



## Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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**Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA  
February 10, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

### Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chuck Deckert, Mary Hekl, Rameshu Immadi, Michael Vickers, and Chairperson Joanie Fields.

Commissioners Absent: Steve Berberich and Sadie Brown.

Staff Present: Heidi Murphy, Library & Recreation Director; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

Chairperson Fields provided details about Executive Order N-29-20 and approved AB 361 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconference due to COVID-19 as proclaimed by Governor Newsom on March 3, 2020.

### **AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Ms. Murphy advised that the Cricket Pitch and Pickleball items showing as Future Agenda Items should be removed as they have already been reviewed by the commission and will not be coming back to this commission.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Approve regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2022.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Deckert, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, to approve the January 13, 2022 meeting minutes. **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.**

Chairperson Fields encouraged speakers to limit their comments to three minutes and noted that the commission would not be able to act or respond to any matters raised by members of the public since they are not items on the agenda for the meeting.

Cynthia Shon – indicated that she lives two blocks from the proposed location for a cricket field at Muirwood Park and believes cricket should not be allowed at this location because Muirwood is not a sports park, has limited parking, and is a major connection from West Las Positas to Stoneridge. She noted that she has been informed by a member of the commission about the decline in Little League enrollment and questioned why the baseball location would not be replaced with cricket. She commented on the many other activities that take place at Muirwood that would be disrupted with having organized cricket taking place. Ms. Shon noted that Ms. Crose had indicated the cricket space would be used only by kids under 11-years old but feels the city will have nothing in place that will stop other age groups playing at this location.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Shon that she has spoken to many residents in the Muirwood Park area and has not found anyone who supports the idea of having a cricket field in this park. She felt the choice of Muirwood Park for cricket would be benefitting a member of the commission and just because it can be done doesn't make it right.

Lesa Watts and Kurt Frederick – reiterated the comments of the previous speaker and those made at previous meetings and felt it was important the space at Muirwood remain open for people to come and play and engage in other activities. She indicated that a major concern was traffic in the area and adding more parking which is already an issue. Ms. Frederick noted that several people opposed to having a cricket pitch at this park have attended previous meetings on this and are planning to attend the upcoming scheduled meeting. Mr. Frederick also noted that in discussing this in the community there has not been any support for having a cricket field in Muirwood Park because it would interfere with other activities.

Tim Correia – indicated he was surprised to hear the earlier announcement that cricket would not be a Future Agenda item for this commission. He provided information about a Facebook posting he has seen from a group called Pleasanton Cricket that was requesting members to attend the upcoming Saturday meeting to provide input and feedback on the proposed field. Mr. Correia noted that the announcement did not indicate it was from a member of the commission or that the field would be designated for youth cricket and players under 11-years. Mr. Correia indicated he had an issue with the event planned for Saturday since it was supposed to be primarily for residents of the neighborhood and at a previous meeting had been told no adults would be playing cricket at the location and specifically there would not be any ad-hoc teams. He now felt that pick-up groups would be playing at whatever fields might be available and was

disappointed that a member of the commission when posting information had not indicated this would be a cricket field designated only for youth cricket.

Jessica Leroy – a resident of Muirwood Drive stated that residents in the area are against having a cricket field or pickleball courts at this beautiful community park where kids gather and play and do not want to see an area designated for one specific interest that will push out other activities. Ms. Leroy commented on the low-income housing that will be added nearby on Stoneridge Drive and this being the closest park for those children to come and play. She noted that 410 signatures have been collected opposing cricket and pickleball in this park and felt the city needed to listen to the concerns of these people. Ms. Leroy also commented on the lateness of the notices about meetings on this matter that have been sent out to the community.

S. Whitlock – lives in the Stoneridge area and uses the park often. Expressed concern about the safety of allowing cricket to be played at this park because it is a narrow park and balls could be hit a long distance, as well as added traffic causing safety concerns. Mr. Whitlock felt cricket games would take away from the park, especially on weekends when kids should be playing there. He felt there was a conflict of interest with a member of the commission who is pushing this item forward.

