



Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA January 14, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bryan Bowers, Sadie Brown, Joanie Fields, Mary Hekl, Brad Hottle, Deborah Wahl, and Chairperson Chuck Deckert.

Commissioners Absent:None

Staff Present: Heidi Murphy, Library & Recreation Director; Brian Dolan, Assistant City Manager; Sean Welch, Management; Giacomo Damonte, Parks Superintendent; Terry Snyder, Office Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1.Approve regular meeting minutes of November 10, 2020.

Correction: Page 1, Minutes – Motion made by ~~Chairperson~~ *Commissioner* Fields, seconded ...

A motion was made by Chairperson Fields, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 10, 2020 meeting 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 BEFORE THE COMMISSION

4. City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process

Ms. Murphy introduced Mr. Dolan and Mr. Welch and advised they would be reviewing and discussing with the commission the Council Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process.

Mr. Dolan reviewed with the commission a PowerPoint presentation outlining the priority setting process that City Council adopted for their two-year work plan. The process typically includes a workshop for the purpose of discussing projects identified by the public, mayor and council members, and City staff and also includes projects that have previously been identified but have not been completed.

Commissioners were informed that the City Council Prioritization Work Plan consists of a Vision Statement, General Plan, and Strategic Objectives that include:

- Bernal Property
- General Plan, Affordable Housing
- City Services
- Youth Programs
- Public Safety
- Quality of Life
- Fiscal Sustainability
- Traffic Circulation
- Environmental Awareness
- Economic Development, and
- Organizational Success

Council adopts priorities within the two-year Work Plan and projects are then incorporated into the City's annual budget and capital improvement plan and identified as City staff projects. Projects not completed within a two-year Work Plan are carried over into the next work cycle.

Mr. Dolan noted there are a total of 71 projects in the current Work Plan and commented on project limitations due to budget and staff-time limitations and because of the current COVID-19 situation. He asked the commission to consider the 13 parks and recreation related priorities in the current work plan and to limit to two or three any additional priorities they would like to have added to the list of priorities.

Chairperson Deckert asked commissioners to provide comment on parks and recreation priorities in the current work plan. Commissioner Wahl questioned whether the Pleasanton Cemetery was still a priority for City Council. Ms. Murphy commented on the completion of Phases 3 and 4 of this project and advised that cremains niches would be included in the next phase. Commissioner Wahl asked for confirmation that while completion of the next phase would provide places for members of the community to place cremains of loved ones it would also generate revenue allowing for this project to be self-supporting. Ms. Murphy agreed.

Commissioner Fields asked for clarification that priorities in the work plan would remain and the commission was being asked to select no more than three priorities to be added to the list. Mr. Dolan advised that if priorities were already on the list, staff would like for the commission to prioritize those priorities. Ms. Murphy suggested the commission consider removing items from the list.

Commissioner Fields indicated she would not oppose removal of the Bernal Community Farm from the priority list. Mr. Dolan indicated this item could be left on the list, however, completing an MOU for this project could be an issue. Commissioner Fields felt with so many other priorities on the list the commission should consider those priorities of importance they want City Council to consider.

Commissioner Bowers was provided details about the cremains wall planned for the Pleasanton Cemetery by Ms. Murphy. He then asked about the three items in the staff report that the commission was being asked to consider adding to parks and recreation priorities. Mr. Dolan advised that staff was suggesting the commission consider not adding more than three. Commissioner Bower questioned whether the commission should prioritize items that are already on the work plan list.

Chairperson Deckert asked about fundraising mechanisms for park projects by sports group. He also discussed the pesticide project and what problems have been encountered by staff because of the COVID pandemic. He was advised by Mr. Damonte that staff hopes to be able resume working on this project in the spring.

Chairperson Deckert opened the meeting for public comment at 7:25 p.m.

Mike Hoyman and Erin Sharpe – discussed the need for dedicated Futsal courts or a Futsal facility in Pleasanton because there is none in the city for members of the community and it is a much-needed amenity. They advised that the sports group are willing to work with staff on this and finding a suitable location but are not in favor of displacing any other sport group in order to accommodate Futsal. The group will be presenting to City Council at their next meeting. They also discussed the need for a cement pad for an additional storage facility at the Ken Mercer Sports Park. Mr. Hoyman commented on the loss of business for the City of Pleasanton by not having a suitable location for those who play Futsal.

