



Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA
and Via Zoom

October 13, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Joanie Fields.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Lisa Brown, Chuck Deckert, Rameshu Immadi, Kira Rittmuller, Michael Vickers, and Chairperson Joanie Fields.

Commissioners Absent: Steve Berberich

Staff Present: Heidi Murphy, Library & Recreation Director; Giacomo Damonte, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; 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

None.

MINUTES

1. **Approve regular meeting minutes of September 8, 2022.**

Correction to motion in Item 5:

Sports Council – ~~Check~~ Chuck Deckert / Alternate Steve Berberich
A motion was made by Commissioner Deckert, seconded by Commissioner Vickers, to approve the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes as corrected. **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 FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW / ACTION / INFORMATION

4. Review and Discuss Parks Maintenance Division Report April 2022 through September 2022

Mr. Damonte reviewed with commissioners the Parks Maintenance Division Report for April 2022 through September 2022 noting that routine maintenance activities included mowing, pesticide and fertilizer applications, mulch installation, tree installation and removals, irrigation repairs and programming, turf renovation, plant installation, stump grinding, equipment maintenance, preparation of ball fields, play area safety inspections, water conservation that included water use and system adjustments.

Commissioners were advised that projects included trash can installations at Mission Hills Park, plant renovations and picnic table installations at Fire House Arts, upgrades of irrigation communications, wood fiber installation at playgrounds, and maintenance of trail vegetation.

Mr. Damonte noted that West Coast Arborist (WCA) did work in the District 5 area between Hopyard Road and the 680 freeway. WCA performed provided work in the park system about fifteen percent of this reporting period. Additionally, they pruned trees for annual street resurfacing managed by the Engineering Department.

Parks staff project highlights included:

Mission Hills Park:

- Installation of six additional garbage cans.

Ken Mercer Sports Park:

- Installation of three new concrete picnic tables east of the park near the basketball and volleyball courts
- Installed 500 cubic yards of mulch under trees along Parkside Drive

- Removal and replacement of Girls Softball 3 dugout roof
- Removed and replaced dugout roof for LL4
- Prepped and painted Hardball D and LL1, 4, 5 & 6 wooden backstops
- Began turf renovation that included aeration, seeding and compost dressing.

Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park:

- Installed two new concrete picnic tables
- Removed and replaced a section of concrete on the footbridge approach.

Bernal Community Park:

- Painted four baseball dugouts
- Installed four new practice pitching mounds and removed worn-out mounds
- Installed “No Dogs on Field” signage at synthetic turf fields
- Installed seven 24-inch box native oak trees and applied 50-yards in Phase 2 near practice field
- Removed wooden tree stakes in oak woodland area.

Senior Center / Centennial Park:

- Installed eleven new concrete benches.

Firehouse Arts Center:

- Renovated planter at rear of the facility and new plants were installed.

Lions Wayside Park:

- Removed wooden structure of bandstand. Mounted new metal poles and installed café style lighting.

Muirwood Community Park:

- Assisted Boy Scouts with installation of two new dog bag dispensers
- Irrigation controllers lost power for several weeks until a new electrical connection was made
- Resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts began and should be completed by the end of October.

Del Prado Park:

- Removed covered slide on the 5–12-year-old playground and not replaced due to being unavailable from the manufacturer.

Library Facility:

- Pruned all trees surrounding the library in preparation for the new roof project. Irrigation sprinklers were marked or capped to avoid damage during the project.

Pleasanton Middle School Tennis Courts:

- Based on a citizen complaint, two tennis courts were inspected and found to be in poor condition. Both courts were repaired and painted without having to remove existing surfacing.

Alviso Adobe:

- The limb from a large valley oak damaged a portion of the shed structure behind the Alviso Adobe. Tree contractor carried out major limb reductions.

Augustin Bernal Park:

- A June 2022 fire impacted a large portion of the Augustin Bernal Park area. Staff will continue to monitor the park while moving into the winter months. Some burned trees are beginning to show signs of new growth.

Trails:

- Repairs were made on the Alamo Canal Trails. The City contributed funding to repairs of approximately 500 lineal feet of an asphalt area
- Vegetation was pruned at several areas along the Arroyo Mocho and Alamo Canal trails.
- Brush and vegetation were trimmed from portions of the Moller Ranch Trail and included poison oak management
- Several acres of invasive goatgrass were trimmed in the Callippe Preserve open space
- A broken raptor perch was repaired in an open space near the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail.