Gary Moorefield – discussed the plan to add a cricket pitch and pickleball field at this park which is at the bottom of his street. He commented on the amount of traffic and parking because of other activities already taking place at this park and feels it would be unsafe to add more sports activities. Mr. Moorefield felt very little information had been provided to the community about the adding of more sports to this park and felt it was incumbent of the city and commission to put out more information. He discussed the number of activities that already take place at Muirwood Park and felt there were other locations in the city that needed to be considered for cricket and pickleball.

**Chairperson Fields closed the meeting for public comment. It was noted a community meeting was planned for 10:00 a.m. at Muirwood Park on Saturday, February 12, 2022 to receive comments from the community on the proposal to add a cricket pitch and pickleball at this park.**

## **MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW / ACTION / INFORMATION**

### **4. Review and Recommend Approval of the Draft Wayside and Delucchi Parks Conceptual Design**

Mr. Gruber noted that staff and the commission initially began talking about this project in 2002. Staff was accompanied by Richard Larson, the Landscape Architect who began working on the project in 2002, to provide a presentation and review with commissioner's background information and a conceptual design.

Mr. Larson provided commissioners background details on the Wayside and Delucchi Parks project, including information about work that began in 2006 once the Firehouse Arts Center project had been completed and the regional trail corridor had been acquired. He felt it was to

the credit of staff and previous commissioners that the design now being discussed is based on much of the work that they had conducted along with a very robust engagement of the public, but much work is still required.

Commissioners were advised by Mr. Larson that in 2014 the Master Plan was approved, and important elements of that plan are a big part of the current draft design. He provided history about 1) the Chad Henderson bandstand and the proposed improvements, 2) improved parking needed to accommodate the regional trail that runs through the parks, 3) inclusion of a children's adventure play area, 4) support for the Farmer's Market, 5) consideration for existing bus stops, 6) shade trees, and 7) several other things that included intended uses for these parks.

Mr. Larson commented on design alternatives previously considered by this commission and reviewed those designs with commissioners. He also commented on the recent removal of the large Eucalyptus tree in the park, the acquisition by the city of the property to the north of the park, and the completed hydrology study requirement that was provided to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and Moore, Iacafano & Goltsman, Inc. and has met approval.

Mr. Larson reviewed in detail with commissioners the draft conceptual design for Wayside and Delucchi Parks noting that what was being discussed was a study and not a final design elements: 1) the meandering creek bed and creek enhancements, 2) location of the bandstand and integration with the Firehouse Arts Center, 3) planned overflow space for the Farmer's Market, 4) the nature discovery play area, 5) required grading, 6) pedestrian street crossings and use of bollards, 7) multi-use lawn areas, 8) rerouting of buses, 9) location and uses of the regional trail, 10) tree and shrub planting, and 11) possible additional parking.

Commissioner Deckert discussed the proposed relocation of the bandstand and felt it was important to obtain additional community comments on the proposal for it to face the Firehouse Arts Center and not First Street.

Commissioner Vickers thanked Mr. Larson for his in-depth presentation and asked for clarification and detail on his comments regarding a crossing at Neal and West Angela Streets. Mr. Larson advised that what was being proposed was a traffic calming element that would make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street.

Commissioner Vickers was provided information by Mr. Larson about the addition of trees as shade elements and that previous agency issues and concerns were settled. Mr. Gruber added that the agencies liked the idea of a meandering creek in the design which is also allowing for a greater lawn area.

Commissioner Hekl felt it was exciting to see this project coming to fruition and had a question regarding parking and the number of additional spaces, since the design appeared to show that some existing spaces were being removed. Mr. Larson indicated that some spaces may need to be removed from Neal Street to accommodate bollards and there could be some impact to First Street parking. He felt it was too early to count actual spaces but felt there would not be a loss of spaces because of the proposed parking on the lot the city had purchased. Commissioner Hekl discussed the possibility of keeping this area for park uses and not parking and Mr. Larson

noted there was a strong contingent of downtown merchants who were asking for additional parking.

Chairperson Fields noted that the last time this project was brought before the commission there had been a lot of discussion and several equipment issue concerns raised on why the bandstand should be placed closer to the Firehouse Arts Center and questioned if these concerns had been considered for the new proposed location. Mr. Larson confirmed they had been considered and indicated on the design where vehicular and electrical access would be allowed.

