



## Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

---

### Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA October 14, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

#### Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Steve Berberich, Sadie Brown, Joanie Fields, Ramesh Immadi, Michael Vickers, and Chairperson Chuck Deckert.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Mary Hekl

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

#### **AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

None.

#### **MINUTES**

##### **1. Approve regular meeting minutes of August 12, 2021.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Berberich, to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 12, 2021. **The motion was approved unanimously.** Chairperson Deckert abstained.

#### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

##### **2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations**

None.

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

Chairperson Deckert noted that since Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic AB 361 was approved for the suspension of provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public to observe and comment both electronically and by phone. Members of the public can participate via Zoom by using the “raise your hand” function and those using the phone would press the #9.

## **MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

### **4. Landscape Architecture Projects Status Report for May 2021 – September 2021**

Mr. Gruber reviewed the Landscape Architecture Projects Status Report for May 2021-September 2021 with commission and provided information on the updates of projects since commissioners had received the last report.

#### Lions Wayside and Delucci Parks

- City staff and their consultant have met with the RWQCB to discuss the update plan concept and determine that more detailed hydrologic analysis and plans would be required for the agency to approve the plans.

#### Transportation Corridor Parking Lot

- A construction charge order was added to the project to include the proposed Civic Park improvements as were approved by the Parks and Receptions Commission on August 12, 2021.

#### All Abilities Playground

- Concept alternatives were presented to the Human Services and Youth Commissions in September.
- The city presented design alternatives to the public at the Farmer’s Market on September 18, 2021.
- A second public workshop was held at proposed playground location in the Ken Mercer Sports Park with a sizable number of adults and children stopping by over the 3-hour period.
- A second survey was posted the same day as the workshop.
- Information on this project is available at [www.pleasantonallabilitiesplayground.com](http://www.pleasantonallabilitiesplayground.com).

#### Skatepark

- Concept design alternatives were presented to the Youth Commission on September 8, 2021.
- The city presented the design alternatives to the public at the Farmer’s Market on September 11, 2021.

- A second public workshop was held at the proposed skatepark location in the Ken Mercer Sports Park on September 25, 2021. Attendance was good with a number of adults/children stopping by during the 3-hour period.
- A second survey was posted the same day as the public workshop.
- Information on the project is available at [www.pleasantonskatepark.com](http://www.pleasantonskatepark.com).

#### Augustin Bernal Mountain Bike Trail

- Dudek provided a 100% trail alignment submittal in June 2021.
- On June 28, 2021 Dudek submitted the administrative Initial Study.
- On September 28, 2021, Dudek and the City held a Zoom meeting with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to determine permitting requirements as the proposed bike trail is in potential Alameda Whipsnake territory.

#### Meadowlark Trail

- This trail project was advertised for bid on October 2, 2021 with the scheduled bid opening on October 21, 2021.

#### Lund Ranch Trail

- The developer is currently constructing the development, including the trails.

#### Garm's Staging Area

- No update report for this project.

#### Nevada Street Improvements

- Staff presented this project to the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 8, 2021.
- On August 17, 2021 City Council approved an amendment to the consultant's contract for design and bid support services, with changes to the project as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

#### Bernal Community Farm

- This project is currently on hold.

#### Miscellaneous Park Projects

##### Playground Renovation

- Construction for Ken Mercer East and Tawny was completed late June 2021.
- Construction for Ken Mercer Central was completed in July.
- The city ordered shade structures for the Ken Mercer East playgrounds with installation expected to occur in October/November.
- Vintage Hills playground construction was completed in August.

##### Centennial Towers

- The Centennial Plaza plans were incorporated into the Transportation Corridor plans and the improvements are currently under construction.

Chairperson Deckert discussed the Wayside/Delucchi project with Mr. Gruber who commented on the additional land purchased by the City of Pleasanton, meetings with the Water Quality Control, further requirements to be met, and a schedule.

Commissioners Fields asked about the Lund Trail being privately funded and what kind of trail it was going to be. Mr. Gruber provided information about the property the developers have dedicated to the city for the trail and their agreement to pay for the trail. He advised the plan is for building a multi-use trail but with some areas like the Callippe Trail. Mr. Gruber noted that the developer hopes the trail will be cut-in before the start of winter.

Commissioner Fields was informed by Mr. Gruber that a more detailed rendering of the skatepark will be available soon.

Commissioner Fields discussed with Mr. Gruber an existing memorial on the Meadowlark Trail and whether there were plans for this to remain.

Commissioner Berberich asked what the city plans for saving water and what affect this was going to have on parks. Mr. Damonte advised he would be discussing this under the next agenda item.

## **5. Review and Discuss Parks Maintenance Division Report June through September 2021**

Mr. Damonte reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on his Parks Maintenance Division Report for June through September 2021 with commissioners and commented on the following:

### Val Vista Park

Val Vista soccer fields were aerated, seeded, and top-dressed with sand. Staff utilized a demo core harvester on the fields and staff is looking to purchase a core harvester for future field renovations.

With the assistance of a plant pathologist the present of rhizoctonia and pythium fungi on some fields was confirmed. Increasing mow height and using a fungicide application has improved turfgrass quality.

### Amaral Park

A work-crew spread wood chips throughout the entire park in preparation of school opening.

### Cubby's Dog Park

Seven additional self-closing hinges were replaced which completes replacement of all hinges.

### Oakhill Park

A large eucalyptus tree was removed after a split in the trunk was noticed.

### Amador Valley Park

A large dead Monterey tree near Gingerbread preschool was removed. Staff refurbished the horseshoe pits and received many compliments.

### Stoneridge Creek Park

A large planter near the Stoneridge Creek Park entrance was renovated. Crew removed the declining olive trees and shrubs and planted seven new trees and twelve multi-trunk crape myrtles. Irrigation in the area was also converted from overhead spray to drip.