Ajay Immadi – a member of the local cricket club and also a member of the City of Pleasanton Youth Commission shared some information with the commission about the sport of cricket and asked the commission to consider adding a cricket pitch to the work plan priority list.

Ramesh – discussed how he had presented to the commission in 2016 and 2018 to discuss cricket and requested the commission that a cricket pitch and facility be added to the work plan priority list.

Manish Arora – stated that the sport of cricket is a way of life for many in the community and it would be nice for kids to have the same opportunity to play as those in other cities. Thinks the City of Pleasanton is not as focused on the sport as other cities and it should be and to please consider adding to the priorities.

Nauheen Chaudhary – is a parent volunteer for a youth group and there is a noticeable need for a space in Pleasanton for this sport. Commented on the number of tournaments and number of people that attend that requires families to travel to other areas. Hopes the City of Pleasanton will consider the request to provide a place for cricket to be played.

Vishal Sargam – has been playing cricket for a couple of years and thinks a cricket pitch is needed in the city. People are commuting to other cities to play and believes having a place to play in Pleasanton would be good.

Steve Berberich – is a manager for a cricket team and thinks it is unfortunate that they have to travel to other areas to play. Thinks consideration should be given to having a pitch and facility in Pleasanton.

Yarun Yedavilli – is a 10th grade student at Amador Valley High School and has been playing cricket for 7 years and loves the sport. Started a cricket club when at Hart Middle School, travels a lot to games in other cities but has nowhere to practice his skills in Pleasanton. Asked the commission to consider a turf pitch in the city where everyone could play.

Meha Sivakumar – is 11-years old and lives in the area and would like to request the commission to consider a cricket pitch for Pleasanton. Would like to request a dedicated space to play cricket.

Preetam Kotian – thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak on the need for a place to play cricket in Pleasanton. There is a need for a facility suitable for the level of playing of the many passionate players in the area. Asked that this becomes a priority for the commission.

Nirav Rawal – is a sophomore at California High. Discussed the importance of having a place for people with skills to play. A cricket pitch is important for the community and will help everyone who plays the sport.

Manish Rawal – indicated that everyone loves the game and would like to be able to play close to home so they don't have to go to other cities to play. The sport is growing and asked the commission to consider including a turf pitch for cricket in Pleasanton,

Satish Kumar – has two sons who play cricket and enjoy the game because it is challenging but finding a good pitch to play and practice is difficult. Felt it would be helpful to have a turf pitch in Pleasanton for the kids to be able to play and practice and this would also bring international tournaments to Pleasanton.

Sivakumar Thillaikannu – thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak on this item. Has two daughters who play cricket and enjoy the game. Feels it is important for kids to have a safe facility to practice and play and requested the commission consider a cricket pitch and facility a priority in Pleasanton.

Roshan Prasath – 6-years old and has been playing cricket for two years. Would like a turf pitch to help improve her skills and help her eventually play for the USA team.

Vibha Prasath – 9-years old and has been playing cricket for one year and would like a turf pitch and a practice area. Many girls want to be on the US National Team and in order to reach that goal they need a turf pitch and practice area which is important.

Bhavin Sai – has been playing cricket for many years and also played in India. Is pleased to see Pleasanton is considering a cricket pitch for kids to be able to play and practice.

Siva Makkena – his son has been playing for three years and has to go to other cities in order for him to be able to play. Having somewhere in Pleasanton would be helpful to help him and other kids reach the National level.

Venkatesh Mahadevan – is asking that consideration be given for a cricket field. Provided information about field size, number of players on a team, details about the game, and why a dedicated space is needed to practice and play the game.

Advaith Krishna – has been playing the game for four years and has to travel long distances to find good fields to play. Would like the City of Pleasanton to consider a place for people to play cricket.

Atharv Mane – is a 7th grader at Pleasanton Middle School and has been playing cricket for several years but has to go to other cities in order to practice and has traveled to Los Angeles to play in a tournament. Would like to have a pitch in Pleasanton so he can be close to home to play and practice cricket, but also to do his homework.

Aditya Puri – is a freshman in high school. Discussed the strength and ability to be able to run needed for the game of cricket and why a pitch to play the game is needed in the Tri-Valley.

Srilatha Ksl – agrees with comments from everybody else and is looking forward to participating in the sport with his kids.

Rajesh Satauri – thanked the commission for allowing everyone the opportunity to speak on this. Is a freshman in high school and finds the lack of a place to practice and play cricket in Pleasanton hinders his ability to compete. Asked that the request for a cricket pitch and facility in Pleasanton be added to the 2021-2022 Work Plan.

