



Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA July 8, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Fields.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Steve Berberich, Mary Hekl, Ramesh Immadi, Michael Vickers, and Vice Chairperson Joanie Fields.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Sadie Brown and Chairperson Chuck Deckert

Staff Present: Heidi Murphy, Library & Recreation Director; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; Giacomo Damonte, Parks Superintendent; Terry Snyder, Office Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of June 10, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vickers, seconded by Commissioner Berberich, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 10, 2021. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

None.

3. Public Comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda.

None.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

4. Review the Schematic Plan and Public Comments for the Proposed Nevada Street Improvements Project and Provide Recommendations to Incorporate in the Project Design

Mr. Gruber provided commissioners with details regarding the proposed Nevada Street improvements project, located between the California and Bernal Avenues, noting this was identified in the 2005-2025 General Plan for closing the gap in the Arroyo del Valle trails. He advised that Callander Associates Landscape Architecture, have completed schematic plans for the proposed improvements and staff has conducted a meeting with the public, met with Irby Ranch residents, and presented the plan to the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee (BPTC) to obtain input regarding the concept.

Commissioners reviewed with Mr. Gruber a PowerPoint presentation outlining background information about the project, the project location, and details of the concept plan. They were informed that discussions with the public included the following topics: 1) the project being part of a larger plan connecting to the Iron Horse and Transportation Corridor Trails; 2) work taking place with Zone 7 on the Bernal undercrossing and trail improvements; 3) additional safety being provided for families to ride and walk the area; 4) addressing concerns regarding pedestrian/bike/auto conflicts; 5) concerns about pricing out businesses with the improvements; 6) limiting the park amenities; 6) keeping sidewalk curves east of the Zone 7 maintenance road to a minimum; 7) including a bike ramp from the on-street bike lane to the plaza; and 8) including as many parking spaces as possible .

Mr. Gruber advised that additional input received from the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee included: 1) signage for identifying trail routes; 2) adding a kiosk with the trail map at Rotary Park and include a parking time limit; 3) prevent pedestrian/bicycle conflicts with design changes; 4) remove or reduce the Nevada to Bernal left turn lane; 5) provide a 10 foot wide trail all the way to Bernal; 6) improve Bernal bridge gates to make easier for bikers to use; 7) provide BMX Park connection for trail users; and 8) connect the ADV trail to the Transportation Corridor Trails. Commissioners were also informed by Mr. Gruber that the BPTC also felt the trail design did not meet what was called out in the Trails Master Plan.

Commissioners were provided details about the project site adjacent to Fire Station 1 parking lot and the proposed design concepts that includes improvements to complete the Nevada Street extension, closing the Arroyo del Valle trail gap, providing cyclists and pedestrians alternative travel from the Vineyard Avenue area to the downtown area. Improvements will also be made to the parking and bike lanes on both sides of the street and the trail. Modifications are also planned to allow the Valley Humane Society to be able to continue to use parking and storage space.

Commissioner Immadi questioned Mr. Gruber about the attendance at the public meeting and was informed only six (6) people had attended the meeting to provide input but staff had received several comments via email. Mr. Gruber felt the low meeting attendance was likely due to pandemic restrictions that are in place.

Mr. Gruber provided Commissioner Berberich information about the proposed linear park and reviewed with commissioners the proposed location of this park and the items that could be included. He also informed Commissioner Berberich that the parking time limit comment made by the BPTC would be studied by the city's Traffic Engineer who would then make a final recommendation and decision.

Commissioner Berberich noted that he supports the recommendations for making the trail 10 feet wide and connecting it to the BMX park. Mr. Gruber reviewed with the commission a rough design for including the 10 foot wide bike path and a possible connection to the BMX park.

Commissioner Vickers stated that he would prefer for the trail to be asphalt rather than concrete since asphalt providing bikers with a better grip. Mr. Gruber noted that asphalt lanes are provided on the street for better bike riders, but concrete will be used on other trails since that has proven to be better for family use.

Commissioner Vickers indicated that he would like to see parking limited on the street to avoid issues for businesses. He recommended putting in place a 3-hour parking limit.

Vice Chairperson Fields asked for details about the Zone 7 roadway map and if there were plans for their roadway to be extended. Mr. Gruber commented on an area that has been washed out and noted that Zone 7 has indicated they are aware of this area and will be taking steps to correct this problem.

Vice Chairperson Fields commented on the proposed connection to the BMX park and concerns that have been expressed by neighbors in the area about riders going near their properties. Mr. Gruber indicated he was unaware of the concerns and did not understand why the gate was closed but would check into this and report back to the commission. He noted that funding has been provided for the proposed Nevada Street improvements, but not for improvements to the BMX park which is something he will be checking on.

Commissioner Vickers was informed by Mr. Gruber that \$1.5M has been allocated in funding but this funding amount does not include additional funding that will be needed for other items that have been proposed from public and BPTC comments.

Vice Chairperson Fields indicated that she agreed with Commissioner Vickers recommendation regarding a timeline for parking. With no other comments from commissioners Vice Chairperson Fields asked for a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berberich, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, to approve the proposed Nevada Street improvements project as presented with the inclusion of 1) extension of the 10 foot trail to Bernal Avenue; 2) a 3-hr parking limitation; and 3) a trail connection to the BMX park.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

- AYES: Commissioners Berberich, Hekl, Immadi, Vickers, and Vice Chairperson Fields.
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Commissioner Brown and Chairperson Deckert.
- ABSTAIN: None

Vice Chairperson Fields stated that following the many requests of former Commissioners Joe Streng and Deborah Wahl and with the proximity of these improvements to the Valley Humane Society that the Society be asked to provide doggie bags in the park.

COMMISSION REPORTS

5. Committee Meetings

- A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee – had discussed and provided comments on the Proposed Nevada Street Improvements Project.
- B. Community of Character – none.
- C. City/East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee – none.
- D. Heritage Tree Review Board – none.
- E. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee – information was provided about the installation of the directional signs.
- F. Sports Council – none.

6. Other brief reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by the Commission members.

None.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Vickers asked about play times available for people wanting to play Pickleball because he has been receiving complaints from people. Ms. Murphy provided information and indicated she would connect with him to provide additional information on this matter.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Cricket Pitch
- Pickleball

Ms. Murphy commented on the proposed Future Agenda items and advised that information about the All Abilities and Skate Parks would be brought to the commission for their review at the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.