of thing. It's really important to not lose your quality of
37 life like we see what's happened in the Bay Area with the traffic by overcrowding the
38 lanes. I learned something tonight. I'm going to actually join Masters now. I didn't
39 realize you had people with different levels of ability. You certainly have that with lap
40 swimmers. If you get too dense, you will actually lose that and the whole quality of life
41 will go down. One of the big reasons of living in Palo Alto are the parks, the pools, the
42 schools. Thank you.

1
2 Chair Lauing: Thanks. Lisa Krieger and then Scott van der Lippe.
3

4 Lisa Krieger: Hi. Lisa Krieger;; I'm a lap swimmer also. Just want to reiterate what
5 everyone else has already said. As this valley gets more crowded—I commute every day
6 on 101, long distances. The streets are more crowded. The stores are more crowded.
7 Everything's crowded. The pools are Walden Pond. It really is. Just very briefly, for an
8 hour we decompress, and we're with our tribe. We come out stronger. That's what makes
9 this town so great. I brag about it all the time. Please don't take that away from us.
10 Thank you.

11
12 Chair Lauing: Thank you. Scott.

13
14 Scott van der Lippe: Thank you. I'm actually from Los Altos. I know I'm kind of an
15 outsider here. This is my favorite pool. I go to Mountain View; I go to Palo Alto, and I
16 also sometimes go to Menlo Park. I can tell you if I had a choice, I always come to this
17 pool because it's very relaxed. Menlo Park is—what is it—\$8. I can swim in Palo Alto
18 for 4. Literally, Sheeper has a nice thing over there, but it's—I kind of look at the cost.
19 I've got to come to Palo Alto because it's a whole lot cheaper. Of course, I like the pool
20 environment; it's so much more relaxed. It's a little high stressed over in Menlo Park, and
21 I hate to see that management style applied to our very nice pool that I've enjoyed for
22 probably 20 years over there. The cost is a big thing. You're going to lose a lot of—a lot
23 of swimmers are going to go, "Eight bucks to swim." You're here for 30 minutes. I'm
24 not going to pay the equivalent of \$16 an hour just to swim. That's pretty expensive.
25 Thank you.

26
27 Chair Lauing: Thanks. Again, just overall love to have this kind of turnout on any issue
28 and have direct feedback from our residents. Would you like specific comments now
29 from us on this whole document or are we going to just focus on the item that you want
30 us to talk about tonight?
31

32 Mr. de Geus: I think you can ask questions about any of it, anything that you heard,
33 anything that you heard in the presentation, the concerns that you might have, questions
34 that you have for us for clarification. I would just reiterate that we're not trying to
35 degrade the program. I like hearing the voices about how great the pool is and how great
36 it is for your health and wellness and stress reduction and it's this special place. I think it
37 is. Our interest is how do we make that accessible to more Palo Alto residents without
38 making it a bad experience. I think there's a way we can do that working together. Tim's
39 a great professional. He's here to provide a service for the City of Palo Alto. It's a
40 contract; it's not passing the pool over and then turning away. It's writing a contract that
41 represents the interests of the Palo Alto residents. That can be very specific about
42 schedules and what we would like to see with the Masters program with Carol's

1 leadership. Those are things we define in a contract and monitor it closely. I'll leave it
2 there. Happy to answer questions.

3
4 Chair Lauing: Just on that point, which I think is a very helpful clarification, it's an
5 outsourcing process or a subcontracting process. The City doesn't lose control. You're
6 completely in charge of the contract and the asset of the pool.

7
8 Mr. de Geus: That's correct. It's about how do we best operate the pool in the interest of
9 Palo Alto residents. That's what we're trying to accomplish here. It is supporting the
10 current swimmers. That is one element. There's another piece too, people that don't
11 currently swim because the pool's not available to them when they're available. We need
12 to think about how we can create opportunity for others to have access to this pool. I get
13 the sensitivity. Overcrowding doesn't work. We're not suggesting that, but we do think
14 that some sensible, fair sharing at certain times when there is low demand is possible.

15
16 Chair Lauing: Comments? I'm looking at our resident water sport expert here. If you
17 would like to go first, I think that'd be appropriate.

18
19 Commissioner Cribbs: Thank you very much. First of all, I'd love to say that I think it's
20 great that we have so many people interested here, coming out tonight to share their
21 comments. I think we're going to learn a lot from all of that. I think the staff is excited
22 about that too. Thank you all very, very much. You all know that in September I was
23 concerned about the cost of lessons. I really want to be very careful whatever we do that
24 we make sure that we can offer swimming lessons to all children, because it's so
25 important for kids to learn to swim and for their parents to learn to swim as well. We
26 have a lot of parents who don't swim yet. That's why I was asking the questions about the
27 swimming lessons and if we can subsidize those and keep the cost down and also offer
28 the lessons at a longer time, so that we can utilize the water, so it's not just in the
29 summertime. We start in early April, and what you've suggested is also go through to the
30 fall, because a lot of people want to take swimming lessons. There's a lot of people that
31 go year round. I'd even love to see us do the (inaudible) that we talked about, but I know
32 that's a little bit far in the future. The cost of lessons was a concern for me with this new
33 particular program. I'm okay with that now. I think this will work. I do want to mention,
34 even though we're not talking about doing the lap swimming right now, the cost of the lap
35 swimming for seniors seemed to me to be disturbing. I believe we're increasing the cost
36 for many senior swimmers. We heard some here tonight who are swimming because
37 their knees have gone away. It's important for seniors to have a great outlet to swim as
38 well. Whatever we do with lap swimmers, I hope we don't increase the cost for seniors.
39 Finally, from my perspective I'm very concerned in the future about the background and
40 our relationships with Rinconada Masters and also with PASA. I'd really like to
41 understand in the future, Rob, what the swim teams are going to get from the relationship
42 with Team Sheeper, how that's going to help them in the future. If it does move forward,

1 what the City is going to get from that as well, whether it's just a matter of cost or
2 whether there's are some other benefits that will accrue. I'll stop there and let other
3 people ...

4
5 Chair Lauing: It might be best if staff responds as we go.
6

7 Mr. de Geus: Those are good questions, Commissioner Cribbs, and comments. We do
8 have Tyler Stetson on staff. He's a Recreation Coordinator helping oversee the aquatics
9 program. He's one full-time entry-level sort of professional position that we have
10 focused on aquatics. He's doing his best but struggling to staff up the pool. What
11 someone like Tim can bring is a whole team of people and a pool of professional coaches
12 that teach year round and are there to support and develop the existing programs. I would
13 hope that's what we would have. We've talked about Rinconada Masters and we want to
14 grow that program. Carol Macpherson wants to grow the program. You heard some of
15 the Masters swimmers. There's a relatively small group of swimmers in the Masters
16 program. I get they love that they're family. It is relatively small; I want to say it's 56
17 residents or something like that. Carol, something like that, is that correct?
18

19 Ms. Macpherson: We have a lot of drop-in swimmers too that don't show on our
20 numbers.
21

22 Mr. de Geus: We think that if Tim and the knowledge and experience and expertise he
23 brings in aquatics is closely partnered with Carol and the advisors to say, "How might we
24 grow the program into the future that doesn't lose what's really good about it, but allows
25 more Masters swimmers to come join the family," I think that would be more than what
26 we offer with one staff person in Tyler Stetson.
27

28 Commissioner Cribbs: Is there a goal for the Masters swimmers at this point, what you
29 see in the future, how many you'd like to see on the team?
30

31 Mr. de Geus: We haven't defined a goal. We want it to grow. It has been dropping over
32 the years. I would like to see a goal and a plan be developed with Carol and her group
33 and Tim working together. It's still her program. She's going to manage the program and
34 lead the program as the head coach. Tim would want to see them be successful. That's
35 what he wants to do. We're trying to work on what that looks like. If the City does go
36 forward with an expanded contract for Team Sheeper to oversee more operations of the
37 pool, we'll write that into the contract and be pretty specific about expectations of lanes
38 for the different groups that use the pool. If there are going to be changes to the lanes, we
39 can also define how those changes will be made. They won't be made just independently
40 by Tim. We would likely write something in there that there is a process where the City's
41 involved and the key user groups are involved in making those decisions. Does that
42 help?

1
2 Commissioner Cribbs: Mm hmm.
3

4 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Reckdahl.
5

6 Commissioner Reckdahl: To me, there are kind of two separate issues. One is what are
7 the hours, what's the schedule and who does the management. I suspect that if we had the
8 status quo hours and nothing was going to change with hours, a lot of these people
9 wouldn't be here. Still, besides that, it's important to understand the management. What
10 would be the scope of Team Sheeper's management of the pool? In particular, in page 10
11 it talks about that Team Sheeper would handle the registration. I don't see the benefit to
12 that. Can you talk more about the scope of what would be done by the City if Team
13 Sheeper came in for management and what would be done by Team Sheeper?
14

15 Mr. de Geus: It depends. We haven't defined the scope yet. Team Sheeper bid on all of
16 the programs, so that's part of their proposal. The City can choose to say, "We want you
17 to do one piece of that, two pieces or all the pieces." At this point, we're comfortable
18 with the learn to swim program, that we want to bring him on to do that and lock that in.
19 The other elements of the pool, I think, we're sort of in the process right now of figuring
20 out does that make sense, will there be value added to the program overall. Not only the
21 existing swimmers, but the program overall and potential new swimmers that might enjoy
22 the pool. We don't have that yet, and we don't have a schedule yet either. By the way,
23 when we do have a schedule at some point, if we get to that point, that's also going to be
24 somewhat tentative and flexible to see how the community's responding. Is it working, is
25 it not working? Ultimately it's the residents' pool, and we need to adapt and adjust the
26 schedules that it works for the residents. That's what we'll be aiming to do. That's the
27 contract we'll have with Tim. That's what he's responsible for doing, making sure that
28 happens. Specifically, you asked a question about registration. There is a change there
29 for families that are registering kids for swim lessons. They would no longer do that
30 through the City and the City system. They would do it through Team Sheeper's system.
31 We don't have to do it that way. We could continue to register through the City's system
32 and share the information with them about enrollment. It's not very efficient. We've
33 done that the last 2 years. With swim lessons in particular, there's lots of transferring
34 between classes and lessons. You get the parents whose son is in Level 1 and jumps in
35 the pool, and he's not. He's in Level 3 or something. That happens all the time. These
36 changes happen on the deck. Really it's much more efficient for the operator and the
37 family to have that close connection to be able to make those transfers. That's the added
38 advantage. It's less efficient if we were to continue the registration process.
39

40 Commissioner Reckdahl: Commissioner Cribbs also talked about the importance of
41 having everyone to be able to afford the swim lessons. Currently, we have a financial aid
42 program. Can you describe that?

1
2 Mr. de Geus: We have a fee reduction program for all of the Community Services
3 programs. That has a cap of \$300 per person and a maximum of a 50-percent discount on
4 the fee itself. We would expect and write into the contract that all families would have
5 that same benefit or more when there's an additional scholarship program that Tim has,
6 that can also provide additional discounts beyond what the City is currently offering.

7
8 Commissioner Reckdahl: Who funds this new scholarship program?

9
10 Mr. de Geus: I would ask Tim to explain that.

11
12 Mr. Sheeper: About 4 years ago, we set up a scholarship program through Beyond
13 Barriers Athletic Foundation to subsidize our lessons over at the Belle Haven pool in east
14 Menlo Park. They have subsidized 90 percent of the lessons that have happened over at
15 Belle Haven. Beyond Barriers is currently in discussion with Rob's team about
16 subsidizing the lessons and the programs at Rinconada and JLS.

