



DRAFT

**DRAFT MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
May 31, 2016
CITY HALL
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California**

Commissioners Present: Anne Cribbs, Jennifer Hetterly, Ed Lauing, David Moss, Keith Reckdahl

Commissioners Absent: Jim Cowie, Abbie Knopper

Others Present:

Staff Present: Daren Anderson, Catherine Bourquin, Amanda Deng, Rob de Geus, Peter Jensen, Kristen O'Kane

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Catherine Bourquin

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:

None.

Commissioner Reckdahl: (inaudible)

Kristen O'Kane: I don't know when he'll be able to get out of the Council meeting. We'll just go as planned.

Chair Lauing: That's probably the best batting order for that contingency anyway.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.



1 **IV. BUSINESS:**

2
3 **1. Approval of Draft Minutes from April 26, 2016 Parks and Recreation**
4 **Commission Regular Meeting.**

5
6 Approval of the draft April 26, 2016 Minutes as presented was moved by Commissioner
7 Reckdahl and seconded by Commissioner Hetterly. Passed 5-0

8
9 **2. Update on Teen Programs.**

10
11 Chair Lauing: The next item on the agenda is an update on teen programs. Do you want
12 to do the introductions?

13
14 Ms. O'Kane: Sure. I'd like to introduce you all to Amal Aziz. She is with our Recreation
15 Division in CSD. She is responsible for all our teen programs and services. We have
16 some really great programs that we offer. I invited Amal to come and just share those
17 programs with you. I'll turn it over to Amal.

18
19 Amal Aziz: Thank you, Kristen. Good evening. Thank you, everyone, for having me.
20 Again, my name is Amal Aziz; I'm the Recreation Coordinator here with the City. I
21 oversee our teen programs. They run the gamut; there's a lot of different programs that
22 we run. I'm really excited to be able to talk to you all about a few of those. The
23 background of our teen programs is—the objective of them really is to provide a fun and
24 engaging and safe space for our teens, where they can really be themselves and express
25 themselves, to really provide that space in an array of different ways. As we go through
26 the presentation, you'll see that there's a number of different ways in which we hope to be
27 able to do that with our teens. Here's just some numbers. These were drafted out a
28 [video malfunction].

29
30 Chair Lauing: It's a little bit tougher tonight because there's a glare on that screen, so we
31 can't really bend over and see it. While that's worked on, I think we should proceed. If
32 you can just go slowly because we can't read all that and ask (crosstalk).

33
34 Ms. Aziz: No problem. Let me know if I need to slow down more than ...

35
36 Chair Lauing: You don't have to be quite as close to the microphone.

37
38 Ms. Aziz: We run an array of programs. I left off with The Drop teen center which is
39 located in Mitchell Park in the Teen Center over there. The Drop is the high school facet.
40 It's a free program. I'll go into more detail on that as well. LEAP is our middle school
41 program. This is also free, also located at Mitchell Park. It's a little bit more structured,
42 so there's homework help. We have students that participate in that as well. We also



1 have our teen leadership groups, and we also partner with Youth Community Services to
2 support their SWAG, Students With a Gateway, as well as their youth fellowship
3 programs, and we house them over at Mitchell Park as well. I'm going to go ahead and
4 go forward. First, I'm going to get into our teen leadership programs. We have a core
5 four that we serve here in the City and that work with the rest of the teen community here
6 in the City. The first one I'm going to talk about is Palo Alto Youth Council or PAYC.
7 Palo Alto Youth Council focuses on issues and concerns of the teen community. We
8 have a group of approximately 25 teens from Palo Alto High, Gunn and Castilleja, that
9 work to address those. They've hosted teen forums here in the City. They've also worked
10 to put together, which they hope to post soon, the state of the youth. That should be
11 going up soon. They're very, very focused on youth policy issues and just really working
12 on the creative and teen (inaudible) to address them. The Teen Advisory Board focuses
13 on really teen-led events for the teen community. They range from trivia nights to
14 cupcake decorating to decompress from finals. They do a number of different things,
15 movie nights, just fun, engaging breakaways from the regular teen day to really just be
16 themselves that the Teen Advisory Board focuses on. The Teen Arts Council is, of
17 course, our arts-focused component. This is housed over at the theatre, over at Lucie
18 Stern. This is one of our larger groups; it's about 50 students also from Gunn, Paly and
19 Castilleja. They are very, again, arts and creative focused [video malfunction] slam, so
20 providing extended hours and a safe space, breakaways for finals because those can get
21 hectic, as we know, for our teens. They do creative events, all focused on books and
22 reading over at Mitchell Park and over at Rinconada as well. [video malfunction] your
23 normal teen hectic to just really enjoy yourself and express yourself. We also provide a
24 Counselor in Training program. We bring in teens 13 and 14, approximately 50, each
25 summer to be placed into our summer camps and take on leadership roles. They're
26 actually starting the training next week and then start the program immediately the week
27 after. They're able to learn really important leadership skills and work with youth. It's a
28 really, really fun program that we are kicking off again in just a week. Those are the
29 programs in summary. Thank you. Any questions?
30

31 Chair Lauing: Let's just see if Commissioners have questions about it. Either direction.
32 Go ahead, Commissioner Hetterly.
33

34 Commissioner Hetterly: I have a question about the youth groups. I know later on
35 tonight we're talking about the Master Plan. There's a program in there to start a teen
36 advisory group for Community Services and Recreation. I'm wondering are there any
37 joint efforts or collaborative efforts across the multiple teens or are they pretty much just
38 standalone, doing their own thing?
39

40 Ms. Aziz: Are you saying do the teen groups collaborate?
41

42 Commissioner Hetterly: Yeah.

1
2 Ms. Aziz: Yes. There's definitely ways of collaboration. TAB is collaborated with the
3 Arts Council. The Youth Council is also collaborated as well. We're always seeking
4 opportunities to collaborate with other groups. For example, Project Anybody was able
5 to work with the climate conference not too long ago. We're always seeking
6 opportunities to do so. That's definitely something—I believe that there was someone
7 that did come to speak to the Youth Council with regard to what you were just
8 mentioning.

9
10 Commissioner Hetterly: About the Master Plan?

11
12 Ms. Aziz: Yeah. I believe somebody did come and speak to the Youth Council earlier
13 this year, but we're definitely always willing to come in and collaborate further.

14
15 Commissioner Hetterly: Do they do any kind of joint activities where you get all the teen
16 boards together?

17
18 Ms. Aziz: We've done open mikes collaboratively with the Arts Council. We have done
19 TAB, and the Youth Council has worked together on forums. There is definitely some
20 collaboration. We're able to bring in the really policy-focused teens with the more
21 artistic, creative teens with the Arts Council and so on and so forth.

22
23 Commissioner Hetterly: That's great. Thank you.

24
25 Chair Lauing: A related question on that that I had was PAYC and TAB and all those
26 things, are there overlap teen members on those as well?

27
28 Ms. Aziz: Yes, definitely.

29
30 Chair Lauing: It's part of a broader question of do you have a very small group of super-
31 enthusiastic teens that are kind of running everything or how many folks are belonging to
32 these various leadership groups?

33
34 Ms. Aziz: We definitely do have a few that may participate in both Youth Council and
35 Arts Council or Teen Advisory Board and TLAB. There's definitely overlap but not so
36 much. The majority of the groups, as far as our leadership groups go, are those core
37 students. We have approximately 50 in the Arts Council. I believe TLAB is at about 15.
38 TAB is 20, and then Youth Council is 25. As far as overlap, I advise three of those
39 groups. Those are maybe two to three in each group that are overlap.

40
41 Chair Lauing: Maybe in the age of social media this is a silly question. How do you
42 make people aware of the various groups that they can join?



1
2 Ms. Aziz: Social media is definitely the main thing that we try to utilize. We know that
3 our teens are constantly on their social media accounts, so we're using that often. We
4 also try to promote with parents as well. We work closely with the PTA, with our
5 schools. We also promote heavily in Enjoy! and in all of our promotional items there. A
6 lot of our recruitment and pull is social media.

7
8 Chair Lauing: Does it come across as cool that way?

9
10 Ms. Aziz: I would hope so.

11
12 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Moss.

13
14 Commissioner Moss: Following up on what he said, is there an outreach for at-risk kids?
15 Do the counselors in the high schools recommend kids to come and it's not just the cool
16 kids?

17
18 Ms. Aziz: Yes. That's most heavily focused in our afterschool programming, so Drop
19 and LEAP. We wanted to make sure that it was very, very accessible and something that
20 any kid could come to, which is why the program is free. We work closely with the
21 counselors. We let them know if they have anyone that they would like to recommend
22 that they can just bring them to us. We make sure that they're in the program regardless
23 of whether we're at capacity or not. We always make accommodations for students if
24 they are recommended by either a counselor or a parent as at-risk.

25
26 Commissioner Moss: That's great. Do you some older helping younger, for instance,
27 tutoring or is that a separate program?

28
29 Ms. Aziz: Yeah. In LEAP, our staff work to support our homework component for the
30 afterschool program. A lot of our staff are high schoolers that have maybe been in the
31 programs and have come on as staff. Our current shift lead is an old Gunn alum. We try
32 to make sure that we keep them involved at that capacity. We also have programs that
33 come in, that provide mentorship and learning to those groups as well. We have a
34 program called FLY which is Financial Literacy for Youth, as just an example. It's high
35 school students that are providing financial literacy learning to middle school students.
36 They're coming in and they're doing these games and activities that are all focused on
37 financial literacy. They close out each semester with a fun carnival that the students are
38 able to lead themselves. We try to make sure that we keep them engaged with the older
39 and younger, because they are interacting at the Teen Center. We definitely try empower
40 the older groups to be in more leadership roles while they are there.
41

1 Commissioner Moss: One last question. Does yours feed other groups? For instance, is
2 there a drama component or do you feed people into the Children's Theatre or things like
3 that? In other words, so it's not just you in a vacuum but as a stepping stone to other
4 programs.

5
6 Ms. Aziz: Yeah, definitely. We make sure to cross-promote and constantly keep
7 students aware of things. Oftentimes, especially now at the end of the year where we're
8 closing up and preparing for the new year, there's always teens asking, "What if I'm
9 interested in this" or "What if I'm interested in that?" We might pick up an interest in
10 working closely with our teens, that you might have a knack for really focusing on
11 decisions for teens and making those important choices. Maybe you'd be a great fit for
12 Youth Council or you're just an awesome event planner, you might be fantastic for Teen
13 Advisory Board. Keeping close to that as well. We definitely try to place teens, because
14 there's just so many different programs. Making sure there's a good fit.

15
16 Commissioner Moss: Thank you.

17
18 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Cribbs.

19
20 Commissioner Cribbs: I'd just like to, first of all, say it's a great group of programs. I'm
21 so happy to see that you could say to kids, "Find your passion." There are some things in
22 there that almost anybody would love to do. I'm curious about how many youth do you
23 think that you touch in a year?

24
25 Ms. Aziz: That's a heavy number, because we have so many different programs that we
26 do if we talk directly about the programs that we provide the more direct numbers. For
27 example, for our afterschool programs, we have together with both The Drop and LEAP,
28 we have more than 200 enrolled every semester. When we talk about our Bryant Street
29 Garage Fund programs, those are directly granted about 35. When we talk about the
30 direct grants, those are the applicants. The applicants either develop groups or they
31 create events. Those events range anywhere from about 50 students to 200-300 people
32 from families. We're actually currently re-hashing our numbers, because the numbers in
33 that presentation are low. They're from January/February. I can get those updated
34 numbers to you in a couple of weeks; we're just finalizing those right now.

35
36 Commissioner Cribbs: I think it'd be very interesting to see that. How late does the
37 Friday night teen program go?

38
39 Ms. Aziz: We go until 9:00 p.m.

40
41 Commissioner Cribbs: 9:00?

1 Ms. Aziz: Yeah, depending on the event, but it's typically 'til 9:00 p.m.

2
3 Commissioner Cribbs: If it needed to go later, it's a matter of staff time and budget and
4 that kind of thing?

5
6 Ms. Aziz: Yes.

7
8 Commissioner Cribbs: Thank you.

9
10 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Reckdahl.

11
12 Commissioner Reckdahl: If it would go later than 9:00, would you have the kids? Are
13 you kicking the kids out at 9:00 or do they move elsewhere by that time?

14
15 Ms. Aziz: They're usually trickling out around that time. We do want to keep cognizant
16 of just safety and walking in the dark. A lot of our students walk or bike. We don't want
17 to keep them out too late, which is why we said at 9:00. Sometimes in the winter if kids
18 are walking home, we'll kind of suggest an earlier release, let them leave a little earlier
19 just for safety purposes.

20
21 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is the shuttle running at that time?

22
23 Ms. Aziz: Is what? I'm sorry.

24
25 Commissioner Reckdahl: The shuttle, the Palo Alto shuttle.

26
27 Ms. Aziz: I'm not sure if the shuttle runs. Not a lot of our students take the shuttle. I'm
28 not sure.

29
30 Commissioner Reckdahl: What locations do you have for events? You mentioned
31 Mitchell Park. Is that the park itself or the library?

32
33 Ms. Aziz: It's the community center. The majority of the programs are housed out of
34 Mitchell Park. We utilize the Teen Center; we utilize the various rooms there. It's been
35 just a really fantastic and convenient place to do it. We've also hosted events at Lucie
36 Stern. We've hosted in the park, in Mitchell Park Library, Rinconada Library, at the
37 theater. Definitely the core of our programs are at Mitchell Park in the community
38 center.

39
40 Commissioner Reckdahl: How is Mitchell Park Teen Center working out?

41

1 Ms. Aziz: It's working out well. It's definitely grown. It's definitely grown. We started
2 off and just kind of tried to work with exactly what the teens wanted. We were like do
3 we need this to be very demanding as far as structure or should it be more lax and still
4 have opportunities for really intentional programming, but kind of at the students'
5 discretion. Working those things out, down to what games they want to play and when
6 do they want to have their three-point shootout. What kind of homework support do they
7 need? It's grown significantly. We're getting numbers of approximately 30, 40 students
8 per day.

9
10 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is there anything about the facility that you would like to
11 change?

12
13 Ms. Aziz: Anything about the facility. Nothing that I can think of. Maybe we could
14 have like a fence that goes over, so the kids don't kick the balls over on the roof every
15 week. That could save us some time and money.

16
17 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is that when they're in the courtyard or in the basketball court?

18
19 Ms. Aziz: They're in the basketball court. Really I can't think of any—the facility has
20 really been very good to us.

21
22 Commissioner Reckdahl: When the kids hang, are they hanging in the Teen Center or
23 out in that courtyard?

24
25 Ms. Aziz: As it's grown, they're bleeding out into the courtyard. They're definitely
26 hanging out in the basketball courts as well. They do love the Teen Center. Again, I
27 can't think of a real gripe about the Teen Center. We have awesome games and activities.
28 It's just a really—it's structured in a very well way where students can just come and
29 relax. It's very low demand. They can enjoy themselves. I can't think of a single gripe
30 as far as the space goes.

31
32 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's very good. You mentioned the Teen Week Out. What
33 ages is that for?

34
35 Ms. Aziz: Teen Week Out is 13-17.

36
37 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's very good, because as my kids aged out of the summer
38 camps up there, it would have been still nice to have the activities. You can go CIT, but
39 that takes your whole summer. This week by week Teen Week Out sounds like a very
40 good option.

1 Ms. Aziz: CIT has some flexibility. We have CIT folks that are registered only for one
2 session, which is a 2-week session. We have some that wanted to be CITs throughout the
3 summer. There's some flexibility in that too. We wanted to do Teen Week Out because
4 we wanted to provide another option. If you didn't want to be outdoors at Foothills
5 Adventure, you didn't want to take on that leadership role, just wanted to kind of hang out
6 and enjoy yourself with your peers and do something new and get out, that's what Teen
7 Week Out was structured around.

8
9 Commissioner Reckdahl: The last thing is I would like to use these teens for another
10 purpose, and that's for getting input for recreation offerings. Not teen events, but just
11 general recreation. What is cool for the teens is going to be cool for the 20-somethings.
12 It'd be good to get input from them, what kind of new programs would they like to see
13 just in our general recreation offerings. That would be very good input for our programs.
14 That's it. Thank you.

15
16 Ms. Aziz: Thank you.

17
18 Chair Lauing: Don't tell a 20-something it's cool just because the teens like it.
19 Commissioner Moss.

20
21 Commissioner Moss: One more thing. If you had a guaranteed shuttle at 9:00, would
22 that get you more kids?

