

**CITY OF CAMPBELL
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA
May 6, 2020
MINUTES**

The Parks and Recreation Commission convened for its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7:07 pm, via Zoom Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Abraham, Beitz, Doherty, Fidrych, Ishibashi, Michell, Teeter

Absent:

STAFF: Recreation Services Manager Bissell, Public Works Director Todd Capurso, Recording Secretary Rebekah Rodriguez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MSC: Fidrych/Teeter to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Parks and Recreation Commission of March 4, 2020.

AYES: Ishibashi, Doherty, Beitz, Fidrych, Mitchell, Teeter

ABSTAIN: Abraham

NOES: None

Presentations:

Amy Olay gave a presentation on the John D. Morgan Park (Budd Avenue) Improvement Project – Final Conceptual Design to the commission. This item came forward to the PRC in January to show two conceptual layouts and in February as part of a study session with council. The purpose of this item is to get the recommendations from the commission for the council to approve the final conceptual design. There was a recap by PRC and Council comments on both conceptual designs were addressed for final approval by Council. Comments received for Council showed an overwhelming consensus for the first conceptual design, the “Fun in the Forest” theme, the more vertical of the two designs. Both designs include the net climber which is part of alternative #2, but there are options. At the study session, it came up to separate the youth and tot areas and the sound/sensory area, with a barrier. Conceptual alternative #2 shows what the perimeter would look like and how it would be enclosed with three gates for entrances/exits. The net climber alone is cost prohibitive and requires a large footprint, so the concept is to incorporate the net climber into the three-tier play tower. The slides and tower will remain, and the net climber amenity will be added.

The sensory area is a 42” high fence for separation so that there is no interruption from the rest of the playground. It was discussed how to provide for a separation between the youth area and the tot area. It is meant to be an open playground, but the spinner climber has been centered, so there will be a visual separation. The existing tot play area has aged equipment and does not meet the safety standards. One possible recommendation is to design it as a stage area where seats could be added, but the council did not see this as necessary.

The playground was missing a passive area where the surface treatment would be made of mulch which would keep the project under budget and make it an all-inclusive project. The sound area was a concern to council; it was determined that the decibels described as 105 is compared to a loud lawnmower and 60 decibels would be of two people talking to each other. This would need to meet

the safety standards once the playground is ready for inspection. The other play elements part of the park are very colorful, and do not follow the "Fun in the Forest" theme, but there will be earth tone colors for play equipment. Blue is a calming color for people with autism so there may be more blue toned equipment.

Discussion about the parking evaluation was next; there are three ADA parking spots and it does not seem that three are adequate. Looking at the two tree areas near the parking lot, the trees are in ill-health so it would be ok to remove the trees and add ADA spaces. If the spots are measured, it looks like they could gain possibly 5 more spaces. At this point, it would be considered to add another project for council's consideration in the upcoming CIP budget process, not part of this project but for more parking. The project totals are funded by \$2.1M comprised of grant money plus \$1.1M from local match. The next step is to go to council for final recommendations and approval for final conceptual design.

Commissioner Ishibashi asked about funding and how secure the city's funding is for this contribution towards this project. Does the city have to spend a \$1M in order to get a \$1M? How does it all work out? Amy responded that the \$1M is coming from the park dedication fund and it is secure. If we were to spend less, the match would be less as well, but it is not anticipated that it would be less.

Vice Chair Fidrych asked if we need to take into consideration "new normal" and increase our distancing for new playground equipment. The consultant answered the questions as to how the 6-foot distancing and the equipment is geared around having the distance in place. There are about 12-13 feet distance from the equipment so there is nothing to worry about regarding social distancing. Another question was about the passive area, if it will have equipment or just a relaxing space. It could serve as a quiet area and that is why it is a passive area.

Chair Mitchell asked about the current parking situation if the council did approve a CIP project to address the parking issues. Is the current situation enough? The current parking situations are adequate for all-inclusive projects.

Commissioner Teeter had questions about the budget, but they were addressed and answered.

Commissioner Abraham asked about the passive area, if the mulch was chosen due to the budget cost and it was responded that yes it was. It is something that is affordable and we(?) could start off with it for now.

No public comments came in. Further discussion from the commissioners at this point before a roll call vote: Vice Chair Fidrych asked about the passive area covered with mulch not being something comfortable to sit on. Todd Capurso responded to this comment and we are sensitive to the budget at this point and what is happening now is affecting construction cost and it could be an alternate to include something else and it will be considered moving forward.

Commissioner Ishibashi liked the conceptual design and is very happy with it.

Commissioner Teeter also loves the design and is happy to know that the City funds are locked in for this project. She asked about the security of the money obtained by the County and Amy responded

that it is not an issue and it is secured, and we are good to proceed with the project. Todd also added that the City funds are already in hand and ready for these types of projects.