17
18 Commissioner Reckdahl: This is a separate charity that would be funding this.

19
20 Mr. Sheeper: Correct.

21
22 Commissioner Reckdahl: It wouldn't come out of the City or it wouldn't come out of
23 Team Sheeper. It'd just be an unaffiliated charity that is just funding lessons.

24
25 Mr. Sheeper: Yes.

26
27 Commissioner Reckdahl: We'd have to have some cooperation with that and the current
28 fee reduction program.

29
30 Ms. LeBlanc: Yeah. If I could just clarify. We haven't determined if we would—we
31 would most likely keep both programs. It is possible that—we have to sort of work out
32 whether we want people to be able to double up on these programs or not. We spoke
33 with Beyond Barriers, some of the Board Members. It seems like a really wonderful
34 opportunity for us to participate. No matter what we do, they're interested in just getting
35 as many kids to learn to swim as possible. They focus in this region. It's a group we'd
36 like to work with. They have some different standards actually. It's kind of boring policy
37 work, but their definition of the poverty level is slightly different than our definition of
38 the poverty level. That's why I wouldn't want to get rid of both; some people are going to
39 qualify for ours but not theirs and so on.

40
41 Commissioner Reckdahl: In the report, you talk about the SEIU and how, for example,
42 we only have the ability to hire staff who work less than 1,000 hours per year. It talks

1 about the impacts of SEIU hourly employment. Can you give us some more details about
2 what happens?
3

4 Ms. LeBlanc: We have right now a certain amount of staff that's budgeted in the
5 program. They are, aside from Tyler, all part-time staff. We have a limit for part-time
6 staff that once they hit 1,000 hours in a year, they become eligible for CalPERS pensions,
7 which dramatically increases the price of providing the service. As soon as we hit half-
8 time, we need to increase—the cost goes up for that employee. We really don't try to do
9 that.
10

11 Commissioner Reckdahl: How much does it go up, do you know? Can you give an
12 estimate?
13

14 Ms. LeBlanc: I want to say it's roughly \$50,000 per person per year. It's a very big
15 increase.
16

17 Commissioner Reckdahl: Even if they're just a part-time employee, once they hit the
18 1,000 hours you have to shell out 50,000 per.
19

20 Ms. LeBlanc: It's a rate; it's not a flat amount. It's a very expensive rate. The Budget
21 Office and HR can provide more detail on that. Occasionally we do look at that as we're
22 considering adding positions in different places around the department. It suddenly
23 becomes very expensive.
24

25 Commissioner Reckdahl: If we outsource, there's no restrictions and people can work as
26 many as we want and we have no commitment to ...
27

28 Ms. LeBlanc: Right. Once it's not a public employee, it's not a person who's subject to
29 participating in CalPERS.
30

31 Commissioner Reckdahl: When I compared the schedules ...
32

33 Male: Can I ask a question?
34

35 Chair Lauing: I can't do that now.
36

37 Commissioner Reckdahl: When I compared the schedules, especially the new schedule
38 looks rather fragmented. During the summer, during the midday, we have three different
39 things going on. Do we have a copy of that to put up on the screen, of the schedule?
40

41 Mr. de Geus: We can get to it. Tim can speak to it.
42

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is it useful to have open swim in three lanes or open recreation
2 in three lanes? That seems so narrow. Would that be slicing the bread too thin?

3
4 Mr. Sheeper: I think I know what you're talking about.

5
6 Commissioner Reckdahl: I'm looking at page 16 if you have a ...

7
8 Mr. Sheeper: I don't have it in front of me. I think you're talking about the summer of
9 '17.

10
11 Commissioner Reckdahl: (crosstalk) midday summer is when it really gets divided up.

12
13 Mr. Sheeper: That's a lot of usage of the pool. There's a diving board on one side. Open
14 swim has five lanes, and then there's lap swim and then there's swim lessons at some
15 points in time too. The pool is divided up into three unequal parts to be able to use the
16 diving board on the deep end, to be able to do lap swims in the middle, and then to be
17 able to do lessons and/or open swim on the shallow side of the pool.

18
19 Commissioner Reckdahl: During this time in the summer, what's going on at the JLS
20 pool?

21
22 Mr. Sheeper: Lessons.

23
24 Commissioner Reckdahl: They're just purely lessons?

25
26 Mr. Sheeper: Yeah. Lessons start at noon currently at JLS. They have for the past 2
27 years.

28
29 Commissioner Reckdahl: When I see the Rinconada pool divided so finely, couldn't we
30 use the JLS pool and move stuff between it so you have larger chunks and more
31 functional chunks than having it split up so tight?

32
33 Mr. Sheeper: I think that's what has been tried. I don't think the demand—people haven't
34 used the JLS pool like they have used the Rinconada pool.

35
36 Mr. de Geus: I just want to be clear about this schedule. It ought to say draft all over it,
37 but it doesn't. That's what it is.

38
39 Commissioner Reckdahl: It's a straw man.

40
41 Mr. de Geus: That's what I asked him. He talks about more integration, some sharing.
42 We're concerned about that, recognize that can take away from a program. I said, "Put

1 something together. What does it look like in your view?" This is the first cut of what it
2 looks like. It's not right. It doesn't work in several areas particularly in the morning for
3 lap swimmers and Masters. That's going to change. It'll change in other ways as well.
4 We're not proposing that this is the schedule.

5
6 Chair Lauing: If we could stick to sort of more policy-oriented issues like do you think
7 it's too crowded, that type of thing.

8
9 Commissioner Reckdahl: The reason I ask this is to say instead of looking at Rinconada
10 by itself, we really should be looking at the pools as a whole in the City and coordinating
11 their schedules between the two as opposed to saying this is the schedule for Rinconada
12 and we're going to slice it up with no regard to what's going on at JLS. With that said,
13 what about JLS during the year? Do we have any possibility to do evening swims at JLS
14 or anything like that to offload Rinconada?

15
16 Mr. de Geus: We don't do that currently. I'm interested in that, in more collaboration
17 with the Unified School District. JLS isn't the only pool. By the way, it's not their best
18 pool. It's not one that I'd choose as the one we get access to. I would absolutely be open
19 to that to get more kids able to have swim lessons at different times of the year in
20 different locations around town. I think Tim has the capacity to do that.

21
22 Commissioner Reckdahl: Before we hear this in January, are we going to have better
23 demand numbers about when is the pool being used and when isn't it being used?

24
25 Mr. de Geus: Yes.

26
27 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's it. Thanks.

28
29 Commissioner Hetterly: I'm a little confused about what you are really looking for most
30 feedback on tonight. The staff report was mostly, it seemed to me, about the total suite of
31 services, and that's what the schedule is with the lane distribution, this one. The next step
32 is you're going to propose to Council a contract for swim lessons and summer camp for 1
33 year. We don't have the same kind of detail for that program as we do for this potential
34 longer-term program. It was very difficult looking at the staff report to understand what
35 the impact of the impending decision is. I think it would be helpful to understand how
36 the lane distributions would work. We know the number of days and weeks, that we're
37 going to have more weeks and more days of lessons, but it's hard to translate from that
38 into how many more lessons that is relative to demand. In the staff report, when you're
39 talking about the full program, it's a six times increase in swim lessons. That raised a flag
40 to me; it wasn't clear at all that we have a demand for six times more lessons than we
41 currently offer. I don't know if this 1-year summer plan is also a six times expansion of
42 swim lessons. If it is, it seems likely it would have a similar impact on the lane demand

1 at Rinconada. I'd like to know more about how the demand meets the supply in that
2 initial summer.
3

4 Ms. LeBlanc: Thanks. It is the same proposed summer swim lesson program that you
5 see in there. It is increasing it by six times. I think the thing that is nice about working
6 with Tim Sheeper on this is that they can kind of match our demand. That's part of what's
7 nice about this. If there aren't a lot of people who want to come swim at 2:00 p.m. on
8 Wednesdays, they just wouldn't have their staff over at our pool to operate that. If there
9 is, then we're able to provide that service to residents. Unfortunately, we only can tell
10 you how many programs get full or have a wait list. We can't tell you how many people
11 are not even signing up, because the program doesn't work for them or it's full before they
12 get the opportunity to get onto our Enjoy! catalog and register. I think the first year of
13 this program will be a learning opportunity for us and for Tim Sheeper and his staff in
14 terms of what residents really do want in the lesson program. We think the nice thing
15 about this lesson program is, at the rates that we've set, it strikes a balance of being
16 accessible to most all families and still has the fee reduction programs in place and
17 extends that and also keeps the price roughly the same as our contracts have been for the
18 last 2 years. We can dramatically increase—I'm running out of power and didn't bring
19 my thing. I'm going to close this for a minute. We think that this is a great opportunity
20 for us to see how much demand there is. In terms of the impact on lanes, actually we've
21 discussed that with Tim quite a bit as well. We don't think it will have a huge impact
22 because they'll be doing a lot more lessons in the round pool. Tim can elaborate if you'd
23 like.
24

25 Commissioner Hetterly: I would like some elaboration on it, but let me expand my
26 question. I also would like to better understand—it seems like even ... I think we've
27 heard very clearly tonight that there's a lot of concern about impacts on other users of an
28 expansion of this size. I think it makes a lot of sense to think very hard about the
29 demand. Maybe six times as many lessons is too ambitious for a first year try-out a new
30 season. I would love to see something less ambitious so that we can actually learn
31 something from it before we risk turning people away from the pool. I don't know how
32 that plays into the financials. If you don't have as many swim lessons, then maybe it's not
33 financially feasible to use Sheeper. I don't know how that works, but it seems to me
34 something that you all ought to think hard about. With that, if you did still go forward
35 with that ambitious schedule, it seems to me that this breakdown doesn't work on a lot of
36 different levels, not just for Masters, not just for lap but also for open rec swim. I think
37 there are qualitative impacts on the experience in the pool once you shrink down lanes,
38 for example. If you have only three or five lanes dedicated to open swim, that's a much
39 narrower area. It really limits the kinds of things that you can use it for. I would love to
40 see staff and Team Sheeper work a little more with the community to understand what all
41 of those qualitative impacts are and see if you can fit them into the quantitative numbers



1 that you're collecting. That's basically my comment. I would love to hear more about
2 how the lessons are planned.

3
4 Mr. de Geus: Tim, maybe you can share a little more and also your experience about
5 demand generally, managing a pool very close by.

6
7 Mr. Sheeper: Thank you. I'll address the demand first. Since we've stopped running
8 lessons at Rinconada this summer, we've continued running lessons at Burgess. In that
9 period of time, which has been all of September, October and November almost, so far
10 we've given 12,000 more lessons. The demand is out there, and we still have wait lists.
11 That's equivalent to anywhere from 1,100 lessons—it's about 1,100-1,200 lessons per
12 week that's happening 2 1/2 miles away. To do those lessons, it's mainly from real entry
13 level, smaller kids. The best thing is in a warmer pool. Currently, the play pool that you
14 have is going unused. The discussion with Rob and the team is let's see if we can get that
15 pool online and heated up, and use that as an instructional pool because it can be used.
16 We use just three lanes to do our swim school, so that's six instructors teaching 24 kids
17 every half an hour. We're only using three lanes, but they're warm lanes. The pool is 86
18 degrees. To teach a lot of kids in the performance pool that you have at Rinconada, we'd
19 use that pool very sparingly for lessons. The other thing is we're looking at summer, this
20 schedule that you talked about. Summer at every pool is a very condensed time. That's
21 when the kids are out of school. You're looking at 8 weeks of the 52 weeks of the year.
22 Every pool is impacted. Rinconada being in a landlocked area where there's no access to
23 a lot of water, people are going to come there. To make this all happen, there has to be a
24 lot of sharing to serve all the groups. I did run some numbers, thinking into the fall of
25 2017, after the impact of summer has happened. For instance, currently the lap
26 swimmers—I measure things in lane hours—have 553 lane hours per week, 553. In the
27 fall of 2017, the proposal that we have is to increase that to 734 lane hours per week. It's
28 more than a 30 percent increase in the amount of lane hours that the lap swimmers have
29 to be in the pool. That's a large increase. I heard a lot of talk about the exclusivity, and
30 there was—we want the 14 lanes. Looking at this, this is highly impacted. In the fall, it
31 spreads out. Currently, there's 36 hours that the lap swimmers have exclusive use, 36
32 hours per week that the lap swimmers have use. Under the model that I proposed, it
33 would cut down to 33. There would just be 3 less hours. More time to swim, but there's
34 still open space in the pool. I think that addresses the impact that you talked about in the
35 summer and the demand that's out in the community. I don't know if Palo Alto even
36 realizes the strong need that's out there right now.

