



**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
July 27, 2021
Virtual Conference
Palo Alto, California**

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

Commissioners Present: Chair Anne Cribbs, Keith Reckdahl, David Moss, Amanda Brown, Jeff LaMere, Vice Chair Greenfield

Commissioners Absent:

Others Present: Council Member Kou

Staff Present: Daren Anderson, Catherine Bourquin, Lam Do

I. ROLL CALL

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Michal Shalon, President of Palo Alto Dog Owners Association, said she has been appearing at the Commission meetings for a few months. Since the last time, she has tried to track down some statistics on dog ownership in Palo Alto. It was difficult to find the information she wanted, but she did find that in 2019 and 2020 combined there were 3,100 of dog owner licenses either renewed or new ones. She assumes most of them are new because the renewals happen every three years, so approximately one third of them would be not new puppies. She said she feels there were a lot of pandemic puppies. She estimates there were 1,000 a year, and she feels this is underestimated. In Palo Alto there are only about three-and-one-half dog parks, because she doesn't count Greer as a full dog park. She feels this population and their pets are underserved. She thinks Parks and Rec have worked hard on trying to get a pilot program for off-leash hours at Ramos. It is very difficult to anticipate what will happen with neighbors. She had hoped that a pilot program rather than a dedicated dog park would help them ease into a situation that neighbors anticipate as problematic. She feels their fears are unfounded, but they will never know if they never get the chance.



II. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Anderson said the City has been working on a demographic survey for Boards and Commission members as part of the citywide race and equity work. The City Manager’s Office sent a reminder request to the Commissioners to fill out the demographic survey, which is a link from Survey Monkey. Mr. Anderson requested the Commissioners to please fill these out. He gave an update on the skate park progress. They’ve been working with the Ad Hoc and staff and had a productive meeting with Sam Kaplinsky who is spearheading the effort among many other stakeholders. They are working on adding to the stakeholder team, and have a meeting set to discuss a potential location on August 3rd. He hopes they will have made some progress on that and be able to come back to the Commission perhaps at the August meeting with an update and discussion.

Mr. Anderson said that the Vice Mayor had reached out to the City Manager’s Office and staff with direction to look into prohibiting campfires and barbecues at Foothills Nature Preserve. Staff is checking with other agencies to learn what policies other agencies, both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County state parks and other nearby agencies, are using in this regard. There is also a Fire Department staff person joining one of the Open Space Rangers for a fuel assessment of Foothills, which will include an assessment of the campground, fire rings and the barbecue areas. He will update the PRC with next steps as they learn more. The Commission was sent an email invitation to a Wildfire Preparedness Community meeting to be held on Thursday, August 19th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Palo Alto Golf and Country Club. There is a link to sign up for that event.

Mr. Anderson gave an update on summer camps. There are about 160 in-person camps and 37 virtual camps being offered this summer. There are still registrations for summer classes since there are still two more weeks left in the summer camp schedule. Mr. Anderson shared some nice parent participant comments. One read, “Amazing experience for young kids just learning how to cook. They were so proud of their creations, and the whole family looked forward to each day’s creation. Bravo.” Another comment read, “I just wanted to let you know how amazing my son found Lego camps this summer. They are a fantastic complement to the sports that you also offer.” Another read, “What a great way to get to know your community. Thank you for providing the service. I look forward to signing up for future events and activities.” Also, “My kids have loved their tennis lessons. I’m so happy this is convenient and affordable in a positive environment.”

Mr. Anderson reported on swim lessons with an update on the latest numbers. They are still doing the swim lessons through camps. A three-year update showed in July, 2019, there were 960 lessons. In July, 2020, there were 400, a significant drop-off related to COVID. In July of 2021, there have been 1,070. During each swim lesson, each camper is given a lesson per day over the course of a two-week camp. The swim lesson is the main draw of the camp.



1 Regarding the Highway 101 bridge, there was not much more to report from last time. It
2 is expected to be completed in August or September, and they are still working on the
3 railing, fencing and lighting. The next step is the landscape and irrigation on the landings
4 on both sides.

5 He reported that Cubberley reopened its facility for indoor rentals last week. The regular
6 rental season for returning organizations begins in September. Some organizations are
7 delaying their start due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Recreation Health Fall
8 Field Brokering meeting was last week. Recreation staff is working on inputting additional
9 requests for the fall season which runs from August 9th through the end of the calendar
10 year. For special events, Recreation has three events planned – a movie night tentatively
11 planned for Friday, September 11th at Mitchell Park at 6:30; the Moonlight Run on Friday,
12 September 17th; and a Jack-O-Jaunt on Friday, October 29th.

13 Chair Cribbs invited any questions from the Commissioners.

14 Vice Chair Greenfield asked how many people they are reaching with all of the camps.
15 Mr. Anderson had a couple stats, broken down into groupings. For special interest summer
16 camps – cooking, coding, Lego, magic and academic camps – there were 331 participants.
17 For tennis, adults and youth, youth soccer, cardio dance and Tai Chi, there were 372. For
18 drop-in boost fitness there were 545. Vice Chair Greenfield asked if there would be a
19 ribbon cutting planned for the Highway 101 Bridge. Mr. Anderson said he has not yet
20 heard this discussed, but he imagines there will be.

21 Commission LaMere said if they were still in a tier, the tier would have changed, in terms
22 of the color tier for COVID. He asked if they will just follow Santa Clara County guidance,
23 or if there is any local guidance that would be followed in terms of summer camps,
24 especially for kids under 12 who are not vaccinated. Mr. Anderson said they will definitely
25 be following Santa Clara County’s guidance. However, the City has just implemented for
26 inside all City facilities, regardless of vaccination status and applying to public and City
27 staff is that you must be masked. Other than that, they will be following County guidance.

28 Chair Cribbs asked if there were any reported cases of COVID during the camps. Mr.
29 Anderson said he had not yet heard of any cases of camp COVID exposures. Chair Cribbs
30 asked if they had had any trouble getting camp counselors, as there is a lot in the news
31 about camps’ inability to find counselors. Mr. Anderson said he has only heard a little and
32 not direct information from Recreation on that, but he inquired at one point, and they said
33 they still had openings. He didn’t think it had hindered their ability to offer the classes.
34 Chair Cribbs asked when the kids are finished with the swimming camps if there is any
35 way to know what the ability of the kids is to swim. She wondered if they are considered
36 water safe when they come out of the camp, or if Tim Sheeper rates their ability at all. Mr.
37 Anderson said he didn’t get that information, but will follow up with him and share that at
38 the next meeting, or set up a time for Chair Cribbs and him to chat with Mr. Sheeper. Chair

1 Cribbs said she is very interested in how many kids are really learning to swim and are
2 really water safe. Mr. Anderson asked how the question would be best phrased to Mr.
3 Sheeper. Chair Cribbs said she would be happy to talk to him with Mr. Anderson because
4 it's a little complicated. The ability to swim a certain number of meters or yards, to dive
5 in and do certain things, and a technique called drown-proofing that allows you to just bob
6 in the water without panicking until help can arrive. She said there are a lot of different
7 ways of looking at it, but it is all obviously very important.

