



Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

**City Council Chambers – 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA
October 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Sadie Brown, Chuck Deckert, Joanie Fields, and Chairperson Brian Bowers.

Commissioners Absent: Mary Hekl, Brad Hottle, and Deborah Wahl

Staff Present: Michele Crose, Assistant Library & Recreation Director; Brian Dolan, Assistant City Manager; Melinda Dennis, Permit Center Manager/Interim Planning Manager; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; Bandon Stewart, Parks Superintendent; Scott Roland, Photographer; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of August 8, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Deckert, seconded by Commissioner Fields, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2019 meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Present

Mr. Dolan introduced City photographer Scott Roland advising he would be taking photos during the meeting for display at the Mayor's Dinner.

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

Daniel R. Sapone & Gretta J. Speakman – commented on bike safety issues they have witnessed in the Danbury Park neighborhood at Orloff Park. They advised they have seen an increase in bike riders and riders of fast-moving scooters on the walking paths during the last year. Mr. Sapone indicated that paths in the park should stay safe for both younger and older walkers and felt appropriate signage in the park would be helpful.

Courtesies they felt would be helpful to the safety of everyone using this park include:

- Instructing riders to ride slowly on walking paths especially when approaching/passing walkers and young children.
- Bikers should warn walkers of their presence by using a bell or vocally stating their position.
- Racing or riding bikes fast or riding in groups should not be permitted on walking paths.
- Parents should teach children to adhere to safety practices, especially racing or riding fast.

Chairperson Bowers thanked Mr. Sapone and Ms. Speakman for their comments.

Ollie and friends, 5071 Blackbird Way – shared with Commissioners a model they had made of the Ken Mercer Sports Park with some added amenities they believe would be helpful to have at the park, i.e. canopy shaded areas, water bottle fillers and changes to the playground. They advised they have conducted surveys for providing this information they would like to see considered for this park.

Chairperson Bowers congratulated these boys on doing a great job with their model.

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

4. Review and Discuss Century House Site Plan Options Including the Provision of Additional Parking

Mr. Dolan noted that the Century House Master Plan was previously discussed by the Commission at their April 11, 2019 and August 8, 2019 meetings. Topics of discussion at these meetings included Century House Building Assessment and facility usage and programming.

Mr. Dolan noted that the Master Plan for this project will have four major aspects that will all rely on each other. He commented on the topic of programming for this facility as was discussed by Commissioners at the last meeting and asked that they wait to further discuss this aspect until the end of the presentation. Mr. Dolan also noted that cost changes for the project will be decided by City Council.

Ms. Dennis provided Commissioners with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the four site plan options that staff has developed for the Century House advising that these options cover a range of choices for the 2.7-acre site of the Century House, parking area, and park.

Option 1 – would provide 31 parking spaces. Existing parking spaces and striping would be modified, the existing aisle would extend and create a new parking lot at the northwest corner adjacent to Tanager Drive. The option would require removing 11 trees, including one large tree, but have the least impact on the existing neighborhood park.

Option 2 – would provide 27 parking spaces. Existing parking spaces and striping would be modified. The new parking lot configuration would be similar to Option 1 but would move the new parking lot away from the adjacent single-family home. The option requires removal of three trees and the width of the park and useable area would be reduced to accommodate the new parking lot.

Option 3 – would provide 22 parking spaces. Existing parking spaces and striping would be modified and the new parking lot configuration puts parking behind the Century House, parallel to the street and the furthest from Tanager Drive. Pedestrian access from the parking lot to the existing rear patio will be provided with a vehicle turnaround at the end. This option would require removal of five trees. The current width of the park would be maintained but the park depth would be reduced to accommodate the new parking lot.

Option 4 – would provide 39 parking spaces. Existing parking spaces and striping would be modified to provide two accessible parking spaces. The parking lot configuration would be similar to that in Option 3 and adds an additional row of parking to provide a double-loaded parking configuration. This option would require the removal of five trees with the existing park width being maintained but the depth reduced to accommodate the new parking lot.

Mr. Dolan discussed EVA accessible requirements with Ms. Dennis.

Commissioner Fields was informed by Mr. Gruber that there is approximately 120-feet from the street to the parking area in Option 4, Commissioner Fields questioned if that would require moving the fence closer to the edge of the lot and cause a privacy factor. She was advised by Ms. Dennis that a determination had not yet been made.

Commissioner Deckert was advised by Mr. Gruber that an arborist would need to be contacted to determine if any trees needing to be removed would be considered heritage trees.