23
24 Ms. Aziz: This is something that we've discussed at length. Our location can be kind of
25 difficult for some of the—we do still get students from Palo Alto High, from Terman,
26 from Jordan, but it's far more difficult for them to get there as opposed to someone from
27 JLS or Gunn. There's also that concern of being later in the evening. One of the things
28 that we would love to have is a shuttle that comes directly from those schools to the
29 Center and also to those Friday night teen nights. We want to make it as easy and as safe
30 as possible for these teens. That would definitely be a way to do so.

31
32 Commissioner Cribbs: For the programs that are fee-based, is there a scholarship
33 component at all?

34
35 Ms. Aziz: We do have a fee reduction program for all the fee-based programs.

36
37 Chair Lauing: Thank you for the presentation. Thank you for your enthusiasm around
38 our teen segment. Very important.

39
40 Ms. Aziz: Thank you for having me.
41

1 **3. Proposed Conceptual Design on Quarry Road Improvements and Transit**
2 **Center Access Project Update.**

3
4 Chair Lauing: The next agenda item is the proposed conceptual design on Quarry Road
5 improvements and the Transit Center access. Who's going to lead that?
6

7 Ms. O'Kane: That will be Paul Schneider with Siegfried. He presented last time. He is
8 with the consulting firm, Siegfried. Also Shahla Yazdy is here from the Transportation
9 Department.
10

11 Chair Lauing: We do now have our monitors working, so we can see.
12

13 Shahla Yazdy: Good evening, Commissioners. I'm Shahla Yazdy with Transportation,
14 here to discuss the Quarry Road improvements project. We came to you last month and
15 presented an alternative. We heard your comments, and they were very good. Thank
16 you. We've come back, and we've modified the alternative. Basically we're sticking to
17 the original alignment with the enhancements. Paul will go over those, the changes that
18 we've made. They're pretty much based on comments that we received from all of you in
19 addition to Stanford and some ARB comments as well. I will turn it over to Paul, and he
20 can go over the revisions to the alignment. Thank you.
21

22 Paul Schneider: As you said last time, I think the loud and clear message was why are
23 we deviating from the existing alignment. I talked a little bit about the need to try to put
24 in some smoother curves and a few other things. In general, not knowing the future of
25 the rest of this piece and discussing it with the rest of the folks at the City, we came back
26 to what—you said you can now see on your monitors?
27

28 Chair Lauing: Yes.
29

30 Mr. Schneider: We came to back to an alignment that's very, very close to what was
31 there before. You can actually see that. There's sort of a hatching pattern behind the blue
32 that is very faint, but you can see that's the old alignment. It was a little more scattered
33 and random, but this one's a little smoother and covers a larger width. In putting back the
34 original alignment, there are just a couple of very, very minor modifications. You can
35 see the "Y" intersection where the lower path comes into the middle of the path. It's still
36 largely the same. There's infrastructure vault there that we just can't avoid. Right next to
37 that are two football uprights and power poles that we're trying to split with this path.
38 We're very, very constrained with this. The two major improvements that have been
39 made to the alignment is the intersection at Quarry Road. You can see the pathway. It
40 pushes a little bit further away. You can see an ever so slight hump in the path in the
41 long direction. All we did was push it away about 8-10 feet from its current alignment,
42 which gives us better stacking as someone comes off of El Camino. Our biggest concern

1 last time is if you have a couple of bikes and a stroller and five walkers; there really
2 wasn't enough room to maybe let the last biker or the last person or the stroller just get
3 out of the road. That was a big concern of ours as designers. We pulled that back. The
4 other final piece is the curve as you sort of neck around, as you imagine you're going
5 along El Camino and coming up to the Transit Center. We put as generous a curve on
6 that as we could to take that little right angle or that almost right angle kink out of it.
7 Again, it's not—this is a little bit of a conundrum of a bike path, because it depends on if
8 you ask a biker or a walker, you're going to get a different reaction on what they want out
9 of the path. This is a really "right down the middle" type design. It softens it up so that
10 you get a decent radius for a bicyclist. We've taken down—there's a small pistache tree.
11 We've met with Dave Dockter in the field. We've talked with Daren and his group as
12 well about that one on the corner. There's also a SFPUC vault right on that corner. We're
13 just barely sort of skimming that to get this alignment in there. That's kind of it for the
14 alignment. In terms of what this is, we have—the documents we had last time were a bit
15 misleading on the fact that we only had a lot of bike information on them. We had
16 completely missed on making sure that the right pedestrian signage was in the
17 information you guys were looking at. This is a 12-foot wide path. It's a multiuse path;
18 it's not signed or designated as a bike path. It's not intended to be a bike raceway. It
19 is similar to what's out in El Camino Park now, that it's 12 feet in total width which in
20 essence gives you room for walkers, strollers, bicyclists going in each direction. That is
21 the continuity that you see sort of from start to finish. The signage. There was a number
22 of comments on the signage, why are we adding this kind of signage, how come it's
23 pointing these different directions. We have toned back all of that signage. Again,
24 reminding myself and in talking with Shahla as well the purpose of the project, that it's a
25 temporary path, it's funded by an outside source. It was, if I'm not mistaken, an
26 environmental document mandate as part of the hospital environmental document.
27 Again, it wasn't something that was intended to be necessarily permanent, because the
28 future's a little bit unknown here. It did need to be improved. All of the signage was cut
29 way back. We really only have one directional sign. See if I can flip to that sheet here.
30 It's here, bear with me. There's the one sign that's out there right now. That's located up
31 at Location C. There is a Location A which is an existing sign that's located right now as
32 you come off of El Camino. Those two signs are basically going to move anywhere from
33 3-4 feet to a different location, but exactly right where they are. We're not going to
34 change the information. They don't need restoration. Again, why change what's
35 working? The only sign we did add was "B" which doesn't exist right now as you come
36 in from that lower path. Whether you're again a walker or a biker, a very short sign, you
37 can see it in the exhibit there, nothing that is out of the ordinary or in your face or loud.
38 We did add the one sign. I think the last thing in response to the comments last time that
39 I wanted to bring to your attention is you can see on this exhibit the amount of green
40 that's in there. The description of the project talks about sort of greening and beautifying
41 this particular corridor, and that's exactly what we've reacted to and done. We have also



1 met—we had a great discussion with Dave Dockter, frankly, in the field. Daren, I think
2 he's ...
3

4 Daren Anderson: (inaudible)
5

6 Mr. Schneider: Exactly. I wasn't sure if he was a landscape architect. His knowledge of
7 plant material and what works and doesn't work in the City has always been a resource
8 for us. He and our in-house landscape architects met, talked in the field. I was there
9 myself looking at some of the signage and the grading as we were developing the plans.
10 Just a great system of layered in color, natural planting, low water use, really what you'd
11 expect out of something like this. I think that was in large part the bulk of the comments.
12 A couple of comments might have sort of gone away in essence because we're back on
13 the existing alignment. There were comments about cost and why and those kinds of
14 things, but I think we've addressed everything. I would welcome any new comments or
15 questions.
16

17 Chair Lauing: Is this 100 percent funded by Stanford?
18

19 Mr. Schneider: Yes.
20

21 Chair Lauing: Comments from Commissioners? Commissioner Reckdahl.
22

23 Commissioner Reckdahl: It looks nice; I like the design. I still look at the price tag of
24 \$300,000 and say that's a lot of money. What would happen if we didn't build it? What
25 would happen to the money?
26

27 Ms. Yazdy: It's part of the mitigation for the Stanford Hospital. This was identified as
28 one of the mitigation requirements. We are required to do this project, make it safer, add
29 lighting, just basically make it a safer path for both pedestrians and bicyclists.
30

31 Commissioner Reckdahl: What timeline are we required to build this on?
32

33 Ms. Yazdy: It's a pretty fast track. As soon as we get the ball rolling, we're going to have
34 to submit final plans and go out to bid this summer. Project completion needs to be prior
35 to issuance of the permit, which is scheduled for spring of 2017.
36

37 Commissioner Reckdahl: I have one other question about the decomposed gravel on the
38 outside. Is the plan that the center part will be reserved for bicycles and we expect
39 pedestrians will be using the side? Will it be marked at all?
40

41 Mr. Schneider: No. The cross-section is a typical cross-section for a Class 1 multiuse
42 path. Realistically, the only thing that is striped or designated is the center. Half of it, 6

1 feet on one side and 6 feet on the other side, is designated for traffic in either direction. It
2 does not designate the middle for pedestrians or the outside for bicyclists. The only
3 reason why we just don't do 12—you can do 12 feet of asphalt, you can do 12 feet of
4 concrete. We try to do a more reasonable section of asphalt to control costs and the
5 decomposed granite on the outside to even reduce the cost further and also to basically
6 reduce some of the runoff that this type of project would create for storm water. It's a
7 little bit of a sustainability trick as well as an aesthetic trick. It is not designated for one
8 versus the other.

9
10 Commissioner Reckdahl: There's no signage telling people how to use it (crosstalk).

11
12 Mr. Schneider: No. You can see the striping on the ground basically tells you it's a
13 shared use. Being out there for the past few years working on the other side of the park
14 and watching how people use the trails, it's pretty well known that you stay on your left
15 and a walker will typically come off to the right and a bicyclist will go down the middle.

16
17 Commissioner Reckdahl: Finally, the plantings. They're mostly native plants?

18
19 Mr. Schneider: They are almost all native plants. Everything is going to fall, number
20 one, in accordance with AB 1881 and the Model Water Efficiency Ordinance for
21 landscaping, so everything has to be low water use.

22
23 Commissioner Reckdahl: With native plants, is there any chance that once they're
24 established we can not water at all or are we stuck watering?

25
26 Mr. Anderson: I'll just chime in. In a lot of areas where we're doing these things, we will
27 try it out. We will turn off the water and see what sustains. That becomes the dominant
28 plant species, especially in time of drought where we've got to make these tough choices.
29 A lot of times on the plan you put it in, it's hard to say, and you're going to irrigate it all
30 until it's all established, which can be up to a year or more depending on the species, and
31 then we'll trickle it down and see what does well and kind of go from there and do a little
32 balancing act. The native species do pretty darn well without irrigation.

33
34 Commissioner Reckdahl: I just have a comment about the curve. This is a much sharper
35 curve than before, but I think that's okay. This is a very short segment; it only takes
36 about a minute to walk from one end to the other. On a bike, it's a matter of seconds. I
37 don't think we need a raceway to maximize the speed of the bicycles, and they'll just slow
38 down for the corner, but that's not going to be a significant amount of time. This is a
39 better design than the previous one. Thank you.

40
41 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Hetterly.

1 Commissioner Hetterly: I want to say thanks for giving it another look. I like this
2 alignment a lot better. I really appreciate that you all took to heart all of our comments. I
3 think most of them are very well addressed. I just have one question about the pavement.
4 I think it's just asphalt. The other side of El Camino Park—I may remember this
5 wrong—I thought we had a permeable pavement on that path. Is that something that was
6 considered for this path as well and rejected? If so, why?

7
8 Mr. Schneider: You're 100 percent correct. We have porous concrete over a pervious
9 gravel section over along the tulip trees on the piece that goes from Alma over to almost
10 all the way to the entrance to this historic oak that's out there. It was because we were in
11 the drip line of the trees. It's definitely more costly. As we're developing the
12 improvement plans right now and as a result of our meeting with Dave Dockter, there is
13 an oak tree—I don't know if you can see my cursor—right here to the bottom part of the
14 "Y," that does have quite a bit of an overhang into the path. There is a small section of
15 that same material that we're considering right there as mitigation for the roots. It's more
16 of a construction document kind of thing, but we are considering that. We do currently
17 have a line item in the project budget to take care of that, so it will not drive the price up
18 from where it is now. We just hadn't gotten to the point where we knew exactly where
19 and how much of it.

20
21 Commissioner Hetterly: Thank you.

22
23 Chair Lauing: Down this way. Commissioner Moss?

24
25 Commissioner Moss: Two questions. When we brought this up last time, we were
26 worried that maybe the big plan for the Transit Center would take part of this and it
27 would be a waste of money. Do we have any more idea since last month about when
28 they're going to start looking at that transit plan and whether or not they would extend
29 into this area at all?

30
31 Ms. Yazdy: I'm afraid I don't have any more information as far as when. I think right
32 now the drive is to get this completed before the hospital opens. I was told this will be
33 temporary, 5-7 years. I'm sure within that timeframe they're going to start the design or
34 at least looking into options.

35
36 Commissioner Moss: The second question is on the right of it and the left of it, what's
37 there now? Is that undeveloped fields or is that—what is on the sides of that project?

38
39 Mr. Schneider: On the upper left corner of your screen, sort of between the curve of the
40 transit, the fence of the park, the Olympic grove, it's almost a little triangle, the largest
41 mass there. Right now that is just completely empty. It's recycled bark mulch. It's not in
42 piles; it's just spread out there as more of a weed mitigation. There's really nothing out

1 there. On the right-hand side of it between the parking lot of the Red Cross and the path,
2 again it's a lot of bark mulch. It's a pretty barren area. In fact, there's one dead cedar tree
3 that's been requested to take out as part of this project; it's becoming a bit of a safety
4 hazard. It will come out, and some of that area will get a little bit restored with the
5 planting that we have in here. The area along El Camino Real, there's a nice split-rail
6 fence there with some pretty mature Manzanita that seem to be growing pretty well.
7 We'll probably add a little bit of water to them, and they'll fill out as well. It's a little bit
8 more developed there. As you come down to the bottom part of the path that runs across
9 your screen, it too is just a fairly open area. There's a lot of oak trees in there. It looks
10 very sort of untouched. We're going to blend—you can see the shape that follows this,
11 the gray pattern in there. There's the green, and then there's a shape of where some of our
12 improvements are going to go to spruce up that bark and create a little bit more of a
13 natural transition into that.

14
15 Commissioner Moss: That leads to my last question which is what to do with those
16 areas. I think the plan is that when the Transit Center is done and you know what's left,
17 then we develop it fully as a parkland with lawns or picnic tables or more parking or
18 whatever.

19
20 Mr. Anderson: I think that's right. There's likely to be some interim measure. I'd hate to
21 just have that land sitting idle for 5 years or some nebulous amount of time. I think the
22 Parks Master Plan will help identify whether it's a butterfly garden and we seed it with
23 natives. That way it's not a huge investment. There's lots of different things we could
24 look at. The Master Plan will, I think, address the short term or intermediate term. After
25 the 5-7 years, once the plan's identified for exactly what's going to happen for the transit
26 improvements, then we come in and use the parkland to the best of our abilities with
27 what's remaining.

28
29 Chair Lauing: You have comments? Commissioner Cribbs.

30
31 Commissioner Cribbs: I just think that I'm kind of wrestling with spending all this
32 money for something that's temporary.

33
34 Chair Lauing: All of Stanford's money.

35
36 Commissioner Cribbs: I don't think it matters whose money it is. I just think it's the
37 spending of the money. I understand it's a mitigation and all of that. If there were some
38 way to push it off so it could be used as part of whatever gets spent for the next phase, I
39 would feel much better about it. That's all.

40
41 Chair Lauing: It doesn't feel like that's an option, though.

1 Commissioner Cribbs: No.

2
3 Chair Lauing: Any other comments? Thanks for listening last time and constructively
4 redesigning a little bit. Looks like it's good to go.

5
6 **4. Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Facilities Master Plan**

7
8 Chair Lauing: The next agenda item is the Master Plan review of these next pieces of
9 that puzzle. I think it's both Kristen and Peter Jensen. What kind of format would you
10 like to start with on going over all the materials that were in the packet and the handout
11 that you just gave us?

