



APPROVED

4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

**MINUTES  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 23, 2018  
CITY HALL  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, California**

13 **Commissioners Present:** Jeff Greenfield, Don McDougall, Jeff LaMere, Ryan McCauley,  
14 David Moss, and Keith Reckdahl

15 **Commissioners Absent:** Anne Cribbs

16 **Others Present:**

17 **Staff Present:** Daren Anderson, Natalie Khwaja

18 **I. ROLL CALL**

19 **II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS**

20 Chair McDougall: Agenda Changes, Requests, and Deletions is the next item. Because  
21 we have so many visitors here, I'm going to change the agenda. I'm going to do Oral  
22 Communications on subjects other than Item Number VI.2, which is the Rinconada Pool,  
23 and I'm going to take Item Number IV and move that to the end. After the Oral  
24 Communications, I'm going to ask to have a presentation on the Palo Alto to sea hike that  
25 Commissioner Moss took. We've delayed that presentation several times. I think the  
26 Commission would very much benefit from understanding that. I think we'll start with  
27 that. Since we're changing the agenda, Commissioner Moss, we'll start with that.

28 [The Commission proceeded to Item V.1.]

29 **III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

30 Chair McDougall: To go to the next agenda item, which is Oral Communications and  
31 public letters. I have two speaker cards, one from Monica Williams, which I know is not  
32 on the subject of Rinconada. I have one from Timothy Groves. Timothy has checked  
33 non-agenda item. Are you speaking on Rinconada or ...

34 Timothy Groves: (inaudible)



APPROVED

1 Chair McDougall: You're speaking on Rinconada, so it's an agenda item. Several of the  
2 speaker cards were marked with Item Number III. What we were looking for was the  
3 item under the Business items. I'm assuming that anybody who said Item Number III is  
4 really Item Number VI.2 on the agenda. If that's not true, you should speak up. With  
5 that, I'm going to invite Monica Williams. Monica, you'll have three minutes.

6 Monica Williams: Good evening, Chair McDougall and Commissioners. I'm Monica  
7 Williams, President of the Palo Alto Pickleball Club. I want to update you and tell you  
8 how happy we are that the City Council approved the new court policy that you finalized  
9 last month. It's good that we now have the same privilege that tennis players have always  
10 had, to be able to reserve the courts for tournaments. We applaud the Recreation  
11 Department for bringing this new court policy to fruition. Our club has now grown to  
12 400 members including 160 Palo Alto residents. We play every day of the week. We're  
13 looking forward to hosting the Encore Senior Games later this week. Last week, the Palo  
14 Alto Girls Middle School reached out to us and asked if we could help teach them  
15 pickleball during the week. New City of Palo Alto classes started this week, and both  
16 classes are full. We're looking forward to the day when the City of Palo Alto will  
17 provide pickleball for all. Tennis players have a choice to play anytime on any of Palo  
18 Alto's 54 public tennis courts. Pickleball players have no courts on which to play.  
19 Currently, unless our club members put up portable nets that our club has purchased,  
20 there is nowhere in Palo Alto to play pickleball. We have to store the nets in lockers. If  
21 club members are not at the courts with the locker combination, no one else can play  
22 pickleball. We need access to pickleball for all. It's time for the City of Palo Alto to join  
23 Santa Cruz and San Francisco, Foster City, and just recently Sunnyvale. Four pickleball  
24 courts can fit on one tennis court, and all of these cities have converted a couple of tennis  
25 courts to offer their communities a place to play pickleball. It will be nice when the two  
26 paddle tennis courts at Mitchell are converted to pickleball courts, but they will only  
27 accommodate eight players. We are appealing to the City to provide permanent  
28 pickleball courts similar to permanent tennis courts so that anyone can drop in and play at  
29 any time. Let's have pickleball for all. Thank you very much.

30 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Monica. Thank you for the extension of helping the  
31 schools learn pickleball. That would move us to the first item. I'd like to keep that in the  
32 proper order on the agenda. The approval of the draft minutes from September 25.

33 [The Commission proceeded to Agenda Item Number VI.1.]

34 **IV. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

35 Daren Anderson: Good evening. Daren Anderson with Community Services. I've got a  
36 couple of items for you. First is the Cubberley Master Plan. The second of four  
37 community meetings to reimagine Cubberley will occur on November 1 from 7:00 to  
38 9:00 p.m. at the Cubberley Pavilion. The meeting is open to everyone, whether they



APPROVED

1 attended the first meeting or not. At the meeting, we'll begin to hone in on a vision for  
2 Cubberley based on the results of the first meeting. All the materials related to the  
3 project including the summary of the first meeting can be found on the project website  
4 which is [pausd.org/cubberley-co-design](http://pausd.org/cubberley-co-design). We discussed the Renzel Marsh project, and I  
5 got a recent update from Public Works that I'd like to share with you. The new repaired  
6 levee is 100-percent complete now. It's been seeded along the outside edge and mulched  
7 with wood chips and coconut fiber matting. Base rock is currently being added to the top  
8 of this new levee, which will give maintenance vehicle access all the way around the  
9 pond. A berm has been placed between—this is hard without a visual. Imagine it as two  
10 ponds, a north pond and a south pond. There's now a berm that separates the two, and  
11 that's now in place with a spillway that has pipes carrying the water from the north pond,  
12 where the water will be discharged from the treatment plant. It'll flow through that  
13 spillway into the southern pond, which has just been excavated and cleaned out. The  
14 pond on the north side has got a large pile of soil, which all came from the excavated  
15 southern portion. It looks really large. They've seeded that. Interestingly, I walked it the  
16 other day at a peak freeway time, and as you round the corner behind this pile the volume  
17 of the traffic dies away completely, almost so much that staff with me were checking  
18 their ears because it was so startlingly quiet. Looking forward to seeing the seeding that  
19 they put on this take root. Hopefully, we'll get some rain soon because this obviously  
20 can't be hand-watered because it is an island. Once vegetated, I think we'll have some  
21 really good habitat benefits. It's significantly larger than all the other islands we had in  
22 the pond previously combined. It'll be interesting to see what happens. Depending on  
23 how the vegetation takes, the open space team may come in and plant that in the future  
24 with plants from Save the Bay nursery or elsewhere. The remaining part, when will we  
25 get water into this pond? The remaining part of the contract is to finish the influent pipe,  
26 the pipe coming from the treatment plant to the north pond. They just entered into a  
27 contract and have issued the notice to proceed. They anticipate—it's both the inlet pipe  
28 and this outlet pipe that takes the water out of Renzel pond and into Matadero Creek.  
29 Both those will be worked on and new. They anticipate that will be done in the spring of  
30 2019, if not sooner. The Cubberley field and track project. We've talked about this  
31 before. We've got a plan to replace the synthetic turf and to do something with the track  
32 July 1 of this next year. We're doing the design process right now, which includes the  
33 cost estimates for different options. It's a little more than we had anticipated on our  
34 preliminary estimates, so we're still working on the cost estimate. The key thing we're  
35 trying to figure out is also doing an all-weather track. We haven't done one in Palo Alto  
36 before, at least in the City-maintained areas. This would be new to us. It'll be a  
37 challenge to fund them both, but we're going to do our best and see what we can do. I'll  
38 be reporting back on that soon. We'll probably have a community meeting in November  
39 or December to say this is the funding we have, this is the options we're looking at for the  
40 field and the track. The last report ...



1 Vice Chair Greenfield: Excuse me, Daren. I'm wondering if there's any opportunity for  
2 outreach to any of the Friends groups to fill the gap if we're close to potentially getting  
3 the all-weather track. Is there some outreach we can do to help make sure that happens?

4 Mr. Anderson: That's a great idea. We can.

5 Chair McDougall: I'll work with you on that, Daren.

6 Commissioner Reckdahl: Maybe another option is private schools that may want to use  
7 this also. They may be willing to chip in a little if they see that they can use this track for  
8 their own sports programs.

9 Chair McDougall: Good idea.

10 Commissioner Moss: There's a lot of interest from current users of the track.

11 Mr. Anderson: I'll keep you abreast of that public outreach meeting, and we can discuss  
12 it. The opening of the 7.7 acres up at Foothills Park. The site is now ready for opening.  
13 We're just waiting to set up the ribbon cutting, checking with the Mayor's schedule.  
14 We're hoping for early November. As soon as I get confirmation on the Mayor's  
15 schedule, I'll be announcing that to the Commission and to all our stakeholders and  
16 publicizing it for the regular visitors of Foothills Park as well. Lastly, something you  
17 heard via email from me is the Los Trancos Trail and the Costanoan Trail are now open  
18 again and being enjoyed by park visitors. That's concludes the Department Report.

19 Chair McDougall: Does anybody have any questions for Daren?

20 Commissioner Reckdahl: I had a question about the Renzel Marsh. Right along the path  
21 at Matadero Creek, there's a whole bunch of mulch that's been put in. That's permanent  
22 or is that temporary?

23 Mr. Anderson: There's coconut husk and mulch, and that's been seeded. I anticipate  
24 once the grass and plants mature and grow up, it'll replace the need for a lot of the mulch.  
25 It'll breakaway; it doesn't last more than a season or so. It's only about 2 or 3 inches  
26 because it's on a slope.

27 Commissioner Reckdahl: That would remain dry. That's not a marshy area. That's just a  
28 ...

29 Mr. Anderson: This is on the exterior of—yes, that's correct. The reason why the  
30 previous one was wet and there were reeds and cattails growing is because there were so  
31 many holes in that levee. Hence, the need to do the repair.

32 Chair McDougall: Any other questions? David.

1 Commissioner Moss: In the last meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the  
2 Baylands Comprehensive Plan and the ITT property. Do you have any update since  
3 then?

4 Mr. Anderson: Thank you. There's going to be a community meeting on November 7.  
5 I'll be sending out an email to the Commission and stakeholders. We're just waiting for  
6 one last bit of information from the consultant before I send out the invite. The Reading  
7 Room is reserved, and we'll be hosting that pretty soon. That meeting will include a  
8 review of the Byxbee Park conceptual plan and an action plan for the BCCP.