Shuaib Khwaja – felt other speakers had covered all comments. Felt cricket was more than a sport because it helps connect families together and it would be nice to have a place to play in the City of Pleasanton.

Sameer Marella – was surprised to see the level of support for the request of a cricket pitch and facility in the Tri-Valley. City of Pleasanton is a great place to live and work and thanked the commission for considering the request of the community.

Varnshi Doma – is 12-years old and loves the sport of cricket and it would be good to have a place in Pleasanton that he could play and practice and be able to compete at a higher level and be able to represent Pleasanton.

Sanjeev – agreed with other comments. Feels the community has grown diverse and cricket is a part of that. The talent of those in the city that play cricket is great and needs to be nurtured which is why the facilities are needed so the young kids can grow and excel in the sport.

Aniket – talked about cricket and how much she enjoys the sport and it is so much fun. Felt it would be really nice to have a cricket pitch and training place in Pleasanton so she and her team (Pleasanton Patriots) would have a place to play.

Kelley Curry – commented on a drainage issue on PGSL fields and the need for a fence and dirt field to be extended.

Chairperson Deckert closed the public comment portion of meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Chairperson Deckert asked commissioners to consider the speakers comments when considering their recommendations for the 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization.

Commissioner Bowers indicated he would retain the existing priorities list and add the Cemetery Phase 5 and the cricket pitch and practice facility.

Commissioner Fields stated that the Century House was her first priority and Lions Wayside Park was her second that should be considered now. For future discussion she would add cricket but also keep the list of other projects. She commented on the fact that only a few projects would be done because of funding availability.

Commissioner Hottle agreed with maintaining the existing list of priority projects but, felt given the situation the past year with the pandemic, completing projects will be challenging. He didn't think volleyball was a big priority and felt Vineyard Avenue Trails Phases 1 and 3, lighted sand ball court and community farm project could all be deprioritized. He did think the skateboard park project should be a priority.

Commissioner Bowers noted that the commission had heard from the Master Gardeners and felt their request was not consistent with the Master Plan for the area and there has not been a swell of interest for this. Ms. Murphy provided information about the waiting list for garden plots but agreed there was not an urgent need for this.

Commissioner Wahl felt no project should be removed from the current priority list. She discussed the challenges for the Lions Wayside and Century House projects but stated they were her priorities. She questioned whether the cricket request would require capital or space and the fact space for cricket had been found at the Ken Mercer Park previously. Commissioner Wahl questioned whether this was a project that should be considered for the Bernal location. Ms. Murphy provided information about the required size of a cricket field and noted that it is a year-round sport which conflicts with other sports. She felt the City would need to look at a larger space such as Staples Ranch as a possible location for cricket.

Mr. Dolan agreed that Staples Ranch would be a possible location for cricket if development of the area is to move forward. He noted that a Master Plan would be required to consider all needs for the area and there could be some limitations because of closeness to the Livermore Airport.

Commissioner Wahl commented on the Pleasanton community becoming more diverse and felt the City needed to figure out development of land to be able to accommodate the needs. Ms. Murphy advised that if City Council agrees to cricket as a priority staff would then need to research suitable areas.

Commissioner Wahl felt the cemetery project would move forward regardless of other projects because it is a priority for City Council.

Commissioner Hekl agreed with Commissioner Wahl's comments about needing to find other suitable locations for projects and felt strongly about this. She felt cricket should be prioritized because of the number of people who came forward to talk about the need for a place to play and recommended this be added to the priorities.

Commissioner Brown definitely wanted to see cricket added to the priority list and asked about taking other projects off the list. Mr. Dolan confirmed that items could be removed.

Commissioner Brown suggested the commission consider focusing on outdoor projects at this time since people are not being allowed to attend things indoors because of the pandemic. Ms. Murphy agreed with the comments and noted that staff has been able to do some indoor projects but have not been able to do others because of timing and funding. She added that staff time for outdoor activities also needs to be considered.

Chairperson Deckert indicated his top priority would be Lions Wayside Park because he has seen that the project will soon be going before City Council. Ms. Dolan noted that with the recent removal of the Eucalyptus tree some redesign will need to be take place in the next few weeks and shown to the regulatory agencies.

Chairperson Deckert felt the cricket request should be added to the priorities because of the desire of the community for this and the Century House project should be moved forward as a top priority.

