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**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 23, 2019
CITY HALL
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, California**

13 **Commissioners Present:** Jeff Greenfield, Jeff LaMere, Ryan McCauley, Don McDougall,
14 David Moss, and Keith Reckdahl

15 **Commissioners Absent:** Anne Cribbs

16 **Others Present:** Council Member Cormack

17 **Staff Present:** Daren Anderson, Kristen O'Kane, Natalie Khwaja

18 **I. ROLL CALL**

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

20 Chair McDougall: Do we have any Agenda Changes, Requests, Deletions that are not in
21 the agenda as provided? If not, could we move on to Oral Communications then?

22 **III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

23 Chair McDougall: Kristen, please.

24 Kristen O'Kane: Oral Communications are for members of the public to speak.

25 Chair McDougall: Do we have anybody who would like to speak on a topic that's not on
26 the agenda tonight? Thank you.

27 **IV. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

28 Chair McDougall: Department Report. Sorry about that, confused you.

29 Daren Anderson: Hello. Daren Anderson with Community Services Department. I've
30 got a few items for you, a couple of FYIs. There's a project coming up in Palo Alto
31 Unified School District at Hoover Elementary School that involves building some new



1 classrooms that may involve moving portables onto the grass field. This project would
2 start in June and go until 2023. There are other possible impacts from the project that
3 may affect the adjacent parkland at Mitchell Park. It's the student drop-off and pick-up
4 that would be impacted. They're looking at other alternatives that may involve using the
5 parking lot at Mitchell. With our last experience with the solar project at PAUSD, we
6 wanted to bring this to your attention as soon as I became aware of it and ask if the
7 Commission would like to form an ad hoc committee to meet with staff and ultimately
8 with PAUSD staff as well and see if we can weigh in and help with input on this project.
9 Perhaps I could finish the Department Report and we can come back to that.

10 Chair McDougall: Thank you.

11 Mr. Anderson: Another event is unaffiliated but happening at Mitchell Park. The
12 Utilities Department is replacing two transformers, so the power will be out to the park
13 from May 13 through May 15. This will include the restrooms, the tennis court lights,
14 the irrigation, the water feature, and all the park lighting. They're going to do their best
15 to get it completed as soon as possible. We'll make sure that we inform all the adjacent
16 groups, the library, the schools, the community center, and everyone in and around the
17 park. We'll have it signed really well. Just an FYI that's coming.

18 Commissioner Moss: Does that mean the library and the community center will be
19 closed?

20 Mr. Anderson: No, I'm sorry. The light control will only be going on in the park itself.
21 It's just the power inside Mitchell Park. This other FYI is unsubstantiated. A fisherman
22 reported a gar up at Foothills Park at Boronda Lake. A gar is an invasive fish, usually the
23 result of an aquarium release, which is kind of interesting. They can grow from 1 foot to
24 9 feet long. This isn't the first time we've had this happen. Ten years ago, we had a
25 similar report, and we did the same thing we did this time. We contacted California Fish
26 & Wildlife Service. They send out a biologist. We electroshocked parts of the lake
27 looking for this fish. Electroshock is essentially putting in a battery-powered electrifier.
28 It shocks a little portion of the lake. Fish are stunned momentarily and rise up to the top.
29 You can see if you've got any invasive ones, in particular this gar that we're looking at.
30 In this instance, the Fish & Wildlife biologist came out again and did a survey and didn't
31 find it again. Just wanted to let you know if you hear about it, we're on top of it. We're
32 communicating with people that are fishing at the lake on a regular basis to educate them
33 about what the gar looks like and if you catch them, please do not re-release it. We'd like
34 to capture that, freeze it, and call Fish & Wildlife Service. Just an FYI, there are five of
35 the seven gar species that are native to the United States, but none of which are in
36 California.

37 Ms. O'Kane: I have some things to share as well. I'm Kristen O'Kane, Community
38 Services. Mine are about two special events that are coming up. The first is Palo Alto

1 Day. As you probably know, hopefully, this year is Palo Alto's 125th birthday. There's
2 an event occurring on King Plaza this Sunday at 2:00 to celebrate Palo Alto Day. It's a
3 community event put on by different members of the community, not just the City, to
4 celebrate and to open a time capsule that was buried here in City Hall 25 years ago.
5 There were three time capsules buried 25 years ago, one to be opened in 2019, one in
6 another 25 years, and maybe another 50 years after that. We're going to open that. We're
7 going to have just a fun celebration. There will be some singing groups. I encourage you
8 all to attend. The actual program starts at 2:00, but there's some music that starts at
9 12:45. Again, King Plaza this Sunday. The second one, I wanted to remind everyone of
10 the May Fete Parade that is happening the following weekend on Saturday. I do have a
11 request. We are looking for some judges to judge the floats at the May Fete Parade. If
12 anyone is interested, we would greatly appreciate it. It requires that you get there a little
13 bit earlier, 9:15, but you do get to vote on all the floats and make some kids feel very
14 special that day. If anyone is interested, please let me know. Again, if you haven't let
15 Stephanie Douglas know if you'd like to walk in the parade, please do so, so we can make
16 sure we have the right number of people accounted for. Two fun community events
17 coming up. I hope to see you there. Thank you.

18 Chair McDougall: Daren, would you like to go back to the question about the ad hoc.
19 Which school did you say that was? I'm sorry.

20 Mr. Anderson: This is Hoover Elementary. I think it might be helpful to form an ad hoc
21 if the Commission feels that would benefit the process. I'd be glad to work with the ad
22 hoc and connect them with PAUSD staff and see if we can discuss this project in more
23 detail.

24 Vice Chair Greenfield: I'd be happy to be involved with that. I live down the street on
25 Waverley Street. I know part of the transportation plan they're talking about is
26 potentially opening up Waverley Street as a one-way road for drop-off. I know Hoover
27 School is trying to do some outreach, so this is a good time to plug the message a little bit
28 for the people who are listening. As part of the construction, the loop through the school
29 area will be closed. It'll be dead-ended on the side adjacent to the home on the other side.
30 Traffic will either have to turn around and then go through Waverley Street or go back
31 out the way they came. It's a problem any way you look at it. I'd be happy to be involved
32 with that.

33 Chair McDougall: Is there anybody else who would like to join that? I hate to think
34 you'd do it alone, so I'll volunteer to participate with you.

35 Vice Chair Greenfield: Love to spend more time with you, Don.

1 Chair McDougall: People are going to start talking. That's good. I think we should
2 make sure or certainly express the appreciation that the School Board reached out. That
3 should not go unnoticed.

4 Vice Chair Greenfield: I just had one question regarding the utilities issue at Mitchell
5 Park. Will that affect the tennis and pickleball courts?

6 Mr. Anderson: Yes, the lighting on all the courts.

7 Vice Chair Greenfield: No lights on May 13 through 15.

8 Mr. Anderson: That's correct.

9 Chair McDougall: Any other questions for Daren or Kristen? In that case, I'd like to
10 move on to approval of the minutes.

11 **V. BUSINESS**

12 **1. Approval of Draft Minutes from the March 26, 2019 Parks and Recreation**
13 **Commission meeting.**

14 Approval of the draft March 26, 2019 Minutes was moved by Commissioner Reckdahl
15 and seconded by Commissioner Moss. Passed 6-0, Cribbs absent

16 **2. Recommendation to City Council to Adopt a Park Improvement Ordinance**
17 **at Mitchell Park for Constructing Two Pickleball Courts, Converting Tennis**
18 **Court 5 into Four Pickleball Courts, and Restriping Courts 6 and 7 for Dual**
19 **Use.**

20 Chair McDougall: The next item is recommendation to City Council to adopt a Park
21 Improvement Ordinance at Mitchell Park. I'd like to invite Adam Howard to participate
22 with Daren to make that presentation. For the audience, I have three cards here. The
23 process will be that we'll hear the presentation. If I have cards, you'll be invited to speak,
24 and then the Commission will speak, and then there will be a motion. Thank you all for
25 being here. Remember the thoughtful and peaceful approach that we've witnessed from
26 all of you before. Adam.

27 Adam Howard: Thank you. Good evening. Adam Howard, Senior Community Services
28 Manager. Thank you for having me here. Yes, we are here to receive a recommendation
29 to send forward a Park Improvement Ordinance for the Mitchell Park courts. A brief
30 background as we've discussed this before. We've seen an increase in Palo Alto in
31 pickleball play. Our first step to help with that solution was to update the Court Policy to
32 allow pickleball play to happen in Palo Alto. August 28, we brought a recommendation
33 for changes to the Court Use Policy to the Commission. You sent it forward to the City



1 Council, who approved it on October 15. Again, we realized that was the first step and
2 what we needed to do was provide some designated space for the pickleball users.
3 February 19, staff held a public meeting to discuss redesigned plans at Mitchell Park. On
4 February 26, we came back and reported that to you. What you'll see is the same plan
5 designs from that previous meeting with a little bit more detail and in the form of a PIO.
6 The paperwork in front of you is some changes that took place since the PIO was sent.
7 They're really just changes to the note section of the diagram. The wording is the same,
8 but in the note section some things didn't correlate with the picture that you see. We
9 wanted to make sure that those corrections came forward to you. For tonight, the Park
10 Improvement Ordinance focuses on these six things: the removal of four trees and
11 replanting additional trees according to the City Arborist's replanting recommendations;
12 install two new pickleball courts and new perimeter fencing that is currently outside the
13 passive grass area and adjacent to the existing tennis courts; install a new concrete
14 walkway along the exterior of the new pickleball courts; convert one existing tennis
15 court, Court 5, into four dedicated pickleball courts; stripe the two existing tennis courts,
16 Courts 6 and 7, into multiuse courts; and install one drinking fountain adjacent to the
17 courts for everybody's use. This is an overhead image of Mitchell Park Courts 5, 6, and
18 7. You have seen this before. We'll go into a little detail of each of those steps I just
19 talked about. First is the removal of four trees. The red large circles are the current
20 locations of those trees. Just a picture of those trees, three palm trees and I don't
21 remember the name of the larger tree. You can see where they are adjacent to the tennis
22 courts currently. Those would be removed. The recommendation would be to replant.
23 At this point, we're looking at replanting seven trees in Mitchell Park. Most of that will
24 go in the new landscaping area, but some of them might go other places in the park. This
25 is the overhead of where the new pickleball courts and perimeter fencing will remain.
26 We're basically bumping out the current perimeter fence to this new red line. That's
27 where the two new pickleball courts will go. We would install a new walkway along the
28 exterior of the fence. That's what the yellow image represents. That way we have a
29 concrete walkway around the new existing perimeter fence. This shows the conversion
30 of Court 5 into four designated pickleball courts. We would then dual stripe Courts 6 and
31 7 to provide both tennis and pickleball use with the previously mentioned designated
32 times for each sport. The red circle is where the water fountain will be located. There is
33 also a water fountain in the Magical Bridge Playground, so this will be the second water
34 fountain in the area. As an overview and recap, this proposed plan gives eight designated
35 pickleball courts, which does include the two recently redesigned paddleball courts; four
36 designated tennis courts, which are all lit; and two multiuse courts, which make two
37 tennis courts or seven pickleball courts, all with lights. If the recommendation goes
38 forward tonight, next steps are to bring the Park Improvement Ordinance to City Council
39 in May and, while doing that, finishing the Planning Department permits. The hope
40 would be to get Council to approve the contract in July with construction starting in
41 August and completion in October. Questions or comments?



1 Chair McDougall: I'd like to go to the public speakers. If anybody is planning on
2 speaking, I'd appreciate it if you'd submit cards now. We've had the situation before
3 where people have wanted to speak afterwards, and I'm afraid we can't allow that. I'll
4 wait one minute. While we're waiting, to go in the order the cards were submitted, I'll
5 start with Harvey Alcabes . I hope I have that right. Next is Kay Carey, if they can be
6 ready.

7 Harvey Alcabes: Hello. My name's Harvey Alcabes. I'm a longtime Palo Alto resident,
8 have been a tennis player for a while. In the last year, I started playing pickleball. I've
9 found that it's something that a lot of people really enjoy. With the tennis courts, there's
10 generally been—pickleball is very, very fast growing. Even from last summer until now,
11 there is a lot more players. In one court, we can have 16 people playing in what would be
12 one tennis court, where up to four people could play. I just want to recommend that the
13 Council approve this request.

14 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Kay Carey followed by Ann Lemmenes [phonetic].

15 Kay Carey: Good evening. I'm Kay Carey, a longtime Palo Alto resident, past president
16 of Palo Alto Tennis Club. I've recently tried pickleball. It's certainly fun. This has been
17 a very thoughtful plan that has been put forward by the Rec Department and is a useful
18 compromise so that we can have both tennis players and pickleball players getting court
19 usage. I hope, though, that the Commission is going to be monitoring the usage of the
20 courts because ultimately it would make a lot of sense to think about Cubberley as a
21 pickleball center. For example, I believe \$80,000 is being spent for the two new
22 pickleball courts. It would be interesting if instead \$100,000 was spent to light two
23 Cubberley courts, which could be mixed use, that is eight pickleball courts or two tennis
24 courts. Just a suggestion because the parking problems at Mitchell are severe. Cubberley
25 makes sense as a pickleball center. It doesn't have a nice little viewing area, which would
26 be a wonderful thing to put in. I just wanted to make the suggestion that, as you are
27 continuing to monitor it, you might be thinking in terms of where do you want your
28 pickleball center to be. I think it would be difficult to have it at Mitchell Park. I certainly
29 commend this plan as a good transition plan. Thank you.

30 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Ann Lemmenes followed by Lee Caswell.

31 Ann Lemmenes: Hi. My name is Ann Lemmenes, and I'm a Palo Alto resident and
32 property owner. I want to thank you, first of all, for all your hours, days, weeks, months,
33 and years of work on this project. I think the proposal is really a good one. It doesn't
34 overly benefit pickleball nor unduly harm the tennis community. Thank you very much.

35 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Lee Caswell followed by Monica Williams.

1 Lee Caswell: Hi. My name is Lee Caswell. I'm a longtime tennis player and an even
2 longer time Palo Alto resident. I do recommend moving forward. It's a very thoughtful
3 proposal, a balance of pickleball and tennis. What I wanted to talk about just for a
4 minute, though, was the nature of this game and how, from a community standpoint, it
5 really does by compressing the skillset allow people to interact in a way that is indicative
6 of how we want Palo Alto to behave. We're bringing people from different ages. I've
7 played with everyone who's a pickleball player here at different times. Although I was a
8 competitive tennis player, I'm able to play with a group of people that is a big range of
9 folks, different sexes, different ages. It's really been my pleasure to be part of that. I am
10 the spouse of a School Board Member, so I do happen to just run into people from all
11 different schools and kids who are participating in sport where it's not easy to enter tennis
12 the same way as it is to get into pickleball. I'm really enthusiastic about having dedicated
13 courts. It's a pretty big drag on the pickleball players to bring all these courts in every
14 week. The setup and downtime with this are quite an effort, and I think this is going to
15 go a long way towards improving the enjoyment of the game, number one, and also a
16 little bit on safety too. Thank you so much.

17 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Monica Williams follows by Susan McConnell.

18 Monica Williams: Good evening, Chair McDougall and Commissioners. I'm Monica
19 Williams, President of the Palo Alto Pickleball Club. I want to thank you for this
20 proposal. Four years ago, an article in the *Mercury News* called me a 73-year-old
21 pickleball goddess. That was four years ago. I'm absolutely delighted that you have
22 brought this to fruition. We're looking forward to having this facility at Mitchell Park.
23 We'll be able to teach a lot more youth. This gives us the possibility of people just
24 coming in and playing rather than having to put up a net. That's why with our youth we
25 want to have them be able to come onto the courts and practice. There's nowhere else to
26 do that without putting up courts. Having the dedicated courts is really fantastic. Thank
27 you so much. I want to also say that, for those people who are not speaking tonight, we
28 want to respect your time, so we don't want to take too much of your time. To have those
29 people who are supporting pickleball to stand up please. Thank you. That looks like 100
30 percent. Thank you, and the proposal is fantastic. Thank you very much.