8 Commissioner Reckdahl asked if they are still selling a lot of Foothills Park annual passes.
9 Mr. Anderson said they are still selling them, although he didn't know the current rate. He
10 will provide an update with total numbers at the next meeting. Commissioner Reckdahl
11 asked how many of the people buying passes are locals and how many are from outside.
12 Mr. Anderson didn't not have that data, but will look at that as well.

13 **BUSINESS**

14 **1. Ad Hoc and Liaison Updates**

15 Baylands Tide Gate - Vice Chair Greenfield said Commissioner Reckdahl and he met with
16 Valley Water staff and Mr. Anderson for an hour-and-a-half, talking about a change to the
17 project that the Commission just recommended a PIO for last month. Mr. Anderson gave
18 an overview of the change. Valley Water had reached out to staff last week and informed
19 them they were going to make a change to a part of the tide gate project. They plan on
20 omitting the levy trail improvements which they described in the discussion of the Park
21 Improvement Ordinance, in which they had planned on adding eight inches of rock and
22 some trail fabric to help the levee hold up to heavy vehicles associated with the
23 construction process. For a number of reasons – permitting, feasibility and timing – they
24 chose to omit those trail improvements, and instead will add trail repairs to the contractor's
25 responsibilities. They will allocate a certain amount of money so that contractor at the end
26 of every construction season will restore the trail to as good or better condition. At the end
27 of the project they will do the same, to make sure the City is left whole in terms of having
28 a pathway on the levee that is as good or better than the current one. This shifts the burden
29 from doing this ahead of time until after, and the contractor has the responsibility to fix
30 any damage.

31 Mr. Anderson explained that this means they would be required to update the Park
32 Improvement Ordinance and bring it back to the Parks and Recreation Commission. They
33 will target that for August. He feels the meeting was constructive in that regard, that they
34 understand this is important, and they want to be forthright and honest with the community
35 and commissions and council when this eventually goes to them and give them a clear and
36 realistic picture of what the community can expect over this four-year project. Vice Chair
37 Greenfield said from the standpoint of the Ad Hoc, that the change to the plan is not
38 insignificant and it happened right after the Commission made the PIO recommendation,

1 and while they appreciate the information that Valley Water shared with them, for full
2 transparency for both the Commission and the community it seems appropriate to have
3 Valley Water return to the Commission to reconsider and recommend the Park
4 Improvement Ordinance. Commissioner Reckdahl also thought it was a constructive
5 meeting, but it would be nice to get an update.

6 CIP Ad Hoc - Commissioner Moss said in regard to the CIP Ad Hoc they mentioned last
7 month that they really don't have anything to do until late in the year when they are talking
8 about starting the budget process for next year. This year is basically set in stone, so they
9 have not met.

10 Dog Parks and Restrooms – Commissioner Brown said they have been meeting and
11 discussing options. Chair Cribbs said they heard from the head of the Dog Owners
12 Association earlier in the meeting, and they are working with staff to set up a meeting with
13 the community.

14 Fund Development – Chair Cribbs said they will be hearing about this later in the meeting
15 from Jack Morton and Roger Smith.

16 New Recreational Opportunities – Chair Cribbs said there was a great meeting at the
17 Baylands at the 10.5 acres with good discussion. There was a good meeting with the
18 skaters and the staff around moving the skate park forward.

19 Racquet Court Policy – Commissioner Reckdahl said there was nothing to report, but there
20 is an upcoming meeting they will be talking about. Chair Cribbs added that Mandy is on
21 that Ad Hoc as well.

22 Sidewalk Vendor Policy – Commissioner Moss said that Vice Chair Greenfield and
23 Commissioner Brown and he met this past week after the deadline. They were waiting for
24 Mr. Anderson to get feedback back from the Attorney's Office. He finally got some
25 feedback. The bottom line is they want the Commission to make sure that any changes to
26 the rules are backed up with one or more of three different reasons. One, health, safety and
27 welfare. Second, ensuring the public use and enjoyment of natural resources and
28 recreational opportunities without being blocked. Lastly, necessary to prevent an undue
29 concentration of commercial activity that interferes with the natural character of the park.
30 He said this is not easy. They had a dozen or so rules to go through, to see how to explain
31 the rule and why it was important. They will meet again next month, but it will take a
32 while to get through this. Commissioner Moss said it was also reported that there is really
33 not that much demand by vendors right this minute, so it's not like there's an extreme
34 sense of urgency like they thought. Thus, they are taking their time to do this thoroughly.
35 Vice Chair Greenfield added that part of their determining the level of urgency was
36 consideration of the work they would be putting on staff. If it is not something that there
37 is a high immediate demand for, they want to be respectful in trying to spread out staff's

1 workload.

2 Liaisons – Chair Cribbs said Aquatics has been covered and updates about Baylands 10.5.
3 Commissioner Brown said they are working with Catherine on touring the Community
4 Gardens.

5 Cubberley – Commissioner Moss said there are no updates at this time. Chair Cribbs asked
6 if there has been a meeting set up between Councilmembers and the School District.
7 Commissioner Reckdahl said there is none scheduled for the summer. Chair Cribbs asked
8 Council Member Kou if she had any information to share on Cubberley. Council Member
9 Kou said Council and the School Board members have been meeting. It is an Ad Hoc
10 committee, but they have not met recently since they went on break. It is still on hold until
11 they return.

12 Field Users – Vice Chair Greenfield said there is a big problem at the synthetic turf fields
13 at Mayfield and El Camino Park with the infill material melting into globs. He said it’s
14 something they tried to address at El Camino Park about a year-and-a-half ago. The
15 solution at that point as he understood it was replacing all of the material that was not
16 properly rated for the geography because it gets too hot for the material and it melts. He
17 said apparently not all of the material was replaced, so now some of the original material
18 that wasn’t replaced is now having the same problem. Also, the same infill material was
19 used at Mayfield at a later date, and now the problem has become evident and significant
20 there. Mr. Anderson commented and said it is very frustrating. They have a meeting
21 tomorrow with the vendor of the infill to try to resolve it and will do their best to get it
22 resolved in a timely process, hopefully better than the El Camino project was done. He
23 explained that when they swapped out the infill at El Camino there is a certain amount that
24 is imbedded in the lower portion of the turf that is hard, maybe impossible, to get out
25 without lifting up the carpet. They are going to try to find a better way at Mayfield to get
26 it fixed.

27 Commissioner Moss asked if there is also a problem at the much newer Cubberley turf
28 field. Mr. Anderson said no. He said the infill company just made a mistake and used the
29 wrong type for the temperature zone. Vice Chair Greenfield said Cubberley was done after
30 the problem was experienced at El Camino, so they made sure not to get the same
31 problematic material. Commissioner Moss said Cubberley was done at least two years ago.
32 Chair Cribbs asked if it was the same vendor for all three fields. Mr. Anderson said it is a
33 different vendor for the Cubberley field. Commissioner Moss asked what the new signage
34 for Cubberley is about. Mr. Anderson said it is focused on rules to protect the track and
35 field. Commissioner Moss said they were having some problems with people at the gym
36 throwing medicine balls, and there was a javelin thrower and things like that which are not
37 good for the field. They had a talk with them, and he hoped that there wasn’t that issue at
38 other fields as well. Vice Chair Greenfield said the rules haven’t been updated since the

1 track was changed from the decomposed granite to the synthetic material.