Chairperson Bowers had questions regarding the number of parking spaces allocated in each option and if there would need to be an occupancy limitation for events at the building. Mr. Dolan commented on occupancy limitations and felt parking in each option were reasonable amounts, especially since some people attending events would likely park on Santa Rita Road.

Chairperson Bowers opened the meeting for public comment at 7:39 p.m.

Don Fike – indicated that the key issue for him with renovations at the Century House concerned EVA and he hoped this would not need to be included in the renovations and expressed concerns about curb cuts that may be required. Mr. Fike did not think Option 1 would be a good choice because of the proximity to the Nolan home and Option 2 would dissect the park. He felt that Option 3 would be the best option with a change he recommended that would add about six more parking spaces.

Nolan Wheeler – felt the four options presented were a good start. He discussed the direct impact to his home with Options 1 and 2 and felt Option 3 would be the best because it retains usability of the park and makes it easy to relocate the fence. Mr. Wheeler questioned what has been taken into consideration regarding noise from events that would impact neighbors. He thanked staff for the open discussion held with neighbors during these renovation discussions.

Jean Hazell – echoed the comments on her neighbors and stated that she has three young children that love to play in the park, and she has some concerns about parking. Ms. Hazell appreciates the resource of the house and questioned the possibility of adding an Option 5 that would include shared parking with businesses across the street from Century House and allow people attending events to park at these locations. She asked staff to consider talking to these businesses to determine if arrangements could be agreed upon and felt this arrangement would provide less impacts to the neighbors.

Joan Johnson – stated that she has lived in the neighborhood for 34+ years and a lot of people living in the area use the park and they do not want to see it being changed from a 'green' park to one with asphalt parking and trees removed. Ms. Johnson commented on use of the park by children who live in nearby apartments. She would also like to see parking provided in other locations.

Chairperson Bowers closed the meeting for public comment at 7:54 p.m.

Commissioner Deckert discussed with Mr. Dolan the possibility of parking in business lots across Santa Rita Road. Mr. Dolan advised that this has been considered and could be discussed further, but the City Traffic Engineer has concerns with people needing to cross the busy Santa Rita Road to get to events at the Century House. He noted that City Council will need to balance concerns about parking.

Mr. Dolan informed Commissioner Deckert that staff are trying to eliminate any EVA requirements especially regarding Option 3.

Commissioner Fields asked Ms. Crose to provide information about the city's noise level ordinance. Ms. Crose stated that she felt the ordinance would state outdoor amplified sound is not allowed and events would need to terminate by 10:00 p.m. Mr. Dolan advised that staff would not be recommending any change to the ordinance.

Commissioner Fields commented on her background as a former caterer, her connection to the Century House, and events at the facility never having been overly loud and disruptive to

neighbors but was concerned about people misbehaving and being noisy. She noted that the park is about the size of a football field, felt Option 3 would give the least amount of parking, but would be best option for the neighbors. She was not sure about allowing parking at other businesses and felt doing such could be a liability for the City of Pleasanton.

Commissioner Deckert commented on tree removal requirements in Options 1 and 2.

Chairperson Bowers liked the report provided by staff and felt the aerial views of the property were helpful. He indicated that he liked Option 4 because it provides the most parking and keeps the integrity of the park but would like for EVA to be removed. Chairperson Bowers commented on the outbuilding item in the options and space available at the back of the Century House in Option 2. He also commented on single-stall and multi-gender bathrooms.

Commissioner Deckert stated that he felt Option 3 would be a good compromise for the neighbors.

Commissioner Brown indicated that her choice would be for Option 3 and felt additional parking could be included with no EVA being required.

Mr. Dolan advised that the commissioner's comments would be implemented, and staff would bring back a modified plan for Option 3 for the commission to review.

5. Consider Support for a Municipal Code Amendment Allowing Youth Members to Vote

Ms. Thomas informed commissioners that at the May 8, 2019 Youth Commission meeting a motion had been made recommending that City Council amend the Municipal Code to allow youth members of the Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions the ability to vote. A recommendation was also made for a one-year pilot program for the quorum requirement so the commissions could evaluate quorum issues before any changes are made to the Municipal Code, specific to the quorum requirement.

Commissioners received a presentation from Youth Commissioner Tejas Prakash on the work conducted by the Public Policy Subcommittee that led to the recommendation being made by the Youth Commission.

Commissioner Brown indicated that she liked the recommendation made by the Youth Commission but has never felt her opinions were ignored or repressed by members of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Deckert felt that if youth members on a commission have a voice, they should also have a vote.