9 Chair McDougall: You say they've put out the RFP or contract for the pipes in and out,  
10 and that'll be in the spring. Does that mean that part of the pond sits empty in the  
11 meantime?

12 Mr. Anderson: Correct.

13 Chair McDougall: Keith.

14 Commissioner Reckdahl: In one of the emails we received this last week, there was  
15 something about the Magic Forest over at Rinconada. Did you see that email?

16 Mr. Anderson: I did.

17 Commissioner Reckdahl: Was that accurate or was it ...

18 Mr. Anderson: Yeah, I think it is accurate. Staff noticed the same dilemma. There are  
19 approximately 50 coast redwoods in the Magic Forest at Rinconada Park that have been  
20 underperforming and looking really poor. We hired a well-respected arborist firm to do  
21 an inspection and make recommendations. They came out in 2017, did their analysis of  
22 the soil, the trees, and the root system, and came back with a series of recommendations  
23 that varied from de-compacting the soil to irrigating more. Some trees were getting hit  
24 with water and not enough for some of the others. Additional soil amendments of  
25 compost and mulch should be added. We implemented all of those along with some  
26 pruning recommendations and a couple of removals for trees that were too far gone.  
27 Those have all been implemented and are being sustained. I was out there today looking  
28 at the site. We're erring on the side—you might have seen an email. One of the concerns  
29 was it's a little wet, poor drainage. That's actually in response to making sure we're  
30 adequately watering it, probably to a fault, but we're erring on the side of not letting them  
31 dry out, which we know was part of the problem. We'll dial that back and try to get a  
32 little better. You're not going to see the effects of these remedies for about two to three  
33 years. Trees are slow to respond, but they are resilient. As long as we stick with a  
34 program of ensuring the soil is not compacted, irrigating properly, and keeping a layer of  
35 mulch distant from the trunk but over the site, we anticipate the trees will come back.

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: How about ferns? The letter mentioned that there are no ferns  
2 there anymore.

3 Mr. Anderson: When I first started with the City, there were some ferns there. Over time  
4 they just faded out and got out-competed either with foot traffic or by the invasive ivy  
5 that's in there. We don't use herbicide in our parks. Ivy is incredibly resistant even if you  
6 hand pull it and rake it and try to get the root system. Most of the effort we're putting  
7 into the Magic Forest is tree-related and less so for the plants. We haven't tried to replant  
8 the ferns. That may be possible, but right now the focus is for the trees. There was also a  
9 report that there was bamboo in there. There is a little weird stand; I don't know why it  
10 was planted or maybe it volunteered. There's a small stand back there, and it's in the  
11 same boat as the ivy. It's difficult to remove once it's established without using  
12 chemicals. If we try to remove it, I'm a little nervous about impacting the roots of the  
13 redwoods. We're going to monitor that. My hope is eventually with the CIP to renovate  
14 Rinconada Park and incorporate some improvements, maybe replanting. Right now, the  
15 focus is on the tree remedies.

16 Chair McDougall: Thank you. We hope the Magical Forest is magic.

17 [The Commission proceeded to Item VII.]

18 **V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

19 **1. Presentation on Palo Alto to the Sea Hike**

20 Commissioner Moss: Last year we approved the 20-year Parks Master Plan. One of the  
21 items on there is to enhance and expand our ability to make connections to other parks  
22 and open spaces throughout the Bay Area. In that light my wife, Jane, and I hiked from  
23 Palo Alto to the sea in three days on July 1-4. I wanted to show a quick presentation of  
24 that hike. I have a couple of comments, and then we can talk about it. We started in  
25 Arastradero Preserve, nine of us, went through Foothills Park to the very top of Foothills  
26 Park and on into Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, always on open space public land.  
27 The Franciscan Loop takes us to the parking lot at Monte Bello Ridge Open Space  
28 Preserve where we lost some people and added two or three more people and donned  
29 backpacks to hike up to the top of Black Mountain, where you can camp overnight in the  
30 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserve campground for \$2 per person. Here we  
31 are at the top of Black Mountain. You can see the sea tantalizingly close. The next  
32 morning we started hiking back down to the parking lot and on into Skyline Open Space  
33 Preserve and from there to the chestnut tree farm which is Long Ridge. From Long  
34 Ridge, we ended up going on Ward Road, which takes you towards Portola State Park.  
35 There's one small area that's private land, but we have an easement. You get into Slate  
36 Creek, which takes you down into Portola State Park. That was Day 2. This is Portola  
37 State Park. We added four or five more people, lost a couple of people. Now, we're on

APPROVED

1 our way from Portola to Butano through Pescadero Creek County Park. We're heading  
2 towards Big Basin State Park through a small one-mile section of Red Tree private tree  
3 farm. Now, we're at the very top of Butano Ridge at 1,900 feet elevation. It started to  
4 rain, more mist. Now, we're walking into Butano State Park, and several miles into  
5 Butano State Park, very exhausting. We go from the Butano fire road to the Olmo fire  
6 road, which heads down into Butano Park. We were looking out over Big Basin State  
7 Park. We've now reached Butano State Park. We lost our last person, and now we're  
8 walking down to Gazos Creek State Beach, where we dipped our toes into the ocean after  
9 three days, 45 miles, ten parks, six agencies, 11 separate maps. As I mentioned, the goal  
10 is to try to do this on as much public land or public easements as you can. This was also  
11 in preparation for our hike on the Camino de Santiago, which was just three weeks ago.  
12 Similar to this, you can do one-day chunks and still make it all the way. One thing I  
13 wanted to mention is that in the Bay Area—in Spain there are many pilgrimage paths, but  
14 here when Junipero Serra walked from mission to mission it was supposed to be about a  
15 one-day walk or horseback ride between missions. We have many regional trails like the  
16 San Francisco Bay Trail, the Bay Ridge Trail, and the 32-mile East Bay Regional Parks  
17 Trail. We can get to all of them by walking from Palo Alto. The message is that a  
18 pilgrimage is for many reasons. They all have one goal in common and that is you're  
19 moving towards some goal. We in the Bay Area have many opportunities to walk or bike  
20 through spectacular scenery to get to beautiful and meaningful destinations. We should  
21 embrace these opportunities no matter what our age and station. Palo Alto has those  
22 connections to so many of these pathways, and we should be enabling and encouraging  
23 each other to take them.

24 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Commissioner Moss. We do have a discussion later on  
25 the agenda, review of where we are relative to the Master Plan. One of the things that is  
26 in the Master Plan is the importance of connecting parks within Palo Alto and connecting  
27 Palo Alto to neighboring communities. Off the top of your head, can you repeat those  
28 numbers again? That was 144 maps and 28 parks.

29 Commissioner Moss: Forty-five miles, 10 parks, six agencies, and 11 maps.

30 Chair McDougall: Except for the part that there was 11 maps, the rest of it is just  
31 incredibly good news about the environment that we live in here in the Bay Area and in  
32 Palo Alto. I thank you for bringing that to us. Congratulations on both walks. Keith or  
33 Jeff, do you have any comments, questions?

34 Vice Chair Greenfield: It sounds like a great time and a great experience. Thank you for  
35 showing us the way.

36 Commissioner Reckdahl: I have one question for Daren. With regard to maps, do we  
37 coordinate with any app makers to put our maps in a Palo Alto-specific app or any  
38 general app?



1 Daren Anderson: No, but we're working on it. We got a good recommendation from  
2 Commissioner Moss to do something with some online mapping, and we're already in  
3 touch with our GIS people about trying to implement that.

4 Commissioner Moss: I did present to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Board in  
5 August. They put me in touch with their mapping person. They're going to do something  
6 very similar to what Palo Alto is going to do and try to connect maps where possible so  
7 that it's all seamless, which is pretty good news. They've just started that now.

8 Chair McDougall: For anybody that's sitting there thinking, "I've got my iPhone, so I  
9 should be able to get any maps," you probably experienced that a great deal of that walk  
10 had no cell towers and no cell phone. The good old-fashioned map would have been  
11 nice. Thank you.

12 [The Commission returned to Agenda Item III.]

13 **VI. BUSINESS**

14 **1. Approval of Draft Minutes from the September 25, 2018 Parks and**  
15 **Recreation Commission meeting.**

16 Approval of the draft September 25, 2018 Minutes was moved by Commissioner  
17 Reckdahl and seconded by Commissioner LaMere. Passed 5-0 with Commissioners  
18 Cribbs and McCauley absent

19 **2. Rinconada Pool Aquatics Contract Update**

20 Chair McDougall: We'll move on to the Rinconada Pool Aquatics Contract Update.  
21 Jazmin LeBlanc, welcome this evening. Daren, are you going to do an introduction or  
22 Jazmin's on her own? Thank you.

