



Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

September 8, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

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.

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; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; Ania Pawlak, Office Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of August 11, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vickers, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to approve the August 11, 2022 meeting minutes. **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 the Public Outreach Results for the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks Conceptual Plan and Provide Comments to Staff Regarding the Update of the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Gruber provided information about the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks project and commented on public outreach conducted. He noted that the 2002 Downtown Parks and Trails System Master Plan and Downtown Specific Plan recommended that Lions Wayside and Delucchi parks be considered together and the plans intended for the combined facility of these two parks to serve the immediate neighborhood, as well as the City, and regional trail corridor.

Architect Richard Larson joined the meeting via Zoom providing background information about the process to date. He noted that redoing the design of these parks began in 1993 and provided information from the 2014 Master Plan which did not show the creek.

It was noted that in 2006 the process began for the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks Master Plan. Schematic Park designs were presented to City Council in 2013 who directed staff to pursue the option that proposed undergrounding the channel. In October 2014, the Master Plan for the project was adopted. Conceptual designs were revised in 2017 after receiving concerns from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Army Corps of Engineers, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Design Alternatives were presented in January 2019 and, over the course of the next few years, City staff and consultants worked with the agencies through several more design iterations. During this time, the City purchased properties at 4363 BS 4377 First Street. Also, during this same period, a large limb fell from a diseased eucalyptus tree forcing the City to remove the tree.

In December 2021, a proposed design was presented to the regulatory agencies and it was indicated that the design met their expectation. Staff presented this updated conceptual plan, including the orientation of the band stand, to the Parks and Recreation Commission in February 2022. It was unanimously approved, with comments regarding the orientation of the bandstand. City Council reviewed and expressed support for the design of the conceptual plan in April 2022, including orientation of the band stand.

Mr. Gruber reviewed with commissioners the proposed 2022 Park Design Elements that include integration of the bandstand and enhancements of the creek. He provided information about the

meandering route of the creek, the limited access, appropriate plantings, water capacity needs, habitat value, expansion of riparian habitat and improved geomorphic stability that is expected to have a net benefit impact on Kottinger Creek.

Summaries of comments received at the Public Outreach Events were reviewed. In addition, five hundred responses were received from a survey conducted. Comments included:

- Loving the design
- Making the creek a safe zone for kids
- Needing more space for the Farmers Market
- Not bisecting the grass with too many pathways
- Making parking a multi-story parking garage so the space can be used for more recreational activities
- Planting more trees
- Not watering the lawn area before events
- Leaving space in front of bandstand for people to dance
- Including additional restrooms
- Needing to include a play area for kids
- Needing to have more picnic areas
- Designing the bandstand large enough for a 40-person band.

Mr. Gruber commented on the budget for this project, noting it will need to be a phased project. He advised that 95% of the people who responded to the survey were Pleasanton residents and that staff had reached out to PUSD for comments and obtained comments on the latest design from the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee. He then asked commissioners for their comments.

Commissioner Vickers asked about private use of the park and what the additional parking area shown on the design would look like. Mr. Gruber indicated that the plan is to maximize parking and use the remaining area for recreational use, but staff would look at the possibility of modifying the design.

Commissioner Brown confirmed with Mr. Gruber that trees are to be included in the design. She also questioned whether the plan was to remove the existing icehouse. He advised that many notations shown on the design are existing trees and others are for trees that will be planted. Mr. Gruber also advised that the plan was to remove the icehouse, but that is a final decision to be made by City Council. He also informed Commission Vickers that the land on which the ice building sits is owned by the City of Pleasanton.

Mr. Gruber provided Commissioner Brown information about the requests made to expand the Farmers Market and the plan to set up booths on the grass in Delucchi Park and it is believed doing this would not damage the grass.

Commissioner Brown questioned why a playground for kids was not included in the park's design. Mr. Gruber indicated there is space to add one, but it hoped this could be more of a

natural play area and offer an opportunity to use some of the wood retained from the tree that had to be removed.

Commissioner Rittmuller felt having a play area in the multi-use lawn area would be a promising idea. Mr. Gruber noted that several comments had been received to retain as much lawn space as possible for concerns.

Commissioner Deckert discussed with Mr. Gruber plans for the trail area and questioned whether it would be a Class A 10" trail. Mr. Gruber indicated that staff hopes to be able to make this a 12' trail. He then provided Commissioner Deckert with information about a possible secondary viewing area for concerts that would require closing Neal Street and is something that is still to be considered.

Commissioner Deckert commented on the bandstand location preferred by City Council. Mr. Gruber noted this is something that has not yet been determined and the commission can again reiterate their preference for having it close to the location of the current bandstand.

Chairperson Fields noted that at the recent BPTC meeting they had asked about how much lawn would need to be removed at the Delucchi Park. She also questioned which area of the park would be used for the Farmers Market and what trees are being proposed for the area. Mr. Gruber indicated that some would need to be removed but some area will be planted with other plants that are drought tolerant.

Chairperson Fields discussed pathways and the need for trucks to use them to deliver equipment to the bandstand. Mr. Gruber indicated this was something that needed to be defined in the Master Plan and showed on the plan the possible location for trucks bringing in equipment to the bandstand. Chairperson Fields commented on the repositioning of the bandstand by City Council, noting the location proposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission would not require trucks to use the pathways.

