

**CITY OF CAMPBELL
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA
June 2, 2021
MINUTES**

The Parks and Recreation Commission convened for its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:03 pm, via Zoom Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Beitz, Doherty, Ishibashi, Mitchell, Teeter, Fidrych
Absent: Abraham (excused absence)
STAFF: Acting Recreation and Community Services Director Natasha Bissell, Public Works
Director Todd Capurso, Recording Secretary Rebekah Rodriguez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MSC: Doherty/Ishibashi to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of April 7, 2021.

AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Beitz, Doherty, Ishibashi, Mitchell, Fidrych

ABSTAIN: Teeter

NOES: None

Presentations:

Los Gatos Creek Trail – Project Status Update – Todd Capurso introduced Peri Newby, Public Works Environmental Program Specialist who gave a presentation on a few projects: Receptacle Stations and Interpretative Signage. Peri started off by sharing her screen of the Receptacle Stations. This project was funded by a Santa Clara Valley Water District grant with the intent to reduce storm water pollution and litter. There are 10 stations, 5 in Campbell and 5 in Los Gatos. Each station consists of a trash can and a recycle bin; they have been installed and are in use and City staff is collecting data to close out the grant agreement. On the interpretative signage, there is a QR code that users can scan which takes them to pledges, surveys and additional education information to reduce storm water pollution. Back in March, there was a survey conducted and the results showed that 75% of trail users did notice reduction in litter and 78% used and participated in the receptacle station and the interpretative signage. The second project for update was for the mural located under Creekside Way bridge, the underpass. The intent of this program is to encourage sustainable behavior through art. The Public Art Committee voted on which art they wanted on the wall, and they had 1,272 votes in total and there was a huge turnout. The mural will be completed on June 3.

Chair Fidrych asked if the artist was a local artist and Peri responded that that was one of the qualifications for the RFP, that they had to be a Campbell resident. The other question he had was about the graffiti, if there is anything that can prevent this and there are lights that have been installed and the artist has provided ways on how to clean it if it did get graffiti on it. There will be an anti-graffiti topcoat. Chair Ishibashi asked how much the grant was for the receptacle stations and Peri responded that it was \$32,000 for both Los Gatos and Campbell. It covered Campbell's cost for the receptacles. He also asked if the existing garbage cans are still there or if they are being replaced by the receptacles and they will be replaced by them since it will have the option for trash and recycle in one.

Oral Requests:

NONE.

Unfinished Business:

Youth Commission Collaboration – Natasha started the discussion to give the Special Events committee the opportunity to report out on the scavenger hunt event. Chair Ishibashi commented that no one showed up when he was there and had about 8-10 gift cards left from 30. Chair Fidrych added that his kids did the scavenger hunt in about 20 – 25 minutes and had fun doing it. They did get free ice cream. It was a successful event overall.

Budget Update – Todd started off by talking about the budget. There was clarification about the Federal funding and that is to replace things that went away from the pandemic like the hotel tax and funding sources of this nature. Half of the Federal money coming to the City (\$7.2M) will be going towards the FY21 shortfall. The other half will plunge the gap of lost revenue for the upcoming fiscal year. Going into FY22, many services will come back, and demand will be high especially revenue-oriented services. In the Parks Maintenance side, there has been a reduction of part-time temp employees, and this will affect the service level. The Capital Projects like the All-Inclusive playground project at John D. Morgan Park is in progress and should be finished later this summer and then the Campbell Park project will begin. There have been past discussions about the Virginia Park project and the Pruneyard Trail project and those are still in the proposed budget. Not all vacancies will be filled in July so there is a strategy to keep some vacant but save the City some money for these positions.

Todd then passed it on the Natasha to report out on the Recreation side of the budget. The proposed budget presented to City Council included the following items: Additional \$24,000 in support for senior nutrition meal program to assist with higher demand; the Adult Services division recently had a retirement of the Recreation Program Coordinator and this position will remain frozen through FY22 and programs and services will be limited over the next year for Adult Services; Recreation Manager will remain frozen through April 2022 with a recruitment slated for May 2022; there was a reduction in force by 2.5 FTE – Office Specialist classification 2.0, Recreation Specialist 0.5; Overall department's general fund subsidy projected for FY22 is just under a million.