23 Jazmin LeBlanc: Thank you. My name is Jazmin LeBlanc, and I am presenting an  
24 update to the Palo Alto aquatics contract. As many of you know, Palo Alto has two  
25 outdoor pools at the Rinconada Aquatics Complex. One is a 14-lane performance pool,  
26 and the other is a large play pool with spray fountains, play equipment, and space for kids  
27 to play and swim lessons to occur. We currently offer the following programs at the  
28 Rinconada Pool: lap swim, open and recreational swim, swim lessons, a youth swim  
29 team, and an adult Masters swim team. Several years ago, we started to have staffing  
30 shortages in the learn-to-swim program and the open and lap swim programs. At the  
31 same time, we were getting more and more customer feedback that we should expand our  
32 open hours and offer more swim lessons. In the summers of 2015 and 2016, the City  
33 partnered with an aquatics vendor, Team Sheeper, to provide summer swim lessons.  
34 Those swim lesson contracts were very successful, so the City put out a request for

APPROVED

1 proposals to do a full suite of pool operations in, I believe, 2015. At the time, Team  
2 Sheeper won that bid. We put that into effect beginning in August 2017. Team Sheeper  
3 has overseen the pool operations for about a year and several months at this point. It's  
4 been quite a success from the staff's perspective. Some of the program enhancements  
5 that Team Sheeper has been able to implement at the pool have been to respond to those  
6 customer requests for increased swim lessons and increased swim open times for  
7 recreation and lap swim. The swim lesson program has doubled year-over-year in  
8 serving almost 900 community members. They also introduced a summer swim camp  
9 program that served 350 children this summer. They've expanded the recreational swim  
10 program to be a year-round recreational swim program. They've expanded lap swim  
11 hours pretty significantly as well. Because of the successes in this short-term aquatics  
12 management program, the City put out an RFP this summer seeking a longer-term  
13 partner. Our goals have been to identify a partner who will collaborate with the City and  
14 the community to provide high quality, accessible, and safe aquatics programming at the  
15 Rinconada Pool Complex. We put this RFP out on July 19th. We had an optional pre-  
16 proposal meeting on August 7th. All proposals were due August 21st. Through  
17 September and through now, we've been reviewing the contract proposals that came in  
18 and developing a new contract. You can see tonight we're presenting to the Parks and  
19 Rec Commission. It's our expectation that the contract will be presented to the City  
20 Council on November 26th for their approval and to have a start date of January 1st. Our  
21 evaluation criteria really reflects the goals that we had; safety of pool users and aquatics  
22 employees, City and customer costs, quality of service and customer satisfaction, and  
23 diversity of programming and accessibility. The City received one bid for this program  
24 from Team Sheeper—that's the same operator that we currently have—to provide  
25 comprehensive swim programming. The City was satisfied with the response after doing  
26 a review and found that they would offer a flexible model that can handle increased  
27 demand at multiple times throughout. They have the ability to change as needed  
28 throughout seasons, throughout the week. They have a goal to continue to expand  
29 services. Our customer feedback has been very positive in general. I apologize for  
30 everyone in the audience trying to read this. This is the proposed schedule for January.  
31 The notable changes are lap swim continuously throughout the day on as many weekdays  
32 as possible; Masters swim times at the same times of day as they're currently offered;  
33 PASA at the same times of day they're currently offered; recreational swim at the same  
34 times of day as they're currently offered. This is January, so this is probably the lowest  
35 usage time of year for aquatics. This would look very different if we were looking at  
36 July. Jumping ahead a little bit, one of the features that we've had in this current contract  
37 and that we're developing in this next contract is that the City will have oversight over the  
38 pool scheduling. Team Sheeper will propose a schedule, but City staff have to approve  
39 any changes. This was something that we heard from many pool users. They wanted to  
40 make sure that this treasured asset is still a City asset and that we're responding to our  
41 customers' needs. The initial pricing for January that they've proposed is very similar to  
42 the current pricing that's offered at the pool. It continues to have a 30-percent discount



APPROVED

1 for seniors and youth who are purchasing the monthly or quarterly passes as well as  
2 participating in drop-in programs. There's a slight increase for monthly fees for adults—I  
3 should clarify that this is resident pricing that you're looking at—from \$45 to \$48  
4 monthly for lap swim. That translates from about \$31 to about \$33 a month for senior  
5 residents. There is an introduction of an annual fee to sign up for those monthly passes.  
6 We're very cognizant that the swimming public—there are some very price-sensitive  
7 folks, and we don't want to try to increase prices unless absolutely necessary, but it's very  
8 expensive to operate a pool. This is an attempt to collect a little bit more revenue to  
9 cover those costs that keep going up. Jumping back to some of the other basic contract  
10 terms. This is a revenue-share agreement just as we have in the current contract. It has a  
11 five-year term, comprehensive programming. The City will continue to provide facility  
12 management, and we will expect to continue to have a high level of engagement and  
13 collaboration with the City and swimming community. The scope of work will be the  
14 same as what we have now, swim lessons for all ages and skill levels, summer swim  
15 camps, year-round lap swim programs—we've requested seasonal recreational swim;  
16 although, they propose to do it all year-round—an adult Masters swim team. This is a  
17 change and why many people are in the audience. They have proposed to provide the  
18 Masters swim team directly through their operations and a subcontract with PASA.  
19 That's the youth swim team. That subcontract would continue. In addition, discounted  
20 pricing for Palo Alto residents, collaboration with the City of Palo Alto for Palo Alto's  
21 summer camp access, pool parties. They're hoping to add some additional aquatics  
22 programming if possible. To summarize, there are some slight changes to the weekly  
23 programming schedule. Notably, there will be continuous lap swim availability  
24 throughout the day on weekdays, introduction of an annual administrative fee, some  
25 slight changes to customer pricing, Masters programming operational changes, and some  
26 slight changes to the revenue share terms. With that, I'm finished with my presentation.

27 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Jazmin. What I'm going to do now is move to public  
28 comment. While we're doing public comment, I hope you can listen. At the same time,  
29 if you have a look at your one slide that had a before and after, they're both the same.

30 Ms. LeBlanc: You're right. This is showing resident pricing. I apologize for that. It's  
31 not showing non-resident pricing. I can get back with that.

32 Chair McDougall: If you'd get back to us. I just thought I'd clear up that now rather than  
33 going through that 25 times as we go through. Thank you for that. I'm going to invite  
34 speakers up in the order that I have the cards. I might have shuffled them a little bit from  
35 exactly the order that they were handed in. We have 14 or 15 cards. We're going to be  
36 doing two minutes for each speaker. You'll notice that there will be a green light. After  
37 one minute, a one-minute warning will come on. There will be an orange light. After the  
38 public has spoken, then we'll go to Commission comments. I'm going to start with  
39 Lindsay Belden.



APPROVED

1 Lindsay Belden: Good evening. My name is Lindsay Belden. I've been a Masters  
2 swimmer at Rinconada for approximately 36 years. It is vital to my health and well-  
3 being, and I would be lost without it. I have made many friends as well as getting my  
4 exercise needs met along with pickleball, which I've also been here for meetings, and  
5 walking. Rinconada Masters is not broken. It does not need fixing or replacing. It  
6 serves the needs of a portion of Palo Alto citizens and helps to create community within  
7 our City. We don't need to replace the coaches. We don't need to add lap swimmers to  
8 our scheduled times and lanes. We don't need to turn it into a club whose structure we  
9 know nothing about. Rinconada Masters is a functioning program in and of itself with  
10 dedicated coaches, lifeguards, workouts, social activities, and our own yearly swim meet,  
11 which is well attended by many other Masters communities surrounding the Bay Area.  
12 To allow Tim Sheeper to restructure this program would be a big mistake and very  
13 disappointing to the many people who have supported this program for many years. He  
14 already has a number of Masters programs in the surrounding area, I am told, and  
15 controls all of the other swimming programs at Rinconada, so I don't understand his need  
16 to want to take over this program. We like our program as evidenced by the number of  
17 people who have supported it for many years. We hope that you will see fit to keep it the  
18 way it is and continue to serve the needs of the Palo Altans who frequent it. Thank you.

19 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Shahe Krakirian, and the next speaker will be Don  
20 Williams.

21 Shahe Krakirian: Hi. My name is Shahe Krakirian. I'll keep it brief. I'm a Palo Alto  
22 resident, and I've been swimming with the Rinconada Masters for about eight years. It's  
23 been a great experience and something I enjoy a lot. I would like to see the program  
24 continue. Again, just like Lindsay said, I don't see the need to have the program replaced  
25 by a different team, different structure. I like it the way it is, love it the way it is, would  
26 like to see it continue. Thanks.

27 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Terri Baxter-Smith followed by Edie Gelles.

28 Don Williams: I apologize. Did you say Don Williams would be next?

29 Chair McDougall: I'm sorry. Yes. I was not deliberately trying to ...

30 Mr. Williams: I'll try to (crosstalk).

31 Chair McDougall: As each of you speak, if you wouldn't mind saying if you're Palo Alto  
32 residents. I think that's always important for the record.

33 Mr. Williams: My name is Don Williams, a Palo Alto resident, Palo Alto High class of  
34 1984. I learned to swim in Rinconada Pool in the early 1970s, swam with the old Palo  
35 Alto Swim Club under John Williams through the mid-'70s into the '80s. I joined

APPROVED

1 Rinconada Masters in 1989 and have been a member every since. I'm representative of  
2 the strong existing community of folks who use the pool and who predated Mr. Sheeper.  
3 Rinconada Masters with a 40-year history is obviously an important part of that strong  
4 existing community of users. We have a long history, a strong team spirit, and again we  
5 are a community. What I would ask is that rather than pushing out the Rinconada  
6 Masters, Mr. Sheeper, who is a relative newcomer to the pool, work with us to try to  
7 come up with a solution that continues the program, also accommodates his needs and the  
8 City's needs. By collaborating, as I heard various people mention earlier, we can reach  
9 an outcome that's favorable for everyone. Being pushed out doesn't feel like  
10 collaboration at all to me. From our perspective, Rinconada Pool is here to serve the  
11 community. Mr. Sheeper undoubtedly worries about revenue and profits and control and  
12 issues like that. Those are all fair considerations. We understand the pool doesn't operate  
13 for free. Again, there is a community. We are a bunch of Palo Altans. Please work to  
14 preserve our program. Help us work collaboratively with Mr. Sheeper, who has not  
15 shown a strong indication, as I understand it, to do so, and preserve our program and  
16 accommodate his needs and the City's needs. Thank you.

17 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Terri Baxter-Smith followed by Edie Gelles.