37
38 Mr. de Geus: Thank you, Tim. Increasing hours for lap swim is important, and that's one
39 piece of it. What I'm hearing also from the public is how those lanes are distributed and
40 what times of day can make a very big impact. You could have more hours, but it doesn't
41 work as well as it currently works, at least for the current swimmers. I think we need to
42 really work through that and understand what we're hearing and why we're hearing it so



1 that we can see if we can come up with a program that really does make sense, that does
2 improve access without degrading quality.

3
4 Commissioner Hetterly: That's good. Of course, in the summer in particular as you
5 move lessons into the small pool, then the users of that pool during those times can't use
6 it. There's always an overflow. Whenever you add, somebody's going to give up time for
7 it. I don't think that's necessarily an insurmountable challenge, to figure out how that
8 works, but it is a challenge that I don't think we've resolved yet. Again, I would
9 encourage a less ambitious plan. I also would love to see you talk to the School District
10 and see if there isn't a way to get a second pool. If it's a matter of pool space and we
11 could get access to another pool during the summer time is all I'm talking about here. I
12 don't know anything about the cost of that or how that works between the City and the
13 School District. It sounds like summer demand everywhere for pools is really high. I
14 know our School District pools are not fully used all summer, I think. I don't know; I
15 think. That's something that I'd love to see you all look into. I think Team Sheeper offers
16 an opportunity to be able to staff more space. In the past, we haven't been looking for
17 that because there was no way we could manage it. Maybe between Team Sheeper and
18 the City and the School District we can find a way, at least for this first summer, to meet
19 everybody's needs while we figure out a long-term plan. Thanks.

20
21 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Moss.

22
23 Commissioner Moss: I've been hearing a lot about the needs of the lap swimmers and the
24 Masters swimmers versus the lessons. On the side of the lap swimmers and the Masters
25 swimmers, our population is getting older. There are more seniors. One of our goals is
26 to be a Healthy City Healthy Community, and the people here are extremely healthy. We
27 wish we had more. It's a nationally recognized program, as I hear. I don't think it's
28 either/or; I think it's just a matter of scheduling. To throw out the whole program in the
29 name of lack of privatization, I don't think is an option. I think with careful oversight by
30 the City, we should be able to come up with a schedule that serves both groups. The
31 problem is when we talk about the number of swimmers for lap and Masters and then
32 wanting to increase that number of swimmers versus the lessons. Going from 5,500
33 lessons a year to 32,000 lessons a year, it's not all going to fit. Something has to give. I
34 agree with Commissioner Hetterly that we might want to scale back the number of—
35 instead of six times the number of lessons, maybe it's only three times the lessons. Also I
36 fully agree with Tom Sheeper about using the round pool and using JLS and using Paly
37 and using Gunn pools as much as possible. When you talk about six times the number of
38 lessons, I don't think it's going to be six times the number of lessons during the summer,
39 but rather spread out over more months. Maybe it's only two times the number of lessons
40 in the summer or even 1 1/2 times the number of lessons in the summer. If there's a wait
41 list, you push them out to the side. I could even make the same argument for the Masters
42 swimmers and the lap swimmers that it seemed like there's this core number of hours



1 between 6:00 and 9:00 and maybe between 4:00 and 5:00. Maybe people need to push
2 towards 10:00 in the morning instead of having everybody try to get in between 6:00 and
3 8:00. I think there's room on both sides for pushing out the edges in the schedule. If we
4 can work those things, I think we have a really good chance to work a schedule that will
5 improve in both areas, maybe not as much as we'd like, adding the number of Masters
6 swimmers, adding the number of swim lessons. Also, back to what Commissioner
7 Hetterly said, I'd like to see the demand for lessons. It sounds like we need Palo Alto
8 first, meaning if some of these lessons are not Palo Alto residents, maybe we can't
9 accommodate everybody. We should always give Palo Alto residents first. The same
10 thing with the Masters swimmers. We have a nationally recognized program, but maybe
11 we need to have Palo Alto first as well. I think if push comes to shove, we can do
12 something like that because this is a City asset, as you've said over and over again. Palo
13 Alto first. That's my comments.

14
15 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Knopper.

16
17 Vice Chair Knopper: Thank you. Hello. Clearly we have a passionate constituency,
18 which is awesome. It's a valuable resource. I think we've had enough discussion, as far
19 as I'm concerned, with regard to lap assignment, so I'm not going to discuss that. What I
20 did want some clarity, Rob, if you don't mind, is on the cost recovery expectation that
21 was in our report. There's an approximately \$35,000 differential, if we outsource, to the
22 City's General Fund as a plus net advantage to us. I guess my question is because there is
23 a tremendous amount of demand on a facility that is already needing, as we discussed in
24 the Master Plan, a tremendous amount of improvement. The locker rooms, food, snack
25 areas, lounging areas, everything else out of the water needs renovation. Are we thinking
26 of, as we're contracting out, keeping that money and our control—not letting that \$35,000
27 get sucked into the vortex of everything else we need in the City? Is there a way to
28 redirect it and earmark it for, if we are increasing demand on this facility that already has
29 tremendous stress on it, where we can turn that money into the pool and offset some of
30 that budgeting that we need to improve it?

31
32 Mr. de Geus: Interesting question. We're not contemplating that at this time. Is it
33 possible, if the cost to run the program with Tim, provided that it's a better program for
34 residents—if there was a savings to the City for running the program that way, could we
35 start a reserve that would support future improvements to the facility itself, that facility?
36 That's something that we can certainly recommend to the City Manager and City Council.
37 I think you're right that we have a lot of needs there. As we know, in the Master Plan we
38 have a variety of things we'd like to do there, and there isn't a funding source to do all of
39 those. We can certainly look at that. Regarding the terms of the contract with Tim, we
40 haven't developed those yet, but they're all valid points. How does the revenue flow?
41 What is the expectation of maintenance and other things? Those things still need to be
42 worked out.

1
2 Vice Chair Knopper: Thank you.
3

4 Chair Lauing: That's a good segue to the exact same page but a different question that I
5 had on that. Looking at the downside, are there any risks to the cost there with whatever
6 increase the number of users such that this 540 goes to 640? Is there any sort of expense
7 risk?
8

9 Ms. LeBlanc: This is assuming that we have—I can't remember exactly the percentage of
10 those newly offered swim lessons being filled. It's not all the swim lessons that Tim
11 Sheeper would potentially be able to provide. I think it's around 15 or 20 percent more
12 residents were to enroll in the group swim lessons that we are proposing to subsidize.
13 We would be paying \$6 per child per lesson beyond that assumption that we have for
14 what we'd be subsidizing. It could go the other way. If we have fewer residents enrolling
15 and we don't see the demand that we're anticipating, then we would drop that number. I
16 think that's the biggest unknown factor in what you're seeing here. If I could add one
17 other thing about the demand in here. Just a few years ago, we offered and had enrolled
18 about twice as many kids in swim lessons as we do now. Through the trouble that we've
19 had in hiring, we haven't been offering as many lessons, and we haven't been offering
20 them at the same times of day, so we've seen a drop. In terms of the scale, six times more
21 lessons sounds very intense and scary when, in reality, it's more like three times, two or
22 three, from where it was just in 2013 or 2014.
23

24 Chair Lauing: The short answer to that is it could go either way.
25

26 Vice Chair Knopper: There might not be a cost recovery.
27

28 Chair Lauing: Just two other comments. I'll go in reverse order. I'm really pleased that,
29 on page 10—Commissioner Reckdahl touched on or two of these things. I'm really
30 pleased on page 10 that you called out these serious reservations or serious issues that we
31 need to look at. Very much appreciate that transparency. Let's not keep anything hidden
32 under rocks. Particularly the last two—all three of them actually are real problems. I
33 agree with that. They need some digging to be looked at. We've talked many times here
34 about how parents, when they're signing up, want to do it all in one place and all at one
35 time. If they're on two different systems, that's going to get some push back at the time
36 of registration. You addressed the financial aid—that was a question—which is great.
37 You heard about the conflicts of sharing the pool. The only other thing I wanted to add
38 just almost a stylistic point, which has caused some of this maybe. I notice on page 5 you
39 say that Team Sheeper's philosophy is one of maximizing usage. Now, words are
40 important. We're not hearing anybody in this room say maximize usage, like as many
41 bunkbeds as you can get in one room. It's making it efficient, increasing the amount of

1 access that folks can get that aren't using it right now. That might have kind of driven the
2 discussion or even the contract—I don't know—in a slightly different direction.

3
4 Mr. de Geus: Appreciate that point. I think that's exactly right. The point you made
5 before about some of the changes in experience in terms of registering, they are important
6 and we need to weigh the pros and cons. We hope and we think that it will be maybe
7 inconvenient at first to go to a different site to register for lessons. The fact that you have
8 many more lessons to choose from in the spring, summer and fall and somewhat ongoing
9 will be the added value that makes it okay.

10
11 Chair Lauing: Just put somebody on the phone that day, because you will get questions
12 during the transition, if that's what it is.

13
14 Mr. de Geus: For sure, yeah.

15
16 Chair Lauing: I don't know if you want sort of a sense of the Commission on the first
17 point that was mentioned, which is the first part of the contract.

18
19 Mr. de Geus: That would be great. I think we heard from everybody. If there's more
20 that the Commission wants to say or ask ...

21
22 Chair Lauing: (crosstalk) not a particular motion, but relative to what you propose, I
23 think we could just get a nod or an up or a down. From my perspective, what you're
24 proposing here on that first piece of it and then investigation of the rest of it is acceptable.
25 (crosstalk)

26
27 Mr. de Geus: What we're really saying is it's an expanded swim program whether it's
28 what we presented here or less. What I'm hearing is at this time we want to be sure that it
29 has relatively no impact to other programs and their schedules, because we still have
30 some things to work through there. We think particularly with the small pool and
31 utilizing it when it's not just being used, that's something that we'd like to do now.

32
33 Chair Lauing: I don't mean to speak for all the Commissioners. Commissioner Moss.

34
35 Commissioner Moss: I have two more questions. Talking about hiring Palo Alto
36 students during the summer, is that going to be doable for you and still make your profit?

37
38 Mr. Sheeper: Yes.

39
40 Commissioner Moss: The second thing is if we didn't have six times the number of
41 lessons, we only had three times the number of lessons, would you still be interested in

1 the contract? What if it was only two times the number of lessons, would you still be
2 interested in the contract?

3
4 Mr. Sheeper: Yes, still interested. We've been doing lessons for 2 years already at the
5 level.

6
7 Commissioner Moss: If it was double, you'd be happy. Not six times, but double the
8 number of lessons you do today, you'd still be happy?