Medians:

- Repaired three-inch irrigation mainline break along Valley Avenue underpass
- Staff addressed leaks reported through Utility Billing
- Street trees are diligently being watered by staff
- Staff continue to assist with root pruning for sidewalk repairs.

Callippe Preserve Golf Course:

- The driving range tee was renovated
- Golf greens were aerated and top-dressed with sand
- A leak was discovered on a 10-inch irrigation mainline. A temporary repair was made to restore power to impacted holes until contractor could make final mainline repairs.

Water Conservation:

- Implementing water conservation strategies continues with changes made to irrigation software settings. Fifteen percent conservation goals were made in April, May, June, July, and August.

Staffing Updates:

- Three Parks Landscape Maintenance Worker I positions were filled during this reporting period and there is still one vacancy in this position.

Commissioner Vickers thanked Mr. Damonte for a great report and providing him with information regarding the cost differential for the installation of concrete benches.

Commissioner Deckert agreed it was a great report and discussed with Mr. Damonte damage caused at the Augustin Bernal Park from the June 2022 fire. Commissioner Vickers was advised by Mr. Damonte that a determination had not yet been made on the cause of the fire.

Commissioner Deckert discussed the Arroyo Del Valle Trail repairs and felt because this has been an ongoing problem area for a long time that the City of Pleasanton needs to take responsibility for repairs because it is a heavily used area. Mr. Damonte noted that maintenance of this area was the responsibility of the Homeowners Association of the homes in the area. He felt a long-term solution would be the building of a bridge that crosses the arroyo and is something that should be focused on.

Chairperson Fields indicated she had discussed the issue of this unsafe area with Mr. Gruber and had been advised that nobody is willing to take responsibility. She commented on the amount of debris in the area that could become a fire hazard and the need for all involved to work together on this problem.

Commissioner Deckert commented on root pruning at the Del Valle sidewalk and the need for sidewalk repair. Mr. Damonte indicated he would share these concerns with the Streets Division. He noted that an upcoming charity run will be using the Del Valle parkway and concerns need to be addressed.

Commissioner Brown thanked Mr. Damonte for his report and provided information about exposed tree roots along Hopyard Road. Mr. Damonte advised that anytime she notices problems she can submit a Service Request on the mobile citizen app or email the City's Customer Service Department.

Commissioner Rittmuller also thanked Mr. Damonte for providing an informative report.

5. Review and Comment on the Landscape Architecture Projects Status Report for April 2022 – September 2022

Mr. Gruber reviewed with commissioners the Landscape Architecture Projects Status Report for April 2022 through September 2022.

Lions Wayside and DeLucchi Parks:

- On June 22, 2022, staff set up a booth in Lions Wayside Park at the Railroad Avenue and Neal Street intersection across from the Meadowlark Dairy
- One August 22, 2022, staff presented the project to the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee (BPTC) for their review of the project and public comments
- On September 8, 2022 staff presented the public outreach results and BPTC input to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- This project will likely go before the City Council in December 2022.

Transportation Corridor Parking Lot:

- Phase 1 and 2 improvements are nearly complete. These improvements include the parking lot, wall, trail, lighting, railing, fencing, pathways, Civic Park Plaza upgrading, and associated irrigation and other site improvements
- A dedication for Phase 1 and 2 improvements is planned for October 26, 2022 at 11:00.

Skatepark:

- On May 31, 2022, the City Council allocated a total of \$2 million in funding for construction of the skatepark
- On June 21, 2022, the City Council allocated an additional \$1 million in funding for construction of the skatepark, bringing the total skatepark budget to \$3 million
- Staff had a construction design kick-off meeting with the consultant on August 2, 2022
- Further information can be found at www.pleasantonskatepark.com.

Cricket:

- On August 11, 2022, staff presented the public outreach results to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). The PRC recommended Option 2
- On September 6, 2022, the City Council reviewed and approved the allocation of a cricket field at Ken Mercer Sports Park based on the PRC recommendation to location the field at Option 2
- Staff obtained a proposal for construction design services from one of their on-call landscape architecture firms to design the cricket field in late September
- Further information can be found at www.pleasantoncricket.com.