18 Terri Baxter-Smith: I'm Terri Baxter-Smith, assistant swim coach of the Rinconada  
19 Masters, graduate of Palo Alto High School 1982, and I do live in Palo Alto. Last week,  
20 Rinconada Masters was totally blindsided when Tim Sheeper informed our head coach,  
21 Carol MacPherson, and a couple of our advisory board members that our subcontract  
22 with him was not going to be renewed for 2019, thus, ending Rinconada Masters' 45-year  
23 relationship with the community. Last week, Tim gave Carol three reasons as to why he  
24 is not renewing our contract. I'm going to speak right now as a former aquatic director  
25 and not a swim coach. As a former aquatic director, I can say that all of these things can  
26 be worked out, but Tim is not interested in doing so, and he told us that. At last year's  
27 Parks and Rec meeting in May 2017, a member of your Community Services Department  
28 spoke about Tim Sheeper's contract. This is part of what she said, "We would like to add  
29 into the contract language that guarantees Rinconada Masters and PASA have the same  
30 swimming pool access that they've had in the past. We want to make sure the terms work  
31 for everyone. That is very important to us to maintain what has worked for so long at the  
32 pool." Now, 16 months later, Tim has no interest in working with us, not collaborating  
33 with us and, therefore, not renewing our contract. In the past, Rinconada Masters has had  
34 a wonderful, productive, positive, and beneficial relationship with the Parks and  
35 Recreation Department, the City of Palo Alto, and the previous aquatic directors. In  
36 regards to the snack chats or outreaches, I don't know what they're formally called, but  
37 there have been a few of them. They've been in March and in October. I think they are  
38 put on by the Community Services Department. I would like to say that our Rinconada  
39 Masters swim team has never been notified of any of these snack chats or outreaches.



1 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Terri.

2 Ms. Baxter-Smith: Thank you. I can also say that our team in the last year has not felt  
3 any support from Tim Sheeper or the Community Services Department.

4 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Terri.

5 Ms. Baxter-Smith: Thank you very much for listening.

6 Chair McDougall: Is it ...

7 Edith Gelles: It's Edith Gelles.

8 Chair McDougall: Edith, okay. Thank you.

9 Ms. Gelles: Hi. I'm 81 years old. I've lived in Palo Alto for 35 years, and I have swum  
10 with Rinconada Masters for 35 years. I'm a historian, and I want to address the history of  
11 Rinconada and how our history has fit into the history of Palo Alto for 45 years. As you  
12 know, we're a swim program for adults who wish to participate in a structured swim  
13 program. We're part of a national Masters program. Some of our members compete;  
14 many do not compete but opt for a rigorous training program for health and/or recreation  
15 purposes. Our Rinconada Masters program was the first and the only Masters swim  
16 program on the Peninsula for many decades, but we've always been more than a swim  
17 team. We're a community of people of all ages and occupations. We're also a family,  
18 and we've grown the way families do. When someone has a birthday, we celebrate.  
19 When someone has a baby, we celebrate. When someone passes on, we grieve together.  
20 There are Palo Altans in our program who went to grade school, high school, and college  
21 together. They came back here. Our program has been in this City for 45 years, long  
22 enough to service generations of Palo Altans. Palo Alto has changed in 45 years. The  
23 point I want to make is with change one has to maintain roots with the past. Rinconada  
24 Masters with its 45-year-old history is part of the past and part of the tradition of Palo  
25 Alto. The City of Palo Alto has decided the public pool that has served generations of its  
26 citizens should be farmed out, and the future of Rinconada Masters is threatened with  
27 extermination. I ask you to save our Masters program as it currently exists within the  
28 changes that will take place in the overall governance of Rinconada Pool.

29 Chair McDougall: Thank you very much. David Levinson followed by Ann Prater  
30 [phonetic].

31 David Levinson: My name is David Levinson, and I've been a continuous member of the  
32 Rinconada Masters since I moved to Palo Alto more than 40 years ago. Carol  
33 MacPherson has been our dedicated coach the entire time. Under her tutelage and that of  
34 retired coach Cindy Baxter, I have been a national Masters champion eight times over the

APPROVED

1 years. Now, I am 68 years old, have retired from competition, and suffer from several  
2 age-related ailments. I rely heavily on Rinconada Masters' highly structured but low-  
3 pressure workouts to maintain my health. Once again, we swimmers find ourselves  
4 compelled to take time out from our busy lives and attend a Parks and Rec Commission  
5 meeting to speak out concerning this recurring issue of the survival of the Rinconada  
6 Masters and lap swimming programs. Once again, our message is leave our programs  
7 alone. Now, we find that Tim Sheeper, under his pseudonym of Palo Alto Swim and  
8 Sport, is making his long-planned move to gain full control of the Rinconada Masters  
9 swim program and terminate the program as we know it. Moreover, he has the  
10 unmitigated gall to demand an administrative fee for this, which is reminiscent of the  
11 days when a gangster would shoot a man's wife and then force him to pay for the bullet.  
12 The Parks and Rec Commission needs to decide whether they hire Tim Sheeper to serve  
13 the swimmers of our Palo Alto programs or whether the members of the Commission  
14 believe that we swimmers exist to serve Tim Sheeper. I call on the Parks and Rec  
15 Commission please do not abandon us swimmers and especially do not abandon us while  
16 appealing to what President Reagan called the nine most terrifying words in the English  
17 language, I'm from the government and I'm here to help.

18 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Ann Lemmens followed by Carol MacPherson.

19 Ann Prater: I'm Ann Prater. I've lived here since 1963. I am a Palo Alto resident. I'm  
20 talking to you for a slightly different reason. I have a son with special needs. He has  
21 mental health issues. I have tried for many decades—he's almost 18—to teach him how  
22 to swim. I've tried private lessons. I've tried Rinconada swim lessons. I've tried lessons  
23 at the Y. We have a lake house at Lake Almanor, and we have a sailboat. It's critical to  
24 me that he learns how to swim. In August, I enrolled him in Carol's class after trying to  
25 teach him at Rinconada again this summer. It's peers there teaching, and he couldn't be  
26 taught by a girl that he's going to high school with. I put him in Carol's class, and this is  
27 magic. He's been in there since the first of August, and he has learned four strokes. The  
28 other day, I saw him learning how to do a kick turn. She has taught him when nobody  
29 else has been able to teach him, and I've tried. I see her teaching other people how to  
30 swim as well. There's, I think, six or seven people in her swim for fitness class. I don't  
31 see this program on the schedule in the future. I think it's a life skill, and I want my son  
32 to learn how to swim. He already has a goal of being on a swim team. He's excited  
33 about the program. He tells me he's grown an inch; he wants to be taller. It's pretty  
34 amazing. I don't see anybody else being able to do this besides Carol. I also want to say  
35 I'm a lap swimmer. I've been swimming at Rinconada for decades. I'm not a part of the  
36 Masters program because I have to do my own thing. I'm swimming there while he's  
37 taking a lesson, and I'm watching her. She is pacing up and down the pool, telling these  
38 people what to do stroke by stroke. I can't believe her dedication. I honestly can't believe  
39 that we're even considering swapping her out just to make a couple more dollars.



1 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Ann.

2 Ms. Prader: You're welcome.

3 Chair McDougall: I believe it's Ann Lemmens followed by Stan Weiss.

4 Carol MacPherson: I have some letters here that I'd like to give to the Commission.  
5 They couldn't be here tonight, but they wanted to voice their opinions. This is also a  
6 booklet that shows all of our lifeguards and swimmers who are CPR qualified and my  
7 resume. I'm Carol MacPherson. I've lived in Palo Alto for over 46 years. I run the  
8 Rinconada Masters team. I've been a coach for 46 years. Cindy Baxter and myself  
9 founded this team under Tom Osborn, who had the vision of the future for our team. We  
10 started with 15 swimmers in 1973 and graduated to 100 very shortly. We were the first  
11 Masters team along with San Mateo and De Anza. If you look at my resume, you can see  
12 that we have helped the community of swimming and also put Palo Alto City on the map  
13 with all the swimming we have done worldwide. We have competed in different  
14 countries all over the world. Our team asked the City when we first started also to put  
15 heat in the dressing rooms, which there wasn't any when we first started the team. We  
16 also paid for covers with the City. We also put lane lines in. We've had a swimmer that  
17 put some knobs on the wheels to get the covers off and on because it was very hard. He  
18 put a little knob on there, and now it's much easier for the lifeguards and our team. I  
19 would like to see our team continue. I would like to see the contract continue that we've  
20 had. We would prefer and would like to work with Team Sheeper over this. Thank you.

21 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Carol. Somehow Ann knew she was next.

22 Ann Lemmens: Hi. My name is Ann Lemmens, and I'm a Palo Alto resident and  
23 homeowner. I've been lap swimming at Rinconada Pool for the last 20 years, and my  
24 children learned how to swim there as well as spending many happy hours playing in the  
25 pool. I now try to bring my granddaughter over there whenever she is visiting. That's  
26 become harder to do because of the reduced recreational swim hours that the pool  
27 employs. This summer, we went there, and we stood in a line waiting for people to exit  
28 the pool so that we could go in. We eventually gave up because it was a hot day, and we  
29 were probably going to wait an hour and a half or more to get in. I'd like to see the  
30 recreational hours improved as well. I'm part of a large group of people who lap swim  
31 multiple times a week at Rinconada Pool. I'm really hoping that you don't allow a change  
32 or reduction of hours for this valuable community and personal benefit. In addition,  
33 please be sure that the recreational swim hours are sufficient to cover all the members of  
34 our community that desire to use this public pool. Please be sure that the new five-year  
35 contract for Rinconada Pool maintains it as a community asset as it should be. Thank  
36 you.

37 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Ann. Stan Weiss followed by David Kuo.

APPROVED

1 Stan Weiss: Good evening. This is Stan Weiss. I've been swimming in this valley for  
2 over 60 years with virtually every Masters program that's been around. The Rinconada  
3 Masters program, which I've been swimming in for over ten years, is by far and away the  
4 best. What I'd really like to see is it stay the same. The one-year contract that you had  
5 with Mr. Sheeper—if you just continued that for the next five years, it would probably  
6 eliminate a lot of the problems. The way it is structured now Rinconada Masters would  
7 be eliminated, and Mr. Sheeper would take over. I don't think that's necessary. I think  
8 we can just roll over the one-year contract into the five-year contract the way it is, and  
9 everybody would be pretty happy about it. Thank you.

