



## Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

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### Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA September 8, 2021 - 7 p.m.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Shotland.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Kimberley Chew, Christina Costanzo, Ajay Immadi, Nikita Jadhav, Ella Min, Kelly Mokashi, Karishma Parikh, Mirika Pohray, Tejas Prakash, Zaynah Shah, Carys Shannon, Ashwin Sriram, and Chairperson Tess Shotland.

Commissioners Absent: Keshav Patel and Ella Piergrossi.

Staff Present: Nicole Thomas, Recreation Supervisor; Michele Crose, Assistant Library and Recreation Director; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; Ania Pawlak, Office Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

#### **AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Ms. Thomas noted that a request has been made to reverse the presentation order of agenda items 3, 4 and 5, so the first item under Matters for the Commission's Review would be item 5, followed by 4 then 3.

#### **MINUTES**

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of May 12, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mokashi, seconded by Commissioner Chew, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021, Youth Commission Meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

2. Public comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda.

None.

Ms. Thomas introduced commissioners to Ania Pawlak the new Office Manager for the Library and Recreation Department.

## **MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

### **5. Review the Ken Mercer Skate Park Conceptual Design Presentation and Provide Feedback**

Ms. Crose provided the commission with details about the current skatepark at the Ken Mercer Sports Park and informed the commission that the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified the need for an additional skatepark in Pleasanton to meet the demands of the community. It projected that a 1-acre skatepark would be necessary once the population of the city reached the 78,000 resident's mark. She noted that at the February 14, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission those commissioners identified a new skatepark as their number two priority for City Council's 2019/2020 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process. City Council then adopted the skatepark as a priority for their 2021/22 workplan with an amount of \$400,000 in funding being assigned for design services.

Commissioners were advised that in March 2021 the City secured the design services of RRM Design Group who initiated community outreach processes that included meeting with three stakeholder groups, conducting a virtual outreach meeting and a community-wide survey. Ms. Crose noted that based on the information RRM has collected two conceptual designs have been created and are now being shared with the Youth Commission to provide comments and feedback that will be considered in a final design to be approved by City Council.

Ms. Crose and RRM consultant Gina Chavez shared with commissioners a PowerPoint Presentation of the two conceptual designs covering the project process, community outreach results, concept alternatives, and the next steps.

Ms. Chavez provided commissioners details from the stakeholder meetings, public survey, and community-wide survey and reviewed with them the two design concepts for the skatepark commenting on the different skill levels, ranging from beginner and intermediate to advanced that are included in the designs. She noted that meeting and survey respondents had indicated their support for focused lighting at the park and had commented on other amenities they would like to see included were seating, picnic, and hang-out areas, with walking paths to these areas.

Additionally, Ms. Chavez commented on the parking and drop area, access to the skatepark, the existing tree canopy and proposed shade structures, and advised that work will continue with the designer to refine the skate park features. She and Ms. Crose asked commissioners to consider the designs presented and provide comments and feedback so they can be presented when this project is considered by City Council at a future meeting.

Ms. Crose noted that the designs will be displayed at the Ken Mercer Sports Park on September 25, 2021 so staff and RRM can obtain comments from visitors to the park. She also noted that information will be available for people to review on the city's website at [pleasantonskatepark.com](http://pleasantonskatepark.com).

Commissioner Immadi questioned whether there would be some sort of barrier/fence in Concept #1 between the skatepark and the walkway. Ms. Chavez thanked him for his great question and noted that level of detail has not yet been worked out.

Commissioner Mokashi had a question about the parking lot and the addition of more parking spaces needed if the new skatepark attracts more users. Ms. Crose advised that more information will be provided on this when the commission reviews the next item on the All-Abilities Playground, noting there definitely is a need for more parking and staff has been looking at other areas that could potentially add additional parking for these two projects. Commissioner Mokashi expressed her concerns about losing grass space for parking that could be considered for more leisure activities.

