



## Item No. 5 Town of Atherton

### CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER  
**DATE:** APRIL 29, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – RESTART ACTIVITY/COVID-19

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Review, discuss and provide feedback regarding the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee – Restart Activity/COVID-19.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Subcommittee met on April 23, 2020 to discuss a recommendation to the City Council on restarting activity in Atherton under the current Shelter-in-Place and/or subsequent amendments. The Subcommittee's focus was to brainstorm recommendations for the City Council as it related to lifting the Shelter-in-Place and returning to normal activities. The Subcommittee reviewed areas of *economic* focus in the Town. These included:

- landscape and gardening activity;
- rental/organized activities at the Park;
- Knox Playschool Operations;
- Special Event permitted activity (private property);
- large gatherings, activities or events on private property;
- large activities or events on school facilities (public and private);
- construction activity;
- home occupation activities;
- real estate activity;
- activities at the Menlo Circus Club; and
- resumption of schools (public and private).

Following discussion, the Subcommittee recommended that the items be placed into three categories. Category 1 items were items that the Town should push the County for resumption of full, normal operations, albeit with reasonable social distancing protocols in place. Such guidelines would be developed via the County's Health Order provisions. Category 2 items were items that

the Town would allow the County’s Health Order to govern and the Town would not push for a resumption to normal operations.

Category 3 items were items that the Town should carefully review before resumption of normal operations despite a Health Order by the County allowing their operation.

**ANALYSIS**

For Category 1 Items, the City Council should send correspondence to the County encouraging that the items be moved as priority items for resumption of operations under the current, new or extended Shelter-in-Place Order.

The Subcommittee can draft and send correspondence encouraging a restart of these activities under any new or extended Order, with appropriate restrictions.

<b>Category 1 Items – Letter to the County Encouraging a Resumption of Activity</b>	
<b>Landscaping and Gardening</b>	The Town has already issued a letter to the County in support of opening up landscaping and gardening services to limited activity under the current shelter-in-place with social distancing and hygiene protocols in place.
<b>Construction Activity (current and new)</b>	The Town has a number of large residential construction projects in operation. Resumption of construction activity continues the economic flow into the Town itself as well as the workforce in the community. Projects have demonstrated that they can resume normal operations with social distancing and hygiene protocols in place. Resumption of construction should include a resumption of current projects as well as the ability to begin new projects.
<b>Real Estate Operations</b>	Real Estate operations should be able to resume in communities provided that social distancing and hygiene protocols are in place. This activity allows for the transfer of real estate and the resultant transactional revenue.
<b>Home Occupation Businesses</b>	Home Occupation businesses have continued to operate under the restrictions of the Shelter-in-Place Order; however, these should be explicitly directed to return to normal operations.
<b>Resumption of Normal Operations at Knox Playschool</b>	Knox Playschool provides childcare and education services to the public at large. Knox is presently governed under the school and childcare operational restrictions providing services only to first responders or essential governmental functions. If and when normal operations are resumed for construction, landscaping, restaurants, and other businesses, the services of Knox Playschool

	need to be resumed as well in order to support the operation of these activities.
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For Category 2 Items, the City Council should generally support the County’s directives and guidelines ultimately promulgated for resumption of normal operations under the current, new or extended Shelter-in-Place Order. No communication to the County in support of these items is recommended.

<b>Category 2 Items – Local Resumption of Activity Consistent with County Guidelines</b>	
<b>School Operations</b>	The Town supports the County’s directives and guidelines with respect to the operation of both public and private schools.
<b>Large School Events @ Public &amp; Private Schools</b>	The Town supports the County’s directives and guidelines for the resumption of large school events or other activities at public and private schools.
<b>Large Non-School Events @ Private Schools</b>	To the extent events are not school-related events, such as rented summer camps and other programs, the Town supports the County’s directives and guidelines for resumption of such types of activities under gatherings and recreational activities. Some of these events the Town reviews as Special Events via a Special Events Permit. Such events would be reviewed as Category 3 Items.

For Category 3 Items, the City Council should review any guidance provided by the County for resumption of operations under the current, new or extended Shelter-in-Place Order. After review, the City Council should consider appropriate further restrictions on the activity that would be locally focused.

For example, if the County Health Order resumed operations for gatherings of 500 or less, the Town may wish to further restrict that opportunity for events at the Park or private facilities/residences.

<b>Category 3 Items – Local Resumption of Activity with Possible Local Restrictions in addition to County Guidelines</b>	
<b>Private Special Events @ Private Residences or Facilities</b>	While the Town supports the resumption of these activities, these activities could have an outsized impact on the immediate surrounding areas. Events at private residences and the Circus Club (such as the Horse Show), have extended attendees from various areas. These events may need to be further limited based on attendance expectations and venue considerations.
<b>Activities and Rentals at the Park</b>	While the Town supports the resumption of activities at the Park, some corporate events by Facebook, Google, or others can be large. Despite the opportunities for shuttles or vehicle-pooling, these events engage large areas of the

**Category 3 Items – Local Resumption of Activity with Possible Local Restrictions *in addition to County Guidelines***

	Park with large numbers of people. Park facilities may be inordinately impacted due to needs to clean <i>post-event</i> . While these costs may be included in any rental requirements, the Town may wish to review them in light of COVID-19 Social Distancing and Hygiene protocols that would be Town-specific.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

None