10 Chair McDougall: Thank you. David Kuo followed by Timothy Groves.

11 David Kuo: My name is David Kuo. I'm a resident and a homeowner of Palo Alto. I've  
12 been jogging for many years, and two years ago my knees gave out. I switched to  
13 swimming. Swimming is on my bucket list. I'm here because I'm very wary about the  
14 future of Palo Alto, especially in terms of the lap swimming that has been available to us.  
15 Two points. I noticed that the contract is a five-year contract; it's going to be a five-year  
16 contract. I'm 75 years old. If we make a mistake, that mistake is going to be with us for  
17 five years. That five years is a very long time for me; it could be the rest of my life. I'm  
18 quite concerned about that. I'm also concerned in particular about, from the lack of  
19 willingness to work with the Masters program, what we can anticipate in the future. How  
20 accommodating is Mr. Sheeper going to be? This is our pool. We pay for it with our tax  
21 dollars. We should control it's destiny. Thank you very much.

22 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Timothy Groves followed by Gwen Fisher.

23 Mr. Groves: My name is Timothy Groves. I'm currently a Palo Alto resident and a  
24 member of Rinconada Masters swim club. We support the existing contract and  
25 subcontract and abide by both of these willingly. Last week, Tim Sheeper informed us  
26 that he intends to unilaterally cancel our subcontract after the new year and reallocate the  
27 swim lanes to another "Masters" group of his own devising. This could effectively  
28 prevent the Rinconada Masters from using the Rinconada Pool facility, which we have  
29 done continuously and successfully since 1972. As one reason, he cites a lack of certified  
30 lifeguards and individuals certified in CPR and AED. This is incorrect. We have three  
31 lifeguards with valid and current Red Cross certification, and we have 14 swimmers with  
32 valid and current CPR and AED certification. We meet our contractual obligation to  
33 have qualified supervision present and on duty at the pool. He further cites that  
34 Rinconada Masters failed to communicate with Team Sheeper. This is a  
35 misrepresentation. We are perfectly willing to communicate and have done so. In fact,  
36 no one in our group has ever seen Tim Sheeper at the pool during our designated hours.  
37 We, therefore, have two requests: that the Parks and Rec Commission improve and  
38 increase its oversight of contractor Team Sheeper to prevent what threatens to become a

APPROVED

1 devastating and unfair situation for Rinconada Masters and that our existing subcontract  
2 between Masters and Team Sheeper be renewable with appropriate modification for  
3 allocation of swim lanes effective January 1st. Thank you for your attention.

4 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Gwen Fisher followed by Jack Lourdan [phonetic].

5 Gwen Fisher: Hi. My name is Gwen Fisher, and I'm a Palo Alto resident and taxpayer.  
6 Thank you all for allowing us to come speak tonight. As a longtime taxpayer and  
7 resident, I'm quite disturbed and quite angry at the handling and the management of our  
8 town pool. Prior to Tim's 18-month trial contract, our community pool was a welcoming  
9 place for all types of swimmers and all pool users. Lap swimmers, Masters swimmers,  
10 family and recreation swimmers, and PASA all enjoyed our pool and the accessibility  
11 that it offered. There was a place and space for everyone, everyone who wanted to use it.  
12 Over the past year, Tim has quickly and systematically reduced the community's access  
13 to the pool. He most recently denied a subcontract to the long-running, 40-plus years,  
14 community Masters program by Carol MacPherson, most likely in favor of bringing in  
15 his own Masters program to our town pool. For the past 18 months, Tim's privatized  
16 operations have been conducted with a complete lack of transparency and  
17 communication. The degree of secrecy and disregard for community involvement and  
18 input between Parks and Rec and Team Sheeper is so high that most of us don't even  
19 know who to go to or who to talk to regarding a maintenance or locker room issue. Over  
20 the span of less than 18 months, Tim has completely removed the community from our  
21 community pool. It is my belief and opinion that Tim has an agenda solely focused on  
22 his own pursuits and goals without regard to the Palo Alto swimming community. If he  
23 is granted the five-year contract that he has proposed, I believe he will turn our  
24 community pool into a peak-performance aquatic center dedicated to the exclusive use of  
25 high-level Masters swimmers and those training for triathlons as he has done with the  
26 Burgess Park pool. I am asking you to examine Tim's proposal from the lap swimmers'  
27 perspective or a common pool user like me, people who want to use the space of 14 lanes  
28 and the freedom to swim according to our needs, the moms who want to come and enjoy  
29 the pool during the weekday at any time with their kids. Tim has taken the community  
30 out of our community pool. You need to put it back. Thank you.

31 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Jack Lourdan will be followed by Fran Dubose  
32 [phonetic].

33 Jack Lourdan: I am Jack Lourdan. I am not a resident of Palo Alto; they wouldn't let me  
34 in. I can't help that. I don't know how long I've been swimming with Rinconada; it's  
35 probably over 30 years. All I can tell you is when I started I had hair. Secondly, I was  
36 good looking. You can decide on how long that's been. Once thing I want to bring up is  
37 I've been swimming many years with Rinconada. Currently, I'm doing about 12,000  
38 yards a week. That's not as much as other people do, but it's a lot for me. It helps with

APPROVED

1 my health. I have a hip that's not as good as it used to be. It definitely helps with that.  
2 It's a great group of people to be with. It always has been the Rinconada Masters in the  
3 pool. Secondly, this is the most important thing. One of the problems that Tim seemed  
4 to think was that we weren't communicating. It takes two. I think you gentlemen would  
5 agree that it takes two parties to communicate. If you call this communication, never any  
6 mention in the past months he was thinking of terminating our contract. He tells Carol on  
7 the 16th of October. I don't know about you, but that infuriates me. He says "you're not  
8 communicating with me." I say he did not communicate with us. One other thing. You  
9 say he's going to bring a Masters team. Is it possible that the Masters team he brings over  
10 will be his Masters team? The point being that he's not only making money running the  
11 operation for you gentlemen, but he's also making money or he will be making money off  
12 this team he's bringing to the Rinconada Pool. I just don't think that's a fair situation. I  
13 can't say that's what is going to happen, but it has crossed my mind. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Fran Dubose followed by Marilyn Bauriedel [phonetic].

16 Fran Dubose: Good evening. My name is Fran Dubose, and I am a Palo Alto resident.  
17 Unlike many of my teammates tonight, I'm a newbie in the team. I just joined the  
18 Rinconada Masters program a year ago. I really want to tell you that I found an amazing  
19 team. Actually, it was recommended by many people in Palo Alto, so this is a program  
20 that's well known. I found a very united and welcoming team. I know that some of my  
21 teammates are shy and won't talk, even if they don't have the accent I have. I would like  
22 to ask them to all stand up so that you can see how important it is for all us swimmers.  
23 We have two great coaches. It goes from very rigorous practices to progressive workout  
24 that I need because I'm really starting. I've made tremendous progress. Terri and Carol  
25 know everyone. I already made friends. This is a wonderful program, and it's really key  
26 for the community. Please save our team. I'm really hopeful that we can solve the  
27 situation. Everybody in the team is ready to work with Mr. Sheeper. I'm always  
28 optimistic, and I really trust that we can find a solution for everyone. Thank you.

29 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Fran. Marilyn. Marilyn would be the last speaker of all  
30 the speaker cards I have unless ...

31 Marilyn Bauriedel: I'm Marilyn Bauriedel, and I've lived in Palo Alto since 1969. I've  
32 been a lap swimmer at Rinconada about 46 years. I was a little while with the Masters in  
33 the beginning. I loved it, but it didn't work out with my work schedule and so forth.  
34 There's just a couple of things that I would like to add. The stakeholders were supposed  
35 to be invited to participate in knowing at least about how this contract was being  
36 developed. A lot of us went to the March 6th meeting where Stephanie Douglas said  
37 we'll meet again and we will get the stakeholders' information and we'll have the lap  
38 swimmers in and the Masters and different people in. She had our email addresses and so

APPROVED

1 forth. Neither I nor any of my co-lap swimmers that I know ever received any kind of  
2 invitation to attend any other meeting. The first thing we've known about the contract is  
3 that it's come out and here's what it's about. We had input into the first year's contract,  
4 and we were quite specific as the lap swimming community that our—I'm not speaking  
5 for others, but I'm summarizing what I hear—reasonable needs were for the full pool of  
6 the 14 lanes at least for the morning swims and at other lap swimming times when there's  
7 a large number of lap swimmers that are expected. We originally objected to the Sheeper  
8 schedule that was proposed because he wanted to have lap swimmers and Masters  
9 swimmers divide the pool at the same time, especially during these busy hours. The  
10 schedule of pool lanes is, for me and certainly for a lot of others, of utmost importance to  
11 us. We heard tonight that maybe they are going to expand lap swim hours, but those  
12 expanded hours don't work for an awful lot of the people in this program. Many of them  
13 are working people that come at 6:30 in the morning, and then they're off to work. I  
14 come later in the day. We retired people also do a lot of other things in the day, and we  
15 want to get going with our aerobic exercise. The early morning is the only time a lot of  
16 us have to devote to our swimming fitness. The fact that these other times have been  
17 added are not going to be helpful to many of us. I'm thinking there are maybe 28 or more  
18 lap swimmers in the pool many times. If it went to seven and seven between the two  
19 groups, there'd be four people in a lane. It doesn't work out terribly well. Lap swimmers  
20 are not casual swimmers. They're mostly people that are doing this for fitness, but we  
21 don't all have the same styles or we don't have the same needs. Sometimes people are  
22 recovering from injury. It's good that our community has a place that people can go to  
23 walk laps and do that kind of thing. I hope you can work this out. Thank you.

24 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Marilyn. The two last cards that were just turned in, John  
25 Beeley followed by Kuble Dimish [phonetic].

26 John Beeley: Thank you. I'm John Beeley. I used to be a resident of Palo Alto. My two  
27 kids graduated from Palo Alto High School. I live in the area, Mountain View. I've  
28 continued to stay with Rinconada Masters since I joined it in the late '90s. My point is  
29 that you need to understand that not all Masters swimmer clubs are the same. That's  
30 really what we are. We're not a team per se; we're a club. We're a collection of people  
31 that have different goals, different requirements, but we have a common coach, and we  
32 have a common sport, swimming, that we all participate in. There are some clubs that are  
33 very competitive oriented. There are a lot of people that have come to Rinconada and left  
34 to go to Stanford because they have a different outlook there. They have a different  
35 expectation. We are an everyman, person club. This is how Rinconada is constituted.  
36 Sheeper may have other goals. He may have a performance or higher requirements for  
37 either entering the Masters program or to participate in it. I prefer the low-key attitude of  
38 Rinconada Masters. I hope that you continue to allow it to participate the way it has  
39 before. Thank you.