Commissioner Chew indicated she was in favor of having the most parking possible. She commented on the location of the nearest restroom to the skatepark being problematic and wondered if a restroom needed to be included since one was not indicated on the design concepts. Mr. Gruber advised that staff has looked at this and that the restroom in the softball complex is about an 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile away with another restroom being 1/4<sup>th</sup> of a mile away. However, if the skateboarding community indicates another restroom is needed, the cost factor of approximately \$200,000 will need to be considered.

Commissioner Shannon felt extra parking for both this project and the All-Abilities Playground project would be a necessity because her family always struggles to find parking when attending sports events at this park. She also felt the additional restroom would be beneficial since the other restrooms are often locked.

Commissioner Costanzo agreed with Commission Shannon's comments about parking being difficult and extra parking would be helpful for these two projects. She asked about the drop-off area and skatepark access and whether there would be an easier access area for beginner skaters. Ms. Chavez advised she would provide Commissioner Costanzo's comment to the skatepark designs so consideration can be given to skatepark access for all levels of skaters.

Chairperson Shotland asked for clarification on the parking in both design concepts and whether trees would need to be removed. Ms. Chavez noted that there is one oak tree in decline that will be removed but it is hoped other trees will be preserved.

Commissioner Pohray liked the idea of adding lights to the skatepark since it tends to get very dark in the area because of all the trees. She felt emphasizing lights around the park perimeter would be helpful. Ms. Thomas questioned if the picnic and hangout areas would also be lighted. Ms. Chavez advised that the level of lighting hasn't yet been determined but the thought is that lights would be around the perimeter of the skatepark. She noted that some thought has been given to piggybacking on other lighting in the area to provide safety for the path.

#### **4. Review the All-Abilities Playground Conceptual Designs Presentation and Provide Feedback.**

Ms. Crose provided an overview of the All-Abilities Playground project noting that in 2017 Pleasanton residents with special needs family members approached the city with a request for an all-abilities playground. In February 2019 these same residents attended a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting asking that the all-abilities playground be considered as a priority project for the 2019/21 budget cycle, the commission then unanimously recommended this as their number one priority for the 2019/21 budget cycle and in April 2019 City Council adopted the projects as a priority.

Ms. Crose and Ms. Chavez commented on the stakeholder meetings and survey that have already been held and reviewed with commissioners the two concept designs for the All-Abilities Playground. Ms. Chavez noted that Concept #1 reflects the spirit and character of Pleasanton and what is special about the community. She noted that people in the community were asked to comment on what features they would like to see in this playground and these comments included activities, amenities, picnic areas, walking loop, intergenerational games, observation spaces, etc.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Chavez that the concepts are designed to inspire individuals to rise to their own potential and will include sensory experiences and activities. In reviewing Concept #1 she commented on the planned parking and drop-off area with access to the park, play equipment features, the looping walkway, planned activities for the park, fitness equipment, basketball hoops, picnic and rest areas, shade structure, restroom, special Pleasanton elements; etc.

In Concept #2, Ms. Chavez noted that the design will encourage visitors to explore more natural things through organic shapes and nature inspired themes. Again, she reviewed with commissioners the proposed parking and drop-off areas, the planned access to the playground, swing types and other play equipment, exercise areas, picnic and rest areas, restroom, shade structures, sloping areas, nature, and sensory play, climbing logs, and observation seating area. Commissioners were advised that it is hoped to also include some of the special Pleasanton elements in this design.

Ms. Crose advised that the concepts will be provided at the Farmers Market and the Ken Mercer Sports Park so staff can collect additional community comments and provided information about the next steps for this project. She asked commissioners to consider both design concepts and provide comments and feedback.

Chairperson Shotland stated she liked both design concepts but felt that Concept #2 would be a better fit with the Ken Mercer Sports Park. She questioned how many trees would be removed or damaged by adding this playground and hoped many would be retained. Ms. Chavez noted there are some eucalyptus trees that may need to be removed as well as some liquid amber trees that tend to be a nuisance because of the spiky balls they drop, but the goal is to maintain all healthy trees.