Mr. Gruber informed Chairperson Fields that no calculations had been made to determine how many people would be able to use the parks with the recommended changes to the design. She questioned whether it would be like Kottinger Park with the natural plantings being proposed and noted that a request had been made to name the bandstand the Bicentennial Bandstand. Ms. Murphy suggested Chairperson Fields continue to put forward the bandstand naming as the project moves forward. She noted that items of an historical nature will be retained.

Chairperson Fields stated she was in favor of including a play area in design, especially if it was made with wood from the eucalyptus tree. Mr. Gruber confirmed that wood from the tree has been saved and could be used in a play area.

Mr. Gruber was advised by Chairperson Fields that BPTC had suggested bollards be used to cut off traffic in the new parking area. Mr. Gruber provided information on ideas that could potentially eliminate any concerns for this.

Chairperson Fields thanked Mr. Larson for staying with the City of Pleasanton on the long journey of this project. She also referenced a comment made earlier stating she was not in favor of opening the Firehouse Arts Center for people to use the restrooms and did not approve of adding restrooms in Lions Wayside Park since there were existing restrooms in Delucchi Park.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Vickers indicated he would like to natural boulders used in the park and that the new bandstand to look something like the design of the Firehouse Arts Center.

Commissioner Brown indicated the design needed to include some kind of play area and include natural boulders. She liked the idea of having plenty of trees for shade, having a trail, and more picnic tables.

Commissioner Rittmuller thought the bandstand location would work in either of the locations proposed by the commission and City Council but felt staff should talk to some of the local businesses to determine what effect the locations would have for them.

Commissioner Immadi asked about the number of stalls in the restroom facility and was advised by Ms. Murphy it had multiple stalls. Commissioner Rittmuller stated she has never seen an overflow of people waiting to use the bathrooms and Ms. Murphy stated that portable restrooms could be brought in if required. Chairperson Fields indicated she was opposed to opening the Firehouse Arts Center for people to use those restrooms and Ms. Murphy indicated this would be a challenge since it requires staffing.

Chairperson Fields reiterated the commission's original recommendation for the location of the bandstand and Commissioner Vickers noted that City staff had made the change because of band noise being a nuisance for neighbors.

Mr. Gruber asked commissioners to provide additional comments regarding the bandstand location. Commissioners Deckert and Vickers stated that the bandstand should have an open back and Chairperson Fields felt it should be large enough to accommodate the Community Band. Mr. Larson indicated that the bandstand shown on the design would accommodate the band.

Commissioner Rittmuller agreed with the recommendation for the bandstand to have an open back and incorporate historical elements of the Firehouse Arts Center and Commissioner Deckert stated he liked the proposed location for the bandstand since it would be more conducive to other uses and the open back element would serve all aspects. Chairperson Fields noted that movies in the park would not be possible with the proposed bandstand location.

5. Review and Select Committee Assignments

Ms. Murphy noted that typically in December the commission reviews committee appointments and makes necessary changes. Since in 2021, committee selection was postponed because

many commissioners were expected to be appointed mid-year, staff is recommending that the commission review and select committee assignments for October 2022 through December 2023. She reviewed with commissioners the committees and their meeting dates and times noting that staff was recommending the East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee be removed from the list.

Commissioners considered all the committees and selected representatives.

A motion was made by Commissioner Deckert, seconded by Commissioner Rittmuller, to approve the following committee assignments and project representatives for October 2022 through December 2023:

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee	- Joannie Fields / Alternate Michael Vickers
Community of Character	- Joannie Fields / Alternate Rameshu Immadi
Heritage Tree Board of Appeals	- Michael Vickers / Alternate Kira Rittmuller
Public Art Selection Sub-Committee	- Lisa Brown / Alternate Chuck Deckert
Sports Council	- Check Deckert / Alternate Steve Berberich

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Deckert, Immadi, Rittmuller, Vickers, and Chairperson Fields.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Berberich

ABSTAIN: None

COMMISSION REPORTS

6. Committee Meetings

- A. Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee – Chairperson Fields noted that the committee had also reviewed Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks Conceptual Plan and provided comments. The committee also requested that a Police Department representative attend their meetings, discussed bike paths being added by the Meyers building and recommended the \$50K left from the Meadowlark Trail be used to redo the Callippe Trail.

Mr. Gruber advised the Meadowlark Trails funds would be used for the Augustine-Bernal trail. Chairperson Fields advised that the committee felt there were already funds available for the Augustine-Bernal Trails and the Callippe Trail would be a better use for these funds so the project could be completed.

- B. Community of Character – Commissioner Immadi provided a report on the group’s recent fundraising event advising \$6,000 had been raised for the scholarship fund. Chairperson Fields provided additional details about the group’s fundraising and the eight hundred backpacks donated to students and to help the Assistance League. She noted that the recent BBQ luncheon also raised over \$1K for the scholarship fund that provides four \$1K scholarships to students, one of which this year was past Parks and Recreation Commission member Sadie Brown.

- C. Heritage Tree Review Board – no report.
- D. Public Art Selection Sub-Committee – no report.
- E. Sports Council – no report.

7. 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

Commissioner Vickers asked about doggy bags and Ms. Murphy indicated she would provide information on this subject at a future commission meeting. Commissioner Vickers also discussed the need for a restroom at the dog park and Commissioners Deckert and Immadi agreed this was something the commission should discuss at a future meeting. Ms. Murphy indicated she would have this added to a future meeting agenda.

Chairperson Fields discussed a recent article in the Independent Newspaper and comments from people both for and against spending the proposed \$4.5M to renovate the Century House.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.