9
10 Mr. Sheeper: I'm always happy.

11
12 Commissioner Moss: One other question. You said there were two styles of lessons.
13 One is the one where you are skills based, and one is sort of what we have more today
14 which is not so much skills based. I'll call it the fun factor, more fun and less intense. Do
15 you have two different styles or just one style?

16
17 Mr. Sheeper: You're speaking of lessons?

18
19 Commissioner Moss: Yes.

20
21 Mr. Sheeper: There's a Red Cross way, which is what is adopted by Rinconada
22 previously. There's our own proprietary curriculum that we have, that we teach.

23
24 Commissioner Moss: You're going to offer both or just yours?

25
26 Mr. Sheeper: Just ours. I was speaking to how people can register. They can register for
27 a 1-week session every day or they could register 1 day a week for 20 weeks.

28
29 Commissioner Moss: In both cases, it would be your style.

30
31 Mr. Sheeper: Same curriculum, yes.

32
33 Mr. de Geus: Fun is very important. It's got to be a fun experience, particularly for kids
34 in their learn to swim program. We haven't talked about this or heard about this. We've
35 heard from a lot of parents wanting a less competitive recreation swim program outside
36 of what Tony and the PASA organization does. They do a great program; it's a
37 competitive swim program. This is another area I have a real interest in. Is there a way
38 we can figure out how to support some of these families that want their kids on a team
39 but not so competitive? Just in talking about how we might manage the pool in an
40 improved and enhanced way, some ideas are coming up from Tony and his organization.
41 Then, working closely with Tim to try and figure out how might we do that so that it
42 doesn't impact the other programs. Working with PASA we can have this recreation

1 swim program, not taking a lot of hours but another opportunity for kids that might not be
2 at that competitive level but still want to be on a team. Those are the kind of things we're
3 looking for, and we hope to really improve the program. I know we're wrapping up. I
4 just wanted to finish on one thing here that I think is important. The Community
5 Services Department does a lot of programs and services. We oversee all of the parks
6 and all of the open space and trail systems, the Palo Alto Art Center, the Junior Museum
7 and Zoo, the Children's Theatre, recreation programs, special events. A \$26 million
8 budget, and it's not going up. We look to deliver those services in the best way we can
9 for Palo Alto residents. Sometimes that's in-house, and it's with staff, and it's just the best
10 way to do it. I think that's the case with our open space ranger program, for example.
11 Sometimes it's a partnership with a nonprofit group that supports a program. Palo Alto
12 Art Center Foundation is fantastic. They helped us rebuild the Art Center. Sometimes
13 it's partnering with the private sector, because they have an expertise and a quality that on
14 balance is in the best interest. Just to the point about we're just outsourcing and it's not
15 thoughtful, that's just not the case. That's not what we're doing. We realize we've got
16 some things to work through still, but we're really trying to look out for the residents
17 ultimately and hope to get it right. I do want to thank everyone for being here and that
18 we're hearing you. My office is at the Lucie Stern Community Center, and you can call
19 me any time or drop by if you want to talk to me about it or tell me why it's wrong. My
20 card is here. Let's see if we can figure this out. Thank you.

21
22 Chair Lauing: Just from the standpoint of giving feedback to the City, is there any
23 Commissioner that thinks that we at this point shouldn't give preliminary support for the
24 swim lessons? As was pointed it, it's already happened for the last 2 years.

25
26 Commissioner Reckdahl: I have one question. In the staff report, it says recommending
27 both the swim lessons and the summer camp. Summer camp right now on the schedule
28 doesn't appear anywhere. Where would that appear and what would it be displacing?

29
30 Ms. LeBlanc: It would be kind of displacing what you see as the swim lessons. The
31 swim camps—Tim can elaborate—are not in the pool for the whole time that they're in
32 the camp. What they do is sort of a super lesson each day. Instead of doing a 30-minute
33 lesson, the kids would be doing 45 minutes. I think they might have another half hour for
34 some of the more advanced kids. They would be taking over those times, which are most
35 of the times where we have very low demand. That's where you do not see the wait lists
36 for swim lessons. We think there would be really minimal impact to the lap swimmers
37 during the summer when we add those summer camps.

38
39 Commissioner Reckdahl: How many hours a day are the swim camps?

40
41 Ms. LeBlanc: I will let Tim chime in.

1 Mr. Sheeper: I think you explained that well. It's 5 hours a day, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
2 Their 45-minute lessons happen in the morning, usually around 9:30. They'll get back in
3 the pool in the afternoon in the open swim times. They're mixing with the current open
4 swim.

5
6 Commissioner Reckdahl: Some of it's in the round pool, and some of it's in the
7 (crosstalk)?

8
9 Mr. Sheeper: Yeah, depending on their age.

10
11 Commissioner Reckdahl: My take is if you can fit the camp and can fit more lessons in
12 without affecting other people, then I'm for it. I'm just nervous about how packed we're
13 going to be.

14
15 Commissioner Cribbs: Could I just clarify one thing? You're also retaining the
16 lifeguards. The lifeguards will be reporting to you as well as the swimming teachers,
17 right?

18
19 Mr. de Geus: At this time, we're not recommending that. We may come back with that
20 recommendation after we work through this. What we will include in the contract is
21 under emergency circumstances, we can call on Tim to provide lifeguards. I can tell you
22 it happens even now for lap swim. We don't have the staff to be there. We will draw on
23 Tim's staff to come over and help us.

24
25 Commissioner Cribbs: It was actually David who brought that up, because he was asking
26 about hiring Palo Alto youth to be swim teachers and lifeguards. I thought, "We haven't
27 talked about the lifeguards; maybe you're doing both." It's just swimming teachers at this
28 point, right?

29
30 Mr. Sheeper: That's what we're talking about.

31
32 Commissioner Cribbs: Thank you very much.

33
34 Commissioner Hetterly: I'm not gung ho to go forward with the plan as it is, to respond
35 to you. This is not an action item. As I understand it, Tim, you've managed our summer
36 lessons for the last 2 years. From everything I've heard, that's been very successful and
37 positively received. It's on this scale, the status quo scale, and not this scale. I really
38 strongly encourage you to find something that's somewhere in the middle before you
39 move forward with something for this coming year. I think it offers a great opportunity
40 to try it out. It's a 1-year contract, right? See how it goes before you do something scary
41 that upsets a lot of people. I think this is an opportunity for us to take it another step

1 further, building on the relationship and experience that you all have with Tim and his
2 staff to make it better, see how it goes bigger, and see where we can go from there.

3
4 Chair Lauing: Thanks to the public. That's the conclusion of this item. Thank you, staff
5 and guests.

6
7 **3. Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.**

8
9 Chair Lauing: Thank you. We're going to move onto the next agenda item. If the public
10 could please move outside to continue your discussions if you don't have a comment to
11 give on the next agenda items. That 45-minute item took 2 hours. We'll see if we can zip
12 right along here. The next item is the Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation
13 Master Plan, version 73 or whatever we're on. Kristen, take it away.

14
15 Kristen O'Kane: Good evening. Kristen O'Kane, Community Services. In your packet,
16 you received a draft version of the Master Plan in its entirety. What we're going to talk
17 about today is first a summary of the community meeting that we had on November 1st,
18 and then briefly go through Chapter 5 because in the copy of the draft Master Plan that
19 you have in your packet, that was the chapter where most changes occurred. We'll also
20 talk about how the public will have an opportunity to review the draft, and then next steps
21 and the schedule. Community meeting. On November 1st, we had a good turnout, very
22 positive feedback, and a lot of support. Thank you, Commissioner Moss, for attending
23 and for speaking also at the community meeting. That was very thoughtful. Some of the
24 comments we heard. I've sort of broken them down by service or program area. The first
25 was recreation facilities and recreation programs. We heard a lot about pools, both the
26 Rinconada pool, liking the pool the way it is, and also the need for an additional pool.
27 We also had some questions on the tennis courts and support for an additional public gym
28 and also pickleball courts. There were quite a few questions as well on Cubberley and
29 the Master Plan effort that we're embarking on and what that would entail and what that
30 would include, for example, would it be a gym, a pool, a senior center. Of course, at this
31 time we don't know what we have in store for Cubberley, but we are starting that process.
32 We also heard support for collaborating with the School District to access facilities and
33 also support for unstructured play and connection to nature. Related to ...

34
35 Commissioner Reckdahl: One question about pickleball. Are we having two pickleball
36 courts on each side of the tennis net and they're using their own net or are they going with
37 the tennis net and using the tennis net?

38
39 Ms. O'Kane: Are you asking what they're doing now?

40
41 Commissioner Reckdahl: No. What's the proposal when people talk about pickleball?
42 What do they want? Do they want to use the current tennis net?

1
2 Ms. O'Kane: They want to have dedicated pickleball courts. Not shared with tennis but
3 dedicated for pickleball. For parks and open space, we heard some comments related to
4 the 10 1/2 acres. The first comment was to add active recreation use. A subsequent
5 commenter said it should be passive recreation use. The policy as it says now doesn't
6 address either of those. I think it's best to leave it as is. As we go through the process of
7 deciding what to do with the 10 1/2 acres, we can address it at that point. Just briefly, we
8 had support for benches, turf fields both natural and synthetic, support for restoration of
9 natural areas, dog parks. Some question on adult fitness areas; really the comment was
10 please don't add adult fitness areas to every park. We agreed we would do it as a pilot
11 effort to see how it was accepted in the community. Also, a request for a restroom at the
12 Magical Bridge Playground, and questions related to access to creeks, and also a
13 comment to provide free shuttles to the open space areas. Finally, some of our bigger
14 comments we received were how do we prioritize the priorities. We've talked about that.
15 What is a process for future improvements? Will the public have an opportunity to weigh
16 in at that time? Of course, we said yes. Some discussion on demographics and
17 accessibility, and then ensuring that we integrate the Master Plan with the Urban Forest
18 Master Plan, and then some conversation related to potable water use at our parks. That
19 was the community meeting. Again, it was overall very supportive. We had a great
20 turnout. I don't know if anyone else wants to chime in. Commissioner Moss, if you have
21 any comments?
22

23 Commissioner Moss: You did great.

24
25 Ms. O'Kane: Shall we move on?
26

27 Chair Lauing: Yeah.
28

29 Ms. O'Kane: Chapter 5 outline. Again, this is the chapter where we had the most
30 changes since the last version. Just briefly, the way it's organized now is we talk about
31 prioritization including the prioritization process. We've reordered the projects and
32 programs so that the—I'm sorry. I jumped ahead. The prioritization process, and then
33 we talk about high priority projects and programs implementation, considerations, and
34 then we get into the descriptions. We still have the action plan, funding strategies, and
35 how we're going to evaluate future projects, and then our progress reporting. Key
36 updates to Chapter 5. We've added two additional high priority projects. One is improve
37 the Rinconada pool facility. The last time we had that sort of combined with aquatics
38 programming, so we separated those out. Another one that came up when we met with
39 the ad hoc was to include golf course facility improvements. This is specific to the
40 clubhouse, the actual structures that are that golf course, that weren't included in the
41 current reconfiguration project. We've added that as well. We've reordered the high
42 priority projects so that the projects that need further study and strategic funding are



1 listed first, and then it goes to the short-term projects and the programs. We've also
2 expanded the definition of urgency to include the things we heard from the Commission
3 last time such as time sensitivity and if we fail to act on something, do we miss an
4 opportunity by not acting. That's all been added to that chapter. That's all I have on
5 Chapter 5. I'll continue.

6
7 Chair Lauing: Might as well give the whole review.

8
9 Ms. O'Kane: Do you want to take over here, Peter?

