



Town of Atherton
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 2nd, 2019
Regular Meeting
6:30 PM
Main House
150 Watkins Ave

1. ROLL CALL

Committee Members: John Davey (Chair), Christine David (Vice-Chair), Alex Keh, Frank Merrill (Arrived at 6:58 p.m.), Julianna Robertson (Arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Robert Roeser, Marylue Timpson

Councilmember Liaisons: Rick DeGolia (Arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

Staff: Francesca Reyes

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – For items not on the agenda
Sandy Crittenden – Request for Item 5c. to be first on the Agenda but retracted request.

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – September 4, 2019 Minutes – MOTION by Vice Chair Christine David, Second by Alex Keh. Motion Passed unanimously.

- 4. PRESENTATIONS** – none

5. REGULAR AGENDA

- 5a 5a. Discussion of possible donation of an art piece from the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation and make an action on acceptance and location on the status inside Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Marylue Timpson, Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation Appointee, and Alicia Bakowski, Holbrook-Park Foundation President, presented the art piece chosen and the preferred location. Committee members discussed the potential issues with the location due to future circulation plan and the labor to install along with overall cost to maintain. Chair of Committee, John Davey opened the item up for Public Comment.

Sandy Crittenden, Atherton Resident, commented that the type of water used to maintain the lawn could cause damage and to consider the irrigation pattern of the sprinklers.

George Rodericks, City Manager of Atherton, advised the Committee that the Master Plan includes a shift in the direction of the irrigation

Marylue Timpson recused at 6:47 p.m.

Vice Mayor DeGolia advised the Committee to recommend the accepted art piece to the City Council but to review other possibilities for the location during the annual Fall Park Walk-Through.

MOTION by Christine David, second by Julianna Robertson to accept the donation of the art piece and consider a new location. Motion passed 3-2-1 (Marylue Timpson recused).

5b. Committee to act on field closure for the winter.

John Davey opened item for discussion. Committee asked staff the reason for the length of closure and limits to park attendees. Staff responded that during the winter season there are no reservations made by sports teams and that a yearly maintenance is required to prepare for the upcoming rainy season. Staff informed the Committee that this area would still be accessible.

MOTION by Christine David, second by Alex Keh. Motion passed unanimously.

5c. Discussion of an off-leash dog area at Holbrook-Palmer Park, including review of the layout, key elements and fixtures. A motion may be made to request further information or to recommend next steps to Council for their consideration.

Christine David presented the item to the Committee and public. John Davey opened the item for public comments.

Michael Jessup, Managing Director of Player Capital, expressed concerns with parking along with safety concerns, noise, and location as a potential distraction for tennis players and classes throughout the week.

Sandy commented that information regarding statistics may not be accurate and location should be reconsidered but the overall presence of a dog park would promote a positive atmosphere to the community along with other visitors.

Lyle Hunning(?), Atherton Resident, commented that the presence of a dog park would be beneficial for the community and those who walk their dogs daily.

Victor Para (?), Atherton Resident, commented that neighboring cities have similar dog parks that have gone through the same process when placing a dog park in their city and suggested that the Committee review the way they have managed the dog parks. He also suggested the possibility of limiting access.

Rick Tuffly (?), Menlo Park Resident, commented that the presence of a dog park would encourage dog owners to adhere to the Town code for dogs to be on leash at the park.

George Rodericks clarified with Committee members that dog park is not on the 5-year plan and that the project would need to be brought to Council for consideration and direction.

Committee members discussed the possibilities of how to limit noise, hours of access, and strict rules. They also discussed the benefits and the potential issues that Town staff and park visitors may encounter. Committee members accepted comments and reconsidered other potential location in the park. They discussed that the impact on the tennis court users would be detrimental and that a different location should be strongly considered. The issue of maintenance of the dog park and key management access to dog park was discussed.

MOTION by Christine David, second by Marylue Timpson to support the establishment of the dog park and present it to Council. The Committee would like recommendation from Council on an alternative location and to place the project on the Town's 5 Year Plan. Motion passes 4-1-0 (Robert Roeser opposes).

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS

7a. Foundation report: Frank Merrill - No report was presented.

7b. Friends of the Park report: None

7c. Park goings on reports (September) and Q&A: Staff opened item to the Committee for questions and discussion. No further information was needed.

7d. Park event reports (September) and October 2019 event bookings: Staff opened item to the Committee for questions and discussion. John Davey questioned the format not being the same as last month because of the headers. Staff informed the Committee that the calendar will be reviewed with the preparer for clarity.

7e. Park Events Financial Reports (September): Staff opened item to the Committee for questions. Rick questioned the 37% reported for Salaries & Benefits. Staff informed the Committee that there was a lump-sum payment to CALPERS Liability (i.e. workers comp, etc.) and that the amount will discuss in the next month report. Staff emphasized the cost recovery reported at 79.58% as a positive outlook due to an increase of reservations of the park facilities for the month of September. Committee member Julianna Robertson questioned the condition of the facilities and whether it may need improvement to promote more reservation. Staff replied that the current condition of the facilities is what attracts many clients and that the recent increase in fees has helped generate a positive revenue. Committee members discussed

8. SET/CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

Tentative **November 6, 2019** at 6:30 PM at the Main House. Confirmed to meet at November 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for walk-through only the outside of the park and reconvene for the meeting at 6:00 p.m., or before it gets dark.

Tentative topics: Knox Playschool update; Park Project ideas for CIP; wish list of park donation.

9. ADJOURN - Chair John Davey adjourned meeting at 7:58 p.m.