12
13 Ms. O'Kane: I'll go ahead and start. Kristen O'Kane, Assistant Director with Community
14 Services. I'll be presenting along with Peter Jensen, Landscape Architect with our Public
15 Works Department, on the latest on the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master
16 Plan. We have a short presentation, and then I'll do the first portion of the presentation
17 related to our policies and programs. I'll turn it over to Peter to talk about the site concept
18 plans in front of you. In your packet, we included what will become Chapter 5 of the
19 Master Plan document. This document includes the goals, policies and the programs that
20 staff have developed to date. I did want to point out that since the latest version, we did
21 make some changes to the policies. Most of them were very minor, and these changes
22 came out of the process as we were developing the programs. It gave us the opportunity
23 to look at the policies a little bit deeper and to see how the programs fit in. That resulted
24 in some changes. There were three changes to the policies that I think were more
25 significant, that I just wanted to bring to your attention, which I did in the staff report.
26 The first of those is Policy 1B. We did talk about this at our last meeting in April.
27 Commissioner Hetterly gave a bit of a summary on why we made this change. Policy
28 1.B is the policy related to the National Recreation and Park Association standard that's
29 currently referenced in the Comprehensive Plan. In looking into that a little bit deeper,
30 we realized that the NRPA's standard differentiates between neighborhood parks and
31 district parks. That didn't really correlate to what Palo Alto has. We revised the policy to
32 recognize that standard and to use it as a guide, but we removed the distinction between
33 the neighborhood parks and the district parks. That also allows us to count some of our
34 parks that we have that are very small in size, but yet provide a benefit to the community,
35 into our calculation of how much parkland we have. We added additional language about
36 how we feel the parkland should be distributed across the community and that it should
37 be sufficient size to meet the needs of the neighborhoods. Included at the end, a
38 maximum service area of one-half mile. We'll still include the NRPA standard as a
39 sidebar in the Master Plan, but this will be the policy that we'll use. The next one is
40 Policy 4.C. This is a development of the Comprehensive Conservation Plans for the
41 Baylands, Foothills Park, Esther Clark and the Arastradero Preserve. While we do feel
42 this is very important and it will still be in the Master Plan, we thought it was more of a

1 program as opposed to a policy. Instead of it being a policy—it was Policy 4.C—we've
2 now moved it to a program under Policy 4.G. It's still in there, and we still feel it's
3 important. We just felt it was more of a program. The last one, Policy 5.E. This policy
4 we deleted altogether. We felt that the process for identifying new parks is part of the
5 development agreement process. It's already an established process within the Planning
6 Department, and that's run by the Planning Department. We decided to pull it out of this
7 document, because it's already addressed through the Planning Department. We also felt
8 like the word "encourage" at the beginning of the policy didn't make it very strong as far
9 as it wouldn't be very implementable with just the term "encourage" at the front. That's
10 why we went with delete for that one. Before I move on to a discussion on programs, is
11 there any comments on the policy changes? One other quick thing. In Attachment A, we
12 did include a summary of all of the changes we made to the policies. There's two
13 columns, what we had before and then the revised policy is in the second column. The
14 other changes were pretty minor, we felt. I just wanted to focus on these three that were a
15 bit more significant.

16
17 Commissioner Moss: With the change in the 1.B, how much of a deficit do we now
18 have? In the past we had like 88 acres or something deficit in neighborhood parks. With
19 the new definition, how much of a deficit do we have now?

20
21 Ms. O'Kane: I'll need to look at that again, now that we're not differentiating between
22 neighborhood and district. Commissioner Hetterly, I think you went through that.

23
24 Commissioner Hetterly: It's still an 88-acre deficit, maybe an acre less if we add in all
25 the mini parks that were under the threshold before. It's not a significant change. We
26 didn't magically create new parks. A change in the way we talked about them.

27
28 Ms. O'Kane: The goal was not to sort of pad our numbers, I guess. It was just to be more
29 indicative of what we have in Palo Alto, to make it more transferrable to Palo Alto's
30 scenario.

31
32 Commissioner Moss: It makes a big difference because if you treat the Baylands and you
33 treat Arastradero as something like a neighborhood park or a neighborhood park to some
34 people, then you do reduce the 88 acres. I thought that was the reason for the change, but
35 I guess not.

36
37 Commissioner Hetterly: The reason for the change was really to eliminate confusion
38 over what's a district park and what's a neighborhood park. In all of them, including the
39 National Park standards, they're referring to the urban parks, not big regional parks. The
40 open space has never been part of the conversation around this standard.

41
42 Chair Lauing: Was that it? David? Was that all your comments?

1
2 Commissioner Moss: That's it.
3

4 Chair Lauing: Just a quick comment. I think there was some good wordsmithing on
5 these revises here. When you put in to collect and evaluate data on changing interests of
6 the community as opposed to needs, that's very different, and I think it captures it better
7 now in terms of what we're actually going after. There were a couple more like that. My
8 only question was I understand that the Planning Department is kind of in charge of
9 development agreements and so on. There's sort of a visibility issue that's of slight
10 concern of how are we going to know about these things as well as kind of a built-in—
11 maybe being too formal—a little bit of a checks and balance between the two semi-
12 legislative groups. Some of the other things that you've talked about in these policies of
13 proactive discussions with other departments and other Commissions and so on is going
14 to have to have some emphasis there, so that Parks knows what's going on and what's
15 coming up. Generally we wouldn't know about new developments that are happening.
16

17 Ms. O'Kane: That's a good point. I think maybe we can look back at the programs and
18 see if we can add additional language that sort of keeps CSD and the Planning
19 Department have regular communication. We could even report back to the Commission
20 on that. We could include that, just to get a bit more in-depth as far as collaborating with
21 other departments. We could include that as well.
22

23 Chair Lauing: I think that'd be good, because we're not generally reading the minutes of
24 those meetings. Did you have another comment? That's what I thought. Go ahead.
25

26 Commissioner Hetterly: I agree with Commissioner Lauing on that last point. It made
27 me a little nervous getting rid of that policy mostly because I think what we're looking for
28 is more than just following the parkland dedication rules. We're really looking for some
29 collaboration across the departments to figure out the best way to incorporate parkland
30 into these private developments, if and when it's possible to do that. I was really looking
31 for something that would be more proactive, rather than just saying that's their job,
32 they're going to do it. I think that Community Services Department has a lot of expertise
33 in that area that may help facilitate that process. I would like to see something in there
34 that builds that relationship between the two departments. I do think that there was a
35 similar program that kind of gets at that. I don't want to jump too far ahead, but I will for
36 this. On page 3 of the next document, Program 1.C.2 says establish a review step in the
37 Planning and Community Environment Department for any major redevelopment or
38 repurchase of (inaudible) land in park search areas and maybe something similar to that
39 could be associated with the development agreement process. Thanks.
40

41 Chair Lauing: Was that all of your comments?
42

1 Commissioner Hetterly: I have a lot of comments on the next document.

2
3 Ms. O'Kane: Ready to move on?

4
5 Chair Lauing: Back to you, Kristen.

6
7 Ms. O'Kane: That's a really good transition into the next topic which is our programs. I
8 just wanted to point out a few things. We originally differentiated between a project and
9 a program. We're calling them all programs, whether it's a project or a program. The
10 reason for this is, one, it got very complicated. Two, it now mirrors the Comprehensive
11 Plan. The Comp Plan structure is goal, policy, then program, as well as the Urban Forest
12 Master Plan. We wanted to keep that same framework for this Master Plan as well. The
13 programs represent potential new and enhanced amenities as well as recreation
14 programming. The programs were developed from the physical inventory that we did at
15 the beginning of our Master Planning process, community and stakeholder feedback, the
16 areas of focus that came out of that community and stakeholder engagement process, as
17 well as input from the Parks and Rec Commission as well as staff. We did vet these
18 programs with our Recreation staff and Park staff. That's how we have the programs in
19 place. We are also going to have a lot of our programs reviewed by some of our other
20 departments like the police, fire, the public safety department, to make sure that anything
21 that we're proposing doesn't raise a concern with any of those departments. That's all I
22 have for a presentation on the programs, but I did want to hear comments. All the
23 programs that we have in place so far are in Attachment B in your packet. I will also
24 point out that there are some policies that do not have programs associated with them.
25 There's two where there is a placeholder for programs, where we felt that there probably
26 do need to be programs under those policies, but those have not been developed as of yet.
27 There's other policies that do not have the placeholder for programs. I think that's okay.
28 I think it's okay to have some policies without programs, because those policies are very
29 descriptive. If any of you have a difference of opinion on that, I'd be happy to hear it. At
30 this time, we can take any comments or feedback you have on the programs.

31
32 Chair Lauing: Let's just talk for a minute about how to structure this and organize it, just
33 to make sure we're productive. Just kind of overview. I wanted this whole area of
34 program prioritization and implementation, because that still all needs to be done. We've
35 been talking about that for a few months and correctly postponed it. If you're saying that
36 the programs in the draft document here kind of are doing that, then we still need to put a
37 timeline on that. I guess the question for tonight's discussion and for the future is where
38 does that come in, where are we putting those on the 5, 10, 15-year timeline to prioritize
39 them and so on. Is that next month's meeting?

40
41 Ms. O'Kane: That is the next step, and we are going through that phase internally right
42 now. We're looking at what could be done in the 5, 10, 20 years and also what the cost



1 would be associated with that. When we add the cost to it, that's going to be a big
2 component as to what actually goes in the Master Plan. Did you have anything to add to
3 that?
4

5 Chair Lauing: There might be some comments tonight about the section that you got for
6 program prioritization and implementation. It looked like at one point you're saying we're
7 not going to actually score it as we were talking before. In another point, it looked like
8 you were. That's one section that I think we might want to give a little bit of time to.
9 Everybody join in here if you agree or disagree with some of the things that I'm saying.
10 You guys have done a lot of work on these specific programs, but it's 17 pages of
11 programs that we haven't seen before, nor has the ad hoc. What's the best way to go
12 through that is another question. A third overall question is there's a lot of discussion
13 here that's been added about maintaining cultural diversity. When you get to the
14 demographics, however, the only two demographics that I saw referenced in all these
15 programs was low income and teens. Where we had started the plan, I thought, was
16 looking at what are the needs of all the various segments from Hispanics to seniors to
17 teens to kids to adults and so on. I just don't see that aligning with the program. I'm
18 wondering if that's a different document or that needs to be in this. I'm looking for help
19 here, but it looks to me like those are three areas that we should discuss tonight, and
20 they're not overlapping at all. Is that okay, folks? Is that the right kind of batting order to
21 talk about prioritization first or last? Why don't I just try to get it on the table, if it's
22 okay?
23

24 Ms. O'Kane: I think last.
25

26 Chair Lauing: Just to see where we're going with that. On page 3 of your overview
27 document, you referenced it first on page 1 as Phase 2 prioritization of projects into an
28 implementation timeline. You comment that these criteria—I'm in the middle of page
29 3—would not provide an overall score to a program, but will be used to be informed to
30 staff, PRC and Council and how it would serve the needs of the community. It seems
31 like you're now saying, "Let's use this more as an indicator rather than a raw score."
32 That's going to be applied. Then it says new programs that are proposed will be scored.
33 It seemed like you were making a difference there or maybe that wasn't intentional. That
34 was a typo? You all see where I'm reading there?
35

36 Ms. O'Kane: I do see that scored in there. It's confusing. We have been struggling with
37 this. Honestly, we did go through the process internally of staff scoring all of the
38 programs. There wasn't a big difference in a lot of the programs. We've just sort of
39 brainstormed on how we could rate all of these programs so that something does rise to
40 the top. We thought of this idea of ranking things in an initial vetting process of does it
41 meet these certain criteria, low, medium and high. For those that are high, then we would
42 bring in this additional ranking system. It's not even really a ranking system, but it's a

1 system that will say is there issues logistically with—do Park staff see there's going to be
2 issues logistically? Are there concerns with, I think, some of our health and safety
3 departments? Is the budget implications extremely high? There's all these different
4 factors that we may not know at this very moment, especially in 10 years. The needs of
5 the community or the desires of the community may be different in 10 years than they are
6 now. What we've been contemplating is whether it's best to score everything now so we
7 have this prioritization list or is it better to look at them in groups, like the first 5 years,
8 the first 10 years, 15, 20 years and group them into what can we do in the next 5 years
9 and these things we will do because of X, Y and Z. We're still sort of trying to work that
10 out. We're not sure that the scoring system that we originally had proposed is necessarily
11 the way to go. We're trying to come up with a way where we can each year thoughtfully
12 proposed projects based on a certain set of criteria, but they may not necessarily have a
13 score of 50, 45, down the list. That's where we are with that.

14
15 Chair Lauing: That scoring system was controversial to this panel as soon as it was
16 presented for the reasons that you just underscored, which is that everything is going to
17 come out looking great, which it seems like it did in your own confabs.

18
19 Ms. O'Kane: There are some. I will say there were quite a few that scored quite low for
20 us. It wasn't a clear ranking. There was some at the very bottom, a lot at the top, and
21 some in the middle. When you bring in these other factors, logistics, feasibility to
22 construct, feasibility to maintain, that may move those things around on the scoring list.
23 Then it didn't seem like it was necessarily the right way to go.

24
25 Chair Lauing: That was the second thing with respect to the document here. It used
26 that—what do we call that—fill existing gaps and address community preferences that we
27 worked a lot on. Generally the Commission thought they made sense. There's sort of a
28 disclaimer here, in the next paragraph, with those bullet points that basically say all of
29 these bullet points would trump all that. Sorry for using that word. Overrule all that. I
30 started thinking that it's quite fuzzy at this point. If we're going to say the length of time
31 to plan and implement is some sort of constraint that means we shouldn't do it, I don't
32 even think that's right. We're trying to make a 20-year plan here. I think we've said from
33 the get-go if this is something that needs to be done 10 years out and costs \$20 million, if
34 that's what's really needed for the City in 10 or 20 years, then we step up and do it.
35 Length of time to plan or implement or construct is not irrelevant cost-wise, but it may be
36 irrelevant priority-wise. That caused concern. When you say overall feasibility, you
37 guys can do anything. Everything's feasible. You can do anything if you have the right
38 amount of staffing and commitment and so on. I was really worried about that one as
39 well. The reason I'm raising it now on behalf of the Commission is that you don't want to
40 spend a couple more months doing scoring on this if we're not kind of aligned, I don't
41 think, on what makes the most sense to get to the outcome. Welcome your feedback on it
42 as well as my colleagues'. Commissioner Moss.

1
2 Commissioner Moss: One more comment. We don't have to have everything prioritized
3 in order to go the next step to the City Council to get the plan approved, do we? The plan
4 that you have here has all of the goals, policies and programs without any prioritization.
5 Isn't that good enough to go to the City Council next month?
6

7 Chair Lauing: I don't think so.
8

9 Commissioner Hetterly: Next month, for their study session?
10

11 Chair Lauing: Next month. Sorry, I missed that. In terms of approval of the Master
12 Plan, there has to be a timeline for some of these projects.
13

14 Commissioner Moss: That could take, as you said, months and months. Don't you want
15 to get approval for the list before you do prioritization?
16

17 Chair Lauing: Next month is not an approval. It's just the status, a study session with
18 City Council on where the situation is, where the Master Plan is. The intent is not to have
19 the Master Plan approved by Council. It's actually this month, I guess, at the end of this
20 month.
21

22 Commissioner Moss: You're saying that in order to have the Master Plan, you must have
23 a timeline. If you have to have a timeline, how detailed does it have to be?
24

25 Chair Lauing: To me, that's a better question. We're in this collaboratively, and you've
26 got to make the presentation, but I don't think we can get a Master Plan approved that has
27 no suggestions for what's done in the first 5 years, the first 10 years or the next 25 years.
28

29 Ms. O'Kane: I agree. I think Council is also interested in how much will this Master
30 Plan ultimately cost if everything in the Master Plan is implemented. They're also
31 interested in when will things be implemented. One of the things we proposed, like I said
32 earlier, what may be relevant now may not be relative in 10 years. What we're
33 contemplating is maybe we show to Council what we think is the best way to move
34 forward for the next 5 years and what are the cost implications of that, and sort of leave
35 the implementation plan to the first 5 years knowing that things may change significantly
36 after the first 5 years. That's sort of where—just back to your point, Chair Lauing, about
37 the length of time to plan, implement and/or construct. What that meant is not that
38 something wouldn't be done because of a certain length of time to plan, implement or
39 construct. It just means that it may be pushed out to the end of the 20-year timeframe as
40 opposed to we want to do something in the next 3 years. That's really going to dictate
41 what that project is in the next 3 years. If something takes 10 years, we ...
42

1 Chair Lauing: That's a good clarification. It's just that ideally you would do the highest
2 priority things, no matter if they were expensive or took too long. You wouldn't do just
3 the short-term things because it's low hanging fruit and we can get a lot done in the first 2
4 years.

5
6 Ms. O'Kane: What we were trying to say here is that there's a lot of different—we could
7 say we have all these programs, and this is the order we're going to do them in. In reality,
8 there's a lot of other internal factors that come into play when making these decisions.
9 That's really what this was trying to point out. Again, with the overall feasibility based
10 on staff knowledge and expertise, permitting and things like that, it's that same thought
11 process that what we think we may be able to do now—Daren has a certain amount of
12 staff today. Maybe there's a different amount of staff in 7 years. That may also dictate
13 what we do 7 years from now.