Commissioner Ishibashi asked about the rental of fields at the Community Center if they were in full swing for rental. She responded that those renting them are responsible for complying with pandemic requirements. Many of the fall sports will come back in some capacity, but since they are based on volunteers for coaches the capacity could be limited. Chair Fidrych asked about the \$7.2M from the Federal Government how much did it fill the bucket and what departments took a hit. Natasha responded that it shut down operations as a City, and roughly \$7M was lost in revenue so it roughly makes them whole again. Commissioner Ishibashi asked if the skate park will remain free and yes it will stay free in the long run. Since no staff is present at the skate park, it releases the City of liability, and it keeps it open to the public. Chair Fidrych asked Todd about the vacancies that are being filled slowly, how many is that and Todd said that on the Public Works side, they did let the part time staff go because of the pandemic.

New Business:

Campbell Park – Pathway and Trees Update – Todd started with the introduction of this item. Engineering is leading this project and Campbell Park is a great connection part to the trail. The

proposal of relocating the pathway is going to be a separate project that will be done by our Streets Crew and Trees Crew. The trees had to be evaluated to see how they were separating the pathway since the trees have different challenges. Todd turned it over to Bob Siudzinski. Bob talked about the assessment of the trees. They are Pear Trees, and they are susceptible to fire blight and specific type of structural challenges that creates weak branches. Pear trees like water, not excessive sun, which is what is happening now. The Pine trees should be a deep green and the canopy should be dense, but that is not the condition at the park. This tree has root issues and is not a good selection or condition of trees to keep out there.

Commissioner Ishibashi had a comment about the size of the proposed trees and how quickly would they grow, how long would it take to be a hot spot. Bob responded that 24-inch box trees are the ones that will be brought out and they are 5 years old and growth and canopy developed. Shade is very important. Chinese Elm is a beautiful tree with good growth, form and irrigation. Chair Fidrych asked if this species is unique to Campbell. Bob responded no, Santana Row has them out there and the Pruneyard also has them as well. It's a singular trunk with bends and twist, bark which is an exfoliation for the tree and the canopy provides good visibility. Chair Fidrych had a comment that it would be nice if light could be shining up on them, picturesque-like. Todd added that the timing of all of this, the pathway construction, the trees have a head start on the playground project. If the trees come in early, by the time the playground is completed, the trees will be grown, and the roots will be in place and growing beautifully. Commissioner Ishibashi asked if 60-inch box would be better for more shade, but Todd said that possibly the next size would be 36-inch box but would be tougher to handle (plant/install) but it will be investigated and see if it is feasible. Commissioner Beitz would like a large tree installed. Chair Fidrych asked when these trees would be pulled out. Bob responded that they would be pulled out after the pathway is completed and before work starts on the construction on the new playground sometime in August. Commissioner Teeter noticed that there is headway on the pathway.

Edith Morley Community Garden Rules & Regulations Update – Todd introduced Alex Mordwinow, Public Work Superintendent, who gave the update on this item. Alex recognized the work that Bob has done as the Park Supervisor and also recognized Rebekah Rodriguez as the liaison for the Community Garden. Back in 2015, the increase of the garden plot was done and at that time the rules and regulations were updated also in 2017. Conditions change so it was time to update them again. Currently, there are 6 people on the waiting list, which is an improvement of 68 that were on a waiting list back in 2017. Enforcing water regulations is key for this discussion. Photo ID and utility bill is now required for renewals and new applicants. The plot price increased from \$72 to \$80 for large plots and \$36 to \$40 for small plots. Regulating the water use since we are now in a drought is important. Chair Fidrych asked if the garden is self-sustained. Alex responded that the water is metered off the park not the garden area. It is not cost recovery. Park staff provides the soil for the gardeners once a year. Chair Fidrych suggested it should be raised a few dollars more to make it a cost recovery program. Commissioner Beitz asked if 6 people were on the list and how long had they been on the list. Alex said that there is a turnover of people waiting but for more clarification he had Rebekah respond to this question. She responded that currently there are 4 people on the waiting list as of now and since COVID many had abandoned their plots due to circumstances out of their control which allowed more openings of plots to those on the waiting list. There is always a turnaround so those on the waiting list do not wait much. There are many who do call in to be added on the list. Alex mentioned that the lease expiring is a good idea since it gives others the opportunity to have the experience of

being a gardener. Commissioner Ishibashi asked how many gardeners were Campbell residents, if 100% or what and Rebekah responded that prior to starting the program, about 4 were not Campbell residents since these were already in the program. With the new change of providing a utility bill, this will prove to be only Campbell residents. Chair Fidrych liked the idea of having them provide a utility bill.