Commissioner Fields questioned Commissioner Brown on whether she would feel more involved if she had a vote and asked her about the process required for becoming a youth member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Chairperson Bowers stated that he would not be in favor of this Municipal Code Amendment and felt becoming a youth member of a commission was a huge learning experience for the youth member since they are given the opportunity to provide input. He commented on his lengthy time as an Alternate on this commission being given the opportunity to provide input, but not to vote. Chairperson Bowers also felt that with an even number of commissioners allowed to vote, voting decisions would be evenly split.

A motion was made by Chairperson Bowers to reject the Youth Commission proposal to support a Municipal Code Amendment allowing youth members to vote. **The motion was rejected for lack of a second.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Deckert, to support the Youth Commission recommendation for a Municipal Code Amendment that will allow commission youth members to vote with a one-year pilot for quorum requirement to allow commissions to evaluate quorum issues before any changes are made to the Municipal Code, specific to quorum requirement.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Deckert and Fields
NOES: Chairperson Bowers
ABSENT: Hekl, Hottle and Wahl.
ABSTAIN: None

Commissioner Brown informed Chairperson Bowers that she liked the one-year pilot recommendation and did not know how youth members on other commissions felt about the suggestion.

Chairperson Bowers was advised by Commissioner Prakash that even though he is only 13-years of age, as a member of the Youth Commission, he can vote on matters.

6. Review and Discuss Overview of Recreation Programs

Ms. Crose advised that at the request of the Parks and Recreation Commission, staff has provided additional information regarding recreation program enrollment and data gathered is provided in the report provided.

Commissioners were advised that the information shows registration, revenue and waitlist information for the three registration periods of Fall/Winter, Spring, and Summer. Most programs are offered on a recurring basis, however, there could be some fluctuation based on availability of programs, instructors, and spaces. Summer is always the busiest session. Ms. Crose informed commissioners that staff evaluates the waitlist numbers and brainstorms ways to reduce those numbers.

Chairperson Bowers asked about the make-up of the waitlists and whether it was people who wait too long to initially register, and Mr. Gruber commented on registration for residents

versus non-residents. Ms. Crose commented on programs only offered in Pleasanton and noted that non-residents are required to pay an additional 10% of the program fee and Ms. Snyder provided information about the constant changing of the waitlist.

Commissioner Fields noted that at a previous meeting Commissioner Hekl has asked about members of the commission being given an opportunity to provide programming input. Ms. Crose advised that staff follows trends received from the community to assist with programming and Ms. Murphy also takes into consideration comments received from the commission.

Commissioner Fields felt Commissioner Hekl wanted to be more involved in the programming process. Ms. Crose felt staff may be able to do something through a focus group at which information is collected and will discuss this with Ms. Murphy. She noted that the Civic Arts Commission has a focus group that considers options for civic art events.

Commissioner Deckert asked about programming reporting and whether a report on the current years programming would be brought back to the commission for their review. Ms. Crose commented on programs that are run by staff and others run by paid contractors and indicated that staff would be able to advise if a program should be done again. She discussed the needs that contractors are meeting and the difficulties the city has sometimes in getting a contractor to continue to provide a program.

Chairperson Bowers thanked staff for providing a great report that provided such detail about waitlists and the popularity of specific programs.

7. Park Projects Status Report for July – September 2019

Mr. Gruber advised that this had been a very busy time. He reviewed the Park Projects Status Report for July-September 2019 with commissioners commenting on projects as follows:

Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks – advised that the City met in August with Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to review concepts that needed to meet with RWQCB requirements. A couple of design concepts are being discussed and staff hopes approval for this project will soon be approved so the project can move forward.

Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery – Construction for the Entry and Wayfinding Improvements began September 16, 2019, new parking, plantings, flower baskets and front landscaping is included. Staff is working with a graphic artist on a panels project for the cemetery entry.

Valley Trails Park – Construction on the tot lot began September 16, 2019 and notifications for public outreach were sent out September 23, 2019 with the outreach event to take place October 5, 2019. Improvements at this park will be a great asset for the area and landscape improvements will include shading plants.

Trails Master Plan – was adopted by City Council on May 9, 2019.

Basketball Court Replacements – City Council awarded this project to Vintage Contractors on September 3, 2019 and construction of the basketball court resurfacing project began on September 20, 2019.

Bocce Ball Court Renovation – The design consultant submitted the 90% construction documents to the City on September 12, 2019. Bid documents should be ready to go out within the next week. Construction should be done in early spring 2020.

Transportation Corridor Parking Lot – Consultant HMH Engineers submitted a revised plan set that followed the direction given by City Council and will now include a 10-foot wide pathway.

Miscellaneous Park Projects –

Playground Renovation – On August 6, 2019 the City received 5 qualified Statement of Qualification (SOQ) for design of Orloff Park playgrounds. Public outreach for the playgrounds is planned for October 5, 2019.

