



**Town of Atherton
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes
November 22nd, 2022
Regular Meeting
Park & Rec
6:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting**

1. ROLL CALL

Meeting started at 6:35 pm

Committee Members: Noah Eisner, Alex Keh (Chair), Patricia Kubal, Frank Merrill, Julianna Robertson- excused, Walt Robinson (Vice Chair)- excused, Bob Roeser
Councilmember Liaisons: Rick DeGolia
Staff: Sally Bentz-Dalton

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –July, September, and October - Approved amended minutes- Merrill 1st and Kubal 2nd 5-0

4. PRESENTATIONS – None

5. REGULAR AGENDA-

5a. Introduce new Committee members –

Bob Roeser introduced himself and stated the P&R Committee is doing a great job.

5b. Recommendation and vote to Council on adding pickleball to Holbrook-Palmer Park-

Noah Eisner presented a Pickleball Trial Proposal. Eisner stated that the trial would need to assess demand by Atherton residents' usage, conduct surveys during trial and spot checks on usage. During the trial noise and parking impacts would be assessed. The committee discussed where a future court could possibly be constructed whether it is where the clay court is, along the train tracks or in a different location in the park. For the trial it will need to take place on a hard court. The Committee discussed having 2 or 4 pickleball courts for the trial. Noah stated 2 courts may be hard to see what the demand is. Kubal stated that it is important that Atherton residents can use the courts. Merrill asked if the trial will be 4 months and when it will start. Eisner stated it will be 4 months and it could start after the rainy season. The Committee also discussed the timing of when the pickleball courts will be open. Kubal comments that if you have 4 courts there would be too many lines. Betsy Haloby a resident, gave public comment about her playing pickleball and how beneficial it would be for the park. She said it is good for mental health and people that are older. She has worked with Redwood City to get pickleball courts. She says it is more fluid and ebbs and flows so parking shouldn't be a problem. She says the goal should be 4 months to see usage and shorten the hours. She feels the noise factor will be conversations. Michael Jessup joined in and saw the proposal. Jessup said he hasn't been reached out to by the subcommittee after the trial plan changed. He says the trial would need to be on court 1 for noise reasons with lessons and

if yellow tape is put down, he says then the court is unusable for tennis. He said the Circus Club put up a sound wall at \$20,000. Jessup mentioned that tennis etiquette would need to be implemented. Keh said that Robertson and himself did talk to Jessup.

Staff read all of the public comments from tennis users, park users and residents.

Eisner stated that out of the data he gathered 56 Atherton residents were in favor for pickleball. Kubal is 100' away from a pickleball court. It is recommended that a house is 300 feet away. A sound wall would put it down a few decibels. Lisa Marie with Code Enforcement said there have been no complaints to the Town directly about Menlo Circus Club.

Roeser stated that it doesn't seem the Committee is ready for a recommendation. Eisner said there is enough research and would tweak the proposal to limit the hours. Eisner feels like there is demand. He stated that 2/3 of the courts are reserved by Player Capital and that is something to look at in the future. Kubal said we need to understand the key holder's concerns. Merrill suggested the court should be built where the handball court is. Keh feels a trial with show what the true issues are. Keh stated he didn't see a consensus to put the proposal forward. Keh suggesting more tweaks on the trial to get buy in and to talk to more people. Keh suggesting pickleball people can buy a 4-month key at a trial price. Roeser said the details need to be worked out. Eisner wants pickleball to be thought about as taking an activity away, but that we are adding value by having pickleball. Roeser suggested having a day where pickleball and tennis players try it out just for a few hours for noise level and seeing how it coexists. It was agreed upon by the Committee that the recommendation from the sub-committee will come back to the January or February Park & Rec meeting.

5c. Circulation project update by Project Manager Rick Navarro

Rick Navarro gave an update on the Circulation. He said they are doing some improvements at exit and entrance. ADA ramps and truncated domes will be at both areas. DeGolia asked about the blue area which is sidewalk. He started it will go to the Council Study Session on December 7th. Council approval in January, bids would be in February, and it would be awarded in March. Construction to start in April and be done by September. Navarro asked about the signage for the funding signs. Merrill asked about the original gate. Navarro asked about the original gate from 1860's. Navarro said he will look at that. Merrill asked about the signage and what it is for. Navarro said they are permanent signs. Navarro will check on required signage and language. Eisner asked about the decomposed granite. Staff said decomposed granite is part of the master plan. Staff stated that decomposed granite is used for tree roots, and it is more permeable. Navarro said the project is at 1.1 million so they will be looking at the add/alts.

5d. Kevin Capehart with Brightview to discuss proposal for Event Garden

Kevin Capehart went over the proposal. First step is demo, soil improvements and irrigation repair. They will add a soil amendment to improve drainage. 6 to 8" of rototilling. Capehart would like to do soil samples to a lab to incorporate the best soil for the conditions. It will improve that area. They will fix breaks and change out the on-grade drip irrigation. The new irrigation will be 6" down. 5-gallon plants is what they can find. They want to replace what is failed with new plant material. Iris is best for 1 gallon because they spread. Plants layout is 3-4' spacing. They want to include 30 yards of mulch for infill. More mulch is needed for more areas. 4400 square foot project

area. Keh asked who is paying for this. The Town will be paying for this. Capehart discussed new drainage lines and in between the trees. Once they break ground, they will know what the existing drainage is and can adjust. The new drainage is a nds flexible 4” pipe that is wrapped in a sleeve with its own installation with water wicking material. There is no backfill or drain rock. It limits root disruption and easier to install. The pipe is 4’ and insulated with a 1.5” fabric and all incased in a sleeve to keep soil out. Wicks water into pipe. It is installed 18” – 24” down in soil.

5e. Updates on the prioritized park projects and goals and possibility of setting new goals

No updates. Brightview scheduled for January. Staff will schedule.

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS- None**

7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS

7a. Foundation report: Merrill said the Foundation was waiting for Circulation plan. No other updates.

7b. Park goings on reports and Q&A: **Staff opened item to the Committee for questions and discussion.** Keh asked for the last two years of actuals.

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

7d. Individual Committee Member Comments:

DeGolia said that the emergency declaration ends at the end of February. Committee members need to attend in person. You get two excuses a year.

8. SET/CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND TOPICS

December 7th, 2022, Zoom and in person

Susan Knox presentation.

9. ADJOURN

Next meeting is scheduled for: December 7th 6:30 PM Hybrid

Meeting ended at 9:15 pm with a motion by Merrill and 2nd by Keh by –5-0.