Ms. Murphy asked commissioners to confirm that their priority projects were: 1) cricket pitch/facility; 2) Lions Wayside Park; 3) Century House; and 4) Pleasanton Cemetery Phase 5.

Commissioner Fields was provided details about the game of Futsal by Ms. Murphy. Commissioner Brown noted that this was played by soccer players in the winter to help players keep up their skills.

Commissioner Fields asked for an update on the Amador Theater Facility. Mr. Dolan advised that staff continues to have dialog with the School District on how to move forward with this project, but nothing has yet been agreed to. Ms. Murphy noted this is on the minds of a lot of people, but the balcony has been deemed unsafe and some flooding has taken place during COVID.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Chairperson Deckert, recommending the parks and recreation priorities in the current Work Plan be retained and that a cricket pitch and practice facility be added to 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Wahl, and Chairperson Deckert.

NOES:Commissioners Fields and Hottle.

ABSENT:None

ABSTAIN:None

A motion was made by Commissioner Wahl, seconded by Commissioner Fields, recommending the previous motion be modified to also include the Pleasanton Cemetery Phase 5 to the 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Fields, Hottle, Wahl, and Chairperson Deckert.

NOES:None

ABSENT:None
ABSTAIN:None

Chairperson Deckert asked commissioners to consider and prioritize projects. He indicated that his priorities were Lions Wayside Park, Century House, and a Cricket Pitch and Facility.

Commissioner Brown stated her priorities as Pleasanton Cemetery Phase 5, Lions Wayside Park, and the Cricket Pitch and Facility.

Commissioner Bowers's priorities were Lions Wayside Park, Pleasanton Cemetery Phase 5, and Cricket Pitch and Facility.

Commissioner Fields priorities were Century House, Lions Wayside Park, and Cricket Pitch and Facility.

Commissioner Hottle's priorities were Lions Wayside Park, Pleasanton Cemetery Phase 5, and Century House.

Commissioner Hekl's priorities were Inclusionary/All Access Playground, Skate Park, and Cricket Pitch and Facility.

Commissioner Wahl's priorities were Century House, Lions Wayside Park, and Cricket Pitch and Facility.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fields, seconded by Commissioner Wahl, recommending the following project be prioritized in the order indicated:

- 1) Implement Lions Wayside and Delucchi Park Renovation
- 2) Prepare a Century House Facility Assessment and Master Plan
- 3) Cricket Pitch and Facility

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Fields, Hottle, Wahl, and Chairperson Deckert.

NOES:None

ABSENT:None

ABSTAIN:None

5.Select Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Assignments

Ms. Murphy noted that annually the Parks and Recreation Commission selects a Chair and Vice Chairperson to facilitate meetings and also reviews their committee assignments and makes required changes. She asked the commission to select a new Chair and Vice Chairperson and review the committee assignments.

A motion was made by Commission Wahl, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, to select Chuck Deckert to serve as Chair and Joanie Fields to serve as Vice Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission for February through December 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:Commissioners Bowers, Brown, Fields, Hottle, Wahl, and Chairperson Deckert.

NOES:None

ABSENT:None

ABSTAIN:None

Chairperson Deckert thanked everyone for working so well together during the past difficult year.

In reviewing committee assignments Commissioner Fields advised that she has chosen not to be a representative to Community of Character. Chairperson Deckert indicated he was willing to become the Community of Character representative.

Commissioner Hottle felt assignments should be reassigned since he and Commissioner Wahl would be terming out in a few months. The commission agreed to leave the committee assignments as is until a decision has been made regarding the possibility of joining together both the Library and Parks and Recreation Commissions.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

Chairperson discussed with Mr. Damonte repairs to playgrounds at two parks that were damaged by fire. Mr. Damonte provided information about the burned sections and the lag time in obtaining the new playground equipment. They also discussed refurbishment of Tawny, Vintage and Sports Park and design review by the commission that will need to take place. Chairperson Deckert requested Ms. Murphy forward Zoom links to commissioners so they can review the designs.

Commissioner Fields expressed concerns about the soccer fields at Bernal Park and the need for extra garbage cans to be placed there. Mr. Damonte indicated he would have staff members look at this.

Commissioner Fields discussed a problem with dogs being off leash on the Marilyn Murphy Kane trail.

Commissioners discussed the need for extra garbage cans to be placed in some parks.

Ms. Murphy advised the commission that there are a total of 28 names on the garden plot waiting list.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

To be decided.