



## Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

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City Council Chambers – 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA  
February 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Deckert 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: Bryan Bowers, Joanie Fields, Brad Hottle, and Chairperson Check Deckert.

Commissioners Absent: Sadie Brown, Mary Hekl, and Deborah Wahl

Staff Present: Heidi Murphy, Library & Recreation Director; Brandon Stewart, Parks Superintendent; Terry Snyder, Office Manager, and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

### AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Approve regular meeting minutes of January 9, 2020

Correction: Page 1, Roll Call – Commissioners Present: ... Chairperson ~~Check~~ Chuck Deckert...

A motion was made by Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Hottle, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting as corrected. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

### MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Chairperson Deckert welcomed Shelby Rocereto who was attending the meeting as part of a requirement for her Environmental Studies at Santa Clara University.

## **3. Public Comment from the audience regarding it members of the community items not listed on the agenda**

None.

Commissioner Fields commented on the recent passing of Howard Neeley and Howard Seebach, former members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and of Mr. Kane the husband Marilyn Kane and donor of funds for the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail.

## **MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

### **4. Review and Provide a Recommendation on a New Standard Playground Sign**

Mr. Stewart advised that the Parks Division of the Operations Services Department is responsible for ensuring all City of Pleasanton playgrounds conform to nationally recognized safety standards, with a key component being proper signage. He noted the signage should include information about age appropriateness, supervision, and safety warnings. Mr. Stewart informed the commission that in an effort to meet these safety standards, staff recommends standardizing all playground signs and was seeking input from the commission on the final design of a new standard playground sign for the City of Pleasanton.

Commissioner Fields stated that she would want all parks to have the new signs and those parks with two or more playgrounds should have signs in all playground areas.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the proposed signage with commissioners advising that language on the sign fits with state requirements. He advised that signs, made by the City of Pleasanton's Sign Shop, would be placed at entrances into playgrounds.

Commissioner Bowers indicated he liked the sign and was pleased it could be made inhouse.

Commissioner Hottle also liked the sign and thought the colors were eye-catching but felt some of the language was awkward. Mr. Stewart advised the language was standard State requirements.

Commissioner Fields was informed by Mr. Stewart that children are not required to wear helmets on the zip line, and in fact helmets are considered to be an extra hazard.

Chairperson Deckert discussed with Mr. Stewart the timeframe for installing the signs and provided Commissioner Fields with information on what kind of posts the signs would be attached.

## **5. Review and Provide a Recommendation on the Pesticide Posting Sign**

Mr. Stewart noted that in February 2018 staff presented the commission with information on a proposed pilot pesticide posting program. He advised that the pilot program was brought into five City parks and in July of 2018 staff was able to provide data that had been collected during the three-month pilot program. Mr. Stewart advised that the pilot program was not expanded due to resource availability, however, the pesticide posting program and pesticide-free park projects was adopted as a City Council priority in June 2019 to be accomplished within fiscal years 2019-2022.

Commissioners were advised that in order to execute City Council's priorities, staff is planning a three-phase approach towards implementation. Phase one will focus on determining the style of pesticide signage and installation of permanent signage throughout the entire City parks system. Phase two will be developing a Citywide webpage to provide information on pesticide use and the City's Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM) practices. The third phase will be to determine which parks to convert to be pesticide-free sites.

Mr. Stewart reviewed with the commission a sign design, based on a sign used in Walnut Creek. He advised that signs would be installed under the existing park rules signs located throughout each park sites. The cost for each sign would be approximately \$77 installed and with 151 total signs required the total cost to install the proposed sign design would be approximately \$11,627.

Commissioner Hottle indicated he liked the proposed signage but was concerned about the inserts being removed by vandals and wondered how they would be secured, Ms. Snyder provided details on how signage is secured at rental facilities.

Commissioner Hottle discussed pesticide treatment schedules with Mr. Stewart who also discussed other variables that sometimes limit treatment schedules.

Chairperson Deckert commented on how this process came about and questioned if citizen concerns had been addressed. Mr. Stewart advised that they had been informed this was to be on the agenda at this meeting and believes they are happy with how things are moving forward.

