



Item No. 5a. Town of Atherton

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

FROM: STEVE TYLER – PARK SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: JUNE 1, 2016

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ITEM – BICYCLES IN THE PARK

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Council action – request from Park and Recreation Committee to alter language in Municipal code ordinance # 12.24.085 allowing bicycles on the park path between the Pedestrian bridge and the Felton Gables gate.

BACKGROUND

At the February 3, 2016 Park and Recreation (P&R) meeting, it was suggested that an item be placed on the agenda to discuss bicycle usage at Holbrook Palmer Park. Staff was asked to supply the current Municipal and/or Park ordinances and other rules so committee could understand the usage and look forward to suggest possible changes.

At the March 2, 2016 P&R meeting, it was suggested that the current ordinance should be left as is with the addition of a second exclusion which would allow bicycle usage on the park path between the pedestrian bridge and the Felton Gables gate.

Other ideas such as widening of the path and additional signage were considered but felt unnecessary for this change.

Staff was tasked by the committee to accommodate such verbiage to the ordinance and bring back in April for review.

At the April 6, 2016 meeting, the following verbiage was requested staff bring to City Council for their consideration of a change to the ordinance:

- Suggested verbiage change (highlighted):
 - A. It is unlawful to ride any horse, and to use or operate any motorized vehicle, bicycle, scooter, roller blades, roller skates or skateboard on any designated walking path within Holbrook-Palmer Park.
 - a. Exclusions:
 - Motorized wheelchairs

- Bicycles restricted to the section of path between the pedestrian walking bridge and the Felton Gables gate.

COUNCIL ACTION

On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, Park and Rec's recommendation was brought before the Atherton City Council for discussion. The Council was concerned about the liability of allowing bicyclists and pedestrians to co mingle on a bicycle pathway that was mostly 6' wide. They did agree that the path was currently being used in this manner. With the Park Masterplan projects calling for path improvements next year, Council made the following decision:

- Allow the ordinance change to move forward through the appropriate processes (public hearings) and to make appropriate improvements to that section of path including widening the path to 8' along that section where it is currently less than that. Following the widening, make appropriate markings to the path to allow the safe passage of both bicycles and pedestrians as necessary (see some possibilities below of pavement markings and signage).

This work to be accomplished during the upcoming Phase II of the Park Masterplan improvements (park circulation) which is programmed in the 2016-17 CIP budget.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders – to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

Attachments:



