

PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

COLLEAGUES' MEMO

DATE: May 23, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Vice-Chair Greenfield, Commissioner Moss, Chair McDougall

SUBJECT: COLLEAGUES' MEMO RECOMMENDING THE CUBBERLEY MASTER PLAN PRIORITIZE RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OVER THE INCLUSION OF HOUSING ON CITY PROPERTY

Recommendation: We recommend our colleagues in the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) approve submittal of the attached letter to City Council.

Discussion:

1. Recreation programs and services are highly prized by our community.
2. Our community is concerned about the amount and diversity of recreation opportunities.
3. We recognize the need for increased housing in Palo Alto and that our resident population will increase substantially in years to come.
4. As we grow, our recreation assets become even more important, scarce, and valuable.
5. PRC is committed to maintaining, developing, and adapting our precious recreation resources to meet the evolving needs of our community.
6. Cubberley Community Center is Palo Alto's largest hub for recreation programs and services.
7. Over the lifetime of the new Cubberley Community Center, continuing to meet our community's increasing recreation needs will be challenging.
8. We recommend all building space on City land at Cubberley should be designated as a public recreation resource to meet our evolving needs over the lifetime of the new Cubberley Community Center project.
9. The direct consequence of including housing on City land at Cubberley will be to limit future recreation growth, as well as losing a community recreation resource for many generations, if not forever.
10. As stewards of our recreation and open space resources, it is incumbent upon the PRC to strongly advocate for maximizing recreation facilities and programs at Cubberley and not including any housing on City property at Cubberley.

PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

DRAFT LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: May 28, 2019

TO: City Council

FROM: Parks and Recreation Commission

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CUBBERLEY MASTER PLAN TO MAXIMIZE RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS AND NOT INCLUDE HOUSING ON CITY PROPERTY

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Cubberley Master Plan not include housing on City property as part of the Cubberley Community Center redevelopment.

Palo Alto Recreation Programs and Services are highly prized, as reflected in the recent citizen survey where "recreation and wellness" polled as "very high". The same survey indicated community concern about "recreation opportunities".

As Palo Alto grows, our community recreation assets will increase in importance as scarce and valuable resources. Over the lifetime of the new Cubberley Community Center, continuing to meet our community's increasing recreation needs will be challenging. We must remain committed to providing the diversity of recreation opportunities demanded by our populace.

We recommend that all City land at Cubberley be designated as a public recreation resource to meet our evolving program and services needs over the lifetime of the new Cubberley Community Center. Any City land dedicated to housing at Cubberley will directly limit future recreation growth and become a critical lost recreation resource for many generations.

The Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the need for increased housing in our community, consistent with the Housing Work Plan. We do not oppose adding housing on PAUSD property at the 525 San Antonio site.

As stewards of our recreation and open space resources, the Parks and Recreation Commission strongly advocates maximizing recreation facilities and programs at Cubberley and not including any housing on City property at Cubberley.