1 Chair McDougall: Thank you, John. Kuble.

2 Kuble Dimish: Good evening. My name is Kuble Dimish. I'm a Palo Alto resident. I  
3 have been a Palo Alto resident since five years, and I have been swimming as a lap  
4 swimmer at Rinconada Pool since nine months. I just want to stress the availability of  
5 the pool lanes for the lap swimmers. If you look at the Menlo Park swimming pool  
6 schedule for the primetime hours, very few of the lanes are allocated for lap swimming.  
7 The proposed schedule halves it will be in the future. There should be enough lanes  
8 allocated for the lap swimmers. Thank you.

9 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Absolutely the last card would be Shawn Sasse.

10 Shawn Sasse: Hi. My name is Shawn Sasse. I am not a Palo Alto resident; I'm a Menlo  
11 Park resident. I am a Masters swimmer at Rinconada by my own choosing. What's been  
12 presented tonight by the Community Services Department differs significantly from what  
13 the current contract is that we have. It has negative implications for our swimming  
14 community, and we're concerned. The community Masters team of 40-plus years has  
15 been denied a renewed contract by Tim Sheeper. A new Masters team is supposed to be  
16 administered by Tim Sheeper, and it's to be the replacement. Lap swimmers have no  
17 assurance of their dedicated pool time during prime morning and evening hours. In fact,  
18 we saw only one schedule for January, and it was tentative. I'm not entirely sure what I  
19 saw, but I didn't notice that there were many lap swimming hours in the evening. It was  
20 given over to some other discipline. We've watched Menlo Park privatize their  
21 community pool to Tim Sheeper. It's no longer a community pool. It looks like Tim  
22 Sheeper's pool. On weekdays, prime morning, noon, and evening hours are given to Tim  
23 Sheeper and his youth swim team. Lap swimmers are allotted anywhere from 0 to 20  
24 percent of lane space during these prime times. Weekends, the pool closes early, and  
25 prime morning hours are again primarily for Team Sheeper. This is not what the  
26 Rinconada Pool community is about. We're a community of independent groups that  
27 have coexisted for decades. We value designated prime pool time for lap swimmers. We  
28 value a Masters team that serves a unique segment of Masters swimmers in a way that  
29 other local teams do not. We have PASA, a prized youth swimming team. We have an  
30 incredible recreational facility that is for the community for long summer weekdays and  
31 weekends.

32 Chair McDougall: Thank you very much. Mark Sloan.

33 Mark Sloan: I'm a Palo Alto resident, homeowner. I graduated from Palo Alto High  
34 School, and I did not swim in high school. I learned how to swim, and I started Masters  
35 at Rinconada. It's been really rewarding. It's an excellent program. I don't think it's fair  
36 to privatize and say you're going to bring in a different Masters program when it's been  
37 here for 45 years. It's important to make that known. Thanks.

APPROVED

1 Chair McDougall: Thank you. We've now had all of the public comments. I'd like to  
2 turn it over to the Commission to comment and ask questions. We'll just do one round  
3 that basically you can comment and question at the same time. Before we start that, I  
4 believe and I'd like to understand from the group. Carol clearly is your head coach.  
5 There are some other people here that are sub-coaches or assistant coaches. I heard  
6 several times that this is a club. Is there any other structure to the club? Is there a  
7 treasurer, a president, a social convener, or anything like that? Can somebody speak to  
8 that?

9 Ms. MacPherson: We have an advisory board. We have a president of the club who has  
10 been the president for 20 years. We have a treasurer who is here tonight. We all decide  
11 what's best for the team. I'm not the only one that decides. I go to my board, and we talk  
12 about things and decide together.

13 Chair McDougall: Thank you for that clarification. I'll start with you, Keith.

14 Commissioner Reckdahl: I guess this is for Jazmin. I'm confused here. This seems like  
15 a really bad idea. Why are we doing it?

16 Ms. LeBlanc: That's a good question since we've had so many comments. As I said—I'll  
17 put this slide back here—we actually have had quite a lot of positive comments come  
18 back about the use of the pool. There's 10,000 more lap swim and open swim visitors  
19 that we had year over year. We doubled the number of swim lessons. We had 350  
20 families participating in summer swim camps. We have heard feedback from members  
21 of PASA, lap swimmers, and recreational swim users that they've been happy with this  
22 program. Administratively, we've also been very happy to work with Team Sheeper over  
23 the last year. They've been very easy to communicate with. We're having daily check-  
24 ins, very flexible around the City's needs. Sometimes the City can be difficult to work  
25 with, and they've been willing to partner with us. They were the only respondent to our  
26 RFP, and we reviewed them looking at safety, which is absolutely essential to all of our  
27 programs, City and customer costs, quality of service and customer satisfaction, diversity  
28 of programming, and accessibility. We feel strongly that they are going to be able to  
29 deliver on all of these elements. It is our goal to have a long-term partner that we feel is  
30 going to be collaborative, willing to give and take with the City. One of the elements that  
31 made this somewhat unattractive to other potential aquatics vendors—I can't say for  
32 certain—is that we have insisted that the City can retain that oversight of the pool  
33 schedule and the pool pricing. This will not be the same as what Menlo Park offers. This  
34 will be very much the same as what the City of Palo Alto offers. The biggest drawback is  
35 that there is a change in oversight of the Masters program. The Masters programming is  
36 not going away. Everyone who is a Masters swimmer is absolutely welcome to continue  
37 to be a Masters swimmer. I know that it doesn't necessarily feel the same to every

1 participant, but there is still Masters programming at the same times and at almost exactly  
2 the same prices.

3 Commissioner Reckdahl: As a City, I don't see our incentive for getting rid of the current  
4 Masters program. It doesn't seem to be broken. Why are we trying to replace the  
5 Masters program?

6 Ms. LeBlanc: We received an RFP response, and that was from Team Sheeper. Team  
7 Sheeper has already developed a subcontract with PASA. We don't have the ability to  
8 require Team Sheeper to subcontract with any particular vendors. We really can't force  
9 something like that. The other element is we felt satisfied with the response. There were  
10 enough positives here. We did hear from Team Sheeper what their concerns were around  
11 continuing with the subcontract, but we felt comfortable moving forward with this.

12 Commissioner Reckdahl: We have no ability to require him to continue? Last year, we  
13 did that.

14 Chair McDougall: We have the ability to ask him to continue a Masters program. We  
15 don't have the ability to insist that he subcontract with this particular group. That's the  
16 issue.

17 Commissioner LaMere: When we do an RFP, do we have the ability to structure an RFP  
18 to make requirements of what we think are important? For example, could we say part of  
19 this RFP is we're going to keep certain existing groups as part of the pool? As we go  
20 forward with our community, I do foresee even more public-private partnerships with  
21 City budgets and staffing problems. That's actually what led to this public-private  
22 partnership with the pool. As we do RFPs, are there ways to figure out what are  
23 important community assets and make those part of an RFP? If so, was there anything  
24 within this RFP that talked about different community assets that were existing?

25 Ms. LeBlanc: In terms of making sure we have all the programming that we think is  
26 important, yes, we can put that in an RFP, and we did. We also invited all of our pool  
27 users, PASA, Rinconada Masters, and Team Sheeper along with any other aquatics  
28 vendors that we could reach out to respond to the RFP to make sure that any group that  
29 wants to be in the pool knows that this is the process to take to put their bid in to  
30 continue.

31 Commissioner LaMere: Was that to put a bid in to manage the entire pool or to put a bid  
32 in to carve out three hours a morning for an existing Masters group?

33 Ms. LeBlanc: We asked for total aquatics oversight. When we had discussions with  
34 different vendors, we made it clear that the response can be anything, but the ideal is total

1 aquatics oversight. Combining programs is an option that we encouraged as well, a  
2 partnership (crosstalk).

3 Commissioner LaMere: What do you mean by combining programs?

4 Ms. LeBlanc: For example, there could be two vendors that come together with one  
5 response so that one vendor provides this service and another for that service.

6 Commissioner Reckdahl: Right now, we have one RFP response. Do we have to accept  
7 that? Can we put another RFP out? Can we structure it differently to allow us to contract  
8 directly with PASA and with a Masters program so the City makes the decision instead of  
9 a private company?

10 Ms. LeBlanc: We do have the option not to proceed. As I said, staff feels strongly that  
11 this is a good choice to proceed. As was indicated, we're really focused on these  
12 elements around safety and quality of service and customer satisfaction. We're very  
13 confident that this is what Team Sheeper will be able to provide moving forward. The  
14 option would be to throw this out. We may have to suspend all aquatics programming if  
15 we don't have any oversight of the pool and try to come up with a new plan. It's not ideal  
16 to walk away from this. We would certainly do that if it seemed like this was going to  
17 cause problems because our goal is to improve aquatics programming.

18 Commissioner Reckdahl: Have you talked to Sheeper about this? What's his rationale  
19 for changing the Masters program?

20 Ms. LeBlanc: Sheeper provided several concerns around the way the Masters program  
21 oversight currently is, which he did express to the Rinconada Masters earlier this month.  
22 The one that caused the most—the issue that we are especially focused on is pool safety.  
23 Our goal is that every program at the pool is as safe as can possibly be. They had  
24 concerns that we felt were valid.

25 Commissioner Reckdahl: This is the lifeguard issue?

26 Ms. LeBlanc: The lifeguard issue being the main one.

27 Chair McDougall: I'm going to pass it to Ryan.

28 Commissioner McCauley: Could you say a little more about that? I'm sorry that I'm not  
29 up to speed on the lifeguard issue. I appreciate the concern is they may not have enough  
30 lifeguards. Is that the City's rationale?