Chairperson Fields further discussed with Mr. Larson added costs that might be involved and the proposed locations of trees and shrubs near the creek and trail that may require changes to the proposed parking lot area. He also discussed the need for ADA parking, the possibility of street closures when events take place, and the proposed reduced lawn area in Delucchi Park.

### **Chairperson Fields opened the meeting for public comment at 8:10 p.m.**

Todd Nelson – indicated he was a member of the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee. He discussed the regional trail/transportation corridor that runs the entire length of the downtown area and the various plans that call it out and the controversy issues because of parking and closeness to residences. Mr. Nelson commented on the importance of the trail for many different reasons and that Alameda County expects this portion of the trail to be contributed by the City of Pleasanton. He commented on different aspects of the trail after entering at Spring Street and what is called out in the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and indicated that his biggest concern was how the regional trail was drawn on the design between Neal and West Angela Streets which he felt would be rejected by City Council.

Andre Pegeron – felt the proposed bandstand location gives a natural amphitheater look and commended the proposal for traffic calming and pedestrian improvements and felt the park would be greatly diminished if Neal Street became another big highway. Mr. Pegeron was in favor of Commissioner Hekl's comments regarding additional parking not being needed and liked the idea of having pedestrian bulb outs. He also echoed the comments made by Mr. Nelson regarding the trail. Mr. Pegeron indicated he appreciated all the work taking place to make this a great park.

Commissioner Deckert reiterated previous comments about relocation of the bandstand and opening both parks for more lawn area. Mr. Larson discussed locations of the transportation corridor location and regional trail and agreed questions raised deserved further study because of competing uses in and around the parks. He also commented on available routes and bicycle speed for the park.

Mr. Nelson indicated that he often takes Railroad Avenue when cycling to avoid going through the Firehouse lot and if was to use the trail going through park would go at a much slower speed.

### **Chairperson Fields closed the meeting for public comment at 8:21 p.m.**

Commissioner Vickers discussed the popularity of electric bikes and felt it was important plenty of bike racks be made available that look aesthetically pleasing. He also felt it was going to be difficult to stop people from speeding without the posting of speed signs and the follow-through of reprimands for poor behavior.

Chairperson Fields discussed with Mr. Gruber the material used for the pathway by the Firehouse Arts Center. He indicated it was a decomposed material and concrete with the concrete section being 8' wide, the decomposed granite section 4' wide and a wide planting strip. Mr. Gruber noted the design proposes a 10' wide trail with 2' shoulders on either side. Chairperson Fields commented on a trail she is familiar with in Pacific Grove.

Commissioner Deckert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, to accept the Draft Conceptual Design presented for Wayside and Delucchi Parks that proposes the bandstand be placed facing the Firehouse Arts Center and not First Street, contains a safety component for pedestrians crossing Neal Street, and will make this a more festive area when events take place.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: Commissioners Deckert, Hekl, Immadi, Vickers and Chairperson Fields.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Berberich and Brown.

ABSTAIN: None

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

**5. Committee Meetings**

- A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee – Chairperson Fields advised she had attended her first Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee meeting and found it very interesting. The group discussed striping and configurations at Bernal, First Street, and West Las Positas.
- B. Community of Character – Commissioner Fields advised that 110 people participated in the Martin Luther King breakfast event provided via Zoom with a speaker from Las Positas College. She provided information about a planned Mexican luncheon with a school mariachi band to be held 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center from. She encouraged members of the commission to attend.
- C. City/East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee – no report.
- D. Heritage Tree Review Board – no report.
- E. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee – no report
- F. Sports Council – no report.

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

None.

**MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION**

Commissioners were reminded about a planned community meeting at Muirwood Park on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Cricket Pitch and Pickleball.

Chairperson Fields thanked Mr. Larson for his earlier presentation and Mr. Larson thanked commissioners for their careful comments and questions and staff for their insightful foresight and vision on the project.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Century House – Tour/Presentation planned for 2:00 p.m. on March 19, 2022.
- Library & Recreation Annual Report

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10 2022 at 7 p.m.