MSC: Ishibashi/Doherty to recommend the City Council approve the final concept design presented this evening.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Oral Requests:

NONE.

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Parks and Creek Trail: Chair Doherty has only been at John D. Morgan Park and everything is looking good and very few people have been out to that park.

Trees: Chair Abraham had no report.

Special Events: Chair Mitchell reported that all special events have been cancelled. Looking forward to next year to make up these events when things come back to normal.

Staff Reports:

A. Parks – Public Works Director Todd Capurso

- Todd Capurso gave a verbal report on how things started to change the third week of March with the Shelter in Place order that came from the County. The Order was received, and staff immediately had to balance between how to keep the public safe and the workforce safe. The emphasis was to maintain some open space to have physical activities for the public to do. This was a change of what the maintenance levels would be, and a modified schedule came in place, a third of the workforce came in at a time. This didn't only affect Parks, but Streets Maintenance and Signal Maintenance. Something to think about was which amenities would remain open and which ones would close. The children's play area was the first area to close due to the cleaning of the surface was a priority. The decision of keeping park restrooms open was made since the parks were still open and for use. There has been a decrease of landscape maintenance but keeping the safety of the facilities. Tennis courts, hand ball courts, basketball courts and the track were kept open if social distancing was followed, but people were not appropriately following the social distancing order, so we closed these courts. We removed the hoops at the basketball courts. We had to fence off the track but there is access around the fence from the adjoining neighborhood to the community center.
- Due to the change of the weather, weeds are coming in and now we are back to the more conventional use of the park, more normal maintenance of the parks. Tennis courts will be opened by the end of this week since it is part of the order to open. Full maintenance activities will be back in full force next week. Our volunteer projects have had a hold but the last one we got in was the replanting project on Harriet and Civic Center Drive. The Arbor Day event didn't

happen this year and we were not able to plant a tree but did recognize others for their care of the trees. The Great American Litter Pick Up event was also cancelled and will not be rescheduled this year. The Public Works Week BBQ has also been cancelled. Celebratory events have also been cancelled.

Commissioner Beitz commented about the geese returning. He did ask if there was a date when the track will be open. Mr. Capurso responded that we don't have a hard date when things will be open but as the orders come out, we will follow the recommendations.

Natasha responded on the track question that there were a lot of calls to dispatch that people were gathering at the track. Places where people tend to gather or congregate should remain closed, so the track is one of those places.

Commissioner Ishibashi commented on the large area near the field; He observed two groups playing soccer and one playing baseball and it was about 20 people gathered. Mr. Capurso wasn't surprised of hearing this since people can be out, but we hope not to close the fields.

Commissioner Teeter commented that she appreciates the Creek Trails has remained opened and she is very happy about that.

Chair Mitchell gave a kudos to staff for being on top of this situation and closing things down and keeping us all safe. Mr. Capurso did say that the hardest thing was to caution tape things off, but people think they can take them down and use the equipment anyway.

B. Recreation & Community Services – Recreation Manager Natasha Bissell

- Natasha gave a verbal report that on Friday the 13th they shut down their campus. Staff was cut in half and were sent home. The Senior Nutrition Program has been the stable program during this whole time. Staff that have been working have been working on refunds for the canceled classes and other programs. They used to serve 40 to 50 seniors at the location for a hot meal a day, now they are serving over 100 meals a day and delivering 25 meals to homebound seniors. Staff made calls to our Adult Center participants to see if they needed anything, so the brown bag service has been a huge use for these seniors. There are working with 30 homebound seniors who will be receiving 5 boxes per person. Capri and Rosemary schools will be distributing meals to families for breakfast, lunch and dinners from Fridays to Sundays.
- A virtual rec has launched at www.campbellca.gov/virtualrec. There will not be printing of the summer activities guides since they will not be able to do fieldtrips, swims or day camps because of the group size of these events. Swim lessons are still in the air if this will be cancelled or not. Software system will go live on December 1 to register children for classes.

Commissioner Ishibashi is happy about the software. He had a question about the summer activities, can they communicate to folks that they want to free their space for those who do need it more? They will be refunded if they can't do it.

Vice Chair Fidrych commented about coding camps online could be an option. Natasha is working with the contactors to see if they can do something virtual or not. They will do the best to offer what they can on zoom.

Chair Mitchell appreciated that the seniors are still being fed and it is a lot of work to do to check up on the seniors and make those phone calls to them.

Good of the Game

Chair Mitchell commented that during Easter, there were posts of the Easter Bunny floating around in Campbell and put a lot of smiles on faces. PD also did the birthday parades that caused many smiles.

Commissioner Teeter said that on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on East Campbell they all come out to the sidewalk to dance and wave to those driving down the street.

Commissioner Fidrych appreciated the meeting on zoom and to see that everyone is well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 3.

Respectfully submitted:

Rebekah Rodriguez

Rebekah Rodriguez, Recording Secretary