31 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Susan McConnell.

32 Susan McConnell: Hi. My name is Susan McConnell, and I'm a member of the Palo
33 Alto Pickleball Club and a resident of Palo Alto for 46 years. For 18 years, I captained
34 many Palo Alto USTA teams until my knees gave out. This past Monday morning when
35 I arrived at Mitchell Park to play pickleball, there were 44 people playing on three tennis
36 courts with people waiting to go on the courts. I looked when I came in, and there were, I
37 believe, only two tennis players on your newly resurfaced courts. We have a very vibrant
38 pickleball community at Mitchell Park. In fact, there's a vibrant pickleball community

1 throughout the United States. We support the plan proposed by the Palo Alto Parks and
2 Rec Department to change one tennis court, Number 5, into four dedicated pickleball
3 courts. Dual lines will be put on Courts No. 6 and 7. This is a fair compromise. Tennis
4 players will have 21 lit courts instead of 22. Thank you. I sure hope this goes through.

5 Chair McDougall: Thank you. I'd like to now convert to talking with the Parks and Rec
6 Commission. I think I'll start, David, with you.

7 Commissioner Moss: Thank you. I've been starting to play pickleball, and I've noticed
8 this camaraderie, and I think it's fantastic that you have this focus in one geographic area.
9 I noticed that there are two pickleball courts that used to be paddleball courts, and almost
10 nobody uses them. Having that focus is really great. I'm very happy that you're creating
11 this center in Mitchell Park and not, for instance, putting two or three courts at Cubberley
12 and two or three courts somewhere else. I don't think they'll be used like they're used at
13 Mitchell Park. It's just fantastic. I also heard for the first time a seating area for
14 watching. I've never heard that before in the year and a half. I don't know if that's
15 possible, to put a two-layer bleacher or something like that somewhere.

16 Mr. Howard: This has been part of the conversation. We looked at a full set of
17 bleachers, but we couldn't put down a pad due to the proximity to the creek. In the
18 landscaped area, we do hope to include some picnic-style benches so people can sit and
19 enjoy the shade and the game.

20 Commissioner Moss: Can you tell me what is between the two new courts and the
21 existing Court 5 in the way of fencing? Is there a half fence, no fence? What's between
22 the two when you're done?

23 Mr. Howard: Between the courts, we'll have dividing fences basically that are used in
24 pickleball. The cement walkway that's there now will be removed so all the surface will
25 be the same. They'll just have little dividers that divide each of the courts. It'll be a very
26 low—I don't know if I'd call it a fence. It's 3 feet high.

27 Commissioner Moss: There's one that already exists between Courts 5 and 6. There's a
28 little half fence that—is that going to be similar between ...

29 Mr. Howard: It would probably be even lower than that. That fence will be extended a
30 little bit so that tennis and pickleball could be at the same time without interference.

31 Commissioner Moss: I'm really happy to see, every time I go by there, the ability of the
32 pickleballers and the tennis players to share Courts 6 and 7. I encourage us to keep
33 working on that. That's working out great. Thank you.

34 Chair McDougall: I'll go to the other end. Commissioner McCauley.

1 Commissioner McCauley: Adam and Daren, this has been a long time coming.
2 Congratulations, well done.

3 Chair McDougall: Commissioner LaMere.

4 Commissioner LaMere: Appreciate all your hard work on this. It's a great plan. A
5 couple of things that came to mind in terms of long-range thinking. I was really excited
6 to see you able to bump-out and use existing land and expand things at the park. To
7 continue to look at our different parks and how land can be used in efficient ways is
8 exciting. I know we've talked about it a lot, but to continue to study where can we put
9 lights up and where does it not impact the residents and what parks can we really put
10 lights up whether it's for tennis courts, soccer fields. Our population is growing. It's
11 going to get more and more impacted. To continue to find different ways to utilize our
12 space. Congratulations on this. I know you guys have worked very, very hard. You've
13 engaged the public. Excited to see this plan come to fruition.

14 Commissioner Reckdahl: I'll say me too. Thank you very much. I also appreciate the
15 October completion date. That's very good. I know you've worked very hard to squeeze
16 that through. I appreciate that. Refresh my memory. What are the dedicated hours right
17 now in Mitchell Park for pickleball?

18 Mr. Howard: Currently?

19 Commissioner Reckdahl: Currently.

20 Mr. Howard: I'm not going to remember the—it's Mondays and Wednesdays for one
21 group. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the next. Maybe they remember which one is which
22 off the top of their heads. The remaining evenings is first-come-first-serve.

23 Commissioner Reckdahl: We do have some evening slots right now?

24 Mr. Howard: Right now, it's 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday are one
25 sport, and 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday is the other sport. I can't remember
26 which night is which.

27 Commissioner Reckdahl: Do we get a lot of pickleball in the evening?

28 Mr. Howard: Yeah, especially now that the weather's improving.

29 Commissioner Reckdahl: These new courts, we're not going to put lights up. Do we get
30 extra light bouncing off the courts? Are they playable in the evenings, these new courts?

31 Mr. Howard: We're not sure. There is going to be some light, but we don't know if it'll
32 be enough light. We're not positive about that. We can't redirect, so we're not positive.

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: The current lights are fixed?

2 Mr. Howard: Yeah.

3 Commissioner Reckdahl: If we wanted to add lights to these courts down the road, is this
4 minor? I think it's like \$100,000 to do a court.

5 Mr. Howard: Daren might remind me if I'm wrong. I think they gave us a quote of
6 \$70,000 if we wanted to light the addition.

7 Mr. Anderson: I might add that there's also the permitting process, which is more
8 complicated when it comes to lighting things. Of course, the adjacent courts are lit, so
9 that will help. It's not a totally unlit area. Adding additional lights in parks is sometimes
10 a challenge. As Commissioner LaMere pointed out, as we try to maximize space, we'll
11 certainly be looking at options to light a number of areas.

12 Commissioner Reckdahl: The fact that we already have lights there, I assume that would
13 simplify it.

14 Mr. Anderson: I would think so.

15 Commissioner Reckdahl: This \$70,000 quote was including the fact that they could tie
16 into the existing lights?

17 Mr. Howard: Right, because they had been to the courts before, so they knew that.

18 Mr. Anderson: I just wanted to qualify that that \$70,000 wasn't fully vetted. It was an
19 envelope estimate.

20 Commissioner Reckdahl: Just a rom estimate. I appreciate that. Finally, I like the
21 benches at the trees. The fact that they're movable will be a feature because in the
22 morning the sun is going to be coming from the right side. If you want shade, you'll want
23 the benches on the left. In the afternoon, it may be reversed. The fact that they're not
24 fixed is a good thing. How wide is that strip of grass right now? Is it 10 feet?

25 Mr. Howard: Currently or in the design?

26 Commissioner Reckdahl: When they build it.

27 Mr. Howard: It was roughly 10 feet.

28 Commissioner Reckdahl: If you put the trees in the middle, you could move the picnic
29 table back and forth, something like that. Thank you very much. I look forward to this

1 being heavily used. When I walk through the park, pickleball is very heavily used more
2 so than tennis. This is the right decision.

3 Chair McDougall: Commissioner Greenfield.

4 Vice Chair Greenfield: I'd like to thank staff and the community for the collaborative
5 effort in getting to where we are today. It's been a long process. A lot of people have
6 been along for the ride for a long time. I'm happy to see the light at the end of the tunnel.
7 I have nitpicked plenty of details within the ad hoc. I'm happy with things as they are.
8 Congratulations.

