



Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA April 14, 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: Steve Berberich, Sadie Brown, Mary Hekl, Rameshu Immadi, Michael Vickers, and Chairperson Joanie Fields.

Commissioners Absent: Chuck Deckert.

Staff Present: Heidi Murphy, Library & Recreation Director; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; Giacomo Damonte, Parks Superintendent; Nilo Velazquez, Recreation Supervisor; Ania Pawlak, Office Manager; 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 requested that Item #9 be heard before Item #4 on the agenda.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of February 10, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berberich, seconded by Commissioner Immadi, to approve the February 10, 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.

Rulee Quereshi – an 11-year-old student in 5th grade who loves Tetherball because it helps kids stay fit, advised that next year when moving into middle school there will not be Tetherball available. Asked the commission to consider adding Tetherball to a park as it would be a terrific addition and they do not take up much space and many kids would use it.

Rulee advised that a total of 224 signatures have been collected on a petition for this item and noted that users would be willing to provide their own Tetherballs because they do not cost very much.

Commissioners were thanked by Rulee for considering this request to add a place to play Tetherball in one of the parks.

Chairperson Fields thanked Rulee for the presentation and Ms. Murphy advised that the commission could not act on the request because it was not an item on the agenda, but it is something they will discuss at another meeting.

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW / ACTION / INFORMATION

9. Recommend City Council approve the proposed Sponsor Agreements with Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Stanford Health Care, Construction Testing Services, and 4LEAF, Inc. for the naming rights of Bernal Community Park Phase II

Ms. Murphy introduced Nilo Velazquez advising he was lead staff person for this item.

Mr. Velazquez advised that he was going to provide to the commission an update regarding the sponsorships for the Bernal Community Park Phase beginning with some background information regarding the 2014 partnerships between the city and members of the Sports Council through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund a Phase II of Bernal Community Park. Commissioners were advised that sports groups committed to funding \$2M through donor contributions and other methods to offset construction costs.

Commissioners were informed by Mr. Velazquez that Phase II of the Bernal Community Park was opened to the public in 2016 and the sports groups raised approximately \$1.17M through

sponsorships in one-time donations with the sponsorship agreements having a five-year term with the Construction Testing Services Agreement ending in April 2022. In addition, he noted the sports groups contributed \$243,000 which was a remaining balance from the \$2M agreement.

Mr. Velazquez advised that about July 2021 the Pleasanton Sports Groups engaged into communications with Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Stanford HealthCare, Construction Testing Services, and 4LEAF are to raise an additional \$630,000 for a 7-year term, which if approved will mean the sports scripts will have exceeded their \$2M obligation by approximately \$48,000 which will be used towards signs and banners renaming in the park and the complex to Stanford Medicine Sports Complex.

Commissioner Berberich questioned if Mr. Velazquez could provide a breakdown of the amounts contributed by the different sport groups. Mr. Velazquez commented on the formula used by the city for invoicing the different sports groups and indicated he did not have the information available at this meeting but would be pleased to share it with commissioners. Ms. Murphy added that it was per participant fee, so if a group had more participants they paid more, but the bulk of funding came from sponsorships not from sports groups. In 2017, 2018, and 2019 sports groups contributed \$80,000 each year for a \$240,000 total and everything else came from sponsorships.

Commissioner Immadi thanked Mr. Velazquez for his presentation and asked if the only sponsors who came forward were who sponsored the stadium. Mr. Velazquez advised that the MOU did not detail the securing of sponsors by sports groups, but any they did secure, would be turned over to the city to begin the negotiation process with them. Commissioner Immadi discussed with Mr. Velazquez stipulations and eligibility requirements pertaining to sponsorships that needed to be in accordance with city values and the character of the city.

Commissioner Vickers asked Mr. Velazquez who would cover any deficit costs that might occur once the \$48,000 for signage changes had been used. Mr. Velazquez indicated it would be the responsibility of participating members in the MOU to cover excess complex naming rights, and if it is more than the \$48,000 the sports groups have agreed to fund any additional amount, the city will pay for installation of wind screens on all other fields.

Chairperson Fields confirmed with Ms. Murphy that a motion was required on this item.

Commissioner Vickers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to approve the proposed Sponsor Agreements with Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Stanford Health Case, Construction Testing Services, and 4LEAF, Inc., for the naming rights of Bernal Community Park, Phase II.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

4. Recommend Approval of the Sixth Amendment to Agreement with Lifetime Activities in the Amount of \$94,352.50 for Bocce Services through December 31, 2023

Ms. Murphy noted that Lifetime Activities has been a phenomenal partner in bocce programming and since they took over maintenance for this program complaints have diminished, and bocce players are happy. She advised that Lifetime Activities provides bocce services for the city at a subsidized fee that the city will pay through the end of their contract on December 31, 2023.