Commissioner Mokashi commented on a tree shown in one of the PowerPoint slides and hoped this would not be removed because it is a climbing tree loved by many children. Ms. Chavez advised that it is hoped this horizontal pine tree can be celebrated in the design.

Commissioner Mokashi agreed with Chairperson Shotland's comments about preserving trees and indicated she was gravitating towards Concept #1 because it seemed to be robust with many options to playground users.

Commissioner Immadi also preferred Concept #1 since it seemed to offer more things for kids who play at different levels. Commissioners Sriram and Prakash agreed that Concept #1 was their preferred design because it offered more flexibility.

Commissioner Parikh also liked Concept #1 because of its different design sections. Commissioner Shannon agreed and felt Concept #1 would be more enjoyable for kids and the design flow of sensory and music sections would be fun for all kids.

Commissioner Shah liked the versatility of Concept #1 and thought the proposed bright colors would be eye-catching and allow for people to be more intrigued. She also liked the idea of incorporating Pleasanton themes into the concept.

Ms. Crose thanked commissioners for their comments.

### **3. Selection of Commission Chair and Vice Chair for School Year 2021/2022**

Ms. Thomas advised that annually the commission selects a Chair and Vice Chair to facilitate meetings of the Youth Commission. She asked commissioners to nominate and elect a commission Chair and Vice Chair for the 2021/22 school year and noted that if the Chair is unavailable to attend a meeting the Vice Chair will be responsible for running the meeting.

Commissioner Costanzo nominated Tess Shotland to be Chair of the Youth Commission and Chairperson Shotland nominated Kristina Costanzo to be Vice Chair. Commissioner Sriram nominated Tejas Prakash to be Chair of the Youth Commission.

The commission discussed with staff the procedure for voting with two commissioners being nominated for the position of Chair and Commissioner Mokashi asked the two nominees to comment on why they felt they should be elected. Chairperson Shotland commented on the time she has served on the Youth Commission, her last year as Chair, and how she would like to serve another term. Commissioner Prakash indicated he has enjoyed his time serving on the commission for past 4-years and if elected as Chair will attend all meetings.

Commissioners were asked to indicate who they would vote for, Shotland or Prakash, and after indicating their selection and determining voting for the Chair position would end in a tied vote. Ms. Thomas recommended this item be placed on the agenda at the next commission meeting when other commissioners would be in attendance to vote.

A motion was made by Chairperson Shotland, seconded by Commissioner Shannon, to nominate and elect Commissioner Costanzo as the Youth Commission Vice Chair for the 2021/2022 school year.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: Commissioners Chew, Costanzo, Immadi, Min. Mokashi, Parikh, Pohray, Prakash, Shah, Shannon, Sriram, and Chairperson Shotland.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Jadhav, Patel, and Piergrossi.

ABSTAIN: None

**6. Review and Approve Commission Meeting Schedule for School Year 2021/2022**

Ms. Thomas reviewed with commissioners the Youth Commission meeting schedule for September 2021 through May 2022 and asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about meeting dates.

Chairperson Shotland confirmed that the Youth Commission would be meeting on a regular basis every month. Ms. Thomas advised that was correct but noted that meetings would continue virtually via Zoom until information is received for in-person meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chew, seconded by Commissioner Mokashi, to approve the Youth Commission meeting schedule for school year 2021/22 as presented by staff.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

AYES: Commissioners Chew, Costanzo, Immadi, Min. Mokashi, Parikh, Pohray, Prakash, Shah, Shannon, Sriram, and Chairperson Shotland.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Jadhav, Patel, and Piergrossi.

ABSTAIN: None

**7. Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation Department Quarterly Report for April – June 2021**

Ms. Thomas reviewed the Library and Recreation Department Quarterly Report for April – June 2021 with commissioners and noted that moving forward reports will consist of three quarterly reports and one annual report for the department. She commented on programs and activities the city has been able to provide given the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and especially the importance of being able to offer programs that allowed for youth to socialize which included the summer camps.

Chairperson Shotland noted that she was included in the Creatures of Impulse photo contained in the report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.