MSC: Ishibashi/Beitz to approve the revised Edith Morley Community Garden Rules and Regulations.

AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Beitz, Doherty, Ishibashi, Mitchell, Teeter, Fidrych

ABSTAIN: None

NOES: None

Committee Reports:

Parks and Creek Trail: Chair Teeter has been out of the state and has not visited many parks. Commissioner Doherty has seen the fencing at John D. Morgan and has seen ball games at JDM and made it down to Fischer Park and doing well. Chair Teeter said that the Campbell Creek Trail is busy and noticed that more than half are not wearing their masks.

Trees: Chair Ishibashi had nothing to report.

Special Events: Chair Abraham was not present. Chair Beitz had nothing to report either.

Staff Reports:

A. Parks – Acting Parks Supervisor Bob Siudzinski

- Staff replenished the fibar at Campbell Park underneath the swing set and at Virginia Park.
- The installation of the CalSense cloud-based controllers has been an accomplishment by staff. In the next few weeks, it will be calibrated to see how much water is being used.
- Los Gatos Creek Trail weed mowing is currently happening during this time of year.
- New pathway is going in and that is something to see.
- Due to drought conditions, water features are closed until further notice.
- Parks crews are working heavily on the trash pickup at the parks and keeping it clean.

Chair Fidrych asked where the new controllers are located, and Bob responded that it is at the Community Center where staff can manage the controls from anywhere since it is a cloud-based system. Commissioner Ishibashi asked about the turf being water tolerant if that occurred or not and Bob responded that yes it did occur on the track. Commissioner Beitz had an observation about the geese and how many are not wearing the mask. At John D. Morgan Park there is a mix of people wearing their masks. Chair Fidrych asked if he was correct in saying that as of the 15th of June, masks are not required. Natasha responded and said that signage will remain up for masks. Chair Fidrych asked Todd about having the group visit the park during the construction would that be a good time to schedule it now. Todd responded that it would be a very good time to go so that they can see it being done. There tends to not be a July meeting so possibly scheduling a park tour in lieu of a regular meeting. Natasha mentioned that it does not seem that there are any items for July so scheduling a park tour at this time would be appropriate. She will send out dates to the Commissioners to see what dates works for everyone to go out to the park and take the tour of

the construction site. The commissioners shared what dates they would not be available due to the holiday week. Alex added that maybe seeing the project now instead of later is better.

B. Recreation & Community Services –Acting Recreation and Community Services Director Natasha Bissell

- Campbell Library has moved temporarily to the Campbell Community Center in room E46.
- Pre-School program successfully completed a modified school year during COVID with no incidents.
- Summer programs (day camp, sports camp, skateboarding camp, swim lessons, tech camps, art campus) are full or almost full.
- Lap swim continues to be fully reserved 3 weeks in advance.
- Adult Fitness classes continue to be outdoors or virtual.
- Family recreation swim has been added on Sundays. Families can reserve 2 lanes for their family of 4 for an hour for \$30. (12pm – 1pm or 1:15 pm-2:15 pm)
- Gym rentals have resumed this past week and increased usage of the Campbell community Center.
- The Heritage Theatre will be hosting first rental client this Sunday, June 6.
- The Historical Museum’s History @ Home “The History of the California Gold Rush” will be held on Friday, June 18 from 6pm-7pm. This is a virtual event and cost \$10 per zoom link. For more information or to buy tickets go to campbellmuseums.com/shop.
- The Historical Museum’s Membership Mondays and History @ Home Events will continue through the summer.
- The Ainsley Gardens have a lot of rentals between now and September with a lot of interest still coming in.
- The upstairs of the Carriage House was recently redone by the Museum Foundation, and they did an excellent job making the space look like a real bridal suite and has already made an impact when potential rental clients are viewing the space.

No comments from the commissioners.

Good of the Game

Commissioner Beitz really likes the activities at the parks and it’s good to see people out there.

Commissioner Teeter mentioned to catch the History Hour; it’s well done, and they are fun. They can be seen virtual. Natasha mentioned that the collection of “What’s in the Box?” is on YouTube and staff has done an amazing job on it.

Chair Fidrych asked if the museum is open, but Natasha said that recently there was some water damage, so it is close due to that.

Commissioner Ishibashi went back to the topic of the park tour, he suggested that it should be done in the early afternoon to accommodate staff’s schedule. He also asked if there is a July meeting, but it does not seem that there will be.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Rebekah Rodriguez

Rebekah Rodriguez, Recording Secretary