14
15 Peter Jensen: I would say in terms of prioritization, starting to look at the budget or the
16 funding aspects of what is being proposed and how our current system is set up now,
17 where we already have parks that are set up on specific times to be renovated. As we
18 started to basically cross-reference what was new and the timeline of what was renovated,
19 you could start then hooking up the new with the renovated to make a bigger project. It
20 helps to dictate or provide a guideline or framework of when these things would happen.
21 I think that's how we started to just look at the criteria, if it was high, medium or low,
22 instead of ranking it. All those things that we are prioritizing are things that are going to
23 be or want to be part of the Master Plan. They wouldn't be something we would look at
24 if they're weren't. We can start to see that they can start to be slotted in this way without
25 being scored and having a number score that could be looked at and scrutinized and try to
26 decipher how that score came to be when we could just give a high, medium or low. We
27 are starting to look at the times when money is allotted to start to prioritize when projects
28 will come to be.

29
30 Chair Lauing: Any other comments on the prioritization issues? Did you have some?

31
32 Commissioner Hetterly: Yeah. I just wanted to confirm that what we're talking about is
33 the programs in this document is the whole universe of programs that you're proposing to
34 include in the Master Plan. We're talking about prioritizing these specific programs
35 across a timeline. Is that right?

36
37 Mr. Jensen: I would say we don't have to prioritize the specific programs that are in here.
38 They're usually more general. They don't talk specifically that you're going to build a
39 dog park here or have a restroom there. When it comes down to the prioritization, that'll
40 be the part that's prioritized when those things go, the actual specific projects. The
41 programs in this document allude to multiple projects in themselves.

1 Commissioner Hetterly: The Master Plan we lay out here are goals, policies and
2 programs. Under this program, these are the projects that we want to get done in the first
3 5 years. Under this program, these are the projects that ... That's what we're looking at
4 here. The prioritization is not around the programs; it's around the specific site
5 developments or specific program function. Thanks.

6
7 Chair Lauing: David.

8
9 Commissioner Moss: The prioritization of programs versus these individual projects, I
10 was sort of thinking that all of the programs more or less had an equal prioritization. We
11 wanted to look at every project that we get and prioritize more at that level. Going back
12 to his comment originally about cultural diversity, we want to have something for
13 everybody. These programs cover a broad range. There's something in here for
14 everybody. Why wouldn't you handle them more or less equally at this level? Maybe
15 there's a little bit of prioritization. For instance, expanding and getting new parkland
16 should be—you can't wait 10 years or 20 years for that. You have to do something now.
17 What do you think about that? About not prioritizing too much at the program level.
18 Does that make sense? How would you prioritize?

19
20 Chair Lauing: Are you asking ...

21
22 Commissioner Moss: Do we need an offsite to go through and meet on this as a group?

23
24 Chair Lauing: There's already an ad hoc which could be used for some of this
25 processing. I don't see how you can't prioritize. At some point, Council's going to make
26 decision. If they say that parkland is a low priority instead of a high priority, but dog
27 parks are a high priority instead of a low priority, that's the priority. Staff should come in
28 with a recommendation hopefully as consistent as possible with our perspective, because
29 all things aren't created equal. To segue to my other question that maybe we can move
30 over to now. One way of answering your question is what if there was a crying need for
31 lots of new facilities for seniors. We've done the statistical analysis; there's going to be a
32 lot more seniors. We've done the park inventory, and there's not enough close to where
33 the seniors are living. That should be called out as a much higher priority than X, Y, Z
34 demographic that may be perfectly well served at this point. That's the rigor that, I think,
35 we're trying to get from the consultant through all these months and years to get to some
36 real recommendations like that, which I don't see here yet. The verbiage around the
37 programs, I thought, was really good. I'm just not seeing that kind of connection of the
38 demographics and the trends and the projections of population growth and that kind of
39 thing. Comments on that? Commissioner Hetterly.

40
41 Commissioner Hetterly: I actually didn't notice that at all. I thought it was pretty clear
42 that there was a focus on youth and teens and there was a focus on seniors and there was

1 a focus on cultural groups that we haven't engaged to date very thoroughly in community
2 Services programs.

3
4 Chair Lauing: Let me rephrase my question. As an attorney, you can rephrase your
5 question. The question is are we prioritizing the right demographics with the references
6 to—I saw teens very strikingly, and I saw cultural diversity, and I saw—what was the
7 third one I mentioned? Low income, accessibility regardless of price. I don't see specific
8 cultural groups called out or specific age groups of kids or specific age groups of adults.
9 That may be okay, but I'm saying are we tying the statistics and the growth to the right
10 demographics when we're doing the words here. We'll leave it as a question.
11 Commissioner Cribbs.

12
13 Commissioner Cribbs: I'm still trying to catch up here. I'm wondering if it's possible to
14 take the first in the Attachment B, to take the first policy, 1A, and just go through the
15 programs there and do kind of a sample what would we prioritize.

16
17 Chair Lauing: I think we can still do that now.

18
19 Commissioner Cribbs: If we can do that, is it possible that we can put cost to that yet or
20 not? That was a concern way back, I think.

21
22 Chair Lauing: I don't think that's ...

23
24 Commissioner Cribbs: It's not possible yet.

25
26 Chair Lauing: That's in process now.

27
28 Mr. Jensen: That's being worked on now.

29
30 Commissioner Cribbs: Is it possible that we could do like they do for restaurants, a lot of
31 dollar signs if it's really expensive and one dollar sign if it's not? Maybe that's already in
32 there, isn't it? No. Just to sort of guess. Maybe that's not worthwhile.

33
34 Chair Lauing: If we want to go through programs, I think that's great. I just wanted to
35 get these preliminary things out on the table about prioritization.

36
37 Commissioner Cribbs: I think that was really important, especially the part about the
38 demographics.

39
40 Chair Lauing: Let's raise the question again then. How do we want to go through 18
41 pages of programs?
42

1 Commissioner Hetterly: Can I ask a clarifying question ...

2
3 Chair Lauing: Yes.

4
5 Commissioner Hetterly: ... because I'm more confused now than I was when I started out
6 here. I thought that the goals, policies and programs, we were talking about whether
7 these programs represent all of the programs we want the Master Plan to represent. I
8 understood that there was not—as Commissioner Moss was saying, we're not trying to
9 prioritize among these programs in this document. The prioritization falls under the
10 projects that would implement those programs. Is that right?

11
12 Ms. O'Kane: That's correct. I'll use an example of Program 1A3, develop a teen advisory
13 committee. We could do that next month. That's isn't something that needs to
14 necessarily go on a prioritization list. There's things that are the more programmatic
15 things that staff can implement. Establishing more communication with other City
16 departments, with other entities, those are things I don't think need to necessarily be
17 prioritized either, because we can just do them. You're correct that it's more of we've
18 identified dog parks, which dog park goes in first. We've identified parks that need
19 restrooms, which restroom goes in first? Those are really the things that need to be
20 prioritized.

21
22 Commissioner Hetterly: There's no implied hierarchy to the way the programs are listed
23 in this document. We don't have to prioritize and make sure this comes first, that comes
24 second. Is that what you all were talking about?

25
26 Chair Lauing: Yeah, except that it seems like some of these that we've talked about
27 before, such as dog parks and restrooms—I have to find these; I didn't annotate these—
28 are sort of very high priorities. Are those just high priority programs? Is that how you
29 think about that?

30
31 Mr. Jensen: There are high priority specific projects for a specific site. As Jen was
32 saying, the programs that are found in this document aren't really meant to be prioritized.
33 They are the priority that the analysis and the community has brought up already, that we
34 want to see in the Master Plan. We want these things. It's tied to what we're going to talk
35 about next, the specific site concepts plans, and start to talk about specific things at
36 specific locations. Those are the things to be prioritized. Right now what that is doing,
37 what I was alluding to earlier, is we're looking at the projects that are already on the
38 books and what they include and adding these new elements to those projects. That's
39 how we're aligning the projects right now. We start to look that we know we want a dog
40 part immediately, where can we do that. That may just be a separate, standalone project
41 that we prioritize. The majority of them will be folded into a capital improvement project
42 that's already set on a specific timeline. Of course, everything that's being proposed in

1 those books is kind of the maximum of what you can have. We can't have all that stuff.
2 That's asking you to start to prioritize as you go through the concept plans and to look at
3 them and give us feedback on which specifically of those elements are a higher priority to
4 do. Some of them will drop off just because of the funding it's going to take to pull the
5 whole thing off. Things that we've done specific, more work on like restrooms and dog
6 parks, where we've already identified specific sites. Those sites are definite; we are going
7 to do them. It is now looking at the timeline and how they're prioritized, which one and
8 where is it going to be first, that it's going to be implemented at. Again, it's looking at
9 what's the next project that comes along that we can tie. There's a renovation project for
10 Rinconada in 2018; we can add another \$300,000, \$400,000 to that and add another
11 bathroom or playground. We can start to set up our timeline of these projects and
12 funding. Once we have that—again there will be other things, like I said. For Pardee
13 Park, it's next time for renovation is way in the future because we just did it. We have
14 noticed that would be a good location for a dog park and would probably want to act
15 quickly on getting one there. That would be a separate, standalone project that we would
16 put as a separate project.

17
18 Chair Lauing: Back to the question of what would be helpful for all of us relative to
19 these 18 pages of programs.

20
21 Mr. Jensen: I think the goal was to, as far as the programs go, look at what we have and
22 either decide if they were right and the right language or if we have missed something
23 there that you think should be a project, that's not in that list.

24
25 Ms. O'Kane: Correct. I think it's mostly any gaps, anything that we've really missed,
26 anything maybe that's missed the mark completely. As far as wordsmithing, we probably
27 don't need to get into that tonight.

28
29 Chair Lauing: Let's just jump on then with Policy 1.

30
31 Commissioner Hetterly: I have some comments on Policy 1. I think that we should add
32 seniors to that first bullet, for advanced skills, build community, improve the quality of
33 life among participants. Not just call out youth, teens and seniors. Program 1A2, which
34 is about free or low cost teen programs to develop life skills such as leadership and
35 community service, I wonder if we can't expand that to have free or low cost teen
36 programs that go beyond those kind of resume builder activities to things that teens see
37 differently. I think teens generally see community service and leadership, and that's
38 work. Something here, maybe mindfulness or something that's more about the kid,
39 individually as opposed to what they're trying to accomplish would be nice to add to that.
40 On the next page, 1A8, the last one, develop additional community gardens focusing on
41 underrepresented areas of the City. It was brought up at the community meeting this last
42 week and, I think, at previous meetings that community gardens are one of those funny



1 situations where it's really an individual benefit for gardeners. There was some concern
2 about that. I wonder if we can't add to this program or consider additional programs that
3 would—I know this costs money and staff—maybe consider community engagement
4 opportunities around those community garden programs, like maybe partnering with the
5 School District and setting up school workdays to help do their maintenance days or to do
6 some sort of cooking demonstration using produce from the gardeners or have a
7 community garden market on occasion. Something that brings the garden benefit out to
8 the broader community as opposed to just the individual gardeners. That's all I have on
9 1A. Do you want me to go through all of them?
10

11 Chair Lauing: No, let's just stay on Number 1 and go down. Let's just go right down and
12 then come back the other direction. That actually addressed a number of my questions.
13 Obviously we need to emphasize teens for all the reasons that we completely understand
14 in the community. It just looked like it was a teen-oriented spreading of the wealth of
15 affordability. I don't think I have anything else to add. Commissioner Reckdahl.
16

17 Commissioner Reckdahl: (inaudible) dovetail. I sent the staff a link. Rand just came out
18 with a big study about parkland, and they looked at thousands and thousands of park
19 users. What they came up with is that teen girls, women and seniors are underserved,
20 when you look at the number of park users. Middle-aged males and young males
21 outnumber women. The point was that we should make an effort to get more women
22 involved in using the parks and also more seniors. That does dovetail with adding seniors
23 to this. I would add women on that too. I don't know if that's the case in Palo Alto, but at
24 least nationwide women do not use the parks as much as men. On 1A, I would add
25 women. I was going to say underrepresented, but that's kind of fuzzy. I would say
26 women. My anecdotal evidence is that when I go to parks, I see a lot more guys playing
27 soccer than I see women, just pickup games. Pickup basketball games, there's a lot more
28 boys out there than girls. Policy 1B, develop a system to save and preserve funds ...
29

30 Chair Lauing: (inaudible)
31

32 Commissioner Reckdahl: Are we moving to 1B or just 1A? I'll hold off on 1A then.
33 That's it.
34

35 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Moss. No. Commissioner Cribbs.
36

37 Commissioner Cribbs: The 1A5, just a way to make sure that all sports could be
38 included, not just calling out specific sports. Definitely calling out pickleball.
39

40 Chair Lauing: Keep the floor and come back this way. Go on to 1B.
41

42 Commissioner Cribbs: No, I don't.

1
2 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Moss, 1B.
3

4 Commissioner Moss: I'm going to change what I said about prioritization. I think 1B.8
5 should be one of the higher priority ones. I don't know how we can—I think we should
6 prioritize some things over others.
7

8 Chair Lauing: That's not what we're ...
9

10 Commissioner Moss: As far as the wording, it's fine.
11

12 Chair Lauing: That's not what we're doing here now. The wording's okay?
13

14 Commissioner Moss: Yeah.
15

16 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Reckdahl.
17

18 Commissioner Reckdahl: My complaint about that is that I don't think the wording is
19 strong enough for 1B8. It says develop a system to save and reserve funds. That's kind
20 of like a world peace type thing. I think we have to say we need funding mechanisms. If
21 we don't get funding mechanisms, it's never going to happen. That's the primary problem
22 here; we don't have funding mechanisms that will allow us to save. That's far more
23 important than just the concept of saving for a park.
24

25 Chair Lauing: Wasn't that what a system was supposed to be? Could you be more
26 specific on funding?
27

28 Commissioner Reckdahl: We need a funding mechanism. We just can't have an account
29 that sits there, and we hope that money appears in it. We have to find new funding either
30 through taxes or through a dedicated stream from the Council that will expand the parks.
31 Otherwise, we'll never expand parks. That's all for 1B.
32

33 Chair Lauing: I'm good. 1B.
34

35 Commissioner Hetterly: My comment on 1B was I wondered if the policy should be use
36 the NRPA standard as a guide, blah, blah, blah, or if it should really be expand urban
37 parkland inventory using the National Recreation and Park Association standard as a
38 guide. That puts right up front that expansion is important. I also had the similar
39 reaction to 1B8 about a system. I wondered if we wanted to include more specifics about
40 a set-aside percentage out of development impact fees or if developing the system is the
41 process of looking at all the possibilities and coming up with a plan for how we're going
42 to fund it. I think that's an open question. I would like to add a program about

1 identifying and preserving existing recreation and park-like uses on City-controlled land
2 by dedicating it as parkland. There I'm talking about places like the Rinconada
3 community gardens, the Winter Lodge which we traded dedicated parkland for in order to
4 preserve for the community. We should dedicate that land that the Winter Lodge is on so
5 that it continues to be preserved for the community. It includes the Stanford playing
6 fields; they should be dedicated just like El Camino Park is dedicated. Even though we
7 don't own the land, it's a long-term lease. Tennis courts, I think a lot of our tennis courts
8 are not on dedicated parkland. That's a use we want to preserve for the community. I
9 don't know about the Ventura fields. I think they may not be dedicated; that's another
10 opportunity. We have several well sites plopped all around town that are really small, but
11 they are used as parks in many cases. We ought to make them mini parks and dedicate
12 them as parkland. I think that's a way to not only add to our parkland inventory, but also
13 preserve those uses. For the long term, I'd really like to see a program in there for that.
14 Another thing that came up at the Comp Plan Update Committee, an idea they really
15 loved was developing a program to accept real estate bequests, if people wanted to
16 bequeath their property to the City for park uses. I don't know if that's something that's
17 appropriate for this Master Plan or if it's really better suited to the Comp Plan alone,
18 because that's a real estate department thing. I throw it out there. Sorry, I have one on
19 the next page, 1B9, construct a new park in Park Search Area E which represents an area
20 in the City with the least park acreage. Further down the page, we have 1C3, says
21 acquire and develop new neighborhood park in each Park Search Area. I wondered if
22 those were intentionally separated out or if they should be combined.

23
24 Chair Lauing: Did you have anything else on C?

25
26 Commissioner Hetterly: No, I didn't.

27
28 Chair Lauing: I don't either.

29
30 Commissioner Cribbs: I just wanted to go back to—I'm sorry—the 1B8 to see if there's a
31 way to incorporate the opportunity for private funding into the other vehicles for funding
32 to become more aggressive about letting people know that there are opportunities for
33 private funding and there is a vehicle that we could use if the opportunity came up.

34
35 Ms. O'Kane: Was that for 1B1?

36
37 Commissioner Cribbs: I'm sorry.

38
39 Ms. O'Kane: Program 1B1, was that the ...