10
11 Peter Jensen: Sure. Currently the full document of the Master Plan report is online. It
12 can be accessed through the website for the community to review by clicking on the
13 green. You see there, it's very similar to how our last online survey was structured,
14 where it takes you to a form. This one has specific questions it asks about the document,
15 and it also allows you to provide feedback, whatever that may be, specific comments for
16 specific pages or just general feedback in itself. You see there the two links taking you to
17 the plan body which is the full document or the appendix. The public can see both of
18 those. This will run through November and into the first week of December for the
19 community to review and supply comment on.

20
21 Chair Lauing: Who wrote that?

22
23 Mr. Jensen: Say again.

24
25 Chair Lauing: Who wrote it, who created it?

26
27 Mr. Jensen: The project team staff and MIG worked together to put this together.

28
29 Ms. O'Kane: I'd like to add that there are specific questions where we're trying to get
30 specific information, but there also is an open-ended question at the end where people
31 can provide additional comments.

32
33 Mr. Jensen: The next steps. PRC review of the document. We're hoping to get your
34 comments back by December 5th. That will allow us to incorporate those into the final
35 draft, coming back on December 14th to your meeting. The community will have a few
36 days after that to supply further comment that will also be incorporated into the draft.
37 We're looking at going to Council for the study session that we were hoping to have in
38 December in January. I think it's right now tentatively January 9th. This all coincides
39 with the CEQA work that is going on and that will take place through January with the
40 public review, a portion of that, occurring at the end of January and into February.
41 Finally, hoping to take the plan for adoption to Council in March. That's our current
42 schedule. It mostly depends on the CEQA work that's taking place to meet those dates.

1
2 Chair Lauing: Go ahead.
3

4 Commissioner Hetterly: Can I just ask a quick question about the CEQA process? That
5 will include a public comment period. It would be great if you would add to the website,
6 if it's not already up there, some announcement that that's happening so that people can
7 have in mind that this is going to be the timeline, and you'll have an opportunity to
8 comment and any details you can provide about how to do that. Thanks.
9

10 Chair Lauing: Would it be appropriate to get Commissioners' comments on Chapter 5 as
11 a starting point here?
12

13 Ms. O'Kane: Chapter 5 or any of the document is fine.
14

15 Chair Lauing; It just seems like there are more changes to 5.
16

17 Ms. O'Kane: There are more changes to 5.
18

19 Commissioner Hetterly: Why don't we start in 5 and then go to the rest?
20

21 Chair Lauing: I was going to ask if members of the ad hoc wanted to state anything
22 relative to the progress, other than what she put in the slides, which I thought was a pretty
23 good summary. No. I'll look to non-ad hoc members who haven't seen this before they
24 got it in their packet. If there are any comments on 5 in terms of the batting order, the
25 way things were shifted around or anything at all.
26

27 Commissioner Moss: I just want to say that it looks fantastic. I didn't think you could
28 make so many changes in just that couple of weeks, but you did incorporate all the things
29 that we talked about last time. I think it looks great. I don't have any changes.
30

31 Commissioner Cribbs: I would just add to that. I thought it looked terrific. I have
32 yellow sticky notes all over this, and they all say great, I really like this, I like this list, I
33 like the way the prioritization was going. I love it that we have the page with the big
34 projects where everybody can see them, that we've really called out Cubberley and what
35 we're going to do with property and all of that. I think it's terrific. The piece at the end
36 about the fundraising and the opportunities for fundraising, the different kinds of
37 fundraising, to explain that to people is really terrific. At some point, I'd like to see some
38 sort of a timeline. It's probably not appropriate in here, but how is that going to get done,
39 is there going to be a committee formed, will there be a consultant, and all of that. That's
40 probably pushed off later. Otherwise, I just was pretty pleased about it. I was like, "How
41 did that ad hoc committee do all that work in such a short time along with the staff? How
42 did that happen?" It's terrific.

1
2 Chair Lauing: Abbie, any questions?
3

4 Vice Chair Knopper: I missed last month's meeting. I wasn't here for the discussion. It
5 was just a really easy chapter for me to read. I was thinking back when we started this
6 process a year and a half ago. I remember reading and thinking how confused I was
7 when we first started working with the consultant. It was like one non sequitur after
8 another. I'm like this was just so pretty (inaudible) in comparison. It's taken so many
9 hours of staff work. So many hours, but it's so reflected in it. I know this is my second
10 to last meeting, and I just wanted to make sure I said it. I'm done.

11
12 Commissioner Cribbs: I found three little short questions, if I could. Only one gym. Did
13 we want to say plural gyms or is there just one gym to be discussed? That was one
14 question I had.

15
16 Chair Lauing: Page?
17

18 Commissioner Cribbs: On page 89. Would we contemplate a set of gyms, like
19 Cubberley has right now with the big gym, the pavilion and two smaller gyms?
20 Sometimes those are useful. If we're thinking about building, maybe we should do that.

21
22 Commissioner Moss: A gym complex.
23

24 Commissioner Cribbs: A gym complex maybe, right. Did we lose the idea of perhaps
25 another pool someplace or is it just rebuilding Rinconada? Is there a point ...
26

27 Chair Lauing: If not, I think that's a wording omission. We've generally said we need to
28 investigate ...
29

30 Commissioner Cribbs: Another pool.
31

32 Chair Lauing: Yeah. The pool needs or something to that effect.
33

34 Commissioner Hetterly: We have in other chapters mentioned an interest in looking into
35 an additional pool, but we don't have a project that covers that. Cubberley is a possible
36 location. I think we mentioned a possible connection between gyms and Cubberley
37 somewhere, but I don't think pools were as explicitly called out for that. That's an
38 opportunity. I guess it is an outstanding question whether we should have a project to
39 find a place for a pool.
40

1 Commissioner Cribbs: I would like it. In the discussion about Cubberley, is there a
2 reason to add bringing forth the old Cubberley plan that the community worked so hard
3 on a couple of years ago, just to make sure that we know it's in there?
4

5 Ms. O'Kane: We can add that.
6

7 Commissioner Cribbs: The last question was just about in the fundraising area, if we are
8 being able to fundraise for facilities, is there is an idea to put in an endowment to take
9 care of those facilities after they're built or a fund? On page 91. Actually that's not the
10 page; it was just a note that I had. It doesn't go there at all.
11

12 Commissioner Hetterly: I think that's a great idea, to think about an endowment fund for
13 maintaining facilities. We do identify the funding gap for maintenance and operations in
14 particular, but we don't really identify any way to fill it. I think that would be a great
15 suggestion.
16

17 Commissioner Cribbs: I didn't know if that conflicted with the capital fund or anything.
18 Sometimes when major donors are interested in giving a lot of money for a big project,
19 they're also concerned with how the building is going to be taken care of. If we could
20 build that in, that might be something useful. I'm done.
21

22 Commissioner Moss: There was one more comment about the community meeting. I
23 had an opportunity to talk to not one but three members of the Friends of Palo Alto
24 Foundation or whatever. Just like Council Member Filseth said last time, just ask
25 because there's money out there. We just need to ask.
26

27 Chair Lauing: Anything else on Chapter 5 down here?
28

29 Commissioner Reckdahl: Yeah, I've got a couple. Go ahead.
30

31 Commissioner Hetterly: I just had a few. On page 86, enhance existing sports fields.
32 This is not necessarily 86. General comment. I like the way you did the funding options.
33 That was new since we last talked. I think it worked really well. I wonder if there are
34 any of these big ticket items in this front group that are well suited to special districts or
35 to tie in with other infrastructure projects. I don't know if that would require a lot of
36 effort to figure that out. If there are some that staff thinks are suitable, that would be
37 great. Pretty much the only extraordinary funding measure we have in here is a bond
38 cited for some of them. It may well be that some of the other funding options identified
39 in the summary could apply to some of these big items. I'd love to have you take a look
40 at that. The Rinconada pool facility improvements on page 90, we should mention
41 somewhere in there the recent Rinconada Master Plan. Somewhere in that description
42 that should be tied in, because there is a plan for those renovations in place.

1
2 Mr. de Geus: Yeah, yet to be approved.

3
4 Commissioner Hetterly: It has not been approved?

5
6 Mr. de Geus: It's still a draft. We're really trying to align the approval of that with the
7 Junior Museum and Zoo and their final plan.

8
9 Commissioner Hetterly: I see. I thought that had already been approved.

10
11 Mr. de Geus: Not yet.

12
13 Commissioner Hetterly: Maybe you don't need to include it here. Thirdly, page 92 was
14 talking about acquiring new parkland. It just reminded me that we had talked previously
15 about adding a program about legacies and bequests or long-term leases. I don't think
16 we've done that. I'd like to see that added in. Not on that page, but that's the page that
17 made me think of it. Sorry. Lastly, the progress reporting. I see you took out all the
18 indicators. Previously you had planned to add a table with some considerations for
19 tracking—this is page 112—progress. I kind of liked the indicators. I can see some
20 rationale for not including specific indicators, but I think this section without them is
21 pretty light. It needs to be beefed up in some way to offer some greater credibility and
22 accountability for the plan. I have several editorial comments, typos, words and stuff
23 throughout. I wonder if we couldn't maybe just hand you our notes at some point for that.
24 Surely the rest of you will be looking through for that too. That's the end. Thanks.

25
26 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Reckdahl.

27
28 Commissioner Reckdahl: Just a couple here. Page 90, the Rinconada pool facility. I
29 think the third sentence that says "to meet growing demand, a subsequent program policy
30 to open the pool for a long season is being explored." I think that's irrelevant. What the
31 other sentences say is sufficient. It's old; it's not in good condition; we need to redo it.
32 Whether or not we're going to have a long season really doesn't change the fact that it's
33 not in good condition. I would just delete that whole sentence. I don't see the value
34 added to that. I would start a new paragraph where it says two-thirds of the way down
35 "overall pool facility improvements include." I would start a new paragraph there,
36 because the first part before that is all background. Now, you're starting to get into
37 specifics. I would break that up and just make it clearer instead of one big paragraph.
38 That's stylistic, I guess. The same thing also on 93 for the golf course improvements.
39 We have a couple of sentences that talk about background, and then we start talking
40 about improvements. I would have the background be one paragraph and have the
41 improvements be another. Again, that's stylistic. That's all I had on Chapter 5. I had
42 some typos too, but I'll email you those. They're just piddly things.