9 Chair McDougall: I can only echo the appreciation for the work, Adam, and the stamina
10 that has gone into this. We should also commend pickleball particularly and the tennis
11 people for both their persistence and stamina in this because it's been a necessarily long
12 process. You've done an incredible job of making sure everybody's voice was heard. I
13 have no other comments or questions, just to say thank you to you and everybody that
14 worked with you and helped you. With that said, if there are no other comments—I turn
15 and look at Allison. We have developed the practice of inviting Council Member
16 Cormack to speak at our meetings on our topics. The next thing that happens with this
17 item is it goes before Council. She has suggested it would be inappropriate to participate
18 today because she'll be participating on this in the future. Thank you for your
19 understanding. The next thing would be a motion. The motion would be—would
20 somebody like to give us the specifics of the motion? Is that a slide we could look at?

21 **MOTION**

22 Commissioner McCauley: I would move to recommend that the City Council adopt the
23 Park Improvement Ordinance that's before us.

24 Chair McDougall: Is this the definition here? This would be the appropriate wording.
25 Ryan, would you like to ...

26 Commissioner McCauley: I move that the Commission recommend to the City Council
27 that it adopt the Park Improvement Ordinance at Mitchell Park for constructing two
28 pickleball courts, converting Court 5 into four pickleball courts, and restriping Courts 6
29 and 7 for dual use.

30 Chair McDougall: It is useful to add anything about "and the appropriate amenities" or
31 does that come with it?

32 Mr. Anderson: You can leave it as is. The PIO includes that, and it gives us a little
33 flexibility.

34 Chair McDougall: Do I have a second?

1 Vice Chair Greenfield: I'll second.

2 Chair McDougall: Anybody in favor? All in favor please. Anybody opposed? With
3 that, it's passed unanimously [Cribbs absent]. Thank you again to the attendees. Thank
4 you again to the staff and the Commission.

5 **3. Preparation for Council Study Session**

6 Chair McDougall: The next item on the agenda is preparation for the Council study
7 session. Kristen, do you want to start off and provide some context?

8 Ms. O'Kane: We have, as you know, a joint study session. It's currently scheduled for
9 May 6. I was just trying to pull up the time. It's a little later than we usually do because
10 there's a special order and another study session that same day. We had also, just a side
11 note, planned for the Cubberley joint study session between Council and the School
12 District. That's been moved probably 'til later in the summer. That one is not on May 6.
13 Typically the process for these study sessions is the Chair and the Vice Chair and staff
14 will meet with the Mayor and Vice Mayor. In this instance, we met with the Mayor and
15 Council Member Cormack, which was actually a really good fit for the study session.
16 The Vice Mayor will not be there on May 6, so he deferred to Council Member Cormack.
17 What we did at that meeting is just talk through what Chair McDougall will likely present
18 at the meeting on behalf of the Commission, which would be accomplishments from the
19 previous year and then priorities for the coming year or the current year. I'll turn it over
20 to you, Chair McDougall, but it would be good for the Commission to know generally
21 what the presentation will be and if there's any particular focus you'd like to take the
22 study session and a little bit of choreography maybe would help as well. I'll turn it over
23 to you, and I'm here to answer any questions that you might have along the way.

24 Chair McDougall: Thank you. We met with Mayor Filseth and Council Member
25 Cormack. I want to thank her for being there and her participation in that meeting. It
26 was very useful. I'd like this not to be my presentation but our presentation. What we
27 have in front of you is—I said earlier today that it was a summary version, but then I
28 changed that to say it was a redacted version because that seems to be the term of use
29 these days—what we presented that day. I put it this way so we're not sitting here saying,
30 "Remember the bridge. Remember that." Hopefully, most of the things that we would
31 remember are here. I would suggest that the presentation or discussion be more or less in
32 this direction. What we really need to do is see if we can come to agreement of what
33 we'd like to achieve. Would we like to achieve the fact that they should be confident that
34 the Parks and Rec Commission is doing a good job or should we try and achieve the fact
35 that they should be looking at something in particular? Should we achieve some
36 warnings about what we think is coming in the future? There's any number of things that
37 we can do. Through this conversation, I'd like to invite Commissioner Greenfield to
38 interrupt me at any time because he was instrumental in doing this. The agenda we had

1 for that meeting was we just put up the priorities and thoughts and what the citizen input
2 was. We talked about highlights and activities and celebrations. I put in the guiding
3 principles outcome that we had from our meeting. I didn't think priorities covered what
4 we were trying to do. It says CSD-PRC projects. None of these are our projects. They're
5 very much CSD projects, and they're in fact Public Works projects that CSD is
6 substantially leading. To that end, we wanted to make sure it was understood what our
7 role was relative to the overall organization. I did talk about funding sources and some of
8 the data that I've used before. I don't think that's meaningful in a general Council
9 conversation. What I learned from this meeting is if you want to talk in big numbers, you
10 can. That doesn't last for more than about 30 nanoseconds before it's in small numbers.
11 The small numbers are, number one, not our business and, number two, they're way too
12 movable to bring in front of Council in this fashion. The thing that I bolded there was the
13 challenges and projects of interest. I'll count on Commissioner Greenfield to help me talk
14 about that. Under the introduction, it's useful to continue to reinforce that Parks and Rec
15 is really responsible for what I would consider to be—I've used this term before—scarce
16 and valuable resources. I put up the Council Priorities because climate and sustainability
17 are part of that. I put up the Mayor's values—he didn't argue with them—from his
18 presentation, which included sustainability in nature and sustainability in fiscal
19 responsibility, and a Health City Healthy Community, and being a good neighbor. I did
20 talk about the Citizen Survey and the great marks that the parks and open space received
21 in the Citizen Survey. The recreation highlights, I'm not going to go through them. You
22 can read them. The parks highlights, the open space, the infrastructure, and the concept
23 of partnership development, the fact that we had had several different organizations come
24 and speak to us and we look to engage with those organizations. The highlighting has
25 more to do with—in fact, in some version of it there was color in there, which were the
26 ones the Mayor called out in his speech, not necessarily the really important—there are
27 things that were more important than others. The priorities. These are divided into
28 sections. Priorities are part of both the CIP and Master Plan projects. They're listed
29 there. There are specific park projects. There's specific CSD projects, the Cubberley
30 Master Plan and recreation opportunity analysis. You might throw BCCP up there
31 earlier. Those are just activities that are going on. As you talk about priorities, for this
32 Commission and for the City climate change is incredibly high. Certainly from my
33 position, funding needs and opportunities and strategies are important. In terms of
34 challenges, we said there was projects of current public interest. We think the Baylands
35 BCCP, including the ITT building, including the 10 acres, will solicit and involve
36 community conversation. The Ventura plan will clearly include that. We would happily
37 present them with a really nice racket sports package. There's the whole conversation of
38 park dedication. Projects of potential public interest, the Foothills creek hydrology and
39 restoration. Funding strategies, we talked a lot about that with Council Member Cormack
40 and the Mayor. The other in terms of challenges is clearly climate change. That's a very
41 quick overview. I would invite comment, first, from Commissioner Greenfield about that
42 meeting and how we should proceed with the Council.



1 Vice Chair Greenfield: One thing we're certainly mindful of is we're talking about a 60-
2 minute meeting. There are 14 individuals who all like to talk on varying levels. We want
3 to jump to the meat of any meeting as quickly as we can. That's really what the outline of
4 the pre-meeting with the Mayor and Council Member Cormack was. We outlined a
5 number of things, ran through them quickly, highlighted the last item, which was the
6 challenges that we wanted to spend the most time talking about, getting feedback on
7 specific projects, what makes sense. One thing that we did hear, which was useful,
8 regarding the 10.5 acres at the Baylands—there has been previous guidance from
9 previous Councils that that area would be targeted towards recreation development. It
10 would behoove us to address this with the current Council to make sure the guidance is
11 still the same before we move forward with trying to develop that. That is a priority for
12 the Commission right now, to figure out what we're going to do with that land. It's a
13 good time to be talking about it. Before we can make very specific plans in a specific
14 direction, we need some guidance. Be happy to have your comments on that as well.