Ms. Murphy advised that the city intends to renegotiate the bocce agreement with Lifetime Activities and fold it into the other regular services they provide with a contract based on this. She noted that the commission was being asked to extend the current bocce services agreement between Lifetime and the city to December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Berberich was informed by Ms. Murphy that the bocce courts are at the Centennial Park near the Senior Center.

Commissioner Immadi had a question regarding use of the term subsidy and who collected the charges for bocce. Ms. Murphy provided information noting that Lifetime collects the fees and the difference between what is collected and what the actual costs are to run the program is provided as a subsidy by the city. She noted that details pertaining to this were provided on page two of the staff report that shows information about operating costs and revenues.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berberich, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, recommending City Council approve a Sixth Amendment to the agreement with Lifetime Activities providing a subsidy in the amount of \$94,352.50 to Lifetime Activities for operations of Pleasanton Bocce Ball Programs from April 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

5. Receive information on the maintenance of parks next to schools, city properties maintained by Pleasanton Unified School District, and Pleasanton Unified School District properties maintained by the city.

Mr. Damonte commented on a motion made by the commission in October 2021 for information regarding parks and fields maintained by the city that are school district properties, and properties maintained by the school district that are city properties. He reviewed with commissioners a PowerPoint presentation providing detailed maps of all the sites and noting that information in his report regarding each of the parks was to be limited to park and outdoor facilities only, with gyms and other shared facilities not being a part of the report.

Amaral Park – Maintained by the City

This is a 4.78-acre park that includes two playgrounds, two baseball backstops, picnic table areas and one and a half basketball courts. Staff has spent about 327 hours maintaining this park each year with work comprising of turf renovation, shrub pruning, fertilizing, irrigation inspection, and repair, weed control, playground inspections, path leaf blowing, tree pruning, leaf pick-up and litter pick-up. The park is mowed and edged by the City's mowing contractor. The park is used heavily by Mohr Elementary School for their P.E. classes which requires City staff and the mowing contractor to schedule maintenance around school schedule. The City's garbage contractor empties five garbage cans at this park approximately 260 times per year.

Walnut Grove Park – Maintained by the City

This is a 3.42-acre park with several picnic areas. Staff spends an average of 221 hours maintaining this park each year. Work includes mowing, edging, fertilizing, irrigation inspection and repair, weed control, path leaf blowing, mulching, tree pruning, leaf pick-up, and litter pick-up. This park is mowed and edged by Parks staff. The park is used by Walnut Grove Elementary School on an as-needed basis for P.E. classes. The City's garbage contractor empties three garbage cans at this park approximately 156 times each year.

Fairlands Park – Maintained by the City

This is a meandering linear park from Gulfstream Street in the east to West Las Positas Boulevard in the west. The portion maintained by the city comprises of four parcels totaling 12.6 acres. The park features a picnic area, playground, two tennis courts, and an open grass area between Blakemore and Runnymede Courts. Staff spends an average of 767 hours each year maintaining this park. Park work includes turf renovation, shrub pruning, fertilizing, irrigation inspection and repair, weed control, playground inspections, path leaf blowing, mulching, tree pruning, leaf pick-up, and litter pick-up. This park is mowed and edged by the City's mowing contractor. The park portion maintained by the city is mostly no adjacent to Fairlands Elementary School so school impacts are not appreciable. The City's garbage contractor empties the six garbage cans at the park approximately 312 time each year.

Fairlands Park – Parcel maintained by PUSD

Behind Fairlands Elementary School is a 2.4-acre parcel owned by the city and maintained by PUSD. A fence was installed by PUSD along the property line in 2019 that bifurcated the City owned parcel from Fairlands Elementary.

Staff research on this property begins with a property exchange agreement between the City and PUSD in 1973. In exchange for a parcel downtown the city obtained several future park locations that included all or part of Walnut Grove Park, Hansen Park, Mission Hills Park and the Fairlands Park parcel. At the time the property exchange took place the City and PUSD entered into a lease agreement for the Fairlands parcel that began June 1, 1973. Per this lease PUSD is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the property and improvements and PUSD agreed to indemnify and hold harmless from and defend the City against all claims. PUSD was provided an opportunity to purchase all or a portion of the properties. The lease termination date was noted as June 1, 1983 and no extension to this lease was located by City staff.