1
2 Chair Lauing: Apart from Chapter 5 then.
3

4 Commissioner Reckdahl: On A1, Appendix A, in that chart where we list all the parks
5 and then all their attributes, you list El Camino Park as owned by City of Palo Alto,
6 which it's not. It's owned by Stanford. I don't know if you want to say ownership leased
7 from Stanford. That may be a cleaner way of doing that. We do have a long-term lease.
8 Maybe even say when the lease expires. When does the lease expire, do you know?
9

10 Mr. de Geus: It was extended.
11

12 Chair Lauing: I think we got 15 more years, didn't we?
13

14 Mr. Jensen: It's 2045 I think.
15

16 Commissioner Reckdahl: 2045. Under the ownership say leased from Stanford until
17 2045. Also the same with the Palo Alto playing fields. It might be nice to say leased
18 from Stanford University, lease ending this date. If that disappears, we are in trouble for
19 playing fields. The expiration date of that lease is important. The second thing is on A3.
20 Down at the very bottom, there's an asterisk. It says "high school fields not available for
21 City or community use." They are available, but not through the City channels. If you
22 want to rent the Gunn baseball field, you call Gunn and rent that out. I'm not sure how to
23 phrase that. That sounds a little misleading, because it is available but you can't just drop
24 in. You have to arrange it ahead of time. I don't know how to phrase that to say that's not
25 available for—down at the very bottom—not open for use. I don't know how to qualify
26 this.
27

28 Mr. de Geus: We can work on something. The use is not managed by the City during
29 non-school hours as opposed to the middle and elementary schools. We can do
30 something with that.
31

32 Commissioner Reckdahl: That was it. Thank you.
33

34 Commissioner Hetterly: I think you have to be careful about how you word that high
35 school fields thing. It's not managed, but it's also not necessarily available to be managed
36 by the City. I think you should—that's a tricky one.
37

38 Chair Lauing: It's not controlled by the City specifically.
39

40 Commissioner Hetterly: I just had a couple of other comments in other sections. In the
41 executive summary, page 7, it talks about expanding the system and underserved areas

1 map, park search areas map. In the paragraph up above, you talk about areas with the
2 greatest need, for example those with the highest density and/or the largest population.
3

4 Commissioner Reckdahl: (inaudible)
5

6 Commissioner Hetterly: It's page 7 of the executive summary, vii. I know we talked
7 about that long ago, about trying to build into the watershed map some density
8 considerations that would then lead to park search areas, so the search area didn't reflect
9 just geographic location outside of a certain radius but reflected a greater need in certain
10 areas that have denser population. Is that reflected in the park search areas or is that not?
11 I apologize for not raising this question long, long ago.
12

13 Mr. Jensen: I think we had a slide that we originally showed, that called out ... I guess
14 it's "E" or "D" that had the most population and the least amount of parkland. It started to
15 reference which ones were ranked per that. I don't think that got translated into any of
16 these actual maps.
17

18 Commissioner Hetterly: I think that's hugely useful information. If we have it, I would
19 like to see it included. If we can't include it, then we should not say that we've
20 considered it as it does in the text. I would love to see it. Further on in that same
21 paragraph, the last clause is talking about school grounds and says "that can be used in
22 park search areas, that will be maintained and expanded to better support neighborhood
23 park uses and enhance their open space value." Has the School District been involved in
24 any discussions about this plan? It seems a little bold to say they will be maintained and
25 expanded to enhance open space if we've not had those conversations with the School
26 District. I think you can handle that either by taking it out or by talking to them or by
27 changing the wording to say "we will seek to" or "hope to" or "there's potential for future
28 partnership to" blah, blah, blah. The next page on connecting the systems, I would love
29 to see somewhere in that paragraph some mention of the Safe Routes to School. They do
30 have connections that are built into this map, that are important. They are increasing
31 their efforts to expand their advocacy to include safe routes to parks. We ought to
32 reciprocate that by going together on that one.
33

34 Commissioner Moss: Are you saying that it should dovetail with their plan? Our job is
35 not to provide safe routes to school, but you're saying that they have a plan to do that.
36 We have a plan to do our connecting, and it would be nice to dovetail. Is that what you're
37 saying?
38

39 Commissioner Hetterly: Yes, I think we do largely dovetail. Those connections are all
40 reflected in the Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Plan. That Safe Routes to School
41 effort should be recognized in this paragraph as we took that into consideration in

1 figuring out what are the best routes to parks. That's it. All the rest of my comments are
2 editorial.

3
4 Vice Chair Knopper: You have some comments? No. I just had one quick one. There's
5 a couple of typos in the executive summary or some grammatical things. I don't know if
6 you want to go through that right now. The one thing I would say is on page 12. That's
7 xii, Keith. Under high priority projects and programs, the last sentence says "they are not
8 ranked nor are they presented in priority order." I just would bold and underline or just
9 really make that sentence prominent, because you immediately go into the projects. If
10 they're just glancing, they're just going to miss that and think we have bullet points and
11 all of a sudden this is our order. It's just a style thing, but I know how people glance.
12 Did you want some of the typos or no? I can just give you my ...

13
14 Mr. de Geus: Send them in.

15
16 Chair Lauing: It's a wrap. We have our dates for the next set of line-ups.

17
18 Ms. O'Kane: Can I just add? I'd like to thank again the ad hoc for their insight, wisdom
19 and work on this, especially Chapter 5. It's been very helpful.

20
21 Chair Lauing: We aren't going to say it was nothing, because it was something. Thanks
22 for hanging in there. We should be getting this zooming off to Council soon. Thank you.

23
24 **4. Recommendation to Council to Explore the Potential Sale by AT&T and**
25 **Purchase by City of Palo Alto of a Portion of a Parcel at 3350 Birch Street,**
26 **Palo Alto, Adjacent to Boulware Park, for Parkland Use.**

27
28 Chair Lauing: We have some speaker cards on the next item, which is recommendation
29 to Council from the Commission to explore the potential sale by AT&T and purchase by
30 City of Palo Alto of a portion of a parcel at 3350 Birch, Palo Alto, adjacent to Boulware
31 Park for parkland use. We have three speakers, and then we have a draft to circulate that
32 we can potentially vote on. The first speaker is Angela de la Parta. I hope I said that
33 correctly. Approximately 2 minutes. Thank you.

34
35 Angela de la Porta: My name's Angela de la Porta [phonetic]. I live in the Ventura
36 neighborhood. I'd just like to voice my support for the acquisition of the AT&T land that
37 is just right across the street from Boulware Park. It's been this lovely space that's been
38 very attractive for many years, but it's all overgrown and not used except by sometimes
39 vagrants as a toilet, which is not very pleasant. It would be great if we could actually
40 acquire that land and make it into a pleasant, welcoming place for people. Boulware Park
41 is, I think, maybe the smallest park in Palo Alto or one of the smallest. Just that little bit
42 of extra land would be lovely to have. That's all.

1
2 Chair Lauing: Thanks very much. Next is Jonathan Brown.
3

4 Jonathan Brown: Thank you to the Commission for giving me the opportunity to speak
5 tonight. Thank you to the staff who have worked hard on this. The Ventura
6 neighborhood has historically been an underserved part of the City. Boulware Park, with
7 the exception of the Ventura Community Center, is the only park in our very large
8 populous and diverse neighborhood. I wholeheartedly support the acquisition of as much
9 of the parcel at 3350 Birch Street as possible to expand this precious resource and elevate
10 our neighborhood's park space closer to those of other neighborhoods and closer to what
11 our community expects and deserves. The Ventura parks committee feels likewise—I'm
12 the chair of that committee—as do many of the community leaders and others to whom
13 I've spoken about this idea. Importantly, the time to act is now. AT&T is willing to sell,
14 and this opportunity must be seized now or it will be forever lost. I commend the
15 Commission for prioritizing this issue and putting it on tonight's agenda for action. The
16 community stands ready to help in any way necessary including with time, negotiations
17 and funding. In order to maximize our chances of successfully capitalizing on this
18 opportunity, we need to bring to bear all of our resources including not only those of our
19 City staff, who are already working on this, but also our community members and public-
20 private partners who have shown the ability to step up to meet community needs when
21 government finds itself constrained in various ways as noted in several examples set forth
22 in the draft Parks Master Plan on pages 106 to 108. Please recommend pursuit of this
23 acquisition and please keep those in the community who stand willing to help involved
24 throughout the process. I live on Fernando Avenue, right across the street from Boulware
25 Park. I'd be happy to answer any questions from the Commission to the best of my
26 ability. I look forward to progress on this. Thank you.
27

28 Chair Lauing: Thanks. The third speaker is Becky Sanders.
29

30 Becky Sanders: Good evening, Commissioners. I want to just thank all of you all for
31 opening my eyes to how wonderfully smooth a Commission can run. It wasn't until I got
32 involved in this Ventura Park expansion program that I actually came to Parks and Rec. I
33 do seem to think—I'm not trying to butter you up, but you do seem to be one of the more
34 efficiently run. Everybody's firing on the—all the cylinders are working. It's been really
35 inspiring for me. I just want you to know that we had as many people here as the swim
36 club did; not really. We did have three more people; we had three more people here.
37 Here's the deal. With the acquisition of the Mike's Bikes property, that's going to be
38 expanding deep into Ventura along Pepper Avenue, and with the coming online of 441
39 Page Mill, that's a ginormous Godzilla project, that's increasing the housing stock big
40 time, as they say. How about increasing the parkland? Just a little bit would be great. Of
41 course, we'll be back for the Fry's. I don't know what's going on with Fry's. When that
42 comes online, we'll be back. It doesn't make any sense to keep piling people into the



1 Ventura neighborhood already, I think, the densest neighborhood in Palo Alto without
2 adding parkland. If it's beaucoup moolah that AT&T is looking for, let's see what we can
3 do. There is a tradition of investors buying on spec, hoping that they can get Council or
4 somebody to flip the public facility. We've seen that at VTA. There's a little nod there.
5 If they can make below market rate happen there or something, they'll flip that zoning.
6 I'm anxious that the PF zoning will be flipped to something that will be like RM-30 or
7 something. I just want to send developers a clear signal that zoning is not for sale in Palo
8 Alto, and it's not for sale in Ventura. I feel very passionately. I make jokes and
9 everything, but I feel deeply passionate about keeping the public facility. We pave it
10 over if there's no money, but let's not lose this opportunity to make a beautiful addition to
11 our open space in beautiful Palo Alto. Thank you for your service and great job on the
12 Master Plan, parks people. Really good job. Thank you.

13
14 Chair Lauing: Thank you. You can come every month if you like. Lovely comments. I
15 did some, and you did some. Kristen did some. Mine are the non-green, two-page
16 varieties in case you want to write on things. Just a draft of what we should talk about. It
17 doesn't have to be this wording.

18
19 Commissioner Moss: Can you remind me what the process is?

20
21 Vice Chair Knopper: Is this the same thing?

22
23 Chair Lauing: Sorry. I didn't know you passed it out. Sorry.

24
25 Commissioner Moss: You will remind me what the process is.

26
27 Chair Lauing: This is a recommendation from us to Council specifically to do what it
28 says in the—staff and ultimately Council to do an investigation to kind of bring all the
29 issues to light and see if there's a way that we can sort of wrestle this to the ground.
30 That's an informal way of answering your question, Commissioner Moss, but that's what
31 we're asking for here. You want to add to that, Rob?

32
33 Mr. de Geus: I'm not sure I understand the question. The Parks and Recreation
34 Commission is a Commission that advises Council on matters related to parks and
35 recreation. This is the Commission contemplating making a recommendation to the City
36 Council that we look to acquire, if possible, this piece of land. That's the process we're
37 in. If the Commission agrees to do that as a Commission, then staff will facilitate making
38 sure the Council gets that advice from their Commission.

39
40 Chair Lauing: With appropriate investigation of options and costs and risks and all that
41 kind of thing. Just to clarify, it doesn't mean that if we make this, then we're done and it

1 just goes straight to Council. It still needs to have a lot of work done around the issues,
2 but it's an activation process that we're going for here and a very high visibility process.

3
4 Commissioner Cribbs: What's the timeline then?

5
6 Chair Lauing: Of next steps?

7
8 Commissioner Cribbs: Yeah, of next steps.

9
10 Mr. de Geus: If the Commission votes to send this along to Council, recognizing there is
11 some sensitivity and urgency around this, we would want to get it to the Council as soon
12 as possible. I'd have to talk to the City Manager about how exactly he would like to do
13 that. There's different ways that can be communicated. We'll look into that right away,
14 and then I can let the Commission know.

15
16 Vice Chair Knopper: What are we supposed ...

17
18 Chair Lauing: We need to look at this and see if this states exactly what we want to say
19 or if we want to change the draft of this in any way. This is just a draft for the
20 Commission to evaluate. Obviously it shows how it's tied to the draft Master Plan and
21 Comprehensive Plan.