40
41 Commissioner Cribbs: 1B8. The one down at the bottom. It was just adding private.
42

1 Ms. O'Kane: No, I was asking for clarification on which program. Thank you.

2
3 Chair Lauing: Anne, did you have any other comments on 1C?

4
5 Commissioner Cribbs: None that haven't been (inaudible).

6
7 Chair Lauing: Jump on D then.

8
9 Commissioner Cribbs: No.

10
11 Commissioner Reckdahl: I don't have anything against 1D. This goes into that best
12 practices thing, but we won't go into that. I can resist. Go ahead.

13
14 Chair Lauing: I'm on the same page as Keith. Some of these things don't really have to
15 be policies. You just do whatever you want. I don't have any comments.

16
17 Commissioner Hetterly: I actually had that reaction in 1D as well, in particular to 1D2,
18 installing directional signs with the walking time to the next nearest park. That seems
19 like maybe something that doesn't rise to a Master Plan program, but I don't have strong
20 feelings about it.

21
22 Chair Lauing: Going to 1E then.

23
24 Commissioner Hetterly: 1E2 about universal park design. I'd like it to—this is a little bit
25 wordsmithing—say adopt a standard of universal park design for accessibility and add or
26 upgrade play areas and picnic facilities to meet and exceed the standards. The reason I
27 think that's a substantive change is I don't want to see us just throw away great equipment
28 that we have, that people love and maybe has a long history in the community just
29 because it doesn't meet those universal design standards. There are several parks I can
30 think of now where I'd rather meet those universal design standards by adding on
31 additional facilities. That's it for E.

32
33 Chair Lauing: No comment. E?

34
35 Commissioner Reckdahl: On E? No comment either.

36
37 Chair Lauing: F is to you, Anne.

38
39 Commissioner Cribbs: I think it's fine the way it is.

40
41 Commissioner Moss: I noticed that there were quite a few comments about swimming
42 pools and more swimming pools. Do we want to expand 1F to include swimming pools?

1 This is reviewing existing and updated needed. This is not to do with adding tennis
2 courts, is it? Is there a place where they talk about adding tennis courts or adding
3 swimming pools? Is there a program?
4

5 Ms. O'Kane: There is currently not a program for adding swimming pools or tennis
6 courts.
7

8 Chair Lauing: These are just the brokering policies for those two.
9

10 Commissioner Hetterly: I'm wondering if we have a use policy for (inaudible).
11

12 Chair Lauing: No.
13

14 Rob de Geus: Chair Lauing, I have a question.
15

16 Chair Lauing: Yeah, sure.
17

18 Mr. de Geus: A process question. Good evening, Commissioners. As we hear these
19 comments, we're sort of hearing them individually. I'm not sure if all the Commission
20 agrees with the comments. I want to be sure we're clear what's going to happen with
21 those comments, because some of them we may not agree with. An example is the
22 wayfinding sign. I actually think a policy around that is important, that we improve in a
23 strategic way how people move around and between parks, and we be creative about that
24 and innovative about that. Maybe some language needs to be changed to make it more
25 that. I just wanted to put it out there that maybe if there's something that an individual
26 Commissioner feels really strongly about, that you think it needs to change or you're
27 going to have trouble with it, you say as much as "opposed" to "I kind of have a comment
28 about this," "I don't really feel that strongly about it," "I think that'll help us." It may
29 come back with something still in there, and you say, "They didn't hear me." Maybe we
30 did hear you and have a different perspective.
31

32 Chair Lauing: Totally fair; helpful for the productivity as well. I think we're done with
33 F. Who's got G? I guess you have G. Just a practical question on 1G7. What does that
34 really mean to integrate art and nature on the bike lanes? You're obviously not going to
35 put a sculpture on a bike lane. Does that just mean make it look pretty? Make it look
36 nature-like?
37

38 Mr. Jensen: To make it look pretty.
39

40 Commissioner Reckdahl: This is for the dividers between—if you have a separator
41 between traffic and the bike lane, you would make that pretty? What are you making
42 look pretty?

1
2 Mr. Jensen: I think it depends on the specific design. It either is that or—it's basically
3 more the buffer space between the pathway and whatever is adjacent to it.
4

5 Ms. O'Kane: The policy is to encourage walking or biking. Making something more
6 aesthetically pleasing and making the experience more favorable to the user by adding art
7 or nature would encourage that.
8

9 Chair Lauing: David? No. No. We're on to 1H. Anne.
10

11 Commissioner Cribbs: No. That was fine.
12

13 Chair Lauing: No. Yes.
14

15 Commissioner Hetterly: Before I get to 1H, just to clarify my earlier comments. I don't
16 feel strongly about the bequeath suggestion or the mileage signs. You can go either way
17 on that. I do feel strongly about all the other things. I don't agree with Keith's
18 recommendation to include women in Policy 1A. In my experience in Palo Alto, I see far
19 more women and girls in parks that I see men, so I'm not convinced that it's a problem
20 that needs to be directly addressed in a program. Getting to 1H.1, conduct an annual
21 survey of cultural groups to identify gaps in recreation program. I think an annual survey
22 may be too frequent. I would suggest doing maybe every 2 years. Otherwise, you don't
23 have time to implement any changes and see an impact. I would insert something to the
24 effect of before recreation gaps in aware or design or access to recreation. It's not just
25 that maybe we're not offering this program that they need us to offer. Maybe they don't
26 know that we're offering it or maybe it's not designed properly to meet their needs. I had
27 another comment that kind of crosses over H and I. That was about adding a program
28 about multicultural outreach to build awareness and participation in volunteer programs.
29 I'm not sure if that belongs in the incorporate diversity in projects and programs of H, or
30 if it belongs in the stewardship and volunteerism section. I'd like to see some outreach
31 beyond just programming, but also to engage in the civic process and volunteerism.
32

33 Chair Lauing: 1H1 reminds of a general comment that I wanted to make. I like the fact
34 that you're putting quantification on it, such as an annual survey. When we get over to
35 1J1, 2 and 3, all three of those have specifics about we're going to focus annually, but
36 we're going to do a quarterly survey system that selects da, da, da. To the extent you can
37 measure it—we've talked about this before—that's better. I also think you're committing
38 to that. I would agree on this point on 1H1 with Commissioner Hetterly, that might be a
39 little bit too much work for the ROI. Because it's specific, it needs to be specifically
40 accomplished or else you're missing the goal, wherever you find those kinds of wordings.
41 That's it on 1H. Anyone else down here? You want to look at 1I, Anne?
42

1 Commissioner Cribbs: No.

2
3 Chair Lauing: Keith.

4
5 Commissioner Reckdahl: No.

6
7 Chair Lauing: I don't either. I.

8
9 Commissioner Hetterly: III, the last bullet, I was a little confused about the repetition of
10 Counselor in Training and lifeguard programs. If that was intentional, then I want to
11 understand why it's like that. It seemed to me that there was surely more opportunities
12 for students to earn community services hours through Community Services Department
13 programs. I assume these two were just suggestions among others. Is that right?

14
15 Male: That's right.

16
17 Commissioner Hetterly: That's my only comment on I.

18
19 Chair Lauing: Take J as well.

20
21 Commissioner Hetterly: J, I would like to add demographics in front of interests.
22 Periodically collect and evaluate data on the changing demographics and interests of the
23 community and adjust programs accordingly.

24
25 Chair Lauing: I think that would be a great add. I've already referenced the fact that it's
26 quantitative there, which I think is good. Keith.

27
28 Commissioner Reckdahl: No.

29
30 Chair Lauing: Anne.

31
32 Commissioner Cribbs: You just said measurement at the end of each, yeah.

33
34 Chair Lauing: There is measurement for all three of these, which I think is great and
35 should in general be put in whenever it makes sense and you can commit to that
36 measurement going forward. We're on to Item 2.

37
38 Commissioner Reckdahl: I had a question about the goal, services at the end. What are
39 we getting at with that?

40
41 Female: Programs.

1 Commissioner Moss: (inaudible) camps.

2
3 Ms. O'Kane: That's related to the programs that we offer.

4
5 Commissioner Reckdahl: The recreation?

6
7 Ms. O'Kane: Exactly.

8
9 Commissioner Reckdahl: In our policies, we don't go and look at that. I wonder if we
10 need more policies for that. We talk about recreation facilities and turf fields and dog
11 parks and restrooms, but we don't do anything with recreation programs.

12
13 Ms. O'Kane: We can look at that in more detail. I know that, for example, 2B1 is related
14 to recreation programming.

15
16 Commissioner Hetterly: All of 2B.

17
18 Ms. O'Kane: All of 2B. We can look into that more and see if there's any gaps.

19
20 Commissioner Reckdahl: 2B2 is parks projects. I guess that would ...

21
22 Chair Lauing: Let's start with Anne on 2A or do you guys want to do altogether here?
23 It's kind of tight. Why don't we just do 2 altogether. Comments on any points on 2.

24
25 Commissioner Cribbs: I was confused about what 2A2 is. To design recreational
26 facilities that can be maintained with existing budget (inaudible). It seems like you'd
27 have to develop a new budget to go with new facilities.

28
29 Mr. Anderson: I can give you a small example. When we built the Mitchell Community
30 Center, they added a green wall. I would argue that that's neither sustainable in terms of
31 water use nor in staff time. You can spend more on that green wall that you could on
32 almost a soccer field.

33
34 Commissioner Cribbs: That makes sense. Thank you.

35
36 Chair Lauing: Any other things on any of the 2 points?

37
38 Commissioner Cribbs: No.

39
40 Commissioner Moss: Under 2C, this does not include artificial turf? 2C1 talks about
41 existing synthetic turf fields, but the 2C policy doesn't mention synthetic turf. It
42 specifically says high-quality natural turf fields. Why don't you just say design and

1 maintain high quality turf fields? Underneath, you have some programs that are synthetic
2 and some programs that are natural. Just take out the word natural on 2C policy, then
3 down below. That's all I had.

4
5 Chair Lauing: Keith.

6
7 Commissioner Reckdahl: We're on 2?

8
9 Chair Lauing: Yeah.

10
11 Commissioner Reckdahl: I don't have anything else on 2.

12
13 Chair Lauing: My comments on 2 are we're spending a lot of ink on athletic fields. It's
14 an important issue in the City, but I'm wondering if it could at least be condensed in
15 terms of point. For example, on the C4, 5 and 6, it seems to me the second is quite
16 obvious, that you would fund the appropriate ones and do upgrades. That's seems to be
17 the same point. Maybe it could all just be condensed into a 2C4. Similarly all those
18 things on C1, 2 and 3 about turf fields. It just seems like a lot of ink, when it could just
19 be condensed in terms of—basically you're saying you're going to look at both, you're
20 going to make judgments on both and implement and upgrade where necessary. I just
21 had a question about where did this issue of creative expression come in. Was that
22 something that was uncovered in the surveys on 2B? It just sounds interesting. It just
23 struck me as odd that we'd have a whole policy around that.

24
25 Mr. Jensen: I think the program came about for making space that activate parks and
26 increase the activity in parks. It was also something that was brought up in parallel with
27 the Public Arts Master Plan and encouraging those spaces. They do in that actual Master
28 Plan reference creating space in parks to bring people together to have art-making
29 programs. That's where that was spawned from.

30
31 Chair Lauing: That's quite a level of detail at the program level. That's it on 2 for me.

32
33 Commissioner Hetterly: I like all those programs under 2B. I think they're a good
34 expansion of what we offer now. I don't have any other comments on 2 or 3A. I only
35 have one comment on 3. Should I go ahead to "?

36
37 Chair Lauing: Mm-hmm.

38
39 Commissioner Hetterly: Goal 3. I also really like all the new programs under 3B. It's
40 beefed up a lot with the art elements, and I think that's cool. Policy 3C, this is a pet
41 peeve. On the last line—sorry, it's the middle line. I'll read it. Require that proposed
42 privately owned public spaces are providing in lieu of park fees—park fees are in lieu of

1 park dedication. It's more accurate to say that privately owned public spaces that are
2 provided under the Park Dedication Ordinance meet the design guidelines. The thing that
3 bothers me is later on they're designed to support self-directed exercise and fitness. I'd
4 like to see that be broadened to recreation as opposed to just exercise and fitness, which I
5 think are more specific. That's all I have for 3.

6
7 Chair Lauing: My only comment on 3 is I'm not sure why we have to call out the 3C1,
8 but that's a staff decision. Things need rules, but ... Go ahead, Keith.

9
10 Commissioner Reckdahl: Again for Goal 3, we have social connections on there. I think
11 the policies and programs are pretty weak for social connections. We address Healthy
12 City Healthy Community in 3A. Some of those you can stretch and say social
13 connections. I don't think that really is as beefy as it could be. That's it.

14
15 Chair Lauing: Let's see. " is two pages, why don't we just take all of 4? We'll start with
16 Commissioner Cribbs. No. Commissioner Moss.

17
18 Commissioner Moss: No.

19
20 Chair Lauing: Keith.

21
22 Commissioner Reckdahl: No.

23
24 Chair Lauing: I'm good. Commissioner Hetterly.

25
26 Commissioner Hetterly: Did you have something?

27
28 Chair Lauing: No, I did not have any for 4.

29
30 Commissioner Hetterly: I just want to follow up on Commissioner Reckdahl's comments
31 (inaudible) about Program 3C1, develop and apply clear expectations and definitions of
32 public access for privately owned spaces. I do think that's important to have. We've had
33 a number of public spaces dedicated under the Planned Community zoning process that
34 have now been completely removed from public access. I think it's important to have
35 (inaudible).

36
37 Commissioner Reckdahl: Those private spaces are not dedicated to the City or not
38 donated to the City?

39
40 Commissioner Hetterly: No.

41
42 Commissioner Reckdahl: They remain privately owned?

1
2 Commissioner Hetterly: They remain private, but they're supposed to be open to the
3 public. On 4C2, join the Bay Area Children and Nature Collaborative/Children and
4 Nature Network. I don't know what that is, but it wasn't clear to me whether it belonged
5 on regional efforts to protect natural resources or if it belonged under connecting people
6 to nature. Sorry to jump back. 4A1, again instead of elements tailored to be of interest to
7 youth as well as other ages, cultures and abilities, why don't we just say of interest to
8 multiple ages, cultures and abilities? I don't think we need to call out every single
9 demographic. That maybe contrary to what they're looking for (inaudible). 4D, I think
10 all of those programs are about sustainability and not about promoting, expanding and
11 protecting habitat in natural areas in parks. I think they can fit under there, but I don't
12 think they're adequate by themselves to represent that policy. I would like to see the
13 addition of programs like—I think you all can probably come up with better ones than
14 this. Maybe design trails and recreation activities to avoid impact on habitat, habitat
15 corridors in natural areas. Design native planting areas to optimize habitat potential.
16 Something to that effect that actually gets to the habitat and natural areas. Whereas, all
17 these other things are really about water management which, of course, affects natural
18 areas. That's all I have (inaudible).

19
20 Chair Lauing: Keep the mike and start on 5.

21
22 Commissioner Hetterly: 5A7, provide additional lighting to enhance park safety and
23 expand park use to dusk. I do think it's appropriate to add additional lighting in some
24 cases, but I think we need to be selective about the particular type of lighting to minimize
25 the wildlife impact. I think there should be some indication that we're going to do that in
26 the policy.

27
28 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is this lighting that would be used just in dusk and then turned
29 off overnight or it would be 24 hours a day?

30
31 Male: It's turned off.

32
33 Commissioner Reckdahl: It's turned off after a certain time.

34
35 Commissioner Hetterly: Program 5E—do you want me to do all of 5? 5E1, partner with
36 PAUSD to provide open gym programs in the summer, weekends, etc. I would really
37 like to see called out specifically in this Master Plan somewhere that we're looking to
38 expand access to PAUSD high school facilities. Otherwise, as written now, we can
39 basically do that already. It doesn't require any—can't we? Through our arrangements
40 with PAUSD at the middle schools.

41
42 Mr. de Geus: The question is do we have access to PAUSD gyms?

1
2 Commissioner Hetterly: Yeah, middle school gyms.

3
4 Mr. de Geus: For our middle school athletic program we do.

5
6 Commissioner Hetterly: We don't on the weekends or in the summer? I thought we used
7 it in the summers for camps.

8
9 Mr. de Geus: No. We use the Cubberley gyms for the camps that need gyms.

10
11 Commissioner Hetterly: I think it makes sense to specify middle and high school gyms.
12 I would not like to see it limited just to middle, and I'm sure that's what the easiest step
13 would be. 5E2, I was confused about PAUSD and Stanford staff that will be providing
14 the programs. I guess I'm not clear what this partnership is (inaudible) on 5E as it relates
15 to 5E2. Similarly on 5E4, I'm not sure what you have in mind for increased access, what
16 athletic facilities and recreational facilities at Stanford we want to increase access to.
17 That's all I have (inaudible).