2 Commissioner Moss said the other problem is dogs on the field. Dogs are okay on the
3 track, on a leash, but not on the field. Vice Chair Greenfield said that will be properly
4 reflected in the new signage. Commissioner Moss added that it is important to make sure
5 that people take their trash with them, as there have been issues with games being played
6 and trash being left behind by both teams and audience.

7 Golf – Commission LaMere had no update at this time. Commissioner Moss asked about
8 the kids’ golf camp and the area closest to Embarcadero. He asked if that has been moved
9 forward. Mr. Anderson asked him to clarify which area he was asking about.
10 Commissioner Moss said it was the triangle between Embarcadero and the driving range.
11 Mr. Anderson said this is a part of what First Tee has proposed and wants to partner with
12 the City to make improvements there to make it more useable, including fencing and other
13 improvements. They are still in the discussion phase and looking at the possibility of
14 meeting with Council in a closed session to discuss it.

15 Hawthorns Area Planning – Vice Chair Greenfield said it is quiet right now. He has been
16 in contact and signed up for a status and waiting to get rolling on it.

17 Palo Alto Recreation Foundation – Chair Cribbs said Jack will be talking about this. She
18 commended the Foundation for the music series through the month of June, which was
19 funded in part by Foundation funds.

20 PAUSD – Commissioner Reckdahl had nothing to report. The meetings are tabled for the
21 summer.

22 Safe Routes to School – Vice Chair Greenfield said there was no update.

23 Skateboard Park – Commission LaMere had nothing beyond Mr. Anderson’s report.

24 Sustainability – Commissioner Brown said she talked with Christine to check in. There
25 will be some announcements and engagement opportunities on the Sustainability and
26 Climate Action Plan coming up in the fall. She will keep the Commission apprised of that
27 and share any information.

28 Urban Forestry – Vice Chair Greenfield said he would have a report next month.

29 Ventura Plan – Commissioner Reckdahl had nothing new to add, but he will work with
30 Chair Cribbs to draft a letter for next month.

31 Youth Council – Chair Cribbs said they are not meeting this summer.

32 Chair Cribbs said although it may feel tedious to go through all of the Ad Hoc’s, she

1 appreciates knowing what the committees and liaisons are doing.

2 Council Member Kou asked how substantial the changes to the work for the Baylands tide
3 gates are, and if it is substantial enough to return to Parks and Recreation for consideration.
4 Mr. Anderson said for the project itself in terms of fixing the tide gate it is not substantial.
5 It is really about access for heavy equipment and ensuring that they don't damage the levee
6 trail that they need to get to it from, or if they did damage it, to repair it. It is a popular trail
7 and there are significant closures associated with it. There are also concerns that the Ad
8 Hoc have spoken to Valley Water to say that they want assurances that the change is not
9 going to push them into higher risk for delaying the project or higher risk for impacting
10 wildlife than they would have normally. If the contractor is now responsible for after-the-
11 fact trail improvements, are they going to be rushed and have, for example, two drilling
12 rigs at one time when they might have only had one before? Is the noise going to impact
13 wildlife in a way that they hadn't predicted? Mr. Anderson said that Valley Water staff
14 understands that those are concerns and they intend to have answers to those kinds of
15 questions when they come back to the August meeting. He thinks it is important enough
16 to warrant a new Park Improvement Ordinance that makes very clear exactly what they
17 are doing, with an opportunity for the community and the Commission to provide input
18 before it comes to Council for review.

19 Council Member Kou asked if there is any compromise to the levee itself since that is
20 where all of the heavy equipment will be. Mr. Anderson said when he says trail and levee,
21 they are synonymous in that regard because people are using the biking and walking on
22 top of that levy. The worry is that most of it is bay mud. It was built long ago and it will
23 have ruts easily in the winter, and some of the work will have to take place there. Since
24 they know ruts will happen it is really about being able to repair. They are looking at doing
25 it proactively, which is what they had originally proposed versus doing it retroactively –
26 causing the damage and then fixing it. Valley Water will explain the nuances as to why
27 because it is a little complicated and multi-faceted.

28 Council Member Kou asked if the levee will be compromised in terms of flooding. Mr.
29 Anderson said no, it will actually be better than it was in terms of flooding, at least in the
30 area near the tide gate. They are not raising any other portions of the levee, just the tide
31 gate replacement because it is so old and the structure is failing. The project does not aim
32 to bring the entire levee system up to flood protection levels, but it will dramatically
33 improve the area immediately around the tide gate itself. Commissioner Moss said it was
34 mentioned that they were originally going to cover the levee with gravel, which would be
35 difficult for bicycles. So they have been talking to them about what kind of material they
36 will use to resurface it so that bicycles could be on it, other than gravel. Mr. Anderson said
37 they have assured them that they will use whatever they want, which will be in-kind. So
38 in an area of smooth Bay mud which looks like dirt, they will use that kind of material to
39 ensure that it ends up being as good as what they started with, or better. He has seen

1 multiple iterations of levee repairs, some very crude, such as large rock with no fines,
2 which is horrible for bicyclists. Conversely, he has seen Class AB, aggregate base rock
3 used where it is perfect, like a street. He thinks they can work with Valley Water to make
4 sure the end product is smooth and appropriate for bicyclists and hikers. They will be
5 responsible for making it like it is, not making it something different or significantly better.

6 **2. Presentation from Friends of Palo Alto Parks and Palo Alto Recreation**
7 **Foundation**

8 Chair Cribbs introduced Roger Smith from Friends of Palo Alto Parks, and Jack Morton
9 from the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation. She asked them to provide the Commission
10 with a brief history of their foundations, why they started, how they started and when they
11 started, their activities, and priorities for Palo Alto. Both organizations play a big role in
12 the operation and success of recreation, parks and open space programs.

13 Mr. Roger Smith said in 2003, he and his wife, Judy Kay, decided to form Friends of the
14 Palo Alto Parks, with the main idea being that the City would never have enough money
15 to do all the things that were needed. They are a small group of eight board members
16 headed up by their President, Susan Beall. They have done a number of small projects over
17 the years, such as the Learning Center at Arastradero, the fund for the Bol Park Nature
18 Plant Garden, the Embarcadero Road Pollinator Corridor Project. There have been some
19 major projects as well, such as Heritage Park. One of the things they had hoped over the
20 years was to get neighbors involved. He said a great example is John and Kristine Erving,
21 who live just next to the park, and who headed up that project. A second major project was
22 Lytton Plaza, headed up by Barbara Gross and Chop Keenan and Lee Levy. Lee made a
23 substantial gift, and the fountain there is named after him. Mr. Smith shared that it warms
24 his heart to go through the park and see young people, and it turned out very well. The
25 third and most famous project is the Magical Bridge. He said Olenka Villarreal and her
26 group did an outstanding job. The Dick Perry family made a very large donation to get this
27 done, and Olenka has carried this concept on to other communities. A fourth project is
28 working with the City to get the new signage out at the Baylands in English and Spanish.
29 They donated some money because there were other funding sources, but there was a gap.
30 He said they are a very flexible organization and open to anyone with a great idea for a
31 project. They are a 501(c) so are able to get a fund started, and people that donate can get
32 a tax deduction. He said they are a small group with hearts in the right place and are happy
33 to work with the City and the Commission.