15 Council Member Cormack: This is an area where each Council Member has various
16 background and understanding, and we only have one member of Council who has a long
17 history of experience. The recommendation that you all bring forward should probably
18 include pros and cons, some information on both sides in addition to what you
19 recommend. Personally, when I get staff reports, if there are a couple of options and I
20 have a better sense of why there's been a particular recommendation. It's possible that the
21 Commission may not agree. That's fine, recognize that. Just doing a holistic approach,
22 not just some people a while ago said that. Maybe that will be stare decisis, and we'll
23 stick with that. That would be my one suggestion in that area, especially with respect to
24 sea level rise. We've got a bunch of things going on now that's new information.

25 Chair McDougall: Is that recommendation specific to the 10.5 acres or any of these
26 topics?

27 Council Member Cormack: It's specific to the 10.5 acres, but it's also general to me.

28 Vice Chair Greenfield: In the section of projects of current public interest, the BCCP and
29 the 10.5 acres, Ventura and the racket sports all speak for themselves. You may wonder
30 what park dedication is doing on that list. It's something we've talked about but hasn't
31 been a specific project of effort. We were looking for guidance on is this something that
32 is important to the Council to pursue because there's question about how much effort we
33 should put into pursuing it. Actually there were questions about dedicating parks before
34 we came up to it in this portion of the presentation. The general feedback we got is there
35 is interest in looking for park areas that should be dedicated. Right now, I have a liaison
36 role with Kristen, and I'll pursue that. If anybody wants to join me on that effort, they're
37 welcome.

1 Chair McDougall: I'm going to Council Member Cormack if she has any other points of
2 guidance from that meeting.

3 Council Member Cormack: The upcoming decisions—if you start with the achievements
4 from last year, that's the important thing to start with. Don't sell yourselves short, and
5 make sure staff gets all the credit that they deserve. The upcoming decisions is definitely
6 where we should spend most of the time. It's always helpful for any of us to get a heads
7 up before something arrives. There are two things on this list that might not jump out to
8 your average Council Member. One is the recreation opportunity analysis. I'm not sure
9 that's something that people would necessarily know about. You might want to spend a
10 little time talking about taking a step back and where that came from at the retreat. The
11 other thing, when we had the budget presented last night, one of the items on the list of
12 how we are going to achieve our fiscal sustainability did include public-private
13 collaborations. While I realize it's early to talk about fundraising, it's probably a good
14 time to mention that it's on your radar, your planning horizon, as you look for appropriate
15 projects and appropriate partners. I encourage you to mention that. Those are the things
16 that jump out to me from this list.

17 Vice Chair Greenfield: Regarding the Foothills Park Buckeye Creek restoration project
18 and hydrology study, as you know in 2017 we passed a motion recommending the middle
19 option of three in terms of the restoration of just the upper portion of Buckeye Creek in
20 Wildhorse Valley in the \$4 million range rather than recommending the full-blown \$10
21 million project which would include that area as well as Las Trampas Valley and the
22 Buckeye Flats 7.7 acres. Some guidance we got is if we were to find outside funding
23 sources for the whole package, we shouldn't worry about the fact that we've only
24 recommended the middle option. In the event we were able to find someone or some
25 group that was interested in pursuing the full package, we can solve that problem later.
26 Find the money, and everything else will fall into place.

27 Chair McDougall: I'm going to start at the other end. Ryan, do you have anything to
28 add, any suggestions, anything you'd like to achieve?

29 Commissioner McCauley: This is a very thoughtful approach to the meeting with
30 Council Member Cormack and the Mayor. Well done on that count. Having a brief
31 handout that perhaps lists the 2018 accomplishment might be good. It doesn't need to be
32 lengthy. It can probably be what you have here, maybe with a few words to describe
33 some of the things the Council Members may not be aware of. That way, we can spend
34 maybe five minutes on that and then spend the majority of the time talking about what we
35 foresee coming up in the next year. On that note, there is another item, which several
36 people know about on the Commission, which is access to Foothills Park for students
37 from neighboring communities. I don't know if there was any feedback on that topic. I'd
38 be interested to hear thoughts on that. The ad hoc committee—we can talk about it more

1 when we get to the ad hoc updates—has been moving forward with that concept. We can
2 discuss it in more detail at the ad hoc update phase. I'm curious to know where that one
3 stands and whether we should talk about it with the Council or not if for no other reason
4 than to let them know that we're exploring it. Thoughts on that one?

5 Chair McDougall: You and I talked briefly about this. The biggest concern from both of
6 the participants was what problem are we solving. I would encourage the ad hoc—
7 however we go about it—to try and answer that question. If we think we can answer that
8 question articulately, then we could bring it up as there's a problem we're trying to solve,
9 and we should solve it this way. If we can't answer that question articulately, then—I
10 don't know what expression to use—we should keep our powder dry. Bringing it up as a
11 possible discussion could sidetrack everything else and could cause—I worry that a
12 negative minority could escalate into something that we'd never achieve what you'd like
13 to achieve.

14 Commissioner McCauley: I entirely appreciate that sentiment. I hear you. The ad hoc
15 has talked about this may not be the best forum in a session with the Council, which is
16 very compressed and quick, to bring up a topic that probably deserves a more in-depth
17 discussion. In response to the question you posed, which is a totally fair question, it's a
18 question of social justice. There are perhaps competing narratives about how we got to
19 where we are with Foothills Park and the residents exclusiveness requirement. One is
20 that Palo Alto was the community that stepped up to preserve that area and put the money
21 up in the first instance. Other communities weren't willing to pony up at that point in
22 time. Palo Alto somewhat understandably said, "Okay, but this is going to be for Palo
23 Alto residents." There's a counter-narrative, which some of us have probably heard, that
24 Palo Alto is a white-flight suburb of the 1950s and '60s and exclusive resident facilities
25 and parks and things like that were a symptom of those sorts of mentalities, which
26 effectively were to keep the riff raff out of what was an exclusive area. I'm not going to
27 try and resolve what narrative is the right one. That's, at least in some people's view in
28 our community, what is underlying the whole issue. It really is a social justice issue,
29 which we can either clean up ourselves or probably become the headline of local
30 newspaper or perhaps even be on local newspapers that Palo Alto is potentially still
31 promoting that sort of exclusiveness in a facility that in most places would be open to the
32 entire public. There are probably multiple ways to accomplish it. This proposal was
33 intended to be a targeted way. It's a pilot proposal to study whether there would be any
34 impacts from allowing students from neighboring communities that are
35 socioeconomically disadvantaged schools to come to Foothills Park. The park is a
36 resource that is underutilized. Actually it's pretty significantly underutilized. Many of
37 our resources within the park system are overutilized. We have excess capacity. That's
38 really the genesis. I didn't mean to speak for so long, but that's the answer, at least from
39 my perspective, which is it's a social justice issue that we can either rectify ourselves or
40 become perhaps publicized in ways that we don't want to be publicized.

1 Chair McDougall: I've got understanding and notes of that. I appreciate your passion on
2 that. I'll go to Commissioner LaMere.

3 Commissioner LaMere: I don't have anything additional to add; although, I do support
4 Ryan in his comments as well as exploring the Foothills Park and the pilot program.

5 Chair McDougall: Thank you.

6 Commissioner Reckdahl: I'm not necessarily opposed to investigating this. I don't think
7 a Council joint study session would be the place to do it. I'd be afraid that it would
8 swamp all our other discussions. We have a lot of very nebulous things. We will have
9 new parkland at Cubberley, Ventura. The 10.5 acres, what are we going to do there?
10 That's very nebulous. The 7.7 acres is very nebulous. How to approach funding, there's
11 not a clear answer to that either. Normally, we do the churn and then we shut up and
12 listen. In this case, we want to listen to the Council and see what they have to give us
13 guidance on these areas. These areas are areas where there isn't an obvious answer, and
14 guidance from the Council will be needed.

15 Chair McDougall: That's a good point. We want to make sure we don't spend an hour
16 talking, but we spend 15 minutes addressing and identifying issues and making sure that
17 we're listening and getting guidance as opposed to tell them what ... Commissioner
18 Moss.