18
19 Chair Lauing: On 5A, is this a problem that we have now, underused parks, or is that
20 more recreation facilities? Just the general policy. I know we have some recreation
21 facilities; I just don't know if we have parks that are underused at this point.

22
23 Mr. Anderson: I think we do have some underused parks. I think Esther Clark park
24 would be a good example. There's no amenities there to draw them in.

25
26 Chair Lauing: It was kind of a blank in my knowledge. Again the specificity under 5B6
27 is really excellent. Pinning yourself down to try at least 10 percent in new program
28 offerings, that's really good. On 5D, I know there's a lot of press and excitement about
29 parklets, which is one thing. Temporary park spaces, that's a lot of work for a short
30 amount of time. Do you guys really want to sign up for that? I'm not sure that one's
31 really necessary. These temporary park spaces are both long and short-term uses. I don't
32 know. That's kind of up to whether or not you want to commit to those and if there's
33 enough need for those.

34
35 Commissioner Reckdahl: You're committing to experimenting with it. Maybe you do it
36 a couple of times and say this ain't worth it.

37
38 Chair Lauing: If it's an experiment, I'm not sure you need a policy to experiment. I'm not
39 sure this whole thing is necessary. You can do the exact same thing. Unless we really
40 want to get serious about parklets, then you could just leave it at that.

1 Mr. de Geus: There is a movement; it's sort of tactical urbanism. Have you heard about
2 that? People are rethinking what to do with urban spaces and being creative about that.
3 There's more and more of that type of thing happening. We've tried a few things here in
4 Palo Alto (crosstalk).

5
6 Chair Lauing: A couple of parking spaces that turn green for the day and stuff like that.

7
8 Mr. de Geus: Things like that, yeah.

9
10 Chair Lauing: I'm not sure that's a parklet. I'm always sensitive to workload, because
11 this all requires resources and a lot of stuff that we're trying to get done. Commissioner
12 Hetterly's comment on high schools was great. When I read this, I read right through it
13 and read high schools were included; they're definitely not specified here. My experience
14 is fighting for even baseball field space from the high school coaches. I think specificity
15 on the level of schools is a good add. On 5G, I think what is stated here is completely
16 correct, because you're talking about conservation groups to expand access to open space,
17 but that's access to that space, not ownership. Right? We're not stepping up to acquire
18 open space. We're saying we just want to have access to it. I just wanted to confirm for
19 myself. I think it's written incorrectly.

20
21 Commissioner Moss: New acquisitions of spaces to bridge us to them, not acquisition of
22 their land, but acquisition of a corridor to get to their land. For instance, Foothill Park
23 (crosstalk).

24
25 Chair Lauing: This isn't talking about acquiring any property. This is talking about ...

26
27 Commissioner Moss: (crosstalk) talk about new acquisitions ...

28
29 Chair Lauing: ... shared usage basically.

30
31 Commissioner Moss: New acquisitions of those corridors.

32
33 Ms. O'Kane: It does say new acquisitions. I'll agree with Commissioner Moss there. I
34 think what that means is exactly that. If there's a property that's limiting a connection
35 between another agency's open space area, we could perhaps partner with the other
36 agencies on the purchase of that property or an easement on that property. There isn't a
37 certain property that we have in mind right now, but it would be an opportunity. If that
38 opportunity came up, it would be a possibility.

39
40 Chair Lauing: You could end the sentence after open space, but I don't want to get into
41 wordsmithing.

1 Ms. O'Kane: I didn't hear that one.

2
3 Chair Lauing: If that's the case, you could just say partner da, da, da, and other land
4 conservation groups to expand access to open space. You wouldn't have to talk about
5 new acquisitions and improved connections.

6
7 Commissioner Hetterly: I don't like that. I like new acquisitions and improved
8 connections.

9
10 Ms. O'Kane: I do too.

11
12 Chair Lauing: The point I'm trying to clarify is we're not trying to buy land ...

13
14 Commissioner Moss: We are.

15
16 Chair Lauing: ... by this statement. Correct?

17
18 Commissioner Hetterly: I think we're not committing to buying land, but I think we're
19 open to it if that is the outcome of whatever partnership we can come to. Whatever
20 agreement we may come to with them on whatever place, maybe jointly we want to add
21 this chunk between our open space and their open space. We want to work out a deal to
22 have that acquired, maybe paid for by us and maybe paid for by them.

23
24 Chair Lauing: That's what you intend there?

25
26 Commissioner Reckdahl: That would be a possibility.

27
28 Chair Lauing: That's why I was asking. I just didn't understand the phraseology there. 5
29 is to you, Keith.

30
31 Commissioner Reckdahl: 5A6, create small and medium-sized group picnic areas. Is it
32 that we don't have enough picnic areas? We have a lot of picnic areas around the City,
33 don't we? What is the ...

34
35 Commissioner Hetterly: That's for activating the underused parks.

36
37 Commissioner Reckdahl: Do we think "built it and they will come"? If you build a
38 picnic area in an underused park, you'll get people picnicking?

39
40 Mr. de Geus: We had all of our customer service staff look at the plans. One of the
41 learnings from that exercise—they do the reservations for picnic tables. There isn't

1 enough really large group picnic tables for 25-plus or more people. There's only a
2 handful of those, so they get booked up very fast.

3
4 Commissioner Reckdahl: If there's a need, then that's a good idea. 5E, I agree with Jen's
5 assessment on that, but I think we have to be stronger about—right now if you want to do
6 any type of reservation, you want to reserve a baseball field or a basketball court, you've
7 got to call, call, call, call, call. It would be so nice, so convenient for residents to be able
8 to call one place and say, "I need a baseball field. What's open?" You may call one and
9 find out that you do a round robin three or four times before you get the time that you
10 want. If they were all under one location, you could just do it and save yourself a lot of
11 time and frustration. That would be just the convenience of a common reservation
12 system, which is something we should be striving for. I would want to add that under 5E.
13 Having a common reservation system for gyms and other athletic facilities. Also about
14 the Stanford, I've never heard of this before, trying to get access to Stanford's athletic
15 facilities.

16
17 Commissioner Moss: Are you talking about the Dish or are you taking about gyms?

18
19 Mr. de Geus: Gyms but more athletic fields, all of those fields right across El Camino.
20 They frequently actually are not used, in our observations. We would love to have some
21 access to those for some of the sports groups. We've asked before and not had success.

22
23 Commissioner Reckdahl: This is just saying we should continue to pursue that. I can
24 support that. That's it.

25
26 Commissioner Moss: I have quite a few comments about 5E, but it's really related to 2.
27 It seems shortsighted that we don't mention in 2 anything about pools and tennis courts
28 for the next 20 years somewhere. There were many comments about wanting more pool
29 space, trying to get their kid into a program at Rinconada. That's their only alternative.
30 Having another pool to use, I think we shouldn't leave it out for 20 years. The same thing
31 is true with tennis courts. I don't know if we have a problem with tennis courts, but it
32 seems like in every community meeting there is a group of tennis players that come. I
33 don't play tennis. Are we saying that we have enough tennis courts for the next 20 years?
34 Also, that little paddle ball thing that came up ...

35
36 Ms. O'Kane: Pickleball.

37
38 Commissioner Moss: Pickleball that came up, do we have enough courts for the next 20
39 years or should we make some reference in 2? If you don't make reference in 2, then I
40 want to expand 5E. I want to say not only Palo Alto Unified and Stanford University but
41 also private facilities like Eichler Swim Club and Greenmeadow Swim Club. If we could
42 have an arrangement, then we don't have to build another pool. The same thing, I would

1 expand 5E1 to say partner with PAUSD to provide open gym, pools, courts, baseball
2 fields. In other words, everything that the middle school and the high school has on their
3 land and not just open gym. That would be not only the PAUSD but also Stanford and
4 also private.

5
6 Commissioner Cribbs: You're wanting an inventory of all of the potential facilities, not
7 just gyms, but fields ...

8
9 Commissioner Moss: Think of how many pools there are in the City, how many pools
10 there are in the City. There's one at Terman, and there's one at Gunn, and there's one at
11 Paly, and there's one at Greenmeadow and there's one at Eichler. Nobody can use them;
12 they can only use Rinconada. Is there another one? I don't think so. Something's not
13 right for the next 20 years. How can we expand 5E1 and perhaps 5E2? Does anybody
14 else agree or disagree?

15
16 Commissioner Reckdahl: It's not so much 5, you should have something in 2 that is more
17 generic about athletic facilities. That would be pretty easy to do under 2A, sustain the
18 community's investment in recreation facilities.

19
20 Commissioner Moss: (crosstalk).

21
22 Commissioner Reckdahl: That is generic enough. One of the 2A's could be ...

23
24 Commissioner Moss: 2A1 talks about existing. 2A2 talks about future.

25
26 Commissioner Reckdahl: I almost think 2A1 covers what we have.

27
28 Commissioner Hetterly: 2A is all about sustaining our investment in existing facilities;
29 it's not about adding new facilities.

30
31 Commissioner Reckdahl: It's sustain the community's investment. I read that as
32 generically both new stuff and continuing the old stuff.

33
34 Ms. O'Kane: I think we can add a program that doesn't commit to adding a certain
35 amount of tennis courts or pools, that we can periodically look into that need and see if
36 there's a need for that in the future. We can add something along those lines.

37
38 Chair Lauing: Is your conclusion that based on the data that we don't need another pool
39 at this point? That is specifically one of the things we went into the Master Plan to figure
40 out. Is that the current conclusion?

1 Mr. de Geus: It did come up by a few people, but it wasn't a strong theme throughout the
2 outreach, for an additional pool. The same is true for tennis courts actually, which is
3 consistent with where staff is. Twenty years is a long time, so we need to continue to
4 evaluate. The interest in these change, and the demographics change.

5
6 Chair Lauing: Pool, I thought we had one geographical demand, meaning that there's
7 only one central pool that only covers a certain part of the City. Second, your aquatics
8 programs are always jammed and pool time was really, really jammed. Not referencing
9 pools at all for the next 20 years, I would concur with that.

10
11 Mr. de Geus: They need to be referenced in there. We'll think about how best to do that.

12
13 Chair Lauing: On the other hand—as long as I'm on the mike—I don't think we should
14 be pursuing private pools for pool time. That's kind of your whole shtick, to be a private
15 swim club and to share their thing with the public. I just don't think that's a ...

16
17 Commissioner Moss: What about high schools and middle schools?

18
19 Chair Lauing: That's School District. I'm talking about tennis clubs and swim clubs,
20 private. We actually had that kind of removed from the inventory when we were at the
21 very beginning of this Master Plan process, because we didn't think that was a road worth
22 going down. It was a resource that we couldn't control, I don't think, with any amount of
23 negotiations, you're going to get much pool time from (crosstalk).

24
25 Mr. de Geus: For the entire summer every year, we rent a pool in South Palo Alto from
26 the Unified School District and run swim lessons. We'll probably get 700 kids through
27 swim lessons in the southern pool. What I would like to see changed is that we don't get
28 charged the full rack rate as a City to pay for that pool for the entire summer.

29
30 Commissioner Cribbs: Regarding the pool situation from the swimmer's perspective, I
31 think that you always can use more pools. I think any community would say that. It is a
32 big omission that we didn't put anything about pools in here. What happens in 20 years
33 both geographically and that Rinconada continues to need some—it's a lovely pool, but it
34 needs some upgrades. On the same token, tennis courts. Tennis is a little bit of a
35 declining popularity; we seem to have enough tennis courts. We have very vocal tennis
36 court supporters, but maybe not so much in terms of tennis courts.

37
38 Commissioner Hetterly: Another thing about swimming pools is in our demographic
39 projections early on, that was an area where swimming and diving stood out very highly
40 for a particular demographic group. I think it was Asians in particular had a much higher
41 demand for those services that they felt were unmet than other demographic groups. To
42 the extent we're trying to balance out those kinds of needs.

1
2 Commissioner Cribbs: It is a sport seriously for a lifetime. Seniors take this (inaudible).
3

4 Mr. de Geus: This is an interesting topic, and it's one that we're looking at closely as a
5 department right now. We may need more pools, but also the existing pool is
6 underutilized. We have swim lessons really just for the late spring and summer. There
7 isn't staff resources to keep them going year round. We're looking at new ways that we
8 can have more activity throughout the day, throughout the year at the existing pool in
9 addition to other.

10
11 Commissioner Cribbs: It's all masters and lap swimming.

12
13 Mr. de Geus: I know. You look at some of the other pools in the neighboring
14 communities, and they have a lot more activity year round, a lot more programming.

15
16 Commissioner Cribbs: This is true. Menlo Park is a great example of that.

17
18 Commissioner Moss: I know that costs for the individual at places like Greenmeadow
19 and Eichler are pretty high because of the cost of energy to heat the pools in the winter.
20 If there were a partnership with the City, that they could provide 100 regular users during
21 the winter, then the cost would go down and pools would get more utilized. I don't think
22 we should discount the use of private pools if we could work out a public-private contract
23 or some kind of a use contract, not a free for all.

24
25 Chair Lauing: We're on 5. Did you have any on 5?

26
27 Commissioner Cribbs: No.

28
29 Chair Lauing: You want to start with 6?

30
31 Commissioner Cribbs: I was all the way down to 6D and the garbage cans and the
32 importance of that park maintenance and garbage cans. Let me see where I put that.

33
34 Commissioner Moss: 6D6.

35
36 Commissioner Cribbs: Yeah, 6 and 5. I'd love to see in there something about the
37 opportunity for residents and people who are close to the park to help take care of that
38 park. I know that there are some issues back and forth on that. When there are
39 overflowing garbage cans in parks because it's Sunday and people have used the parks a
40 lot, there should be a way for people who are walking through the parks can help out with
41 that.
42

1 Chair Lauing: Anything on 6, David?

2
3 Commissioner Moss: No.

4
5 Commissioner Reckdahl: Not to beat a dead horse, but a whole bunch of these in 6 are
6 what I consider best practices. Energy efficient products, high efficiency urinals, toilets
7 and sinks. Who would argue against that? Why does it have to be a program? That's
8 just my soapbox. I don't feel strongly about that. 6B, we have a policy there, but we
9 have no programs. It seems kind of strange that we have a very detailed policy but no
10 programs. What's the policy towards policies and programs? I thought every policy was
11 supposed to be implemented with programs.

12
13 Ms. O'Kane: There's actually quite a few policies that do not have programs associated
14 with them. I mentioned earlier that there's two that I think do need some programs, but
15 there's others like this one that perhaps does not need programs. There's a few more. For
16 example, 6C doesn't have any programs. I think that's okay. If there's other opinions on
17 that, I'd be happy to hear that.

18
19 Commissioner Reckdahl: For 6B, I would make a more general statement and have that
20 be the policy, and then have what you have there as the policy be the program. Those are
21 very specific; that's the implementation.

22
23 Commissioner Moss: What would you say for the policy?

24
25 Commissioner Reckdahl: Ensure that the general public has access to parks, something
26 along those lines. (inaudible) program would be limit the booking from outside sources.
27 Again, I don't feel strongly about that. It just seems kind of strange how throughout this
28 most of these—there were a couple earlier that were kind of programs but called policies,
29 and there was no program to support them, because they already were programs. This is
30 getting into wordsmithing, I guess. That's it.

31
32 Chair Lauing: Commissioner Reckdahl, you covered all my comments. Thank you.
33 Commissioner Hetterly.

34
35 Commissioner Hetterly: I only have one comment left on 6. 6D14, as infrastructure
36 expansion allows, extend recycled water use to more park sites. I understand that we
37 can't magically put recycled water everywhere. I think it should be a priority and not an
38 afterthought. I don't think that it should—I would like to take out as infrastructure
39 expansion allows, and just put in the program extend recycled water use to more park
40 sites or reverse the order at a minimum, so that the emphasis is not on when we can do it,
41 we might do this. Emphasize that we want to do that, extend recycled water. That's it.