Based on staff findings, PUSD has been operating and maintain this parcel since the start of the 1973 lease agreement. The irrigation systems, water meter, backflow protection device, and irrigation controller are located on PUSD property and PUSD pays for the water, maintains the irrigation system, and mows the grass on this parcel.

Transitioning this parcel to the Parks Division would require a number of infrastructure projects. If infrastructure projects were completed and the City took on maintenance responsibilities maintenance demands would be high to meet pest control issues, weed issues, etc. Once stabilized, staff estimates 145 hour of staff time per year per acre to maintain in addition to contracted mowing and edging.

Any consideration to change current use and maintenance would require City Council action as part of its Two-Year City Council Priority Setting process.

Pleasanton Upper Field Park

This is an 8.16-acre park with two ball fields and associated backstops, dugouts, bleachers, two playgrounds, parking lot, and field lighting. Fields are used by Village High School for softball, soccer and by other youth sports organizations with use allocated by the Library and Recreation Department. Field lighting is not maintained by the Parks Division and is managed by the Library and Recreation Department. Staff spends an average of 346 hours maintaining this park with work comprised of turn renovation, fertilizing, irrigation inspection and repair, weed control, ball field maintenance and preparation, mulching, pest control and litter pick up. The park is mowed and edged by a contractor. This park is not extensively planted and consists primarily of turfgrass. The City's garbage contractor empties the parks nine garbage cans approximately 468 times each year.

This property is owned by PUSD. On April 5, 1988, the City and PUSD entered into an agreement that granted the City use of the property and allowed the City to install lighted softball fields. When construction was completed, title to the fields and light system was automatically passed to PUSD who then granted the city use of the fields for community recreation programs when such did not conflict with normal school activities. This agreement also stipulated the city was responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the softball fields. The agreement term is 66 years and will end in 2034. In addition to the 1968 agreement the City and PUSD entered into an agreement on August 10, 1983 in which the city assumed maintenance and utility costs of these fields as part of an interim agreement following the closure of the Pleasanton Elementary School. This agreement was approved by Council July 26, 1983. The city currently maintains all infrastructure on this parcel.

Pleasanton Middle School Tennis Courts

This parcel consists of two tennis courts and lighting on the campus of Pleasanton Middle School (PMS). No initial formal agreement could be located as to when the agreement was made to share the use of these courts with the City. Records indicate the city paid for new lighting and resurfacing in 2007 and routine provided by the city is periodic replacement of tennis nets. Courts need resurfacing and currently staff is looking into scheduling the work. The city will pay for the resurfacing and new nets.

Amador Valley High School Tennis Courts

Amador Valley High School's (AVHS) eight tennis courts are owned by PUSD. There is an agreement between the City and PUSD that provides use of the courts by the city for tennis programs. The agreement is in place till December 21, 2023. Courts are available for programming afterschool, weekdays during school breaks when school is not in session, weekends, and when school activities are not taking place. When courts are used by the city they are to be under the supervision of the city, its agents and/or employees. The city will consider needed repair or maintenance costs of the courts based on mutual agreement.

Commissioner Vickers asked about the condition of the AVHS tennis courts and when they were last surfaced and if a notice would be posted to advise the public about resurfacing of the PMS courts. Mr. Damonte advised he was unsure about the AVHS courts since these are not managed by the city and liked Commissioner Vickers suggestion for posting about resurfacing of the PMS courts.

Commissioner Berberich questioned if it would be possible to convert the PMS courts for pickleball use and Mr. Damonte indicated this was something that could be done but it would be a requirement from programming. Commissioner Berberich asked if discussions had taken place to not have more pickleball and Ms. Murphy advised that a process would need to take place with PUSD to determine any impacts followed by a public process. Commissioner Hekl agreed that PUSD would have an opinion on this.

Chairperson Fields commented on the Fairlands park being like a wild meadow, not being used, and being in disrepair and thought the fence had been installed by PUSD for safety purposes because students were leaving the school premises. Mr. Damonte noted that this space is owned by the City and PUSD has been leasing and maintaining the area since 1973 and is sometimes used for PE activities.

Commissioner Immadi asked about the use of recycled water at these parks and was informed by Mr. Damonte that none of them use recycled water. Commissioner Immadi then thanked Mr. Damonte for providing such an informative presentation.

Commissioner Berberich commented on all sports groups competing for space and wondered why the city is not claiming back some of the sits and using them as green spaces. Mr. Damonte noted that the only site maintained by the city is one at Fairlands.