34 Commissioner Moss wondered if they could try to somehow do something with Foothills
35 to bridge the budget gap there, considering all of the wear and tear it's had the past months.
36 He said when the time comes, he hopes they can do something there. Mr. Smith replied
37 that they would be happy to participate in that and would look forward to visiting in that
38 regard.



1 Chair Cribbs mentioned that Friends of Palo Alto Parks has a very nice website. She asked
2 Mr. Anderson how people get to their website from the new City website. Mr. Anderson
3 said he will check. The transition to the new website was a little rough, and he is not sure
4 it is complete yet. Chair Cribbs said she just wanted to make sure that they are visible on
5 the City’s website, as they used to be.

6 Mr. Jack Morton, Palo Alto Recreation Foundation, addressed the Commission. He said
7 he takes a deeper look at what goes on in Palo Alto. He immigrated to America in the 70’s
8 and he and Mary Ellen came to Palo Alto with an 18-month-old. He asked, why would a
9 Canadian come to America at the time of the Vietnam War? He said he thinks this is what
10 framed his view of how commissions and cities work. He thinks in many ways there is a
11 belated response to problems. In his perception and experience, when things are going
12 well, there is a recreation department, there is staffing for things, but the moment there is
13 a downturn, for example, they will lose the only ice skating rink west of the Sierras, or
14 will lose Baylands. In looking at the actual history of the Commission and its values, you
15 will find that the community had to fight for Baylands. He related that his in-laws used to
16 say that when they came from Kansas the Baylands was a garbage pit. Eventually the
17 community got tired of it and changed things. He said organizations like Friends of the
18 Parks, Friends of the Library, and Palo Alto Recreation Foundation evolve because it
19 becomes unbearable in the sense that something that the community values is going to be
20 destroyed. He got involved when he discovered there was an outdoor ice skating rink, and
21 one spring he said goodbye to the founder, who told him “We’re not going to be here next
22 year, because we will be torn down for condos.” He said at that point they started the
23 Winter Lodge, and Ann thought if they started the Winter Lodge maybe they could save
24 the May Day parade and all the other things.

25 Mr. Morton said that the first reaction of the budget people is to eliminate people that don’t
26 “pick up garbage” or don’t “fill potholes.” He said forty years ago the bulk of downtown
27 Palo Alto was not \$11-million-dollar houses. It was vacant houses, off-campus housing,
28 and it was an economic downturn. He thinks one of the things that has kept the libraries,
29 parks and recreation going is that they finally as a community said, “This is as important
30 to us as all of the other things that the City does, and which we depend on.” He said that
31 one of the things he will ask the Commission to think about whenever they accept and use
32 funding is to make sure it is permanently dedicated. For example, who would have thought
33 in the 80’s or 90’s that the community might have to fight to save the space in Cubberley?
34 Even though not a giant open space, it is one of the largest open spaces for South Palo
35 Alto. He said he thinks if it weren’t for those of them who cared about those kinds of
36 activities, there would be no pressure on City Council. They would just simply say, “Well,
37 look, we’ve got this lot on Middlefield. It’s got to be worth something. Let’s sell it and use
38 the money,” and then that money just disappears, and the community loses a major asset.
39 Mr. Morton suggested that new ways of fundraising are needed because the City will not
40 be approving anything beyond the existing funding level for the next several years. Staff



1 is stretched and cannot add more programs. The kinds of non-profits that historically have
2 raised funds have a harder time because they don't have the luxury of one parent not having
3 to work and having time for support of public activities.

4 Chair Cribbs asked him and Mr. Smith if it seemed that the Friends of Palo Alto Parks are
5 more focused towards capital kinds of improvements, and the Recreation Foundation is
6 more concerned with supporting programs that Community Services is running. Mr.
7 Morton said this is very close, and they tend to do that. He said they have only done things
8 that are park-related and they tend not to run things. Chair Cribbs said the reason she thinks
9 both of these Foundations are very important for Palo Alto is that in the Master Plan they
10 have talked about support for Parks and also support for Facilities. When the Commission
11 put together their work plan, the Ad Hoc for Recreational Opportunities they had identified
12 three or four areas that were really capital projects. One is the 10.5 acres. One is the skate
13 park, which Council has asked them to look at. There is also the potential City gym, First
14 Tee, and now potential athletic field renovations.

15 Chair Cribbs said it felt to her that it was important for all of the Commissioners to
16 understand what potential funding vehicles are available to them. Both of them are 501(c)3
17 organizations, although the Recreation Foundation may have a different determination.
18 Mr. Morton said there is a dedicated beneficiary, which is the City. Since it is frequently
19 program money that the City is short on, they are dedicated, so most of their monies go
20 directly to City programs. Chair Cribbs said she wanted to make sure they get both of the
21 designations because what they will be looking for, assuming Council approval, is a place
22 where citizens can contribute money to causes that have been outlined by the City Council
23 and supported by the Recreation Foundation. Chair Cribbs invited questions from the
24 Commissioners regarding the history and goals of the two foundations and how they can
25 work together.

26 Commission LaMere thanked the two guests for being present and feels their service is
27 amazing. He hopes they are able to engage younger families and keep them abreast of what
28 is happening and get them involved. He asked Mr. Smith for a brief overview or
29 description of how a project comes to fruition in terms of their involvement, how they
30 raise the funds, if they went to the City first, or if they find an idea and then find the people
31 that might finance it, or if all of them are very different. Mr. Smith responded that Heritage
32 Park was simple because it was raw land at that time, and it was through the neighbors that
33 came forward. It just made sense for to get the neighbors involved. Lytton Plaza came
34 from Roxy Rapp And Lee Levy. He said Lee loves water, and being former mayor and a
35 very generous man, they put together a founder's group to raise the money. There is a
36 plaque there of those involved. Unfortunately, and very importantly, he said, a lot of the
37 old citizens that grew up here, so to speak, are now gone, and the plaque shows about six
38 people that are deceased. They need to replace them. Fortunately, there is a lot of tech
39 money around town, but it's not the same and a little harder to get ahold of. Mr. Smith said

1 that Olenka came to them and joined the Board because she had the idea of Magical
2 Bridge.