Commissioner Fields was informed that staff hopes to have the website information running by the spring and Ms. Murphy advised that the city is in the process of redesigning the city's website. Commissioner Fields also questioned who the contact person would be if someone had concerns.

Commissioner Hottle commented on information on the Walnut Creek Sign pertaining to a doggy waste box. Mr. Stewart discussed new a signage ordinance for dogs on leash because of a recent biting incident.

Commissioner Bowers asked about putting information on social media. Ms. Murphy provided details about social media restrictions for local governments. Commissioner Bowers indicated he understood the restrictions but wondered if there might be negative reaction from the community to the posting of more signs.

Chairperson Deckert discussed the possibility of having pesticide-free parks. Mr. Stewart indicated that staff has two-years to work on this and would bring information to the commission for them to consider details for a pesticide-free park pilot program. He noted that it would be a big job for staff because it will change the look of parks in a pilot program and will be difficult for staff to control the weed population. Commissioner Fields questioned if this would be a good volunteer program.

Commissioners agreed that Figures 4 and 5 as shown in Staff Report were the options they preferred for the Pesticide Posting Sign.

## **6. Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation Department Report for July-December 2019**

The July-December 2019 Library and Recreation Report was reviewed with commissioners by Ms. Murphy. Ms. Murphy advised that the report was an overview of everything within the Library and Recreation Department a new communications person on staff will begin tracking trends.

Commissioner Bowers questioned if this was an internal document or something that will be shared with the community and Commissioner Fields felt it should be shared. Ms. Murphy advised that some copies are available at the Library and a portions of the information in the report will be shared with the community through the department's social media channels.

Chairperson Deckert discussed with Ms. Murphy the changes in library numbers. Ms. Murphy advised that a difference was evident after council's decision to eliminate library fines and the staff's engagement throughout the community with pop-up programs.

Chairperson Deckert commented on the lower number of attendees at the Ignite event. Ms. Murphy noted that the numbers had been provided by the Police Department and are an estimate, and that the Ignite event for 2020 should be bigger because it was being combined with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Firehouse Arts Center (FAC).

Commissioners were informed by Ms. Murphy that staff will start to conduct user surveys as a way of collecting more information from program participants.

Commissioner Fields questioned if numbers from the Museum on Main had been considered for the report. Ms. Murphy advised that the museum is considered a rental but staff could look at also considering rental numbers in the report.

Chairperson Deckert felt the community was unaware of the many programs and services provided by the city and felt more marketing needs to be done. Chairperson Deckert felt social media was a definite need. Ms. Murphy commented that the new communications

person for the department is focusing heavily on media relations and social media to better promote the department.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **7. Committee Meetings**

- A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee** – Chairperson Deckert advised that the committee had discussed alternative options for the West Las Positas project that includes bike lanes. He noted that changes will begin to take place once funds for the project are available.
  - B. Community of Character** – Commissioner Fields provided details about: 1) the Make A Difference event at which approximately 50 nonprofits provided safety-issue information, and 2) the Martin Luther King Breakfast event at which many officials attended and the city's Teen Poet Laureate had read a great poem. She advised that the breakfast is a fundraising event for Community of Character that helps provide \$2,000 scholarships for a student from each of Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools. Commissioner Fields also advised that the Community of Character was working on a new plan for outreach and ways of becoming more involved in the community.
  - 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** – Commissioner Bowers indicated he had not attended the meeting. Ms. Murphy advised that the Sports Council discussed the vandalized kiosk at Bernal Park and whether it should be replaced as well as infill on the synthetic fields. She noted that staff is working with them on solutions.
- 8. Other brief reports on any meetings, conferences, and/or seminars attended by the Commission members.**

None.

## **MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION**

Chairperson Deckert indicated he had heard from people who are upset about the cancellation of the spring bocce season. Ms. Murphy noted that staff had informed the group that the season would need to be cancelled when renovation plans were put in place. Mr. Stewart advised that work on the bocce court is scheduled to begin February 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

## **9. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest**

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

Ms. Murphy provided information on the VA Mobile Medical visit and the collaboration of groups on this.

### **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- A. Century House
- B. Lions Wayside
- C. Cemetery Fees

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Deckert at 7:58 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 12, 2020