31 Ms. LeBlanc: That's their rationale for not wanting to partner. They are liable for  
32 anything that happens at the pool. They're the contractor. Any subcontractor—if  
33 something goes wrong, Team Sheeper is liable as well as the City. They're focused on

1 safety as is the City. The City went through a complete safety review by an independent  
2 aquatics professional earlier this year to make sure that we were doing everything we  
3 could in best practices. They identified the requirement to have two lifeguards around  
4 the pool, at least one of them being on the deck—it's possible to have one in the pool as  
5 well—as something we need to do in all of our programs. We have that requirement in  
6 Team Sheeper's contract and also in the subcontracts with PASA and the Rinconada  
7 Masters. That has not always occurred during the Rinconada Masters programs. It's  
8 serious enough that we felt this was justified, for Team Sheeper to move forward with  
9 overseeing the Masters program.

10 Commissioner McCauley: It seems like a fixable problem. You could even contract with  
11 Team Sheeper to have lifeguards there. That's largely why he's there in the first place.  
12 Let me just raise a couple of practical concerns that I have. One, I don't believe, given  
13 the community feedback tonight and that's been received via writing as well, this will  
14 have a chance before the City Council. I think something has to change; otherwise, this  
15 is not going to move forward in the way that staff has proposed it. That's going to be  
16 problematic because you're going to be a month farther behind the ball. I would really  
17 hope that there'd be some solution between Team Sheeper, Rinconada Masters, and the  
18 City. I hope the City could broker that solution. I'm going to make one other comment.  
19 I have a broader concern about the lack of competitive bidding. I know that you probably  
20 share that concern. We're in a difficult position where we are entirely reliant upon Team  
21 Sheeper to keep our town pool open. That's a difficult position to be in. We need to find  
22 some way—I don't know if it goes back to the RFP process or something else—that we're  
23 not so entirely reliant upon one organization that we have little control over, frankly.  
24 Relatedly, I'm wondering whether or not a five-year contract under those circumstances is  
25 the right way to go or whether we should have a shorter-term contract, two or three years  
26 perhaps. Do you have thoughts on any of those questions?

27 Ms. LeBlanc: I do share your concerns about vendors and making sure we're getting  
28 competitive bids. This is an area where there are not a ton of vendors in general. That  
29 makes it a little bit hard. We did our best to reach out to every vendor we could think of  
30 to try to solicit more than one bid. With regard to the five-year contract, we did think a  
31 lot about that, and we've put a termination clause in for no reason. For no reason, we can  
32 terminate with 90 days. The thinking is if things are going right, it's a very time-  
33 consuming process to do a whole RFP and new contract every couple of years. It would  
34 be nice to have some continuity. It also allows the vendor to feel more like they are a  
35 part of the community, and they want to get to know all of the customers and want to  
36 make sure they're satisfying the existing pool customers more because they know they're  
37 going to be in it for a long term. I do feel like a five-year term is a good idea in this case.  
38 Was there more? I'm sorry.

APPROVED

1 Commissioner McCauley: That was essentially it. I know there are probably others that  
2 want to ask a few questions as well, so I'll pass the baton. Let me say also thank you. I  
3 know this is largely a thankless job that you have. Appreciate the fact that you are so  
4 committed to this. I know you are a Palo Alto resident, so these are all your neighbors  
5 who are speaking tonight. I know you probably bear that in a different way than perhaps  
6 others who may not be Palo Alto residents. Thank you.

7 Chair McDougall: Jeff, do you have anything else you want to add?

8 Commissioner LaMere: I want to get a little clarification on the administrative fee and  
9 the thoughts behind that. Did he do the administrative fee last year when he first took  
10 over?

11 Ms. LeBlanc: No, he had proposed it, but we requested not to do that.

12 Commissioner LaMere: That administrative fee is counted as part of total revenue?

13 Ms. LeBlanc: Yes.

14 Commissioner LaMere: There's not something that he would add to additional costs? I  
15 was just curious about why he needs an administrative fee as opposed to whether it's a  
16 dollar or two more for each service.

17 Ms. LeBlanc: Their costs continue to grow. Luckily, they have the ability to quickly  
18 change the rates that they're paying lifeguards, unlike the City, so they can maintain  
19 adequate staffing levels. Their costs are growing, but they don't have a lot of flexibility  
20 to raise monthly fees without upsetting people. This is effectively a way to try to  
21 increase ...

22 Commissioner LaMere: It's still an increase in monthly fees essentially.

23 Ms. LeBlanc: If you average it over 12 months, it is. I recognize that.

24 Chair McDougall: David.

25 Commissioner Moss: I agree 100 percent with what Ryan said about if one of the only  
26 things Team Sheeper is worried about is lifeguards, they should get some lifeguards and  
27 move on. Using the golf course as an example, OB runs the golf course. There are many  
28 clubs that have regular use of the golf course. OB's responsibility is to maintain the golf  
29 course for them to use. I don't see any reason why—this swim club is a City treasure. It  
30 has a national reputation. It has a long history. Why does it go away just because  
31 somebody's managing the pool, especially if it's a great group of people with a lot of  
32 camaraderie and they do great events together? I don't understand that. It's a layer on top  
33 of the running of the pool. If you need a couple of lifeguards, get a couple of lifeguards

1 and move on. They're not going to turn away anybody from that pool, so everybody here  
2 can join it, and they can still be their club. This RFP process really has some issues. Put  
3 up the schedule real quickly. What you're telling me is that the proposals were due  
4 August 21st. On that day, did Team Sheeper have in there about Masters swim? What is  
5 this about October 16th? Why did we wait two months from August 21st to find out this  
6 stuff? Why isn't there an RFP from—did they know that there needed to be an RFP just  
7 for Masters swim or that it had to be part of an overall structure, going back to what Ryan  
8 said? I don't understand that part of the RFP process. I don't want to negate the RFP  
9 process, but it seems fishy. When you go to the City Council, it's going to look fishy.  
10 What do we do?

11 Ms. LeBlanc: When we first recognized that the Masters program operations were likely  
12 to be different, that was not August 21st because we didn't get it released from the  
13 Purchasing Division for several days. It was in the beginning of September,  
14 September 11th, when we started to do our review of the response and tried to look  
15 through all the elements that Team Sheeper had proposed. As soon as we saw that  
16 Rinconada Masters was not mentioned as a subcontractor, we had a suspicion that there  
17 could be something we needed to understand. At the same time, it was not the City who  
18 could tell Rinconada Masters anything about their contract with Team Sheeper. The RFP  
19 does not say Rinconada Masters will not be in the pool. It just proposes the same  
20 schedule and pricing. We reached out to Carol, the head coach, to try to set up a meeting  
21 as soon as possible. The meeting was actually towards the end of September, but we  
22 asked—we didn't see a Rinconada Masters RFP response—what was going on. We  
23 urged them to reach out to Tim Sheeper, the only RFP respondent, to find out what was  
24 going on. It's my understanding that that meeting did take place on October 16th. I'm not  
25 sure why there was such a long delay from the 28th. That is our understanding.

26 Commissioner Moss: It doesn't seem like they're allowed to do that so late in the process,  
27 to say that. I'd like you to revisit that. You have a very strict process, and that doesn't  
28 seem like it's part of the strict process. It's the blindsiding that I find disturbing.

29 Ms. LeBlanc: We reached out to all of our pool users to participate in this RFP. I would  
30 really hope that every pool user would be in communication as early as possible. It's  
31 unfortunate that that didn't happen in this case. You said this is like the golf course. I  
32 think that's very apt. Team Sheeper is providing administrative oversight, but he doesn't  
33 have a group of Masters swimmers that are waiting somewhere to take over.

34 Commissioner Moss: That's exactly my point. There's no reason why the name Palo  
35 Alto Rinconada Masters swim club team has to go away. There doesn't seem to be a  
36 reason why these members can't swim in that pool. Because the City has oversight on  
37 running the pool, if they need some more lifeguards or some other safety issues, they  
38 should deal with it. I know this club has had a long history. Regulations change, and

1 they need to change with it. It doesn't mean that the club has to go away. I can't accept  
2 that. If you have stricter safety requirements, then you have to meet them. Every other  
3 sport that's played in our City has the same restrictions. That's all.

4 Vice Chair Greenfield: I'm certainly hearing lots of concerns from Rinconada Masters  
5 about their program going away. It's been certainly a valued program within the  
6 community for many years. I'm also hearing from lap swimmers issues regarding access  
7 hours. I don't think the Commission has addressed that. I want to spend some time on  
8 that as well. I'm also hearing from staff, who I have a lot of respect for as well, that even  
9 considering the longstanding history of Rinconada Masters they're recommending an  
10 option which effectively doesn't include them. I'm trying to understand how did we get  
11 here and what are we missing. I have a number of questions that will maybe shed some  
12 light. Regarding the RFP, there's been discussion about the preference for a complete  
13 package versus a partial RFP. Could you elaborate more on that? You said it is possible  
14 to respond in a partial manner. Is that acceptable?

15 Ms. LeBlanc: It is, but it's not going to be as attractive of a response when it's being  
16 evaluated.

17 Vice Chair Greenfield: Was Rinconada Masters engaged? Did you have  
18 communications with them to encourage them to make a response?

19 Ms. LeBlanc: Yes. During the RFP process, we cannot do that. Beforehand, in the  
20 spring, we met with Rinconada Masters, PASA, and Team Sheeper individually to talk  
21 about the RFP process and encourage all of them to respond.

22 Vice Chair Greenfield: If I understand it correctly, the ideal arrangement would be the  
23 primary contractor working with the subcontractors and coming together with a single  
24 unified response to the RFP. Effectively, that's what Team Sheeper has done with PASA,  
25 but Rinconada Masters was not included. I understand the City is limited to the role they  
26 can play to pursue that. Speculatively, if Rinconada Masters had made a partial RFP  
27 response, would we potentially be in a different position now?