3 Mr. Smith said in in regard to where they come from, it's like Henry Kaiser said, "Find a
4 need and fill it." With the Baylands, he said they have some flexibility in working with the
5 City. They have done several things where they needed an organization that could step in
6 between funders, so they funded some money until the money came through. They tend to
7 be project-oriented, so people come to them. One of his dreams was for every park to have
8 their own Rangers, such as Greer Park or others. One of the things he wanted to throw out
9 to the Commission was, as they get ready to redo a park, he would encourage them to form
10 a fund for that park, because then there is activity, and then they can ask people to
11 contribute, and it would be a nice thing. Once people write a check they will have more
12 interest in the park next door than they otherwise would. Chair Cribbs said they've talked
13 about that several times and it is something they would love to do, to help move forward
14 and get support for. She said they would be listening to some information about Boulware
15 Park in a little while and she would suspect that it would be nice to have a small fund to
16 support Boulware Park if it comes to that.

17 Commissioner Brown asked a logistical question. When they are trying to recruit new
18 volunteers to either serve on a board or to get involved in the foundation, what are some
19 ways in which the City or the Commission could be helpful to them in that way? Mr.
20 Morton said what is important to them is continuity and trying to find families near the
21 activity that will sort of police it after they are done with the fundraising. He thinks he has
22 more of a bias now that when outside funds are raised they get permanently dedicated. The
23 City cannot without a vote of the community just come in and decide, for example, it
24 doesn't want a fountain there anymore, or things like Cubberley and the struggle with the
25 school board over whether or not that remains community-accessible. He said this is where
26 the Commission has to come in. He said they didn't do this with the Winter Lodge. They
27 traded City land for very expensive at the time – now impossibly expensive money – for
28 the Winter Lodge. But in those cases, when they get the community involved, their efforts
29 should somehow be protected so that the next budget doesn't put the activity or the capital
30 investment at risk. He thinks one of the things the outside funders, such as the with
31 libraries, there is not quite that risk. With the Children's Theater there is probably not that
32 risk because there would be such an uproar. But that's not necessarily the case with
33 something like the old Palo Alto Medical Building that becomes revitalized as the History
34 Museum, and they have to make sure that the City Council doesn't someday decide that it
35 just doesn't want that building to be supported. He shared that these are just 40 years of
36 frustration with government from his view. He said the Commissioners are the "warm"
37 side of government, but when they do these big projects they basically have to guarantee
38 their longevity and continuance. While the Magical Bridge in 20 years might need some
39 modifications, but the facility that they save, they must be able to guarantee that it will
40 continue to be saved.



1 Mr. Smith added in answer to Commission LaMere’s question, what they have found from
2 business is that you need a champion or a pair of champions to take on any of these projects
3 and then from that you help out. He said he views it as like a start-up. You need someone
4 who is willing to really exert their energy and time to get it done. Chair Cribbs said they
5 are absolutely right in that. The Junior Museum is a great example with a vision early on
6 and a champion and somebody to really create the vision in the community. Any big major
7 projects need as champion or two, like Magical Bridge.

8 Commissioner Moss said in his mind this is a very important conversation to have, and
9 that’s why they have an Ad Hoc for it. The big question he has is they take so much of this
10 for granted, such as the May Fete Parade and the Moonlight Run and now the Halloween
11 event, which he had never heard of before. They have the World Music and the movie
12 nights. Also there used to be the Music in the Park. All of those things require, as stated,
13 a champion and some funding, and they cannot take them for granted. Secondly,
14 Commissioner Moss said talked about how hard it is to get people on the Board, to get
15 people to step up. He wondered if there is a way to do advertising, such as the *Daily Post*,
16 *Palo Alto Weekly*, the *Enjoy!* catalog, because the new blood is needed, a lot of small
17 donors or medium-sized donors, rather than a few very wealthy families, to buy in to the
18 community, and unless you advertise to get the word out it’s only going to be friends of
19 friends. It’s not sustainable because they get old and die off, so how do you replace that?
20 He wondered if there is some way that both organizations could advertise with a list of
21 projects in an ad and get their name out. Mr. Morton responded that all of the programs
22 Commissioner Moss mentioned were Recreation Foundation programs. They got them set
23 up and then what happens? The City they can’t run the Music in the Park. They don’t have
24 the staff. They’ve moved on to another project. He said that’s the hard problem, and he
25 doesn’t know how to solve that problem. Chair Cribbs said she thinks the fact that they
26 can identify that they might want to move forward doing some more either advertising or
27 visibility in some way can help. The function of bringing the guests here was so that the
28 Commission could hear about what they’ve done and their concerns for the future and
29 learn from the collective experience.

30 Commissioner Reckdahl agreed that they have just scratched surface when it comes to
31 fundraising. Every time someone registers on the *Enjoy!* website, it should pop up a box
32 to say, “Can you donate some money to either the Recreation Foundation or Friends of
33 Palo Alto Parks?” Mr. Morton said they could say something like, “Think of us in your
34 will.” He thinks that this is something worth thinking about. Mr. Smith pointed out that
35 the people that supported all the things we loved are getting to that age. Commissioner
36 Reckdahl said his parents are seniors, and they are right now getting the list of the charities
37 they like and putting them in their will. Also regarding seniors, he said, their house is full
38 of stuff. They don’t need any more objects. But they go for a walk in the park in the
39 morning, and the best birthday present for them is to give a donation to the Parks
40 Foundation, much better than buying them anything else. They appreciate it more. It



1 wouldn't fill up the landfill. There are so many good reasons to do it. Commissioner
2 Reckdahl said they haven't pushed that. He suggested that every entrance should have a
3 sign saying, "Help support this park. Donate to the Rec Foundation." He said if you went
4 door-to-door to ask people in Palo Alto what they know about these two foundations
5 maybe 10 to 20 percent of the people know anything about it. Mr. Smith said also a lot of
6 folks have never been to a city council meeting. So they might want to think about having
7 some hero awards, or something to bring out people of various ages to say "Thanks for
8 doing this," because a lot of City Council stuff is negative, and there is so much positive
9 stuff here. Mr. Smith said there's a joke in the venture capital community, that the venture
10 capitalists have deep pockets but short arms. That's what we have here, a lot of money,
11 and we need to extend the arms. Mr. Morton agreed, that is the problem exactly.

12 Vice Chair Greenfield thanked for all that their organizations do and said their partnership
13 is very important for the City, and they want to help foster the relationship so they can be
14 successful in helping the community. He said champions are key, as Mr. Smith pointed
15 out. You need a champion and a project together for it to work. He thinks they are talking
16 about trying to figure out how to simplify the process for the community to contribute back
17 to the community; also, improving the outreach and the awareness to further simplify the
18 process. The Commission is onboard to help and support those goals.

19 Chair Cribbs appreciated all the comments of the Commissioners and said they will take
20 a lot of notes back to the Ad Hoc committees and put together plans to implement that
21 won't cause too many challenges for the stretched staff. She said they would like to have
22 them both come back in December to show them what they've been able to do and continue
23 communicating because they all have everyone's best interests in mind. She said there is
24 no more fun thing to work on than recreation and open space and parks, and stuff for kids.
25 That is the Commission's mission and they are grateful to have Friends of the Parks and
26 Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and all that they have done over the years.

27 Council Member Kou thanked both organizations on behalf of the Council for all they do
28 for the city and carrying on the history and traditions of the City. She also mentioned that
29 the Mayor has also implemented for this year having nonprofits come and do a 10- to 15-
30 minute presentation prior to Council meetings, so she suggested connecting with staff and
31 put themselves on the calendar, perhaps doing a presentation so that not only the city
32 becomes aware but also Councilmembers and begin to place more emphasis and
33 importance and support towards the organizations. Chair Cribbs thanked her for this good
34 information.