1 Chair Lauing: Unless anybody forgot anything, we've muscled through that one. What
2 would we expect for next month in this regard?
3

4 Ms. O'Kane: We'll have this revised to include the comments that we heard tonight, that
5 we think are relevant. I'll turn it over to Peter to discuss where we'll be with the
6 implementation piece at that point, as far as costs, things like that.
7

8 Mr. Jensen: We are still developing the costs, so I can't say that we are going to bring
9 that back next month. I would like to, but it is a large task. Just the task of reviewing it
10 for staff, which we are working on now, is a large chore to do. I'm hoping that we can
11 bring that aspect back next time as part of it, but I can't guarantee that right now.
12

13 Commissioner Reckdahl: Next month, we meet on the 28th, and the Council meeting is
14 on the 27th. Do you have everything that you need from us for what you're going to
15 present?
16

17 Mr. de Geus: I think so, yeah. It's largely what you're seeing here. I will tell you I was
18 informed today that the Mayor and Vice Mayor, due to a variety of action items that need
19 to go to Council, have asked a number of study sessions be pushed to after the break.
20 That includes our study session. I have to talk to Jim, the City Manager, about whether
21 that's really necessary, because we don't want to get too far along here without a check-in.
22 It's time for that. It may yet change. At a minimum, we'll send an information report to
23 let Council know where we are in the process.
24

25 Mr. Jensen: Any more questions about the ...
26

27 Commissioner Reckdahl: One more thing. Do we have a good idea of what the Council
28 wants in the study session or are we just doing what we think the Council wants?
29

30 Mr. de Geus: I think we have a good idea. They're ready to see some specifics at this
31 point. This is the meat of the plan, this Chapter 5 where we talk about the goals, policies
32 and programs. We want to continue to refine that. That's why this meeting was very
33 important as we do that and sharpen the goals, policies and programs. If we get fairly
34 good response from Council on that, I think we're ready to get into real drafting of the
35 plan, which we'd like to bring back to Council in the fall for a review. Hopefully the
36 ability to adopt a plan by the end of the calendar year, that's I'm hoping we can do.
37

38 Chair Lauing: Peter, did you want to go over any of these items?
39

40 Mr. Jensen: Yes (inaudible).
41

42 Chair Lauing: This is the document that was already presented to the community, right?

1
2 Mr. Jensen: Now we ...

3
4 Chair Lauing: What's the format? Are we going to go through each one of these?

5
6 Mr. Jensen: No. Tonight I'm to explain what they are and what's entailed inside of them.
7 You have the month to provide us with feedback or input, and we'll discuss them more at
8 the next meeting as well. The next thing we're going to look at is the site concept plan. I
9 passed out the booklet that is going to be on display at City Hall and the libraries for
10 people to look at. It's also online; that's probably how most people will access it and look
11 at it with the opportunity to review that with a comment form. How they were put
12 together is—if you remember the second matrix that we had, not the first opportunities
13 matrix but the second matrix we had, was this large group of different projects and
14 programs that identified specific projects like restrooms and started to identify specific
15 locations. When you started to look at that whole list, it was fairly substantial to that. To
16 make it easier to review those things, we've now deduced it down to a graphical
17 interpretation of what that was meaning and what the new proposed amenities are for
18 each site. Sites in this discussion refer to both parks and community facilities. Cubberley Community Center, Ventura Community Center, Lucie Stern, those things are
19 considered facilities, not actually parks. This booklet, that's in front of you, takes a look
20 at new amenities that are proposed for each one of those things. It was deduced from that
21 large list of projects. It also started to look at the areas of focus that we had to group
22 projects per specific sites. Each one of those new amenities is called out with a legend in
23 the plan, and it has a specific color coding or bubble that specifically shows the location
24 where it is proposed and the relative size to that facility. At the beginning of the book,
25 there is a definitions of the items that are found in the legend, a breakdown of what those
26 specific things are and gives some examples for some things. Adult fitness, you'll see
27 pops up a lot on the different plans. That is done as part of a playground renovation. We
28 saw that as a way to incorporate some type of adult fitness activity, either some type of
29 workout equipment or just providing a soft-surfaced area that you could have
30 programming out in the park for seniors. That could stretch from some type of yoga class
31 or other strength building, those types of things. Even though they do have just one color
32 code, like the adult fitness is an orange circle that calls out "AF." It does have different
33 possibilities of doing things there. The book was created to look at the possibilities of
34 potential new amenities for each park. I think it's key to note that not everything that's on
35 each of these plans will be incorporated into the Master Plan. Just based on budgetary
36 constraints, we can't have all these things. What is being asked is that you and the
37 community review the plans and provide input on prioritization, what you think is the
38 best things for the parks to be there, that are shown on the plan, and to also provide input
39 if there are things missing with the plans, so we can dial it in to a specific location. The
40 booklets in front of you and online differ in one way; each shows two plans for the same
41 park or facility. One is an existing that shows what the existing amenities are there and
42



1 calls out some opportunities and constraints. The other plan just shows the new
2 amenities as far as bubbles on a plan. If there's not a specific bubble over a certain
3 amenity in a park, then that specific amenity will stay as is and won't be changed. You'll
4 see that the majority of the parks don't have a lot of change to them. They're usually the
5 addition of native or habitat spaces, which we found from the community output as being
6 one of the key things that the community would like to see more incorporated into the
7 parks. They can range through—as we started to break down the cost estimate of it, the
8 enhancement of the playing fields is currently one of the high dollar items. Because we
9 do have a shortage of playing fields and they are so highly used, if we're going to make
10 what we've got work, then enhancing those playing fields to meet the capacity as much as
11 we can, of course, even if those fields were topnotch, they wouldn't meet capacity now,
12 but they could be used a lot more than they currently are. What's being shown on the
13 screen is an existing site plan. You can see it is calling out at Heritage Park, what is there
14 currently. The next slide is showing what the new proposed amenities are. You can see
15 for Heritage Park in this instant that a dog park is added. That's one of the main additions
16 to the park itself. There is an adult fitness area that's incorporated into the playground.
17 Again, we talked about prioritization and when these things are actually going to be. For
18 those things like adult fitness, you'd start to look when the next time that playground was
19 going to be renovated, when it was going to need new equipment, and you'd start to
20 incorporate a space not just for children but for adults and for the elderly to use as well as
21 far as adult fitness to get better use out of those spaces. The native habitat shows up in
22 most of the plans. It shows up in one major element, the reduction of passive turf that we
23 have now. Heritage Park actually has a lot of ivy that was planted there before, that is
24 lost space, that doesn't really provide any type of habitat and usable area. We'd be
25 looking at those areas to remove the ivy and establish some type of native or drought-
26 tolerant planting or some type of garden that would sustain the habitat better. This one
27 also has a longer stretch along the houses that have a—from just staff input, there's a
28 drainage issue along the new housing that was built there. That native habitat area would
29 also be addressing, not just providing habitat but working on the drainage and helping
30 that space dry out. You can see that it's for this specific park. Besides the dog park, it's
31 fairly minimal. For most of the parks as you go through the changes that are proposed
32 are minimal. They seem big. Some of the things, like I said the enhancement of the
33 sports fields where there are sports fields, the circle on the page looks like it takes up a lot
34 of area, but those places are proposed to stay as they are. They're just proposed to be
35 better than what they are. That has a cost associated with it that we do want to
36 understand, because that will dictate how we move forward with doing that in the future.

37
38 Commissioner Reckdahl: Did you say that it specifies when this last was remodeled,
39 each of the parks?

40
41 Mr. Jensen: I don't believe that information is on the plan. I think some of them, for the
42 new ones like Monroe Park and Scott Park and Eleanor Pardee Park, it says specifically

1 on the plan when it was renovated. Some of those like Scott Park and Monroe Park don't
2 have any proposed new amenities associated with them. It just states there is no new
3 amenities. It was remodeled in 2015.

4
5 Commissioner Reckdahl: It might be useful to have a table that lists all the parks and
6 when they last were done or, more importantly, when are they scheduled to be
7 remodeled. I don't know if that's (crosstalk).

8
9 Mr. Anderson: One of the challenges of that is that lots of these remodels are really
10 partial, quarter of it. It's not holistic, and it could be misleading.

11
12 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's true.

13
14 Mr. Jensen: We are working with our current maintenance or upkeep schedule to try to
15 incorporate these new amenities into that schedule, so it's all one project, so you're not
16 fixing something and 2 years later going back and adding a bathroom. You'd be
17 combining those into one project throughout the park at one time.

18
19 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's where maybe having a list of estimated, no
20 commitment, of what order we think we're going to be remodeling the parks. Would that
21 be possible? I don't want to make work for you, but if it's something we have available
22 that we can just throw in. When I'm looking through some of these, I'm wondering when
23 will this be done, which one will be done first.

24
25 Mr. Jensen: That is something that we've started to look at with a review of the budget
26 and funding for those things. We haven't specifically called them out per a specific year
27 now. We're keeping them in our groups of short-term, mid and long-term and breaking
28 them down that way.

29
30 Commissioner Reckdahl: Even if it's just a rough order with no year associated with it.
31 It might be nice to say this is coming up fairly soon or this is way down the list.

32
33 Mr. Jensen: We are working to develop that. The next example of this is Hoover Park.
34 I'm showing this one because it does have actually the most proposed changes or new
35 amenities. In the analysis of the parks systems, it was found that Hoover Park as a
36 central location had a lot of use and a lot of access, people from around the neighborhood
37 walking to it. It has already a lot of amenities there; however, those amenities aren't the
38 most efficient use of the space if you've been there to see how it is arranged. Looking
39 just at that park in general, this is kind of a big scale of how we looked at Scott Park.
40 Instead of just replacing the in-kind of what was there, we started to rearrange the space a
41 little bit more to make it a lot more efficient and usable. This plan starts to look at that.
42 You can see here the enhanced field comes up time and again on each that has an

1 enhancement. The field basically stays the same on this one. The dog park which is in
2 this area here gets relocated and is moved to the back. The sports courts and the tennis
3 courts get rebuilt in this area and are combined. The basketball court that is sitting in the
4 back gets added to this space. The location of where the dog park is now becomes a
5 more expanded picnic area. There is a natural area there right now with the redwoods
6 and a dry stream bed; that would have some more natural play amenities to it that would
7 enhance that area. It could be used as a play area. Because it has so many proposed uses,
8 this one does provide another option with it. This is the only plan that has a second
9 option that is basically renovating the park less than what is proposed on the first one by
10 just taking the dog park and using that unused area behind the outfield of the baseball
11 field to add as a dog park and to expand the group picnic areas. This is different because
12 it gives two options. That was done because of the amount of change that is proposed in
13 the main option. That could provide the opportunity for the community to comment, to
14 say, "We'd rather see less change in the park. This is proposing too much change." This
15 allows us to see another option of revising it less than the first one. I do have all the
16 definitions; they're in the front of the book. If you look online, you can read what the
17 definition of each one of those things on the legend is. I think they're pretty self-
18 explanatory. I won't go through it. We did go through them in the community meeting,
19 which was last week. We went through these and talked about how to review them, what
20 was in them, took some feedback from that, allowed the group that was there to provide
21 feedback for specific park locations that they wanted to review at the time. Again, there
22 is an online option that you can look at as well to provide feedback for that. We did set
23 up an actual booth at the May Fete Parade, which was very successful until it started
24 raining on us. It did start to generate a lot of questions and people looking at the plan and
25 providing feedback. That was good. Of course, we had a community meeting about this
26 last week. It's online now and will be for at least the remainder of the month, if not a
27 little bit longer to provide the opportunity for people to provide comment. The comments
28 are broken into site-specific or parks and facilities. You choose which facility you want
29 to comment on and provide comment for that on the form. You can do that for every
30 park if you wish to do so. We imagine that most people will either look at their favorite
31 park or the few parks they like to go to and provide comment on that. We'll take that
32 input, the input from the community as well as the input from the PARC, and look at the
33 budget that we're constructing right now and start to pare these plans down until we can
34 get to a final set of site concept plans that will be in the Master plan. What we're asking
35 for the month is that you take the opportunity to look at the plans online and provide
36 comment and feedback for that. We'll come back next month and review and discuss
37 again the feedback we've heard from the community as well as you. We can discuss and
38 ask questions.

39
40 Chair Lauing: The feedback that you want is what, if not order of creation?
41



1 Mr. Jensen: We want some prioritization, looking at the plans and what of those specific
2 elements on there are most important to you, that you think should be included in the
3 final plans. Further input, if there's items that are missing or things should be expanded
4 more that are shown on the plans. Looking at those specific things as far as feedback
5 from the community.
6

7 Ms. O'Kane: I'd like to add that we've got in the habit of calling all of these site plans
8 proposed amenities. It's really more potential. As you look at it, don't think—for the
9 Hoover Park example, all of these proposed amenities aren't actually we're thinking we're
10 going to build all of them. These are the potential things that could go in this park space.
11 Of those, which would be the most appropriate, which should be highlighted as a priority
12 versus the others. If we did everything in all of these books, we certainly wouldn't have
13 the budget for that. These are just potential amenities that could go in these parks.
14

15 Chair Lauing: Comments, Commissioner Cribbs.
16

17 Commissioner Cribbs: How are people finding out about the opportunity to comment on
18 these plans?
19

20 Mr. Jensen: We're using the same techniques that we used before for the other
21 community surveys. Mostly through email lists. We have an email list now for the Parks
22 Master Plan that includes the stakeholders. It's about 115 people; it gets sent out to the
23 head of each neighborhood association. There's quite a few in Palo Alto; some of them
24 are very well organized, like Midtown. Some of them aren't. We send an email to those
25 people and ask them to distribute to their lists. An email blast will go out to our
26 Community Services list, which is a good sized list. I don't know exactly how many; it's
27 thousands of people on that. It seemed to be successful in the past. Our first survey, we
28 got 1,100 response. The prioritization challenge got in the 700 range. We hope that it'll
29 generate again a good response. As far as the community meeting, I did add a line item
30 to our sign-in sheet, because it is interesting to me how people find out about the
31 meetings. Everyone that came—26 community members came to the meeting. They all
32 said that they got an email from someone about the meeting. That's seems to be the best
33 way. That's usually the best way because it's usually from someone you know instead of
34 just a blanket thing stating come to our meeting. You are actually getting something
35 from someone who is asking you to participate, which is a lot more powerful than just
36 sending out a blanket statement. We also used social media, but I don't know exactly
37 how that is working. There's no way to track it. Twitter and Facebook are things the
38 City does use as well as Nextdoor. The meeting was advertised on those platforms as
39 well. We will use those platforms to advertise this. We'll try as many ways as possible
40 to get the message out.
41

1 Commissioner Cribbs: I know several of us were at the meeting. I was particularly
2 pleased with the broad range of people who were there in terms of age groups and
3 younger generation people who have the most to benefit from all of this. It was good.
4

5 Chair Lauing: Any other comments or questions? Commissioner Hetterly.
6

7 Commissioner Hetterly: I just have a quick question. Do we still have those signs up at
8 all the parks with the—I don't know what you call that thing to connect to the survey. Is
9 that live now for this survey or has that been defunct for (crosstalk).
10

11 Mr. Jensen: That just takes you to the home page. I did try to make that sign as general
12 as possible. I think we learned from the Rinconada; we started to put dates on those
13 things. They stayed up past the dates. That bar code takes you to the webpage and from
14 there it's fairly clear on the webpage that you click on that middle box. It's prompting
15 you to access it that way.
16

17 Commissioner Hetterly: Thanks.
18

19 Chair Lauing: Is that it? Go ahead, Keith.
20

21 Commissioner Reckdahl: I had one specific comment. On Baylands, you have the
22 layout, but we're going to lose a lot of this land due to the JPA project. I'd be nice on the
23 Baylands if you—do we know where the JPA is going to be—the levee is going to be?
24

25 Mr. Anderson: Yes.
26

27 Commissioner Reckdahl: I'd be nice if we could put that in. A lot of the area just goes
28 away, so you have a lot less options if you know where that is.
29

30 Mr. Jensen: Right. I think that was one of the comments from our staff review. We did
31 have an extensive staff review of the concept plans. We were showing the parking lot
32 that's adjacent to the levee remaining and then improving that. That parking lot is not
33 going to be there anymore. It's going to be the levee. That was taken out.
34

35 Chair Lauing: Thank you. See you next month.
36

37 Mr. Jensen: Thank you.
38

39 **5. Other Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Updates.** 40

41 Chair Lauing: The next item on the agenda is ad hoc committee and liaison updates. I
42 know that Commissioner Cribbs has ... Gym use ad hoc.

