



**Town of Atherton
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes
May 4th, 2022
Regular Meeting
Park & Rec
6:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting**

1. ROLL CA

Meeting started at 6:40 pm

Committee Members: Matt Baker (Chair), Taylor Henkel, Alex Keh, Frank Merrill-absent, Julianna Robertson (Vice-Chair), Walt Robinson, Marylue Timpson
Councilmember Liaisons: Rick DeGolia
Staff: Sally Bentz-Dalton

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –April minutes – approved as amended 6-0 Motion -Keh 2nd Henkel
4. **PRESENTATIONS** –None
5. **REGULAR AGENDA-**

5a. Review and continued discussion of possibility of adding pickleball courts to Holbrook Palmer-Park and possible vote

The pickleball subcommittee met and Keh went over a presentation. The subcommittee will assess the demand and funding sources. In summary the committee will want to find out about how it will affect other park users and if it can co-exist with the existing tennis courts or they will find another location within the park for permanent courts. The subcommittee is suggesting doing a trial on existing courts to see what the demand will be before deciding on whether to proceed with permanent courts. They would like to do a survey with tennis users, Menlo Park residents that are nearby and users of the pickleball courts during the trial. The possibilities include converting 1 court for the trial (hard or clay court), a section of the parking lot near the North Lawn, and a couple other candidates. They are suggesting converting 1 court for the trial. Using a hard court or a section of the front parking lot. The subcommittee will check in with other cities to get information.

Feedback from the P&R Committee: Baker said that Michael Jessup is against using a hard court for pickleball and that the clay court is close to the houses. Racquetball area could be considered as a trial area. Timpson asked how frequently pickleball is played. Keh said the trial will help with that. Robertson said that pickleball is played all day. Henkel said that it is popular during the after-work time, from 5-9 pm. Timpson asked about seating and Robertson said that a bench would be good. Robertson said that if only 1 court is open that we may need a reservation system. Henkel said a game is to 11 points and lasts about 10 minutes.

Robinson said that a pickleball expert should be used to see what the best location is. He stated a reservation system would be useful so that we can see who is using it. Michael Jessop said that clay can't be used for pickleball. Robinson stated that pickleball should be consistent with the tennis system. He asked what places have built a new court and if the subcommittee can find out who has built one and the costs. He suggested that the subcommittee should check in with Player Capital on times the courts are not used.

Keh said that they will find out the information from all the stakeholders to have a fair trial. Robertson asked about the two Council members that wanted the courts. Robinson explained that he had heard that two council members are seeing a lot of interest. Robinson stated that the subcommittee should find out the cost of fixing the handball court or field location. Staff will work on getting estimates from a court contractor on the different locations. Baker asked about the courts. DeGolia stated the tennis courts were put in in the 1960's. Staff stated that Michael Jessup has a set number of courts. Michael Jessup has access to 2 courts on Saturdays and 3 courts the rest of the week. Keh stated that the subcommittee will meet with Michael Jessup, Bob Roeser, Noah, staff and Council. Town staff stated that we have the key holder's e-mails.

5b. Review and update Park fees for June Public Hearing

Updated Park fees will go to Council in June. Staff gave the Committee Council's feedback from the Council meeting. Council member Polito would like the price raised for non-residents and have the amounts rounded to 0. Multiple comments were to lower the number to 50 people from 75 for outdoor areas. All agreed to compare prices with other rental facilities, Mayor DeGolia liked the simple numbers which are easier for the public to understand. Council member Widmer liked the 2nd fee for day use. Keh will update the spreadsheet and send to staff. Robertson feels the committee needs a mission statement or goal when Park & Rec reviews fees again. The question is if the Town interested in maximizing profits or use. Baker stated phase 2 will be updating pricing with a deeper analysis. Keh stated that Council will need to provide direction before they study it again.

5c. Review Memorial and Donation Policy Changes by City Council

Staff went over the comments and changes by Council. The Council took out monuments and took out the Town Center. Under definitions they removed monetary donations. They want it to be focused on the Town and not the Foundation. Staff stated the prices for the larger box trees. Staff will send to Robinson before it goes to Council.

5d. Updates on the prioritized park projects and goals

Staff stated the new landscape company Brightview was approved by Council. There was no update on the Circulation project and the Carriage House bathroom remodel. Keh stated to take off pricing rental as a goal.

5e. Vote on cancelling the June meeting due to staff being out

The committee voted to cancel the June Park & Rec meeting. Motion -Keh and 2nd- Henkel 6-0.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS- None

7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS

7a. Foundation report: **Robinson reported that the Foundation was interested in what is happening with Pickleball. The Foundation funded a lock on the case in the main house. They also, prepared a brochure that highlights the Foundation and the park.**

7b. Park goings on reports and Q&A: **Staff opened item to the Committee for questions and discussion. Staff will look into the clay court getting refurbished. Keh asked about dog off leash issues. Staff has not received any complaints about dogs off leash.**

7c. Park Events Report: **Staff opened item to the Committee for questions.**

Robinson asked finance to come to a meeting to explain the financial report.

7d. Individual Committee Member Comments:

Baker said three people signed up on the volunteer sheet for Earth Day. Keh said the event was great, but parking was hard to find.

8. SET/CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND TOPICS

July 6th, 2022, Zoom and In person

9. ADJOURN

Next meeting is scheduled for: July 6th , 6:30 PM Hybrid

Meeting ended at 8:11 pm with a motion by Robertson and 2nd by Keh –6-0.