19 Commissioner Moss: That was going to be one of my questions. You had said in the
20 beginning that this was our presentation, not your presentation. Are you going to divvy
21 this up among the seven of us, three of us, four of us? As you said, you don't want to
22 monopolize the entire 60 minutes with us just talking heads. You want a discussion. I
23 don't know how you want to handle that. Do you want the liaisons and the
24 subcommittees to be prepared to talk about any of these issues in greater depth in 60
25 minutes? What did you have in mind?

26 Chair McDougall: There are two answers to that. One is I'm not sure I want anybody to
27 talk in greater depth in any of those. We want to identify topics and issues. We want to
28 be very careful about us talking so much in greater depth that we don't hear. On the other
29 hand, I would like to go through the various ad hocs and have a representative of an ad
30 hoc talk about some of these topics rather than me simply going through the list. We
31 have a slide of accomplishments. We have a slide of priorities. I could take ad hocs and
32 divide that up. I would try my best to create what's called a tick-tock, which Joe Simitian
33 is very famous for creating tick-tocks, so that we really knew minute-by-minute what it
34 was we were trying to do. We can't control the Council speaking, but we can control
35 ourselves speaking. If everybody knows that he has this topic and he has two minutes
36 and it's not free form, we'll use our light here or something. I would prefer to divide it
37 up. I would know what priorities people have by what ad hocs they're on.

1 Commissioner Moss: I did want to hear if Council Member Cormack had any more
2 comments, but one other question. There are some things here that are more
3 controversial. They're not fully fleshed out, for instance, the AT&T property, things like
4 that. How much detail do we—do we even bring those up or is this the set list?

5 Chair McDougall: This is not necessarily a set list. We did not put the AT&T property
6 on here because there's already action on that, that probably can't be discussed in a setting
7 like that. Kristen, do you have comments to add on that?

8 Ms. O'Kane: I do. I just wanted to chime in a little bit. What Commissioner Reckdahl
9 was saying is based on past practice. My experience is the best part of these study
10 sessions is the dialog between the Council and the Commissioners. The way to
11 accomplish that is to give the most time for that dialog. If everyone is participating in the
12 presentation, it's going to take a long time for that presentation. My recommendation is
13 the Chair and Vice Chair give the presentation together. It's not their presentation.
14 They're there representing all of you. Then the conversation, more feedback, and dialog
15 with Council can take place. That would be my recommendation, and that's based on
16 how we've done it previously. I'd welcome your thoughts on that. I would be worried
17 that all of a sudden 30 minutes would pass, and we would not have heard from the City
18 Council.

19 Chair McDougall: With that approach, I would go out of my way to make sure that
20 everybody participated in answering. Any kind of conversation that got started, I would
21 not want to be the one or necessarily Commissioner Greenfield to—a topic comes up
22 maybe almost random as opposed to—Commissioner Reckdahl, why don't you talk to
23 that. If you're comfortable talking to it, then do it. If you'd rather not be the one to talk to
24 it, bounce it back. We want to get everybody engaged in the conversation. I would be
25 happy at the end if I—unlike these meetings where I don't think I talk the least, I'd be
26 very happy in this meeting if I was the one who talked the least.

27 Ms. O'Kane: It's good to maybe do bigger picture items instead of focusing on specific
28 project updates at the study session. If a Council Member asks, that would be
29 appropriate. We don't want to get into a discussion about a particular project necessarily
30 as much as big picture priorities. What does the Commission want to move the needle
31 on? What sorts of policy issues are there that the Commission would like to see come
32 forward or changed in some way? That's my recommendation.

33 Commissioner Moss: I'm assuming in this dialog we may not have answers. It may be
34 that they will ask us questions and give us several months' worth of work to do because
35 of this, rather than us being able to answer all their questions right there in that 60
36 minutes. Is that right?

1 Ms. O'Kane: That has happened with other Commissions as well. It's something to
2 consider. Something happened like that with the Human Relations Commission. They
3 did get a project out of their study session, and they were happy to take it on. Staff can
4 help with that. If it seems to be too much or out of the realm of what you're interested in,
5 we can follow up afterwards.

6 Commissioner Moss: The example that we had here was funding. Mayor Scharff said,
7 "What about funding the entire 20-year Parks Master Plan tomorrow? Can you do it?"
8 We spent a lot of time trying to figure out how we could fund it. We didn't get very far,
9 but we spent a lot of time on it.

10 Chair McDougall: I thought it was very generous of Commissioner Moss to say that the
11 Council might give us more work. Does anybody else have any comments? If not, I
12 would redraft this a bit, find a way—I'm sorry, Council Member Cormack.

13 Council Member Cormack: The good news is for the first time we're evenly matched,
14 seven on seven. You won't be completely outnumbered. I want to address head on what
15 Commissioner McCauley brought up. It's actually already in the press. There is some
16 very strong language that some people are using. We should all be prepared in case this
17 becomes an issue that is relevant to the people who live here and to people who don't live
18 here. It's totally up to the Commission. I'm not taking a position on whether you should
19 or should not bring it forward. In my experience, things that can be controversial are best
20 well thought-out in advance. If you decide to bring it up, fine. If you don't, that's fine
21 also. It doesn't mean you can't work on it. I'd encourage you to think long and hard. I
22 would expect the Council, as we always do, will look to our Boards and Commissions to
23 make recommendations and manage initial hearings on that line. I just want to address it
24 head on. It is a topic in the news. This would be the appropriate place for it to be
25 considered.

26 Commissioner Reckdahl: It's possible that after we shut up and start listening, one of the
27 Council Members may bring it up. If they want to bring it up, I have no problem with
28 that. If they have some insight to guide us, that could be appropriate.

29 Chair McDougall: The important thing that we've just been reminded of is we need to be
30 well prepared.

31 Vice Chair Greenfield: I have some more comments on the Foothills Park access issue. I
32 was waiting 'til we finished talking about the bigger picture of how we're going to handle
33 our joint session.

34 Ms. O'Kane: I just want to make sure—this isn't an agenda item. We don't get into a
35 discussion on it.

1 Vice Chair Greenfield: I'm just passing comments from the Mayor's session. This is
2 some additional comments.

3 Ms. O'Kane: Thank you.

4 Vice Chair Greenfield: We did broach the subject at the meeting, which is probably clear
5 but wasn't explicitly stated. In addition to the question of what problem are we trying to
6 solve, other questions that were posed for us to consider are is there significant unserved
7 demand, what are options to addressing this issue. If the issue does exist and there is
8 demand, does Foothill Park need to be used as part of the solution or are there other
9 solutions in place or is there demand being met by other open space areas already? The
10 underlying question as well, which maybe we got some answer to just now, is what is the
11 appropriateness or priority of using staff resources for an investigation of this effort. If
12 this is something that Council isn't going to support, then we're not well served to use
13 staff time on this. It's a bit of a chicken and egg issue. We need to figure out how to get
14 guidance on this before we're shut down from pursuing it.

15 Council Member Cormack: A slightly different recollection. What I remember talking
16 about is prioritization. We all have to choose. What are the things we're working on, and
17 where do we want to spend our time? If this is what the Commission wants to prioritize,
18 then that's appropriate. If there are other things that the Commission wants to prioritize,
19 that's appropriate as well. I didn't personally talk about staff time. It might have been
20 someone else in the meeting. Really more about prioritization. If it's at the top of the list,
21 then you should talk about it with us. If there are other things that are more important,
22 then I encourage you to put those at the top of the list. It's agnostic as to the topic.

23 Commissioner McCauley: We can perhaps talk about this a little bit more when we get
24 to the ad hoc committee updates. As a general matter, from my limited experience of
25 being at one of these study sessions previously, it makes a lot of sense to be as structured
26 as possible. Your tick-tock idea, Don, is a very good one. Without stepping on any feet
27 because I recognize that we view our Council Members as our bosses in this context, you
28 as the Chairman need to be assertive to actually keep us on schedule. I recognize that the
29 last time we went through this exercise, it's easy with Council Members to go off on lots
30 of different tangents and down many different rabbit holes. I would be assertive. That's
31 my last piece of input.