Mission Hills Slide – The City held “The Last Ride” event for the Mission Hills Slide to provide residents an opportunity to enjoy the slide one last time before the beginning of construction on October 7, 2019.

Downtown Planters – Replacement planting for Fall/Winter for the downtown planters is underway.

Tennis and Community Park Shade Structure – The City is working with Lifetime Tennis on installation of a shade canopy at Tennis and Community Park that is planned for October 2019.

Eventide – Staff continues to seek a location for this sculpture and hopes to return with plans before the end of the calendar year.

Centennial Towers – An electrical engineer was hired in June 2019 for the electrical aspect of this project.

Nurturing Open Space - Pollinators – This art piece, including the dedication plaque, was installed the week of September 16, 2019.

Commissioner Fields asked about landscaping around the “Pollinators” art piece. Ms. Crose advised that staff has discussed landscaping options and will be revisiting this possibility.

Commissioner Deckert discussed with Mr. Gruber landscaping of the area at the museum where the large tree had been removed. Mr. Gruber advised there was no funding currently available for this, however, staff was competing for funding for this and other projects.

8. Parks Maintenance Division Quarterly Report for July – September 2019 (Q3)

Mr. Stewart commented on the number of park crews’ members and “median” crew members. He reviewed with commissioners the Parks Maintenance Division Quarterly Report for July-September 2019:

Amador Valley Community Park – completed turf renovation at Amador Park from the Shakespeare in the Park performances and installed new concrete at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatics Center.

Amaral Park – installed three new benches and new sod near the playgrounds.
BMX Park – installed two new concrete picnic tables and a Fix-It station.
Bernal Community Park – cleaned up vandalism at the playground and installed the new “Pollinator” art piece in the oak woodland.
Centennial Park – installed new concrete sidewalk along Sunol Boulevard
Creekside Park – installed six new concrete benches completing the picnic bench upgrade in the park and installed dog ordinance signage.
Ken Mercer Sports Park – installing 1500 square feet of new sod and renovated and painted baseball and softball field dugouts.
Moller Park – installed one owl box.
Museum on Main – installed new landscaping in preparation for the City’s 125-year Anniversary celebration.
Tennis and Community Park – installed new plantings near the tennis courts.
Valley Trails Park – installed two new Calsense irrigation controllers and began construction on pathways leading to nearby bathroom.
Val Vista Community Park – installed new windsocks, removed damaged playground slide, removed 12 diseased pear trees, repaired vandalized chain link gate and fencing, prepared Val Vista Community Park soccer fields for the RAGE College Showcase, and installed two owl boxes.

Additional areas of responsibilities include:

Augustin Bernal Trail – installed fencing along the new parking lot.
Centennial Trail – repaired and re-opened the storm damaged section of the trail.
Callippe Preserve Golf Course – renovated greenside bunkers on holes #2, #5 and #8.
City Medians – replaced 45 irrigation heads on North Valley trails median in preparation of a new plant installation, installed new plantings in partnership with Ponderosa Homes at North Valley Trails street, and installed new cobblestone at the 680/Bernal underpass.
Downtown Main Street – installed three new trees.
Urban Forest Management – removed a Purple Robe Locust on Main Street in front of Norm’s Barber Shop, removed a large Modesto Ash Tree at 337 Main Street in front of Bank of America, and removed a large pear tree at 157 West Angela Street due to major branch failure.

Commissioner Fields commented on work being done at Callippe Trail to widen the trail.

COMMISSION REPORTS

8. Committee Meetings

- A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trail Committee – Chairperson Bowers advised that the Committee had discussed the West Las Positas Bike and Trail Corridor which will be going back to the Committee at their next meeting.
- B. Community of Character – no report. Commissioner Fields stated that the group will be having a work session to discuss goals.
- C. City/East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee – no report.

- D. Heritage Tree Review Board – Commissioner Deckert advised that the Board had decided on a heritage tree in favor of the resident.
- E. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee – no report.
- F. Sports Council – no report.
- 10. Other brief reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by the Commission members.**

None.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

STAFF COMMENTS

11. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

The Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest was reviewed.

Ms. Crose provided information about the recent ‘Ignite’ event stating it had been successful even though there had been less attendees. An evaluation of the event will be conducted, and a report provided later. Commissioner Deckert commented on the pull-back on attendees.

Ms. Crose advised that the Library and Recreation Department will be closed to provide for staff training opportunities. Additional information was provided on the Unity Day Event and Mayor’s Dinner

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Future agenda topics will include: Century House and Lions Wayside Park.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Bowers at 9:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2019