Pickleball and Court Resurfacing:

- In April 2022, staff prepared construction documents for the pickleball court resurfacing project and advertised the project for bid in May 2022
- Bid opening for the project was held on June 8, 2022. Two contractors bid on the project
- On July 19, 2022, the City Council approved the plans and specifications and awarded the construction contract to the low bidder, Mauri Concrete
- Construction began on September 12, 2022.

Augustin Bernal Mountain Bike Trail:

- In April 2022, the 100 percent trail construction plan was submitted and the environmental documents were submitted to the state
- The public comment period for the environmental documents for the Augustin Mountain bike trail project period ended in June 2022
- In September 2022, the City and Golden Eagle Homeowners Association entered into a public access trail agreement for the portion of the proposed trail through Golden Eagle's property.

Meadowlark Trail:

- On May 17, 2022, the City Council determined that the Meadowlark trail project was no longer a desired or necessary project and directed staff to amend the PUD to remove the condition of approval requiring the trail.

- On August 16, 2022, the City Council approved the removal of the condition of approval requiring the trail.

Lund Ranch Trail:

- The developer is currently constructing the development with the intention of installing the trails in Spring or Summer of 2023.

Garm's Staging Area:

- No update to report on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and the City of Pleasanton entered into in September 2016 regarding construction of a staging area that will consist of a parking lot of approximately 75-stalls, restroom, picnic area, play area, loop trail, and trail access to the ridge.

Nevada Street Improvements:

- On July 19, 2022, the City Council approved an amendment to the contract with Callander Associates for additional construction document services for this project.

Bernal Community Farm:

- On June 21, 2022, City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Master Gardeners for a demonstration garden at the Bernal Community Farm site and authorized the Master Gardeners to proceed with the installation of a cover crop on a portion of the site.

Miscellaneous Park Projects:

- Playground Renovation – Consistent with the City's ongoing replacement plan, the City is replacing play areas near the community garden at Val Vista Community Park (one for two-to-five-year-old children and one play area for five-to-twelve-year-old children)
- In August 2022, staff advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Design, Supply, and Installation of Replacement Play Apparatus for Val Vista Community Park
- Four playground design companies submitted qualifications packages for the Val Vista playground renovation project on August 31, 2022.

Public Art Installation:

- Centennial Towers – The City is planning to renovate the Centennial Towers Plaza at Civic Park to address the problems with lighting, drainage, and grading
- City staff prepared construction documents for the Centennial Plaza Renovations project in December 2020
- The Centennial Plaza plans were incorporated into the Transportation Corridor plans and the improvements were under construction
- The Centennial Plaza Improvements were completed as part of the first phase of the Transportation Corridor Parking lot improvements.

Commissioner Vickers thanked Mr. Gruber for a great report with lots of information.

Commissioner Deckert discussed with Mr. Gruber that issue of EBRPD not honoring the MOU they had undertaken with the City of Pleasanton and questioned whether the City's legal department needed to be involved. Ms. Murphy advised that City Council and the City Manager's Office were looking into this and staff hope to be able to provide information on this within the next few months.

Mr. Gruber provided Commissioner Brown with information about the locations of the Lund Ranch Trail and the Bernal Community Park.

Chairperson Fields questioned if the Pickleball courts at the Tennis Complex had been properly marked. Mr. Gruber advised that they one court had been double-striped for pickleball and tennis. She also asked about the Senior Center horseshoe area being converted for pickleball. Ms. Murphy advised that this had not been investigated, however some nets for pickleball were being piloted in the large hall at the Senior Center. She indicated there was no intention of converting the horseshoe area for pickleball at this time as money was not currently allocated for that project and the cost would necessitate a project of that scale go through the Council priority process and the Capital Improvement Program budget process for consideration.

Chairperson Fields asked whether community garden issues for the Bernal Farm had been addressed, or whether the intent is to only have a Master Garden. Mr. Gruber advised that staff are only discussing the first phase for this project, which includes Master Gardeners. Chairperson Fields questioned if the Master Gardeners would be providing classes and Mr. Gruber stated that several different things were being discussed and the Master Gardeners have stated they would like to be able to provide classes but being able to do so would require the construction of a building.