3. Park Improvement Ordinance for the Boulware Park Project

36 Mr. Anderson introduced Peter Jensen, City Landscape Architect, who has been working
37 with the community, staff and the Commission on this project.

1 Commissioner Brown recused herself from this item.

2 Mr. Jensen presented the Park Improvement Ordinance for Boulware Park which has been
3 a project they have been working on for a few years. With the addition of the adjacent lot,
4 the AT&T property, the project has expanded into a larger project, so has taken longer
5 than expected. They are asking this evening for the Commission to recommend to Council
6 approval of the Park Improvement Ordinance. The next step in the process is approving
7 the design and the scope of the work. Staff will be working on developing some drawings
8 and building the park, which they hope will happen next summer. He presented slides
9 indicating the Boulware Park and the Birch Street property which was purchased about
10 two years ago. Their plan is to now form these into one Boulware Park. They conducted
11 the community process and outreach that has gone on for the last two years. The project
12 webpage can be accessed at www.cityofpaloalto.org/boulwarepark which has the project
13 summary and presentations that were viewed by the community and Parks and Recreation
14 Commission. Also, a community survey that was completed to extract information from
15 the community, and how they developed the plan.

16 The proposed park design highlights include combining the playgrounds, which is
17 something the design process favored. For the Ventura Community Neighborhood Plan,
18 they set back all of the real development in the park away from Matadero Creek 65 feet,
19 so if there are any future renovations of the creek bed itself, there would be nothing in the
20 way of allowing that to happen. That was seamless in the park and didn't really impact
21 any of the park amenities at all. They did include existing amenities that are in the park
22 now. There is basketball, open turf areas, the two playgrounds, the picnic space, the
23 walking paths. Those elements are still part of the overall park design. With the new land
24 and adding some more amenities to the park itself which were heard from the community
25 as well as the Parks Commission, and taking some lead from the Parks Master Plan, they
26 are adding a restroom, a dog park, covered picnic areas, a bocce ball area, rain gardens,
27 expanded picnic areas with game tables and expanded loop pathways. They are also
28 expanding some of the street parking along Lambert and providing the park with accessible
29 parking stalls. There is a pump station in the park which will remain as it is.

30 Mr. Jensen presented the plan as it appeared at the January, 2021, meeting. The only
31 difference in the new plan is the two restrooms in the previous plan. This plan has just the
32 one located closer to the playground area. All of the previously-discussed amenities are
33 the same. This was also shared with the community, which was in support of the overall
34 design and amenities. The other aspect of the design that is unique to the project – besides
35 it being a starting over of parkland which they don't often do since the city is built-out, so
36 it is hard to have a project where there is expansion of park space - they are planning to
37 remove the portion of Ash Street that basically divides the newly-purchased property and
38 the existing park, so that they can combine them into one area, making Chestnut a cul-de-
39 sac with a drop-off area in that space.

1 Chair Cribbs asked how big the dog park area is. He responded that it is 0.25 acres. He
2 said when they started to look at dog park areas, they tried to get up to the half-acre size.
3 In developing this park, they decided to make it smaller because the park itself is not a
4 very large park, and also is a community park and not a regional park, so has a smaller
5 user group, mostly the surrounding community. He said he knows they are always trying
6 to find spaces for dog parks, which is in the Parks Master Plan and frequently discussed.
7 They did their best to get a dog space area in the park boundary itself.

8 Commissioner Reckdahl asked if there are utilities under Ash Street that will have to be
9 dealt with. Mr. Jensen replied that there are not. There is a drainage line that they will start
10 to use in an infiltration planter, but there are no utilities that run under Ash Street except
11 drainage, which is connected only to the park and is draining the park. Commissioner
12 Reckdahl asked if the Council has already given permission to do this, or if it will be part
13 of the PIO. Mr. Jensen said the removal of Ash Street to incorporate the full area into a
14 park is included in the Park Improvement Ordinance. Commissioner Reckdahl asked if
15 what used to be Ash will be dedicated parkland. Mr. Jensen said staff is discussing this
16 and the Council will probably have some direction on. It is not currently something that is
17 being actively worked on, but it can still be developed as parkland. The question of making
18 it parkland is still being discussed and will be discussed more with the Commission.

19 Commissioner Reckdahl asked about the corner that currently is blinded, where they
20 currently have issues with people hanging out, if it will give better visibility or if it will
21 be about the same as today. Mr. Jensen thought it will give better visibility, especially from
22 the cul-de-sac. They are going to take away the amenities that are back there. There are
23 currently picnic tables that do provide a location for people to sit in the park all day long,
24 basically. They will move these out of that corner and are not planning on placing anything
25 back there, as it does back up to residential and they want to keep it open to deter the type
26 of gathering that is happening there right now. The pathway in the vicinity is also meant
27 for people to be moving and walking through the area, so it is not just a static space, which
28 will also help with keeping the area open. Commissioner Reckdahl said he hears a lot of
29 complaints about homeless people in Boulware Park and asked if they've done anything
30 to make this less attractive. Mr. Jensen said he feels opening up that end of the park and
31 moving the amenities out closer towards Lambert Street will help. The other thing that has
32 come up in the past is the people living in RVs or campers along Ash Street because the
33 lot was undeveloped for so long. He said that was the main issue that the neighborhood
34 had, so by removing that segment of the street it should impact that happening as well.
35 Commissioner Reckdahl asked if it will be two-hour parking, or if that is a park issue or
36 someone else. Mr. Jensen said they will have that discussion with Transportation. He
37 doesn't imagine that it will be, but it may be something they decide on. Their goal was to
38 meet the ADA requirement of providing necessary stalls. There have to be at least two for
39 the park. It gives a couple more parking stalls, but they will have further discussion with
40 Transportation as to what the parking should be on the street.



1 Vice Chair Greenfield asked if there is anything that will stop basketballs from going into
2 the dog park. Mr. Jensen there are fences around each end of the basketball park that are
3 currently six feet on the street side and eight feet on the dog park side, so hopefully that
4 will stop that from happening in that corner. This is the other reason that the dog park entry
5 is located there, because it gives another layer of protection. If something does fly over the
6 fence, hopefully it flies into the little pen area and not out to the fence. Vice Chair
7 Greenfield said this is a consideration that they want to avoid. Mr. Jensen said they are
8 also planning along the back side where there is an existing old hedge planted there. They
9 will leave some of that because it screens the property next door somewhat. In another
10 area of the basketball court they will come back with a much tighter hedge which he would
11 expect to grow 15 to 25 feet over its lifetime, so there will eventually be a much more
12 significant wall behind it. Vice Chair Greenfield asked what is currently circling around
13 the dog park and the right side of the basketball courts. Mr. Jensen said this is the actual
14 lot of the AT&T property that they still have with their switching station. The edge on the
15 right side is parking lot area, so even if a ball does fly over the fence, it would mostly go
16 into their parking lot space. Vice Chair Greenfield said obviously they don't want it to be
17 a private residence that the dog park backs up onto.