### Ken Mercer Sports Park

Seven new trees were installed.

Playgrounds at Phase 5 and Phase 3 were completed.

Seven backstops were power-washed and painted.

Four dugout roofs were removed and replaced.

First soccer tournament since 2019 took place in July. Staff spent time lowering mow height which took weeks to implement.

### Bernal Community Park

Synthetic turf fields were deep cleaned. Original installer conducted yearly maintenance on the synthetic turf.

168 cubic yards of mulch was installed throughout the park.

### Civic Park

Four large elm trees were removed after succumbing to Dutch Elm Disease.

### Tawny Park

Playground replacement was completed.

### Vintage Hills Park

Playground replacement was completed.

### Augustin Bernal Park

No biking signs were replaced at various locations along the Pleasanton Ridge.

### Callippe Preserve Open Space

A new pressure switch was installed for the solar powered pump station.

### Medians

Three irrigation controllers replaced along Stoneridge Drive, Springdale Drive and Foothill Drive. Collaborated with Streets Division to complete two rounds of root pruning for sidewalk repairs.

### Water Conservation

Planning and implementing water conservation were a major focal point during the period. Changes were made to irrigation software settings and staff proactively looked for areas to reduce water use.

### Staffing Updates

Six applicants have been moved forward in the Park Landscape Maintenance Water I recruitment process. Six vacancies are currently available.

In answer to commissioner questions Mr. Damonte commented on the task of his department to reduce water usage by 15% and how they have been changing equipment and software settings and monitoring systems for leakages. He also provided information on the parks that are using recycled water. Commissioner Immadi discussed with Mr. Damonte the long-term impacts of the water conservation and changing the grass cutting height for tournaments.

Commissioner Fields asked about replacing trees with crape myrtle trees and whether these are drought tolerant trees. Mr. Damonte provide details about the trees and the irrigation that is being used where they are planted.

Commissioner Fields asked about pest management and use of pesticides and Mr. Damonte discussed the pesticide posting project that provides date information on their use and advised that all signs have been, but he felt the posted and the next phase of the project will be to choose the next park for piloting alternatives to standard pesticides.

Commissioner Fields then discussed with Mr. Damonte the additional time required by staff to prepare fields for soccer or softball tournaments and questioned if organizers were being asked to pay for this extra work. Mr. Damonte advised that no cost is recouped or requested, but he felt the leagues would reimburse if a request were made. Ms. Murphy noted that the bulk of programming at the softball complex are internal programs and people are charged a fee to participate and the city provides staffing. She added that fees are charged for using lights.

Ms. Murphy advised commissioners that Pleasanton based co-sponsored groups are not charged but if individuals or groups come from other areas, they are required to pay a rental fee.

Commissioner Vickers gave a shout-out to Mr. Damonte and his staff for the eucalyptus tree removal at Oak Hill Park and improvements to the horseshoe pit at the Amador Valley Park.

Commissioner Berberich was provided information by Mr. Damonte about the contract work provided by outside contractors, such as the turf maintenance work provided at Bernal.

Commissioner Immadi questioned if any contracted work was provided to maintain city fields. Mr. Damonte commented on contracted services provided for neighborhood parks and medians but noted that staff manages all irrigation even in the medians.

Chairperson Deckert confirmed with Mr. Damonte that vandalism issues appear to be on a downward trend and commented on the parks tour conducted by staff earlier this day.

## **COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **6. Committee Meetings**

A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee – Chairperson Deckert advised that committee had talked about the two intersections and the changing of lines to make them safer for cyclists and pedestrians. He advised that Caltrans and the City of Pleasanton has been working on a resolution to help with this matter.

- B. Community of Character – Commissioner Fields advised the committee meeting had been cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on October 20th at the Chamber of Commerce office with discussions on the planning and purpose to enhance the Community of Character direction. She noted that the Mormon Church and Hively organization have developed a program to help immigrants from Afghanistan with kitchen items. Commissioner Fields provided information about the distribution of scholarships that the Community of Character provides and encouraged commissioners to learn more about when this groups are about.
- C. City/East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee – no report.
- D. Heritage Tree Review Board – Commissioner Fields advised her first meeting of this Board was interesting and people were being fined because their original request granted to remove two Oak trees and replant more trees, but the city received a call they were cutting down a 30' Cedar tree for which they did not have a permit. It was deemed they be fined \$2,000 and replace the tree.
- E. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee – no report.
- F. Sports Council – The meeting has been delayed.

**7. Other brief reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by the Commission Members**

None.

**MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION**

Commissioners discussed the Parks Tour that took place from 1-5pm on this same day, October 14, 2021.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Century House
- Lions Wayside
- Cricket Pitch
- Pickleball

Ms. Murphy noted that not all future agenda items will be on the November meeting agenda. She asked if commissioners would be able to attend if the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was moved to November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Murphy provided information about the next City Council meeting and suggested members of the commission try to participate and attend this meeting via Zoom. Commissioner Fields asked that staff forward Zoom information to commissioners for this meeting.

Commissioner Immadi indicated he would like to add an item for a future meeting to discuss the park behind Fairlands and maintenance done by the City of Pleasanton.

A motion was made by Commissioner Immadi, seconded by Commissioner Berberich, to include an agenda item for discussion on better understanding the separation between Pleasanton Unified School District and the City of Pleasanton regarding maintenance of school fields.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

A motion was made by Chairperson Deckert, seconded by Commissioner Fields to change the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission from November 11, 2021 to November 18, 2021.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

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

Ms. Murphy advised that cricket and pickleball locations will be brought forward to the commission at the November meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.