32 Vice Chair Greenfield: One other comment I'd like to make not related to any specific
33 item for discussion, but in general, for the meeting between the Parks and Rec
34 Commission and City Council. The last time we met was almost two years ago. We
35 didn't get a meeting scheduled last year. I'd like to recommend we put calendar reminder
36 items to start next February or so looking to schedule the Mayor's meeting, which would
37 be followed by the joint session, so we can make sure to include this next year. It's

1 valuable time. As Commissioner McCauley alluded, we're meeting with our bosses at
2 this meeting. These one-on-ones at least once a year seem like a reasonable practice.

3 Council Member Cormack: I'll point out that we all serve the public.

4 Chair McDougall: Unless anybody has more comments, then I'll work with
5 Commissioner Greenfield and do a little more homework, find a way to appropriately
6 distribute it, and commit to you now that my goal would be to make sure it's a discussion
7 that we learn from and that it's not my conversation. It's everybody participating in the
8 conversation. You're free to kick me in the shins whenever that's inappropriate. With
9 that, I would like to suggest that we move on to the next topic, which is ...

10 Commissioner Reckdahl: I have one question. The fact that we haven't had a meeting in
11 two years, do you want the accomplishments to be listed for the last two years or just for
12 2018?

13 Chair McDougall: As soon as Commissioner Greenfield said that, I made a note to think
14 back to the previous year. I don't think I'd want to go through all the accomplishments.
15 If we did a moonshot the previous year, we should add the moonshot in there.

16 Commissioner Reckdahl: Especially if there are any open issues with any of the projects
17 that we did in the past.

18 Chair McDougall: If there's any particular accomplishments that anybody's particularly
19 sensitive to, if they could inform Natalie—to keep me out of Brown Act problems—I'll
20 work with Natalie to collect them. Thank you, Natalie. Any other comments on that?
21 Relative to the agenda, I don't know that we're looking for more things to put on the
22 agenda as opposed to things to move on the agenda. Maybe Kristen can give us a little
23 input of what's in front of us.

24 Ms. O'Kane: The next item is the other ad hoc committee updates. Did you want to ...

25 Chair McDougall: I'm sorry. I skipped that.

26 **4. Other Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Updates**

27 Chair McDougall: I would invite Commissioner Greenfield, since it's in front of us and
28 he's done a nice job of championing this, to make comments on what we have in front of
29 us.

30 Vice Chair Greenfield: I had recommended a little bit more streamlined approach, which
31 isn't exactly what's in front of us. It's more similar to what we used a couple of years ago.
32 Rather than adding the meeting date and attendees, simplify things by putting things in a
33 single column with all the update information. Put things in a format that Natalie can

1 paste right into this document. Each monthly update would be in a single column, and
2 the document would be updated. A new column would be inserted for the new month,
3 and the previous month would get shifted to the right so you could see a history of all the
4 updates for each of the particular ad hocs or liaison roles. We can either have separate
5 tabs in a document for ad hocs and liaison or everything sequentially in one document. It
6 would be nice if there was a location that could be hosted where everyone can access this
7 document. I don't think we should have Brown Act issues if all of this information is
8 then presented in a meeting because it's then public information. It'd be very useful for
9 the individual ad hocs to see what's happening month-to-month. A year later, we can at a
10 glance see is it worth our time to have this ad hoc or would it make more sense to reduce
11 it to a one-person liaison role or is it something we need at all.

12 Chair McDougall: I'm going to suggest that we continue to discuss and work on that and
13 work with Natalie and Kristen. The idea was that we didn't spend a lot of time on this
14 because we already had the information here. Does anybody have a burning interest in
15 commenting on anything on here that either they submitted or they see?

16 Ms. O'Kane: The reason why it's not printed is there were last-minute additions. Our
17 goal is to—Commissioner Greenfield and Natalie and I will work on it too—is to get it
18 on a monthly schedule so you're all expecting it, we're expecting a response. We'll be
19 able to track it as we move along. It is a work in progress, but we're working on it.

20 Chair McDougall: This is a great improvement from last month's when Commissioner
21 Greenfield was the only one who submitted something. Now, anytime there was
22 something submitted or an ad hoc happened, we've got a decent report. I appreciate
23 everybody's participation in that.

24 Vice Chair Greenfield: An important part of the process is for Natalie to send the
25 Commission a reminder three or four days before you need the reports done. We need to
26 be disciplined in making sure we get a report in. The goal is for each ad hoc to send in a
27 report of some form even if it's "no update this month," which will be reasonable some
28 months. It doesn't have to be formal meeting notes from gathering as a meeting. A lot
29 can be done online together or reviewing an update. For example, the pickleball plan was
30 reviewed by the Park and Facility Use Policy Ad Hoc this past month, but the ad hoc
31 didn't actually meet.

32 Chair McDougall: Are there any incremental additions that people would like to talk
33 about, liaison meetings or anything else?

34 Commissioner McCauley: I was going to offer a quick suggestion. Maybe it will be
35 easy. I hope it will be something that would streamline this. It would be to remove a
36 couple of these columns, as Jeff was mentioning. You can figure out which columns to
37 keep. That doesn't matter so much. Definitely you're going to keep the status update

1 column. Perhaps you just keep in one spreadsheet or one document the prior status
2 update so that you have last month and this month. That way it's really easy. You can
3 just move it over and create a new column.

4 Vice Chair Greenfield: That is exactly the plan. It would be four columns. It would be
5 the ad hoc group, the members of the ad hoc, the staff liaison of the ad hoc, and the
6 current month's update. That's all that would be in the packets that would show up on a
7 monthly basis. The master document would include all the extra columns exactly as
8 you've envisioned.

9 Commissioner McCauley: I would like to talk about the Foothills issue just very briefly
10 again, but we can talk about other items first so that they get their due.

11 Chair McDougall: If we're not careful here, I'm going to create an ad hoc to create ad hoc
12 reports. This morning I got a call from Bob Moss, the Chairman of the Library
13 Commission. The Commission is asking for a joint session with the Parks and Rec
14 Commission and the Library Commission. I've suggested that we have a pretty heavy
15 agenda for the next several months and agreed that we should set up an ad hoc/ad hoc to
16 meet with a couple of their people. They have five Commissioners, so two would be the
17 right number for them. If I could get two volunteers from here to meet with them to plan
18 a joint session, that would be appropriate if anybody is interested in helping with that. If
19 nobody's interested in helping with that—David, thank you. I'll see if I can find
20 somebody else to work with them on that. It's important that we plan this. We need to
21 know what we're trying to achieve and not just have the two groups. Certainly we don't
22 have agenda time in the short term to do that. Is there any other liaison topics that haven't
23 been discussed? David.

24 Commissioner Moss: I have several questions about the purpose and the use of this, not
25 the specifics.

26 Chair McDougall: I'm going to suggest that we not spend more time worrying about the
27 reporting format. Maybe people could submit comments and questions about the
28 reporting format to Natalie. Natalie can work with Commissioner Greenfield and Kristen
29 to come up with something that works for them as well as works for us.

30 Commissioner Moss: That was not my question. My question was what do we do with
31 this information in this meeting. Do I ask questions about the Foothill Park status?

32 Chair McDougall: The idea is we don't have to have presentations. You should have
33 read this ahead of time. If you've got a question about it, now's the time to ask the
34 question.

35 Commissioner Moss: Do I ask it in the meeting or do I just ...

1 Chair McDougall: Right now.

2 Commissioner Moss: ... email the attendees?

3 Chair McDougall: Right now.

4 Commissioner Moss: For the Foothills Park, I've always thought there ought to be a Los
5 Altos Day or a Menlo Park Day or whatever. I'm wondering if the ad hoc can discuss
6 that as well. When you talk about the next steps for 7.7 acres, when will that be an
7 agenda item? How close are you to having that be an agenda item?

8 Commissioner McCauley: I'll look to Daren, but I think the answer is there's a public
9 outreach process that needs to happen in the first instance and some design
10 conceptualization that will go along with the public outreach process. I expect it's going
11 to be late this year at the earliest.