22
23 Commissioner Reckdahl: Do we know how many acres this parcel is?

24
25 Commissioner Hetterly: The parcel, I don't know. Do you know?

26
27 Commissioner Reckdahl: The park is 1 1/2.

28
29 Daren Anderson: We recently had the real estate attorney look into this. What we found
30 is it's not the entire parcel outside those buildings. It's actually 0.63 acres that they're able
31 to sell, 0.63 acres.

32
33 Commissioner Reckdahl: That lot is part for sale and part not for sale?

34
35 Mr. Anderson: Yes.

36
37 Commissioner Reckdahl: It might be good to specify that. In the second paragraph,
38 where we say the subject property is currently zoned, maybe in that sentence somehow
39 we can mention that it is 0.63 acres.

40
41 Ms. O'Kane: I'd like to add a couple of things on that. The first is just to clarify that the
42 property isn't for sale yet. They do need to do a lot line adjustment to identify that 0.63

1 acres. I don't think that's set in stone at this point, that it's 0.63 acres, because they have
2 to go through that process and then actually put the property up for sale.

3
4 Commissioner Reckdahl: Maybe we can just say approximately 0.6 acres. I just wanted
5 to give ...

6
7 Commissioner Hetterly: I would leave it out.

8
9 Commissioner Reckdahl: You'd leave it out?

10
11 Commissioner Hetterly: Yeah, just because we don't know what it's going to be and it's
12 negotiable presumably how it will turn out. I think the Council knows the property that
13 we're talking about. I don't think we need to provide that kind of detail that we can't be
14 certain of.

15
16 Commissioner Reckdahl: The reason it's important to me is that it's a significant lot, it's a
17 significant size. Compared to the park itself, it's almost like half the size of the park. It'd
18 be different if this was a tiny little lot and if we miss it, we miss it. This is really
19 important because this would really make an impact to the park. Maybe we don't have to
20 give numbers, but I would want to say it would significantly improve the park or make a
21 strong statement that this is really important for the park. It's just not a small lot that just
22 happens to be on the edge.

23
24 Chair Lauing: You just want to put significant expansion in there?

25
26 Commissioner Hetterly: We could say something like "the generously sized property is
27 currently zoned public facility" or something to that effect. Is that what you—does that
28 work?

29
30 Commissioner Reckdahl: Yep, I'd be happy with that. I just wanted to make sure that
31 they understand this is significant, and it's not just a small lot.

32
33 Commissioner Moss: It's important because they could conceivably carve out a piece of
34 that for two homes and give us the rest. That would diminish the utility for us. I want to
35 make sure it's the whole thing and not half the thing. I don't know how to say that.

36
37 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Hetterly, what are you suggesting for the add there?

38
39 Commissioner Hetterly: How about we say "the sizable subject property is currently
40 zoned public facility"?

41

1 Chair Lauing: That works. Any others? Commissioner Hetterly, would you like to
2 make a motion to adopt this?

3
4 **MOTION:**

5
6 Commissioner Hetterly: Yes. I move that we approve this memo and forward it to
7 Council.

8
9 Chair Lauing: Second, Commissioner Cribbs. Further discussion, staff?

10
11 Mr. de Geus: It's a really interesting and unique opportunity. I think exploring it makes a
12 lot of sense given what we heard from the public and just looking at it. We just went
13 over the Master Plan, and we have all of those things that we want to accomplish, the top
14 33 and more. You just take any number, take the 10 1/2 acres out at the golf course with
15 no funding for how we might improve that site. We have the 7.7 acres up at Foothills
16 Park that we're soon to learn what we might be able to do there. There's no funding for
17 that either. We talked about pools and gyms and other things. If we were to do
18 something like this, it could potentially draw on funds that could be used for some of
19 those other things. I think that's important, and maybe that could be part of the full
20 exploration. I don't know that that comes across as clearly here. It may be a unique
21 opportunity, but on balance is it the one that we should spend the limited resources and
22 funding on? Maybe it is, but I think it's important that there's some caution. At least that
23 staff will do that when we share it with Council. I'd be interested to hear from the
24 Commission if you agree.

25
26 Vice Chair Knopper: Because geographically speaking, Palo Alto has significant
27 limitations that any opportunity that you can purchase—totally hear what you're saying.
28 Obviously everybody at this table would renovate everything and make everything state
29 of the art tomorrow if we had the financial resources. The opportunity to actually
30 purchase land here is so difficult. It doesn't come up that often. Any chance that we
31 might be able, that has an adjacency to a park, it would be crazy not to explore it. It may
32 be financially not viable. AT&T might decide to do something completely different. I
33 think it's necessary based on everything that we've talked about, trying to expand our
34 parkland. I do understand your reservation. I do understand that.

35
36 Chair Lauing: Others? As one of the speakers pointed out, that we know, that's a
37 particularly unserved place for parkland. That, I think, adds to the urgency of this
38 particular plot.

39
40 Commissioner Cribbs: I would agree with that about Ventura being underserved. I also
41 think that this is a great opportunity to paint the picture of we can do this, we can create a
42 vision, and there can be money out there to support it. It can go along with the list of the

1 great things that we want to do as long as we ask and get it out there. I have a lot of faith
2 that saying we're going to do this or we recommend this is going to really help draw some
3 of the funding that we need.
4

5 Commissioner Hetterly: I agree with that. I think it will draw funding not just from City
6 resources but it gives something for people to rally around, as we heard from the
7 community. They're ready to step up and do what they can in terms of funding support
8 within the community and with other partners. I think putting a flag in the ground, saying
9 we really believe in taking advantage of unique opportunities like this for the long-term
10 good of our community is an important message to send.
11

12 Mr. de Geus: Do you think there is any advantage in including something about creative
13 funding opportunities to do this? The way it reads is just the City should purchase it, if
14 we can. That doesn't inspire fundraising. The City doesn't have money to purchase it. It
15 just seems like a gap in the message to me.
16

17 Chair Lauing: Do you think that should be here, though, or is that in part of the
18 investigation? Plus, we've heard here, which is obviously recorded in the minutes, that
19 there are local resources that are willing to step up and look at helping fund it.
20

21 Mr. de Geus: I would feel more comfortable if it was included in there, that there was
22 some recognition that the City does not have a fund that can just buy land, and a
23 recognition of that balance with the many needs that the City has in the park system and
24 recreation program and facilities. That's not to say we shouldn't do it. I'm not saying
25 that. I actually think it's really a unique opportunity that I would support.
26

27 Commissioner Hetterly: How about if we add a sentence at the end of that first clause
28 that says "including identification of creative funding opportunities to realize this unique
29 opportunity"? Does that work?
30

31 Mr. de Geus: I think that's better.
32

33 Chair Lauing: Creative funding, I think, is fine. We don't want to commit the
34 community to any dollar amount tonight. It's not unprecedented. This has happened
35 before in the City. Any other comments?
36

37 Commissioner Cribbs: Yes, it could be the (inaudible) our first for our program legacy
38 thing that we talked about in the Master Plan. This could be something that we can try
39 and everybody can jump aboard.
40

41 Chair Lauing: Any other comments or are we ready to vote on the revised memo? Let's
42 just review the revisions.

1
2 Commissioner Hetterly: I do have one other question following up on Anne's point. We
3 do have a policy about that, should that policy be added to the Master Plan policies that
4 are relevant.

5
6 Commissioner Cribbs: That's a good idea.

7
8 Commissioner Hetterly: The changes I have are at the end of the first sentence insert a
9 comma and add "including identification of creative funding opportunities to realize this
10 unique opportunity."

11
12 Chair Lauing: I don't think we want "opportunity" twice there?

13
14 Commissioner Hetterly: What do you want to say?

15
16 Chair Lauing: "To enhance the ability to make the purchase."

17
18 Commissioner Moss: Maybe a public-private partnership.

19
20 Male: Funding strategy.

21
22 Commissioner Reckdahl: (crosstalk) strategy.

23
24 Commissioner Hetterly: Creative funding strategies to realize this unique opportunity.
25 Does that work?

26
27 Vice Chair Knopper: Sure.

28
29 Chair Lauing: Sure.

30
31 Commissioner Hetterly: At the beginning of the second paragraph, we're going to insert
32 "sizable." It says "the sizeable subject property is currently zoned public facility," and
33 then it continues on. We're going to figure out whichever program it is that talks about
34 look for funding partnerships, etc., and add that to the programs or policy, whichever it is,
35 that's listed in the Master Plan.

36
37 Chair Lauing: All in favor of the motion as amended on the floor. It's unanimous.
38 Thank you. Thanks to the speakers as well.

39
40 **MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED**

1 **5. Other Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Updates.**
2

3 Chair Lauing: The next item on the agenda is other ad hoc committee and liaison
4 updates. Do you have any items on that, Daren?
5

6 Mr. Anderson: Just a brief update on the IT&T property. We were able to do tours for
7 most of the Commission. If there were any Commissioners who didn't get to come and
8 would like to do it, I'd be glad to set up another tour. You can just send me an email, and
9 we'll find a time. For those that joined me, thanks so much. I enjoyed that. One of the
10 follow-up items was to look into the hydrology of that area a little bit. I'm sorry I don't
11 have the display for you. The next time I come back, I can. Commissioner Moss joined
12 me. We walked around and looked at it for about an hour. This was at a king tide. The
13 intent was to see exactly how much of it receives any tidal influence. As we suspected,
14 it's one 18-inch pipe that carries tidal water from the other side of Byxbee, closer to the
15 marsh front trail in the Baylands, across into this 150-acre wetland area. It's extremely
16 muted because there's (inaudible) coming in. This is in a 9-plus king tide. There was just
17 very little change into what we had seen the day we had come out, which I think was an
18 average tide height. We know it's muted, but there is water that comes into the area
19 inside the fence of the 35.5 acres, the antenna field. There is tidal action in there for what
20 it's worth. We could easily put together a little display that kind of shows you where
21 that's at. I think that's all I had on that item.
22

23 Commissioner Reckdahl: Were we going to, in the Baylands Master Plan, address that?
24 We had talked about that on the tour.
25

26 Mr. Anderson: It's a challenge. It was a great question. How in depth would it get? I
27 think unfortunately it is unlikely to go into great detail. What mostly likely would
28 happen is there'd be a recommendation upon further analysis and study to say you can
29 enhance the habitat by increasing the tidal flow. Exactly how you do that is very
30 complex. You don't just reshape a marsh by going in with shovels. It's a very engineered
31 solution, and it would take a lot of study, almost its own hydrology study. What I would
32 anticipate is it would be looked at a high level with the Baylands Comprehensive Plan
33 and probably be a recommendation on ways to improve the habitat in that area.
34

35 Commissioner Reckdahl: I think that's a good idea. It's not that we need to solve this
36 problem, but I want it on people's radar screen. If we include it in the Conservation Plan,
37 then it will be eventually addressed hopefully.
38

39 Mr. Anderson: Thank you.
40

41 Chair Lauing: Other ad hoc committee or liaison updates from Commissioners or staff?
42

1 **V. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

2
3 Chair Lauing: The next item on the agenda is Number V, now VI department report.
4 Rob, Kristen?