Commissioner Berberich commented on the recent feedback received about Muirwood Park and felt there was a need to consider reclassifying some parks since there appeared to be confusion between the delineation of what is a sports park and what is a neighborhood park. Mr. Damonte provided information about what can be programmed for the different parks and Mr. Gruber noted that everything was indicated in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with community parks being larger in size for sports. Commissioner Berberich felt it would be good for commissioners to better understand the difference between the parks and asked if information had been mailed to them prior to becoming commissioners. Mr. Gruber noted that Muirwood is a community park.

Commissioner Vickers asked about the history of park classifications expressing concern that people believed Muirwood was a neighborhood park. Mr. Gruber advised that the Parks and Recreation Plan is from 2014 and was unsure if parks are defined in the plan but the Muirwood designation has been in place for a long time.

Chairperson Fields requested staff make sure that all commissioners received a copy of the Parks and Recreation Plan.

6. Review and Discuss Parks Maintenance Division Report October 2021 – March 2022

Mr. Damonte reviewed with commissioners the Parks Maintenance Division Report for October 2021 through March 2022 providing the following comments:

Val Vista Park:

- Soccer fields were aerated, seeded, and top-dressed with sand
- A section of deer grass was removed from the east meadow to provide easier pathway clearance.

Amador Valley Park:

- A backflow prevention device was installed
- Planters in the parking lot of the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center were renovated
- Soccer fields aerated, seeded, and top-dressed.

Ken Mercer Sports Park:

- Roofing shingles installed on four dugouts
- All fields aerated, seeded, and top-dressed with compost
- Six new irrigation controllers installed to replace aging units.

Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park:

- Eight trees were removed after the storm in October 2021
- A section of concrete was removed and replaced on the approach to the footbridge.

Bernal Community Park:

- Twenty-five cubic yards of infield mix was applied to the ball fields.

Museum on Main:

- Large Modesto Ash tree was removed due to Armillaria root rot.

Kottinger Community Park:

- Staff worked with an Eagle Scout to install a U.S. Flag drop box.

Trails:

- Callippe Preserve Trail was renovated along the driving range
- Erosion on the Preserve Trails from the October 2021 storm

- Vegetation pruned back from the Arroyo Mocho trail
- Section of Martin Avenue trail required replacement due to undermining caused by a sink hole.

Medians:

- Greentree Court roundabout was replanted
- Staff is addressing leaks in the area.

Callippe Preserve Golf Course:

- Several wooden cart path bridges were repaired
- Tee signs at all holes have been replaced.

Water Conservation:

- Strategies for implementing water conservation is ongoing.

Mr. Damonte provided information about staffing updates, the building of a new kiosk at the Adobe with black locust logs, and cleanout of owl boxes.

Chairperson Fields thanked Mr. Damonte for his report and questioned if any baby owls had been observed in the owl boxes. He advised there is evidence that there have been baby barn owls.

Mr. Damonte discussed with Commissioner Berberich the recent work that has been taking place at Val Vista Park. He provided details about recycled water going into the Zone 7 and drainage that needs to be changed to eliminate this problem. Commissioner Berberich questioned if these issues were the result of having artificial turf fields and Mr. Damonte noted that no fields were maintenance free and discussed details pertaining to maintenance and replacement.

Commissioner Brown noted that as someone who plays soccer, she is proud of the fields in Pleasanton and loves hearing comments from players visiting from other cities who are always amazed at the great fields in Pleasanton. Mr. Damonte thanked her and stated he would pass the compliments on to his staff members. Chairperson Fields agreed with Commissioner Brown's comments noting that players who visit Pleasanton are always impressed by the quality of the fields.

7. Architecture Projects Status Report for October 2021 – March 2022

Mr. Gruber reviewed with commissioners the Architecture Projects Status Report for October 2021 through March 2022 commenting on the following items:

Lions Wayside and DeLucchi Parks – City Council approved the concept design, and the Master Plan is being updated.

Transportation Corridor Parking Lot – some Elm trees have been removed and Phase I improvements are almost complete except for the planting area.

All Abilities Playground – City Council adopted the Master Plan for this park.

Skatepark – City Council has approved the design for this skatepark.

Cricket – City Council heard concerns from the community regarding a cricket pitch at Muirwood Park and have asked staff to research other suitable locations for the placement of this sport.

Pickleball and Court Resurfacing – The Parks and Recreation Commission approved this at their November 2021 meeting and staff conducted public outreach sessions in February 2022.

Augustine Bernal Mountain Bike Trail – Staff is working with the consultant and Fish and Game. City Council has approved Dudek for providing additional services and the environmental process is being completed.