1
2 Commissioner Cribbs: We have a short report. We met with Kristen and Adam Howard
3 a couple of weeks ago. We defined our mission to really understand gym use in Palo
4 Alto currently and to see what the needs were and to understand the availability in Palo
5 Alto and see if we're missing anything. Our first step was to get the gym policies from
6 Kristen and review what's going on at Cubberley in terms of who gets to use the gym and
7 that kind of thing. I think the most important thing we'll do is inventory the available
8 gyms in Palo Alto, the City's three at Cubberley. We'd like to delve into the PAUSD,
9 which is a particular interest of mine, both the middle schools and the high schools. Add
10 the private schools to our list and then check with the Chamber of Commerce and any of
11 the corporations who have gyms. I know that might be crazy, but there's some
12 opportunities there, I think. Stanford in addition has incredible facilities which are
13 sometimes tough to use. I think it's certainly worth putting them on the list. There are
14 several for-profit gyms and exercise clubs and private clubs in Palo Alto that should go
15 on this list. Any plans that anybody has, whether it's a corporation or a private company,
16 for new or renovated gyms, and then we'd like to look at the neighboring cities too to see
17 if there's any potential for partnerships with gyms that exist. We want to start with the
18 data and make sure that the gyms that we have right now are being used. If they're not
19 being used, this isn't actually necessary, to go through the exercise. In looking at the Park
20 Master Plan, there's certainly a lot of ideas and a lot of policies and a lot of programs that
21 have to do with shared space and use and all of that. We have asked Adam for some
22 historical data, and he's busy collecting that. We should see that pretty soon. Once we
23 get the historical data, if there is any, then we'll proceed on the inventory.

24
25 Chair Lauing: The Master Plan consultants gave us an inventory of City gyms. You'll
26 have that.

27
28 Mr. Jensen: I can actually send that to you.

29
30 Commissioner Cribbs: That would be great. Thank you very much. That's it for now.

31
32 Chair Lauing: Did you want to talk about Matadero?

33
34 Commissioner Reckdahl: Yeah. Do you want to go ahead?

35
36 Commissioner Moss: The Planning and Transportation Committee meeting last week
37 had a big discussion about the Matadero Creek Trail. That's one of our programs in our
38 Master Plan. There are many issues with a creek-side bicycle and pedestrian path along
39 the length of the creek. We're playing more of a monitoring role than having input. I
40 think the big thing that the City Council wants is the path to somehow touch the creek a
41 little bit. I think they've pretty much given up on the idea that they're going to have a
42 path from Alma to the Baylands along the creek. All we can do is watch as the many

1 issues are confronted. I think we're going to end up with some kind of hybrid where
2 there will be a very small portion of that trail be next to the creek, and a bigger portion of
3 it will be along, say, Loma Verde. The issues have everything to do with flood control
4 and getting across the many streets that it has to cross in the middle of the road between
5 stop signs and also encroachment by several private properties in very strategic places. I
6 don't see those issues being fixed any time soon. I think a hybrid is going to happen. The
7 only thing we've been able to talk to them about is going underneath 101 at the very end
8 and perhaps bypassing some of the creek but being able to use that underpass. That's
9 about all we've been able to contribute.

10
11 Commissioner Reckdahl: The fact that you have property that goes right up to the creek
12 does prevent the path from following along, but we do have Wilkie Way, for example,
13 where we cantilever that and it runs along the channel for a while. Just because there's
14 private property there, it doesn't preclude it. It just makes it a lot more expensive and
15 more complicated. Some people in the City still hold out hope that we'll have something
16 that goes down. What they debated at the PTC was either go down Loma Verde and have
17 a straight shot and don't even mess the creek or you wiggle through and hit the creek
18 when you can and move off of it. The PTC eventually voted for recommending that
19 wiggle path, what they call the hybrid, where you're along the sometimes and away from
20 the creek other times, simply because it's the cheaper option. Loma Verde would have
21 been rather expensive. There was some concern about Loma Verde would have a
22 separate bike path with a divider. You'd have the bikes going in opposite direction on the
23 wrong side of the street; some people had complained about that. The bottom line is our
24 concern about going under, whether they go Loma Verde or whether they go this hybrid
25 path, both could end up going under the bridge over there at Matadero Creek under 101.
26 We're still in play. There's some still logistics to hand out. Josh Mello, the transportation
27 officer, still is optimistic that we can get something through, that will get us at least
28 seasonal access under the 101 underpass. We're still working on it.

29
30 Mr. Jensen: As far as staff goes, I know that Elizabeth Ames in Public Works has
31 worked on that underpass with the Water District for a long time. She has probably the
32 most information as far as that goes; she'd be the best person to talk to about background
33 history of what the conversation has been and all that stuff.

34
35 Commissioner Reckdahl: Deirdre and I met with her last year, and she gave us a data
36 dump. That was very useful. I'm optimistic, but it's not going to be trivial just because
37 the Water District's involved.

38
39 Chair Lauing: Any other ad hoc reports or liaison reports?
40

1 **V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

2
3 Chair Lauing: The next item of business is a new category item of business called the
4 Director's Report.

5
6 Ms. O'Kane: Thank you. I'm just going to explain why this was added. I just thought it
7 would be a good place for Rob or I or both of us to provide any announcements, any
8 updates on what's been happening, what's about to happen, and separate it from the more
9 general announcements that are also on the agenda. That's the reason for this is. We can
10 see how it works and revise as needed. I'm going to turn it over to Rob to start out.

11
12 Mr. de Geus: I get a little more structure. I think it's a good idea; we should play with it
13 and maybe even have it at the beginning of the meeting. I just have two announcements
14 that I wanted to share with you. One, Bernie Sanders is coming to town tomorrow, is
15 going to be at the Cubberley Community Center, which is going to be a rally. There's a
16 meeting that he'll have there for an hour, from 1:00 to 2:00, and then he's with the press
17 for half an hour, and then out to the football field for the rally. Big deal. Don't know
18 how many people to expect, but thousands for sure. If you want to go to the rally, come
19 on down. If you don't, I would stay away from South Palo Alto for the day.

20
21 Commissioner Reckdahl: How much are they paying in rent for that?

22
23 Mr. de Geus: It's somewhere around \$4,000 to \$5,000 rental fee. We're charging based
24 on how many hours they're using the fields and the pavilion where the meeting is.

25
26 Commissioner Reckdahl: Do they pay for cleanup afterwards or how does that work?

27
28 Mr. de Geus: No. Because it's a political campaign and the Secret Service are involved,
29 there will be 20 Secret Service agents that'll be there. The police are working closely
30 with them as part of an in-kind arrangement. I think that's typical for political candidates.
31 We had Secretary Clinton here a month or more ago to meet with the United Farm
32 Workers at the Lucie Stern Center. That was again a time when we had Secret Service
33 and police involved. They have to sweep the whole place. Tomorrow's event is a big
34 deal. Wanted to be sure you knew about it, because it is in a community center and on a
35 park.

36
37 Commissioner Reckdahl: Do they put up any bond or deposit in case there's damage?

38
39 Mr. de Geus: That is in the facility rental rules; they have to pay for any damage. I
40 certainly expressed that to the campaign numerous times. We'll have to see. I have to
41 say big shout out to the police department. They've been terrific. They're managing a lot
42 of the work that needs to be done with security and parking and safety of the Greendell



1 School in particular, which is still in session tomorrow. They have a plan, and I think it's
2 going to be fine. CSD will have 15-20 staff there as well helping manage the crowds.

3
4 Commissioner Moss: I live right behind there. There's a path from there to Nelson, and
5 they couldn't find the keys to take out the post, so they had to cut them off. Of course,
6 they're going to have to put them back up. These things are sticking up like this, and
7 people ride their bikes across there. Somebody's going to trip and fall on that overnight.

8
9 Mr. de Geus: We'll replace those, because they were concreted in actually. They needed
10 to be repaired.

11
12 Commissioner Moss: What a mess.

13
14 Mr. de Geus: The other is the golf course. Still planning to close in July. Bids are in.
15 We are working with the lowest bidder to try and draft the contract to bring to Council.
16 We were hoping to be there on June 13th; we're not going to be ready for that, so it'll be
17 June 20th when we're before Council with a contract for the golf course. That's pretty
18 exciting. So far so good.

19
20 Chair Lauing: Any risk of it falling out now on those dates? Not from a contractor's
21 standpoint, but from the Water Board and all that.

22
23 Mr. de Geus: There's still some risk. The latest, unless Kristen you've heard, is that we
24 have permits in hand. Everything we're hearing from Joe Teresi, the project manager, is
25 that we will have them in hand. We're moving forward as though it's happened. That's
26 exciting. There will be a staff report related to that. We'll send you the link as soon as
27 it's ready.

28
29 Ms. O'Kane: I have a couple of things. I'll try to be brief. I first wanted to introduce—
30 you may have noticed there's a new face on this side of the table. Amanda Deng
31 [phonetic] is a new employee in our department. She's going to be cross-training with
32 Catherine and eventually taking over the role that Catherine has with the Commission.
33 Catherine will still be here for the next few months, training Amanda. She's here to help,
34 and she's a quick study so I'm sure she'll pick it up very quickly. I'm going to have—
35 Amanda, could you pass out the ... There's something else I've added that will eventually
36 go out in your packets. I think this is something that you've seen in the past. It may have
37 a different format. There's two things that were handed out to you. One is a calendar; it's
38 a 2-month calendar that just provides you with information on upcoming events,
39 meetings that you might find interesting or be relevant to the Commission. This will be,
40 like I said, sent out in your packet, but we'll also update it periodically. We can send it to
41 you if there's significant changes in advance. I also thought it would be helpful to have a
42 work plan of our agenda topics for the calendar year. This way we can see what's

1 planned in the future. If there's something that a Commissioner would like to see added
2 to the agenda, we can use this as a work plan to say, "We haven't heard about this for a
3 few months, so we'll add it to November" or "November's looking really full, let's add it
4 to October." Right now, the next few months look pretty empty, but they will fill up. If
5 anyone has any topics they would like added to the agenda, we could do that. We can
6 also see from a staff standpoint if something is going to be happening, say, related to
7 community gardens. We can add that at the appropriate time. It's just sort of a snapshot
8 of the year as to what we've seen in the past already and what we might want to see in the
9 future. Both of these things will be sent out in the packets from now on. One other last
10 thing is I did want to say—it's not on the calendar—every Friday there's a summer
11 concert series at the Magical Bridge Playground that's put on by Friends of the Palo Alto
12 Parks as well as Friends of the Magical Bridge Playground. I encourage you to go out. I
13 haven't been to them; their first one was last Friday. Like I said, they're every Friday
14 from 6:30 to 8:00, different types of music.

15
16 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is it just during the summer?

17
18 Ms. O'Kane: It's just during the summer. It'll go through the end of September. They
19 just kicked off their season last Friday, and they'll continue with those every Friday.
20 That's all I have.

21
22 Chair Lauing: We should do specific questions to both of you as well on stuff. For
23 example, where's the CIP process right now? Are we winning or losing this year is what
24 I really want to know.

25
26 Mr. de Geus: That's a good question, because it is changing. We have been told that they
27 are out of balance, and we will need to push some things off, particularly in 2017. It's a
28 5-year plan, and we fund 1 year at a time. They need to push some things out of 2017,
29 and they've asked every department to prioritize 2017 CIPs. The one we're looking at
30 is—there is a CIP in '17 for Rinconada Park, a large one, but it's not really shovel ready.
31 We haven't yet approved the long range plan. There's still questions about the Junior
32 Museum and Zoo; not questions so much but there's still a process to go through there.
33 We don't think we'll be ready to do a lot in Rinconada Park in '17 anyway. That's one we
34 put forward, so we might have to push that out. Other than that, I don't think there's any
35 changes of significance.

36
37 Chair Lauing: Do either of you know where we are with that hydrologic study up at
38 Foothills on the extra acreage?

39
40 Mr. de Geus: Council was asking me about that just in the meeting earlier.

41
42 Chair Lauing: You're prepped for that question then.

1
2 Mr. de Geus: It's been delayed a little bit. Other CIPs have been getting priority. We
3 finally got the RFP done and selected a contractor to do the study. It's scheduled to go to
4 Council in June, so they can start this summer. It's moving.

5
6 Chair Lauing: Other questions for the Director and Assistant?

7
8 **Vi. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9
10 Chair Lauing: Any other general comment and announcements folks want to make?

11
12 Mr. Jensen: Bowden Park will start a renovation project next Monday. The Palo Alto
13 playing fields are scheduled to begin on June 13th to have the synthetic turf replaced.
14 Before our next meeting, those two projects will be under way.

15
16 Commissioner Reckdahl: Bowden originally, when we passed the PIO, didn't have a dog
17 park. Are we just doing the work outside of that dog park area? There is minimal work
18 in that area.

19
20 Mr. Jensen: There was no work planned for the frontage where (crosstalk).

21
22 Commissioner Reckdahl: I thought we were going to plant some trees there.

23
24 Mr. Jensen: It's fairly minimal. The space still stays the same. It's felt that we should
25 approve the Master Plan before we start to implement the items from it. That will be one
26 of the first things that we'll look at, implementing the dog park at that location.

27
28 Commissioner Reckdahl: We'll go back later and do the dog park.

29
30 Mr. Jensen: Yes. It's a fairly simple thing to do there for the dog park.

31
32 **VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR JUNE 28, 2016 MEETING**

33
34 Chair Lauing: The next item is tentative agenda items for the June 28th, '16 meeting. I'm
35 sure one of them is going to be the Master Plan. Others that are pending? The Zoo is
36 done, right? They're not coming back?

37
38 Commissioner Reckdahl: (inaudible)

39
40 Chair Lauing: Except for the PIO.

1 Ms. O'Kane: It'll probably be August. We'll have to work on that agenda. I don't have
2 anything right now for June.

3
4 Chair Lauing: Short meetings are okay, if we only want to work on the Master Plan.

5
6 Commissioner Hetterly: Can I just clarify on the dog parks? It was my understanding
7 that we were going to move forward with neighborhood meetings and drafting a PIO for
8 those first two near-term dog parks. Has that been abandoned now in anticipation of
9 eventual passage of the Master Plan?

10
11 Ms. O'Kane: I think it's been delayed because we need to get Council approval and their
12 feedback on whether that's how they want to move forward.

13
14 Mr. de Geus: That's one of the delays and why we're not happy about not having the
15 study session. That's one of the topics we were going to focus on with the Council on the
16 study session, the outcome of the dog parks (inaudible). I'll talk to Daren about this one.
17 I know we want to move it forward; we don't want to delay this.

18
19 Commissioner Reckdahl: I can see if we were going forward with 12 dog parks. We're
20 just going forward with two. We pretty much know that we have the demand for two,
21 and that these are reasonable locations. We still have to pass a PIO. Council could look
22 at the PIO and say, "No. We want to talk about the dog park, and we're not going to
23 confirm the PIO." I would personally think it'd be safe to go forward with the community
24 meetings and push forward on just those two.

25
26 Commissioner Hetterly: That would be my leaning as well. With the Council study
27 session delayed, if we got the community meetings done in advance of the Council study
28 session, that just gives them more information in order to make a decision.

29
30 Chair Lauing: I agree.

31
32 Mr. de Geus: I think that's probably okay. Let me talk to Daren about it. I may check in
33 with City Manager too, because it's always this question of getting too far ahead of where
34 the Council might be. I think Council's very supportive of this, more dog parks. We've
35 heard that from a number of them. I'll have to check in with a few folks before we ...

36
37 Chair Lauing: We'll monitor for additional agenda items.

38
39 Mr. de Geus: I have a suggestion. One area that's not fully fleshed out in the Master Plan
40 yet, and their big things are the 10 1/2 acres at the golf course and what are we going to
41 do there, and Cubberley is another one. We sort of briefly talk about what we'd like to
42 see there. They would be two interesting topics for us to talk about as staff and

1 Commission. Given all the feedback we've heard through this process, what has
2 percolated to the top to start thinking about what we're going to recommend for that 10
3 1/2 acres at the golf course and also Cubberley. I don't know if we'll be ready for any of
4 those next month. Perhaps I would begin with the 10 1/2 acres at the golf course.
5

6 Chair Lauing: Those are gaps relative to the document we went over tonight on the
7 Master Plan.
8

9 Commissioner Hetterly: Have there been any further developments on Cubberley with
10 the School District setting up your design, visioning plan?
11

12 Mr. de Geus: It's been slow. We've been trying to connect with the design school at
13 Stanford. It's been hard to nail them down. This is a big project, so we tacked and got in
14 touch with Ideo which is a local design company. Kristen and I went and visited their
15 San Francisco offices where they have an education branch. It's really exciting and
16 interesting. We were like, "This is it. These folks are going to help us out." They told us
17 how much it would cost to do that; it was a bit of sticker shock. We're now trying to find
18 some time to meet with the City Manager and Dr. McGee with a couple of options for
19 moving forward. We still want to by the end of the year have a real plan in place for how
20 we're going to go through this process, so we get there by the end of the 5-year lease with
21 the School District. More to come.
22

23 Chair Lauing: Any other items we should raise?
24

25 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

26
27 Meeting adjourned on motion by Commissioner Hetterly and second by Commissioner
28 Cribbs at 10:15 p.m. Motion passed 5-0