5
6 Mr. de Geus: I just have a couple of updates. I sent the Commission a report for a study
7 session on the Junior Museum and Zoo that's going to happen this coming Monday. I'm
8 not sure if you've had a chance to read that. The study session with Council will look at a
9 few things. We'll give them an update on where we are in the process with the Friends.
10 We'll look at the current design of the new facility, which is smaller as I've mentioned at
11 previous meetings. It's still being worked on even as we speak. We just included some
12 fairly simple floor plans in the actual staff report. The big changes are going from a two-
13 story building to a one-story, more modest building. We will share that. The Zoo
14 footprint is the same as the last time you saw it. I thought it had actually come off even
15 further, but it's the same as the last time. I think the Commission was comfortable at that
16 point with that. There was also a phasing of the project. There's a second phase of the
17 construction project, because the funding is just not available to do what they had hoped
18 for. It's unfortunate but in some ways a smaller, more modest program might be in the
19 end the better thing to go forward with for the local community and some of the
20 challenges we already have with that site and how packed it is and parking and other
21 issues. We'll also talk about an interim location for the Junior Museum and Zoo when we
22 do close and rebuild. We're looking at Cubberley as a possibility for that, at least that's
23 the current thinking as a site. The auditorium at Cubberley not to have a zoo but certainly
24 the program and exhibit space so it can remain relevant. We'll give them an update on
25 the fundraising, which is going very well from the Friends. They committed to raising
26 \$25 million; they've raised 24 and have \$1 million to go. This additional Phase 2, which
27 staff thinks is really important to try and get done, is about \$3 million more. We'll see if
28 funding will find its way to that. We'll talk about timeline, which is still all tentative.
29 They haven't submitted a project for permitting yet. It'll be an interesting study session to
30 tune into. It's taped, so you can watch it later as well. We can also add it to the
31 December agenda if the Commission wants to get a full update from the project team.

32
33 Vice Chair Knopper: May I ask one quick question?

34
35 Mr. de Geus: Yeah.

36
37 Vice Chair Knopper: They're shrinking the size. Will it still be large enough for them to
38 get that accreditation they needed for the animals?

39
40 Mr. de Geus: It will.

41
42 Vice Chair Knopper: It will not?

1
2 Mr. de Geus: It will. It will still be accredited.

3
4 Commissioner Cribbs: What time is the study session?

5
6 Mr. de Geus: 6:00. Are there any other questions?

7
8 Commissioner Reckdahl: Can you discuss shortly about the Rinconada Master Plan?
9 You mentioned in that discussion that we were waiting for the Junior Zoo. What's the
10 timetable or what's the order of tasks that are going to happen?

11
12 Mr. de Geus: I hope that'll come forward in the spring of next year, once the final plans
13 for the Junior Museum is done and the environmental work for the Rinconada long-range
14 plan is completed.

15
16 Commissioner Reckdahl: (crosstalk) under way right now?

17
18 Mr. de Geus: They're related. Yeah, most of it actually is done. We're waiting on a few
19 reports to be finalized.

20
21 Commissioner Reckdahl: That will come back to us in the spring?

22
23 Mr. de Geus: The Rinconada long-range plan will come back to the Commission right
24 before we go to Council. We'll need to be reminded of everything that's in there, because
25 it's been some time.

26
27 Commissioner Reckdahl: (inaudible) or is it just that it's a courtesy, coming back to us?

28
29 Mr. de Geus: I think we would ask the Commission to recommend approval for that.
30 Just quickly, we had an interesting trip over to Emeryville. Emeryville decided to build a
31 community center and school together. They very much needed to do that and had big
32 funding issues and other things. With Dr. Max McGee and Bob Golton from the School
33 District, Kristen and I visited and got a tour and heard about that whole experience as
34 related to our interest in Cubberley. It was fascinating. They share everything, the whole
35 space, classrooms, the whole thing. We learned some things from that. I don't think we
36 need to have that level of sharing here in Palo Alto, but it can be done. It's clear that it is
37 being done there. They're 3 months in or something like that, less than 6 months open at
38 this point. There are some growing pains that they're going through. It was interesting to
39 be there, and it was great to have Max and Bob join us, showing their interest in moving
40 this along. That's all I have to report.

1 Mr. Anderson: I do have one more report. Staff has started work on the CIPs, our capital
2 budget. Just started today, first kickoff meeting. Unfortunately and as usual, the
3 turnaround time is quick. We're to return to Council by December 15th. Sorry, not
4 Council, to our OMB staff, budget staff, with our department's recommendations for
5 CIPs. As our custom has been, there's an ad hoc with the Commission that meets with
6 staff and kind of vets this through. The turnaround time is kind of quick, but that would
7 be really helpful. I don't know if it's the same ad hoc committee we've worked with or if
8 there's a new one. It'd be helpful to meet fairly quickly with them and talk through some
9 of the options.

10
11 Chair Lauing: I think the current one is just Keith, as I recall.

12
13 Commissioner Reckdahl: Unless there is other takers.

14
15 Chair Lauing: In addition to or instead of?

16
17 Commissioner Reckdahl: In addition. If one of the new people have some interest,
18 they're welcome to join me. Otherwise, I'm happy to do it myself.

19
20 Female: (inaudible)

21
22 Mr. Anderson: I'm sorry I did a bad job of kicking that off. This is the capital
23 improvement projects.

24
25 Chair Lauing: Looks like you've got it, Keith. You and Daren can coordinate on it.

26
27 **VI. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

28
29 Chair Lauing: Overall comments and announcements as distinct from the department
30 report. Always looking for the hydrological update from the 7.7.

31
32 Mr. Anderson: Yeah, the Buckeye Creek hydrology study. By the end of this month, we
33 should have some concepts, which is great. They've done some preliminary analysis on
34 their survey work. We're one step closer. We'll look over those concepts and probably
35 have a public meeting, bring it to the Commission not too far after that.

36
37 Commissioner Moss: The Baylands Conservation, is that going out to bid?

38
39 Mr. Anderson: Yes. We're still working with purchasing to get that one out to bid for the
40 Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

41
42 Chair Lauing: Go ahead.

1
2 Commissioner Hetterly: I just wanted to let everybody know that the Comp Plan Update
3 Committee is wrapping things up around the Natural Environment Element for the Comp
4 Plan. I wanted to thank Daren for coming to the subcommittee meeting and putting in a
5 lot of time. We hashed through a lot of details. We met about it last night. The current
6 draft was very well received along with some additions that were nearly unanimous if not
7 unanimous. I think there will be some additive. I expect next month, December 13th, the
8 full Committee will vote to move that Element forward to the City Council.

9
10 Ms. O'Kane: I have one announcement. I wanted to recognize that Chair Lauing and
11 Commissioners Knopper and Hetterly were recognized at Monday's Council meeting.
12 There were resolutions read for each of them in appreciation for their work here on the
13 Commission for many years. Of course, that was voted unanimously to accept those
14 resolutions. Again, on behalf of all of us here, thank you for all your service and work on
15 the Commission.

16
17 Chair Lauing: On top of all her other work, Kristen came to that too. Thank you.

18
19 Vice Chair Knopper: Did you replace us?

20
21 Mr. de Geus: The interviews, I think, are the 30th of November.

22
23 Chair Lauing: Not much time.

24
25 **VII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 14, 2016 MEETING**

26
27 Chair Lauing: Tentative agenda items for December 14th special meeting.

28
29 Commissioner Cribbs: Is that still the 14th?

30
31 Chair Lauing: Yeah. Special meeting because it's been moved. That's why it's called
32 special, the 14th. Just before that on the calendar, we see still the Council meeting on the
33 Master Plan on the 12th. That's done, out.

34
35 Commissioner Moss: Peter mentioned three dates. He mentioned December 5th,
36 December 9th and December 14th. What is 5th, which is a Monday? What is
37 December 9th, which is a Friday?

38
39 Mr. Jensen: December 5th is when staff, the project team, would like further comments
40 that you have for the draft Master Plan report to come back to us, so we can incorporate
41 those into the final draft that'll be coming to you on the third date, the 14th. The meeting

1 on the 14th is the next PRC meeting. The 5th is when we'd like comments back from
2 you. The 9th is when we'd like to close the community survey. Those are the three dates.
3

4 Chair Lauing: Let's get back to the tentative agenda. Is anything on aquatics coming
5 back next month?
6

7 Mr. de Geus: We're going to be actively working on that over the next couple of months.
8 If there is substantive updates, that could certainly be. We have this survey that's out
9 right now, that we have several hundred responses to. I don't think that's enough. If we
10 have more than that or more alignment of what we might be thinking to have a further
11 conversation. At this time, though, I'm just not sure. We'll have to stay in touch.
12

13 Chair Lauing: Clearly the Master Plan is coming back again.
14

15 Commissioner Hetterly: Are we going to vote on it in December?
16

17 Chair Lauing: What?
18

19 Commissioner Hetterly: The Master Plan.
20

21 Chair Lauing: Yeah, I would hope so. Action item.
22

23 Vice Chair Knopper: How exciting. I genuinely mean that.
24

25 Commissioner Cribbs: I have a conflict that night, so I most likely will not be there
26 (inaudible) out of town.
27

28 Chair Lauing: The Zoo, if they're willing to come back and meet us again.
29

30 Mr. de Geus: If the Commission wants to do that.
31

32 Chair Lauing: I would like to, but I'm just raising it for Commission input. Go ahead.
33

34 Commissioner Reckdahl: I'm not sure what we would say. Certainly if they want to give
35 us an update of what the status is, I could listen. I don't have any strong feelings either
36 way.
37

38 Mr. de Geus: I don't think they have a strong interest to come back, not for any other
39 reason. Their park issues haven't changed considerably since the last time they were
40 here. They will come back for a Park Improvement Ordinance at some point when it's
41 closer to a real project and happening.
42

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: One of the questions we had last time was can they shrink it
2 back at all. Did they shrink it back at all?

3
4 Mr. de Geus: They did twice. The third time was as far as they felt like they could go.
5 They haven't gone further back. What they have done, which is interesting, is the
6 building is smaller. That's allowed for the Zoo to get a little bit more space. That wasn't
7 on parkland.

8
9 Commissioner Reckdahl: It still went out like 90 feet into that grassy area.

10
11 Chair Lauing: That's why we should see it again.

12
13 Commissioner Reckdahl: If they're going to come back and say it is what it is, we're
14 going to bring it to Council, then that'll be a little awkward.

15
16 Commissioner Hetterly: It's going to Council before our next meeting. Isn't that right?

17
18 Mr. de Geus: It's going to Council next Monday.

19
20 Commissioner Hetterly: My inclination would be not to bring it back to us unless
21 there's—I would like an update following the Council session to hear how that went. I
22 think we can certainly watch it on the webcast and get the same presentation, unless they
23 want to come. Of course, I would welcome them to come, but I would hate to ask them
24 to put in the hours of prep time in order to present to us something that they've just
25 presented to Council and we have access to.

26
27 Chair Lauing: Any other comments? No. Doesn't seem like we need that to come back
28 then. It's just Master Plan and possibly aquatics.

29
30 Mr. de Geus: Maybe.

31
32 Chair Lauing: Maybe, why? It's an action item. Any other comments?

33
34 Mr. de Geus: I'm not saying we should do this. We have three Commissioners. The
35 Human Relations Commission for their December meeting has a short meeting, and they
36 all go out to dinner together. Isn't that nice? I'm just saying.

37
38 Chair Lauing: We would have to start our meeting at about 4:00 p.m. to have a short
39 meeting so we could still go out to dinner.

40
41 Vice Chair Knopper: We're just approving it. It's going to be perfect.

1 Commissioner Moss: When do we get ...

2
3 Chair Lauing: There's that. Any other items? A motion to adjourn?

4
5 Commissioner Moss: Hold on.

6
7 Chair Lauing: Sorry.

8
9 Commissioner Moss: When do we get your replacements?

10
11 Chair Lauing: They just said that they were going to interview on the 30th. It's for the
12 January meeting. Motion to adjourn?

13
14 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

15
16 Meeting adjourned on motion by Vice Chair Knopper and second by Commissioner
17 Hetterly at 10:25 p.m.