18 Chair Cribbs asked if they are going to use that land they are currently using forever. Mr.
19 Jensen did not think they have asked them that question. He thought the building itself, the
20 switching station, is fairly important, although there doesn't seem to be a lot of people
21 working in it. They do own the frontage that's out there, too, which would be nice to have
22 as well, which is just basically a few existing pine trees and a lot of pine needles. There
23 has been no discussion with them about that at all. Commissioner Moss said he thought
24 that was part of the original purchase. Mr. Jensen replied for some reason that is how the
25 lot is broken up . The lot line includes the frontage as shown on the illustration.

26 Vice Chair Greenfield asked if Ash Street will terminate in a turnaround similar to
27 Chestnut. Mr. Jensen said Ash Street is actually a segment of the street shown. Ash Street
28 started as a segment where Chestnut turned into Ash, so they are eliminating that portion
29 of Ash altogether. Lambert will come straight by it, and there will be no turn off into the
30 park anymore. Chestnut will have its own cul-de-sac. Vice Chair Greenfield asked if
31 basically Ash will just go into Lambert and there will be new parking on Ash Street. Mr.
32 Jensen the new parking is actually on Lambert. Vice Chair Greenfield suggested if that
33 could be made more clear in the diagram it would be helpful. Regarding the discussion of
34 whether the area that is no longer a street should become dedicated as parkland, he
35 wondered why that would not be the case. Mr. Jensen said he couldn't answer that
36 question. It is being discussed, but he is not sure what the pros and cons for it are at this
37 time. Vice Chair Greenfield said he thinks it's a fairly obvious action for the Commission
38 to pursue in terms of working to get the land dedicated as parkland, because what would
39 be more appropriate to dedicate as parkland than something that is serving as part of a
40 park? Mr. Jensen thought there was some discussion that maintaining it as a street provides

1 flexibility with doing things there that if you dedicate it as parkland would be very difficult
2 to do. For example, if one day that development of Fry's were to come over there a little
3 bit more, there would be some flexibility in that. Vice Chair Greenfield asked if he was
4 suggesting that the plan they are seeing today might not be the plan sometime down the
5 road, the potential exists that the new addition could get ripped out and go back to having
6 a street there. Mr. Jensen said he couldn't say what would happen in the future. He said
7 they did put the 65-foot setback against the creek which would allow for development and
8 restoration of the creek. Maintaining the road right-of-way there allows for flexibility for
9 future development because of the nature of what's happening with the discussion of the
10 Fry's location. Vice Chair Greenfield said that only increases his interest in getting this
11 portion dedicated as parkland.

12 Vice Chair Greenfield asked Mr. Jensen to talk through the process after the Commission
13 recommends approval of the Park Improvement Ordinance that goes to City Council. Mr.
14 Jensen said if the Commission tonight recommended to Council to adopt the Park
15 Improvement Ordinance, they will be taking the Park Improvement Ordinance to Council
16 in the fall, either late September or early October probably. During that time or after the
17 meeting, if there is good support for the plan, staff will start to put the bid documents
18 together which takes a few months to do. They would plan on bidding the project in the
19 springtime, taking the contract approval to the Council for approval in 2022, and then start
20 construction sometime next summer. Construction is estimated to take about 120 days.
21 Vice Chair Greenfield asked if it would be coming back to the Commission for review of
22 the details of the implementation. Mr. Jensen said not in the current schedule. But if the
23 Commission would like to have it come back again to see details they can make that
24 happen. The restroom has to go to the Architectural Review Board to review because it's
25 a structure, so there will be further comment on that. Vice Chair Greenfield said that would
26 be something for the Commission to review, even perhaps creating an Ad Hoc next year
27 to be reviewing this along with park amenities and consider if there's a need to bring it to
28 the Commission for a full review.

29 Mr. Jensen shared the Park Improvement Ordinance Scope of Work, which includes the
30 basketball courts and the berm seating area, the prefabricated restroom, the street
31 improvements with the head-in parking stalls and two accessible stalls. They do have to
32 maintain some drive access for the Water District to access the creek, so they will be
33 maintaining that. There is the street plantings. There is the picnic area, the bocce ball
34 court, the dog park, the open grass area, the loop pathway that is composed of both asphalt
35 and decomposed granite. There are both playgrounds, one for older kids and one for
36 younger kids. There is a new crosswalk that they will be putting on Fernando Avenue,
37 which is part of the ordinance, the incorporation of a portion of Ash Street into the overall
38 park area, the cul-de-sac for Chestnut, new site amenities through the whole park –
39 benches, tables, trash cans, et cetera. There is low flow irrigation and native planting –
40 going back into a drought they are cognizant of doing that. They also need to meet new

1 drainage requirements and filter the water coming off the park before it goes into the creek.
2 Finally, there is lighting and new fencing around the residential areas, which needs to be
3 redone.

4 Commissioner Moss said all of those amenities are examples of things they could fund-
5 raise for through Friends of Palo Alto Parks. He wondered how they could do that. In other
6 words, they will bid for the whole project, but he asked how they can get the community
7 to buy some of those things and reduce the overall cost to the City. Mr. Jensen said it was
8 something that staff would have to meet to discuss. He thought probably the way to do it
9 would be to advertise now before the actual project goes out to bid to try to secure some
10 funding before, so they know which amenities are being covered and which need to be
11 purchased by the contractor. This is something that staff can work on and get back to the
12 Commission on. He said they do have the park bench program currently that they can start
13 to use, at least as a template. It could include other park amenities. Right now it is for
14 benches, but that would be probably the easiest one to start out with, by putting word out
15 that there are benches in the park that could take donations. Commissioner Moss said they
16 can go ahead with the Park Improvement Ordinance and through the process until they get
17 to the bidding part, so there is a month or two to see about getting an advertisement out.
18 Mr. Jensen agreed and said the project would probably go out to bid sometime around
19 February or March of next year. Chair Cribbs asked if Mr. Jensen anticipated there being
20 a gap in the funds they have allocated and what it's going to cost. Mr. Jensen said they
21 requested funding for the full project, and that's what they were given, so at this point they
22 are fully funded, unless prices go up. Commissioner Moss said that was his question. If
23 it's fully funded and they can get some donations, what happens to the money from the
24 fully-funded project? Does it just go back into the general fund? Mr. Jensen said yes. At
25 the end of the project, if there are funds left in the capital improvement project, they are
26 basically put back into the capital improvement funds to use for other projects.

27 Commission LaMere asked if the park would be closed for the entire three months of
28 construction or if it would be staged with certain parts open and other parts closed. Mr.
29 Jensen thought for this park the whole area would be closed. Commission LaMere
30 expressed that they did a great job on the plan and he always loves to see Mr. Jensen's
31 work. Chair Cribbs asked if there are any further community meetings they need to have.
32 Mr. Jensen said he reached out to the Ventura community so there is something they might
33 have, to give them an update on what's happening. Because of the scale of the project, he
34 thought they would start putting up signage in the park a lot earlier than usual for
35 renovation projects, so in the next couple months they will start putting this plan up and
36 getting word out that the idea is to do construction. There will be a lot of community
37 outreach regarding the project.