12 Mr. Anderson: That's exactly it.

13 Vice Chair Greenfield: Would we need to identify funding before we pursue a public
14 outreach process?

15 Mr. Anderson: No, I don't think so. We keep funding in mind, of course, throughout the
16 process. As you know with our capital program, we cannot submit a project before it's
17 been planned out, so no placeholders. If the funding is indeed coming from our capital
18 program, no. What we could do is engage with our partners to figure out what's doable
19 within the partnership and existing resources there. We've been talking at the ad hoc to
20 some degree with some of our very preliminary thinking on the 7.7 acres that that would
21 be part of it. In fact, we've already engaged Grassroots Ecology. They've already given
22 me a conceptual plan for what we could do. Now, it's the vetting process, work that
23 through with the ad hoc and, as you say, agendize it with the Commission.

24 Commissioner McCauley: With respect to the Foothills Park neighbor days or whatever
25 we might call that concept, the committee hasn't discussed it further from when David
26 raised it this past October, I think it was. The two items that we've discussed—the
27 principle one is providing access for students. The other one that we've kicked around a
28 little bit and actually—there's two different committees that both have a stake in this.
29 The other is the Parks Rules and Regulations because allowing people who are not
30 residents of Palo Alto into the park requires an amendment of the Park Rules and
31 Regulations, the Park Municipal Code. We've talked at a very high level about some of
32 the partner organizations like Canopy, Environmental Volunteers, Grassroots Ecology,
33 providing access to some of their volunteers who are doing good work in Palo Alto but
34 otherwise wouldn't be able to access Foothills Park. Those are the two main ones that
35 we've talked about so far. In terms of the neighbor days, I certainly would be open to the

1 idea. It probably needs to be fleshed out how we go about it. I welcome your thoughts
2 on that.

3 Chair McDougall: Are there any other comments on that?

4 Commissioner McCauley: I'll try to be very brief, but I'll take 60 seconds to talk about
5 what the ad hoc has come up with thus far on the Foothills access for students from
6 neighboring communities.

7 Ms. O'Kane: I'm not sure if we can have—we're getting into a discussion item that wasn't
8 agendized.

9 Commissioner McCauley: I'll be very careful not to make it a discussion but an update of
10 where things stand. The proposal that's on the table at the moment is to allow PAUSD
11 students who are not residents of Palo Alto as well as students from neighboring
12 communities in school districts that under State standards are determined to be
13 socioeconomically disadvantaged. The only school district that would apply to is
14 Ravenswood. To allow them access to the park as a pilot for a one-year period, study the
15 effects, if any, and then make a more permanent recommendation whether to allow those
16 people into the park on a more permanent basis. Daren and his Ranger staff have been
17 excellent in providing feedback on that proposal. We first talked about it in the ad hoc
18 this past October, I believe it was. We've talked about it at a number of meetings since
19 then. That's what the proposal within the ad hoc is at the moment. John Aiken has
20 provided some input and feedback from the recreation side and recreation programs that
21 are happening in the park already. I just wanted everyone to have a sense for what that
22 was. I think it'll be coming before the Commission. I don't know what our agenda will
23 look like in the next couple of months, but probably before too long it'll be before the
24 entire Commission to weigh in on.

25 Chair McDougall: Thank you. With that, I'm going to ask Kristen to go to the item I
26 talked about before.

27 **VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MAY 28, 2019 MEETING**

28 Chair McDougall: Now, we can talk about the future agenda.

29 Ms. O'Kane: May is looking to be a pretty busy month so far. Daren will be here with
30 our Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan consultant to present the draft
31 conservation plan. That's going to be a pretty big item. We also have two park projects.
32 Peter Jensen will be coming back with the Rinconada Park Improvement Ordinance,
33 asking for a recommendation for the Commission to recommend that Council approve it.
34 He was also planning on coming back potentially with a proposed plan for Boulware

1 Park, which is due for park renovation. That will not be a PIO but an introduction to his
2 proposal.

3 Chair McDougall: In the short term, we're pretty well set with what we're bringing
4 forward.

5 Ms. O'Kane: That's right.

6 **VII. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

7 Chair McDougall: Are there any other comments or announcements?

8 Vice Chair Greenfield: The Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc is looking forward to coming
9 to the Commission soon with potentially a discussion item of rule changes which would
10 be followed by an action for approval. This could either be a single agenda item to
11 approve the action in a single meeting where there'd be an opportunity for review,
12 discussion, and amendments to that, and a follow-up meeting. We'll probably be on
13 target for having some discussion in the June agenda.

14 Mr. Anderson: That's reasonable.

15 Chair McDougall: I'm going to mention one other thing that came out of the meeting
16 with the Mayor and Council Member Cormack. At the last meeting, I did mention that
17 we have had an awful lot of climate change-related presentations, GSI and the trees and
18 so on. It would be interesting to know if there was an overarching committee or look at
19 that within the City. Council Member Cormack suggested there was—what was it—a
20 committee going to look at that and suggested that maybe somebody from the Parks and
21 Rec Commission would join that. I'm mentioning that now as a reminder to all of us that
22 that would be really useful if we could do it.

23 Council Member Cormack: That was embedded in the staff report for our Earth Day
24 study session. There will be a group coming forward. It was just one sentence. There
25 wasn't anything more on that. I think that'd be worth considering.

26 Vice Chair Greenfield: I wanted to bring up Cubberley as a potential agenda item for the
27 meeting in May. Is this something that would be appropriate for us to schedule?

28 Ms. O'Kane: We talked about that. I'm worried about May going 'til midnight. Once I
29 have a Council date for when—the plan for Cubberley is it will likely go to Council, not a
30 joint study session with the School District, to talk about certain aspects of Cubberley,
31 one being housing. The School District will have a similar meeting with their Board, and
32 then we'll do the joint study session later. The timing on when we come to the Parks and
33 Rec Commission is important. I can see whether Rinconada and Boulware Park could
34 move from the agenda. I expect that will also be a rather lengthy item. I'm trying to be

1 respectful of Commissioners' time limits. We'll work with you and Chair McDougall on
2 that.

3 Vice Chair Greenfield: I agree that we shouldn't be aiming for more than three agenda
4 items. The question is would Cubberley have a higher priority than one of the park
5 discussions for that meeting. That's what I'm hearing from you, that may be the case and
6 we'll talk about it.

7 Commissioner Reckdahl: The slides that you went over at the last City/School meeting
8 were very good. You could go over them in 10, 15 minutes just for information only and
9 no so much getting our opinions but keeping us in the loop. That might be some value
10 added there. Since they're already prepared, it would be minimal preparation on your
11 part.

12 Ms. O'Kane: I forgot to mention earlier May 9 is our next Cubberley community
13 meeting. It's our final meeting. I really hope that you all come and help spread the word.
14 It's 7:00 at the Cubberley Pavilion on Thursday, May 9.

15 Commissioner McCauley: This is the earliest we've finished a meeting in a very long
16 time. I feel necessary to be really short. On the topic of park dedication, Jeff, you were
17 suggesting you might want some help or assistance. I'd be more than happy to help.
18 Should we have that be an ad hoc?

19 Vice Chair Greenfield: It was an ad hoc last year. At the retreat this year, I was the only
20 one interested, so we decided one person does not make an ad hoc. I became the liaison.
21 We could easily open it up as an ad hoc again.

22 Chair McDougall: Are you volunteering?

23 Commissioner McCauley: I am, yes. If others are in agreement, then ...

24 Chair McDougall: Why don't I work with Kristen to formalize that as an ad hoc?

25 Commissioner Moss: Are we going to have a Boardwalk grand opening? The last one
26 got rained out.

27 Mr. Anderson: That's with Public Works Engineering right now. They have not
28 rescheduled one. As soon as they do, I'll be sure to let you know.

29 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

30 Meeting adjourned on motion by Commissioner McCauley and second by Vice Chair
31 Greenfield at 8:40 p.m.