Chairperson Fields questioned whether the skatepark plans would need to be reconfigured because of the cost. Mr. Gruber advised that cost issues are being discussed with the consultant. Commissioner Deckert questioned if sponsorships were being considered and Mr. Gruber stated this could be considered but to date no sponsorships have been brought forward for consideration. Ms. Murphy advised that sponsorships would be good opportunities but is something the City would need to investigate because the amount of sponsorship and what could be provided for the sponsor would need to be determined.

It was noted by Chairperson Fields that the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee had voted favorably to use funds for the Callippe Trail and strongly wanted to see the project completed. Mr. Gruber indicated that he would share information with the commission when action on this takes place. He then discussed the funding budget for the project with Commissioner Deckert.

Mr. Gruber provided Chairperson Fields details about the Nevada Trail project noting that the designer is moving forward with the design contract and the project will likely go out to bid by the end of the year but is something that still needs to be discussed with City Council.

Chairperson Fields thanked Mr. Gruber and Mr. Damonte for providing the commission with such informative reports. She felt it was great there were some projects listed but it was disappointing that funding was lacking, preventing them from being able to move forward. She compared Pleasanton to projects being completed by other local cities and felt the longer projects are delayed the more expensive they will become.

6. Review and Comment on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

Ms. Murphy reviewed with commissioners the Library and Recreation Department Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021/22. She commented on the three contractors providing services for the Pioneer Cemetery and the Pleasanton Rides services provided by Black Tie.

Additional details and highlights from the report were provided by Ms. Murphy relating to other areas of the Library and Recreation Department and the overall budget for the department.

Commissioner Immadi asked about the number of people using programs and services compared to those that were pre-pandemic and whether staff was reaching out to high schools for volunteers. Ms. Murphy advised that numbers are started to increase since the pandemic but have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. She stated that outreach had been made to the high schools but for many programs, the City is looking for volunteers over eighteen. She discussed the training that is provided and indicated information about the volunteer program could be provided to the commissioners.

Commissioner Deckert thanked Ms. Murphy for the good report and asked where the City stood with the matter of subsidizing programs. Ms. Murphy indicated the department did have a target for this but also want to provide programs that benefit the whole community. She indicated the department has broken down programs to determine if they are meeting all the needs and what changes need to be made and if fees need to be increased or reduced.

Commissioner Brown liked the format of the report and was provided information by Ms. Murphy about digital checkouts at the library.

Chairperson Fields discussed the Alviso Adobe Fall Festival and the work of Friends of the Library. Ms. Pawlak indicated she would provide commissioners with information pertaining to book drop-off to Friends of the Library for their book sales.

Commission Vickers also liked the report.

COMMISSION REPORTS

7. Committee Meetings

A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee

Chairperson Fields advised that the committee discussed Wayside Park.

B. Community of Character

Chairperson Fields and Commissioner Immadi commented on changes on the committee.

C. Heritage Tree Review Board

No report.

D. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee

No report. Chairperson Fields asked about the status of the mural that was approved. Ms. Murphy indicated she would get information and provide an update on this.

E. Sports Council

Commissioner Vickers noted that one item on the meeting agenda was discussion about the upcoming Stanford Medicine football field and the use of the same materials previously approved by the City Council. He noted the group also expressed some concern regarding the surface because of potential issues from how players pivot on the surface. Commissioner Vickers indicated that material infill needs to be put in place about every two to three years. Staff advised that a contract was in place for this to be done in November and information on this had been shared with the Sports Council. Commissioner Vickers questioned if there was a different product that could be used for the infill and staff provided details.

Commissioner Vickers advised that additional items on the Sports Council agenda pertained to the issue of geese on the fields and what could be done and the allocation of fields. Staff indicated this was a regional issue and it was very difficult to get geese to leave. It was agreed that field allocations are well handled and there does not seem to be any issues.

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

None.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Skatepark – Mr. Gruber advised that staff was a few months out from bringing information on this project back to the commission.

B. Doggie Bags – Ms. Murphy stated that staff will be bringing information on this project to the commission.

C. Cubbies Dog Park Restroom – Ms. Murphy advised that a recommendation on this issue will need to be made that can be brought before the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.