MOTION

Approval to recommend that the City Council adopt the Park Improvement Ordinance as specified in the attachment to the staff report was moved by Vice Chair Greenfield and seconded by Commission LaMere. The motion passed 5-0-1, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Brown abstaining.

Chair Cribbs said this is exciting, hearing about this for a long time, and then the ability to buy the additional property. She requested a tour at some point. Mr. Jensen said he will keep that in mind as they go along with the process. He said hopefully within the next few weeks they will start the renovation of Rinconada Park as well, which is very exciting also. Chair Cribbs asked if Rinconada Park is also fully funded. Mr. Jensen replied that it is.

Commissioner Moss commented to Mr. Anderson that the little corner of the AT&T property that wasn't included in the purchase, he would like to recommend that they go back to Real Estate and Legal and try to buy it. He was almost certain they purchased that with the original purchase and was surprised that they didn't get that piece. If they could get that piece now, or in two years, he wondered if they could they come back and increase the dog park or perhaps put a little bit of parking on Chestnut. Mr. Anderson said they bought what was available for sale. They could ask AT&T if they are interested in selling more. He certainly thought in the future if they were willing to sell any of it, the more parkland the better, so it would make sense to keep their eye on it. He said he will talk to Real Estate to see if there are any openings for a conversation with AT&T.

V. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 24, 2021 MEETING

[Commissioner Brown returned to the meeting]

Chair Cribbs said when he and Mr. Anderson talked last there were several tentative items. Mr. Anderson said a lot of things are still tentative. The Sidewalk Vendor Regulations, the Ad Hoc had mentioned they are working on it, but still have quite a bit. They are targeting September as the date. The Skate Park, there is the meeting upcoming with the stakeholders. This is a possibility for the August meeting but not guaranteed. It would not be an action item, but a discussion item. The Ad Hoc can be discussing that soon after the August 3rd meeting. He had talked with the Chair and Vice Chair about an informational report from Valley Water on a purified water project. They have been looking at the former Los Altos sewage treatment plant adjacent to the Baylands Preserve. They talked to them about coming to the Parks and Recreation Commission with an informational presentation. They recently tentatively for the September meeting, but they could not do August. The Fire Safety update was another one talked about, but there are currently no plans from the Fire Department or Office of Emergency Services to present to the Commission. However, they have a community meeting on August 19th, and Council has asked the Fire Department to present a study session on fire safety tentatively scheduled for September



1 20th. Lastly, he said they talked about the memo to Council and VCAP regarding parkland.
2 Commissioner Reckdahl talked about coming up with a letter at the August meeting, which
3 could be put on the agenda. Also regarding a recycled water line, he has not connected
4 with Public Works on that yet, but he thinks they could give either a brief update to include
5 in the Department report, unless they have something substantial. Vice Chair Greenfield
6 reminded there is also the Tide Gate discussion which seems likely for August. Vice Chair
7 Greenfield asked if the people involved with the purified water information any of the
8 same people they would be working with on the tide gate project. Mr. Anderson said they
9 are not. Vice Chair Greenfield thought it would be worth mentioning to the purified water
10 people that the tide gate people will be presenting a case that is reason for them to want to
11 try to make it to the same meeting for a presentation if that was possible.

12 Chair Cribbs said since the Fire Department is not able to come to them, she wondered
13 about some of the Commissioners going to that meeting at Palo Alto Hills Country Club
14 and having some time on the agenda to report back to the Commission. She said it seems
15 like all of the Commissioners are very interested in fire safety, especially at Foothills Park
16 and Arastradero. Mr. Anderson thought this was a great idea. Commissioner Moss added
17 that he would like it to be on Zoom, saying he doesn't understand how they can have a
18 community meeting only in-person, so if that's at all possible to get that message back to
19 them he would appreciate it. Mr. Anderson said he will check with them on that. Chair
20 Cribbs said at the least it would be good for the Commission to have something to
21 understand and think about. The last time they talked about fire safety was when the
22 neighbors of Foothills Park came from Portola Valley a couple years ago. So that would
23 be good. Mr. Anderson thought they had enough to have a meeting.

24 Mr. Anderson thought the tide gate subject is important and time-sensitive, and with
25 adding the memo on NVCAP it would be worth having the meeting. Chair Cribbs said
26 also the Ad Hoc could get together and do a quick advertising outreach for funding from
27 what they learned tonight. Vice Chair Greenfield added that Skate Park might make it as
28 well. Commissioner Moss asked if the Los Altos sewage treatment plant would be a whole
29 separate subject, or if it tied in with something else. Mr. Anderson said it is tied in with
30 the water project he mentioned. They are looking at that side as a potential location for a
31 water purification plant. Commissioner Moss said they paved over the entire piece of land
32 and put up a giant fence with barbed wire within the past eight months. Also, he thought
33 it was going to be used for Safe Parking, but that project was moved over by the Athletic
34 Center. He asked if they will use this area at all for that purpose. Mr. Anderson said he had
35 not heard any conversations about using the LATP for Safe Parking right now, but he did
36 not know. Commissioner Reckdahl said San Antonio does not have any water or sewage,
37 so it made it hard to do the Safe Parking there. Vice Chair Greenfield asked if Council
38 Member Kou had any additional information on this. She replied that she did not, but she
39 did have a question. She asked if consideration for the water purification required an EIR.
40 Mr. Anderson thought so. It was a fairly significant build-out and everything was very

1 tentative. He has only been involved in one brief meeting, so a lot of the information they
2 would present would be new to him as well, both would be learning more if they came. It
3 was very tentative and high level when they talked to him about it.

4 Vice Chair Greenfield had a quick question on the wildfire preparedness meeting,
5 whether it was just for Palo Alto or other communities as well. Mr. Anderson wasn't
6 sure and didn't know that there is a limit on it. He thought they could invite whomever
7 they wanted and thought they were envisioning the surrounding Foothills area as the core
8 audience. Vice Chair Greenfield asked if the outreach is beyond Palo Alto or extending
9 to Los Altos Hills, et cetera. Mr. Anderson said he would assume so, as it is being led by
10 the Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services. They intend to invite
11 MidPeninsula Regional Open Space to have a table there, for example, and he assumes
12 they would be inviting their own constituents as well. There is a limit to the number of
13 people in the building, he thought around 100-some. Vice Chair Greenfield wondered if
14 there would be a similar need for a Foothills Nature Preserve or Arastradero Preserve
15 table. Mr. Anderson they are planning to have an Open Space Ranger there.
16

17 **COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

18 Chair Cribbs said she hopes everyone is enjoying the Olympic Games, because she very
19 much is and was very happy to hear earlier from Mr. Smith that Katie Ledecky had won
20 her 1500, which is the first time women have ever swum that race in the entire Olympic
21 Games.

22 **ADJOURNMENT**

23 Meeting adjourned by motion by Commissioner Moss, second by Commissioner
24 Reckdahl, at 8:56 p.m.