Meadowlark Trail – Construction has been delayed due to complaints from neighbors and City Council directing staff to bring this project back to them for further discussion.

Playground Renovations – The Ken Mercer East playground was completed. The Master Plan was completed in 2021 and City Council accepted the playground improvements.

Chairperson Fields indicated she thought the All-Inclusive playground project had been put on hold by City Council. Mr. Gruber advised that additional details would be provided at the next update. He provided information about projects that have been considered by City Council and details about funding available and required for Capital projects. Ms. Murphy noted that City Council had not made any decision on the prioritization of projects.

Commissioner Immadi thanked Mr. Gruber for his informative reporting.

Commissioner Vickers discussed his concern about the Meadowlark Trail and the process for this. Mr. Gruber advised that a lot of research and digging deep into records had been conducted for this project. He noted that in 2006 a project had been put forward by a different applicant that had included the trail and at that time Council had not determined where the trail should go and the neighborhood is now on record of having 14-years of seeing no picnic benches, etc. and not approving the trail. Mr. Gruber noted the developer was conditioned to pay for the trail, but no public outreach was completed, and neighbors should have been contacted by the trail.

8. Receive a Progress Report on Projects from the Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department Strategic Plan 2019-2024

Ms. Murphy provided commissioners with a progress report on projects from the Library and Recreation Department Strategic Plan 2019-2024 commenting on: 1) the Interpretive Signage at the Adobe; 2) Phases 1 to 4 of the Pioneer Cemetery; 3) the department's Communications Plan

and Social Media Plan; 4) the largest number of summer program registrations in history; 5) new software installation; and 6) grant-funding obtained by the library that includes grants for the purchase of laptops and a \$200K grant for the purchase of a library mobile vehicle.

Additional information was provided by Ms. Murphy about cricket and pickleball projects, a consultant's assistance with ADA matters, and website updates that will be completed by the year-end.

Commissioner Berberich felt it would be helpful if commissioners were provided information when projects are completed, and he would like to see a delineation provided in the reporting between the recreation and library. Ms. Murphy advised that would be possible and believed it would show the department as being recreation heavy.

Commissioner Berberich asked about the number of department staff members and Ms. Murphy advised there is approximately 52 full-time members with about 200-400 temporary members. She stated that she has full confidence that department goals will be completed by the 5-year period and the team has done an excellent job, Commissioner Berberich felt it was important that the expectations of the public and commission are being met.

COMMISSION REPORTS

10. Committee Meetings

- A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee – no report.
- B. Community of Character – Chairperson Fields provided details about a planned lunch on May 18th from 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. at which scholarship awards will be presented to students. She encouraged commissioners to attend and advised that the cost was \$40.
- C. City/East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee – no report.
- D. Heritage Tree Review Board – no report. Meeting planned for May 25, 2022.
- E. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee – no report
- F. Sports Council – Commissioner Vickers advised the Sports Council discussed a number of regular items including field use and how it is audited and is now looking for information from all the sports groups. Also discussed were field cancellations and making defibrillators at the Sports Park available to the public – an item that may be brought to the commission in June for consideration. The 50th anniversary of Title 9 was discussed as something to be acknowledged and celebrated.

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

None.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

- A. Chairperson Fields acknowledged Commissioners Brown and Hekl stating it has been a joy having them as members of the commission and they will be missed. She indicated she has enjoyed have Commissioner Brown speak up with a youth perspective on matters and Commissioner Hekl has brought forward many good comments. She also thanked Mr. Damonte and Mr. Gruber for providing such good reports.

Commissioners were advised by Chairperson Fields that with the Mayor's Dinner event being scheduled for May 12th the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is planned for May 19th.

- B. Commissioner Immadi asked that an agenda for a future meeting of the commission include an item for the creation of a Task Force to include members of the community to help be more inclusive and sharing in the process of projects.

Commissioner Berberich agreed with this suggestion and felt it would go along with the classifying of parks, so neighborhoods are made aware of park classifications and provide for better upfront communication and understanding of scenarios.

Chairperson Fields felt these were items that needed to be brought up at another meeting and are viable issues to be discussed.

Ms. Murphy indicated she would like to bring forward ideas for a more inclusive outreach process that will provide a set process.

Commissioner Vickers wanted to be certain that stakeholders are engaged in the process. Commissioner Immadi agreed and felt everyone involved needs to feel they are a part of the process from the beginning.

Ms. Murphy agreed this should be something included for the June meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Summer Activities Guide Available online.
- May – Summer program highlights.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7 p.m.