28 Ms. LeBlanc: I haven't asked our City Attorney's Office, but it is possible.

29 Vice Chair Greenfield: I appreciate what Ryan has said. We're in a difficult position  
30 with a single response to the RFP. I appreciate that you did outreach and would have  
31 loved to get more bids. This is what we have. One option is we can accept the RFP as it  
32 is. We can reject it outright, and then the City must resume management of Rinconada  
33 Pool. That sounds problematic and a timing issue as well. Is it possible to reopen the  
34 RFP?

35 Ms. LeBlanc: I believe it's done.

1 Vice Chair Greenfield: That is not an option. What type of negotiation is possible? It  
2 sounds like we cannot specifically require Team Sheeper to have a contract with  
3 Rinconada Masters.

4 Ms. LeBlanc: Just like a construction contract that the City enters into, there are lots of  
5 subcontractors and maybe even sub-subcontractors. This contract actually doesn't say  
6 anything about whether or not a Masters program must be or could be in the future  
7 subcontracted. All this requires them to do is provide a Masters program; whether it's  
8 through their own service or a subcontract is up to them.

9 Vice Chair Greenfield: We're basically somewhere between a rock and a hard place. We  
10 have one contract option. For whatever reason, the primary contractor doesn't want to  
11 work with the subcontractor. We have an adoring community that loves this program and  
12 desperately wants to maintain it. We have a City that has to manage a pool. For reasons  
13 well stated, we're not in a position to manage it ourselves, so we're looking for third-party  
14 management. We're trying to figure out how we meet. Can you clarify more the three  
15 reasons? Can you elaborate on the three reasons that Team Sheeper expressed why they  
16 did not want to proceed with Rinconada Masters? It would be helpful for the  
17 Commission to understand that better. I'm hearing safety is one. Lifeguards are part of  
18 the safety issue. Are there other components of the safety issue?

19 Ms. LeBlanc: There have been some other issues that they've brought to our attention  
20 over the course of—I think someone said 15 months. Some of those have been  
21 addressed. The lifeguarding is the main safety issue that continues. One of the  
22 hesitations that Team Sheeper has with entering a new contract that says we will have  
23 lifeguards is this is already in the contract, and it's not being met. If there's a new  
24 contract with a mandate for lifeguards, Tim Sheeper doesn't have confidence that that  
25 element will be met. It's been in place, and he's attempted to address it for several  
26 months.

27 Vice Chair Greenfield: Can you quantify the transgressions which have occurred in the  
28 past so we can better understand the magnitude of this? On the surface, this sounds like a  
29 solvable problem, but I'm hearing maybe it's not.

30 Ms. LeBlanc: All of our programs are required to have two lifeguards at all times. My  
31 understanding is the Rinconada Masters have asked if they could certify their own  
32 participants as lifeguards in order to not pay for lifeguards. It is a relatively small  
33 program, and this puts a cost burden them on to pay for outside lifeguards. This was  
34 something the City and Team Sheeper believed was workable. Since we have pressed the  
35 request to make sure we can see all the lifeguard certifications and see the schedule that  
36 there are, in fact, volunteer lifeguards in every single hour of programming, we haven't  
37 seen that. That's been a request that the City and Team Sheeper has made. It's been  
38 outstanding since July. We've indicated just how important it is for the pool to be safe at

APPROVED

1 all times. We need to know that there are lifeguards there at all times when Rinconada  
2 Masters is swimming. This is actually for their own safety. The other elements that  
3 Team Sheeper provided were service to the community and respect for all the programs  
4 that are onsite.

5 Vice Chair Greenfield: Service and community?

6 Ms. LeBlanc: Service to the community and respect for all programs that are onsite.

7 Vice Chair Greenfield: What does service to the community mean?

8 Ms. LeBlanc: Over time, the Rinconada Masters program has dropped in size. They've  
9 been much larger in the past. It's been an issue that the City has encouraged that we get  
10 more. We really want to see this pool getting used as much as possible. When we see 10  
11 or 12 kids in a lane during PASA's practices, it makes me smile that there's so many  
12 people, so many kids in the pool at that time. That's something that we want to see with  
13 the Masters, and something Tim wants to see with the Masters program as well. That  
14 was ...

15 Vice Chair Greenfield: Essentially, this is enrollment and usage. What is the typical lane  
16 usage for Rinconada Masters, how many people per lane?

17 Ms. LeBlanc: I'm sure the Rinconada Masters would probably want to speak to that. I  
18 only know anecdotes from Team Sheeper or when I pop over occasionally to look. In the  
19 past, it's been often one person in a lane at a time, which is very nice for one person but  
20 not a lot of usage.

21 Vice Chair Greenfield: Can you go back to the schedule slide? When Rinconada  
22 Masters has the pool, it is exclusive use of the pool or shared? I thought there was some  
23 lap swimming along with the Masters.

24 Ms. LeBlanc: I actually have a few slides that I added just in case we wanted to talk  
25 about the current schedule.

26 Vice Chair Greenfield: There is exclusive use right now. I was trying to understand it.  
27 In these time periods, Rinconada Masters has exclusive responsibility for lifeguards?

28 Ms. LeBlanc: Ignore those. Those are not the current rate. I was just trying to pull  
29 things together. This is Rinconada Masters' pool schedule now. I'm sorry that it's not a  
30 grid like the others. There are shared times. The exclusive use for the Masters is in the  
31 morning, Monday, Wednesday, Friday. I think Saturday and Sunday might also be  
32 exclusive use. Tuesday and Thursday is shared.

1 Vice Chair Greenfield: Getting back to the lifeguards, the City requirements to Team  
2 Sheeper are two lifeguards must be on duty for—is this for the main pool or for both  
3 pools?

4 Ms. LeBlanc: It's for each pool. If both pools are open, four.

5 Vice Chair Greenfield: Two lifeguards per pool. The compromise with Rinconada  
6 Masters is they can have certified lifeguards who are actually swimming but not  
7 monitoring the pool. They're considered the lifeguard for the pool?

8 Ms. LeBlanc: You have to have at least one on deck. One of the two could be in the  
9 water.

10 Vice Chair Greenfield: Their requirement is one on deck. The compromise is for the  
11 second person to be someone in the pool. The issue that the City and Team Sheeper have  
12 is there are times when there's only one lifeguard and not two.

13 Ms. LeBlanc: Yes, or no lifeguards, just certified coaches.

14 Vice Chair Greenfield: Are there times when there is no on-the-deck lifeguard?

15 Ms. LeBlanc: That's my understanding.

16 Vice Chair Greenfield: How often has this happened?

17 Ms. LeBlanc: Perhaps I'm wrong. Enough that it's been brought to our attention multiple  
18 times, and we have tried to rectify this by calling meetings and sending emails to push for  
19 these schedules so that the City and Team Sheeper has assurance that there are always  
20 two lifeguards.

21 Vice Chair Greenfield: Dozens of times? I'm trying to understand the magnitude of the  
22 problem.

23 Ms. LeBlanc: So far, we have not seen a schedule that gives assurance that any of the  
24 exclusive-usage times have two lifeguards. I can't say that we have seen anything.

25 Chair McDougall: Carol, why don't you comment?

26 Ms. MacPherson: We just handed in a yellow booklet to you that has all the lifeguards  
27 that we have. We have always had at least one lifeguard on the deck, sometimes one in  
28 the water, not on the deck. The only time she is talking about is the morning, Monday,  
29 Wednesday, Friday, Saturday sometimes, and Sunday. All the other ones are covered  
30 with two lifeguards. The lap swimming does not always have two lifeguards. They have

1 one. He's a lap swimmer; he just told me that. They do not always have them either. To  
2 say that we never had any lifeguard on the deck is incorrect, very incorrect.

3 Chair McDougall: Thank you.

4 Female: I'm a lap swimmer too. I have never seen more than one lifeguard on the deck  
5 except for during the summer.

6 Chair McDougall: Thank you. I'm sorry. This is not an open forum. Everybody had the  
7 chance to ...

8 Male: (crosstalk) address that lifeguard issue. I have personal experience.

9 Chair McDougall: I think we've had an answer. I respect Carol's answer.

10 Male: I'll say it real quick. A year and a half ago, I had a cardiac arrest in the pool, and I  
11 was saved by the lifeguard on deck and the people who took care of me. Between that  
12 year and a half, I went back, and I took the lifeguard training. I've been there. Never in a  
13 year and a half (inaudible) not had at least one person on deck and one person in the pool.  
14 I know what I'm talking about. I'm alive today because Carol did a good job, and  
15 everybody did a good job.

16 Chair McDougall: Thank you.

17 Ms. LeBlanc: The City has not seen a schedule that provides that assurance that there are  
18 two lifeguards. That cardiac arrest, the lifeguard that joined in to help was a Team  
19 Sheeper lifeguard that was performing a swim lesson in the other pool. They were able  
20 to come over and help save someone's life.

21 Vice Chair Greenfield: Has there been any kind of spot-check audit or has someone gone  
22 out to the pool and checked to see if there's lifeguards? Have there been cases where  
23 there haven't been sufficient lifeguards?

24 Ms. LeBlanc: We've asked Team Sheeper to do that. It was in the safety review that we  
25 paid for earlier this year.

26 Vice Chair Greenfield: The third issue that Team Sheeper raised was respect?

27 Ms. LeBlanc: Yes. It's our understanding that there has not been an always respectful  
28 environment created between the different groups. I really don't want this to be a  
29 negative focus. We have a great opportunity to have a wonderful pool that is going to  
30 meet the needs of our different pool users. We have only one lap swimming pool in the  
31 City, and I know that is why there are so many concerned residents coming out to make  
32 sure the pool is not degraded. That is our goal, to have a community-serving pool that

APPROVED

1 meets the needs of all of our users and does so in a way that's safe, that's financially  
2 sustainable. What we're getting is the ability to greatly expand programming, expand  
3 hours at a lower cost than when we did it in-house. We have a lot of assurance that we  
4 get that moving forward in this contract. Everyone who's in the pool gets to stay in the  
5 pool.

6 Vice Chair Greenfield: Thank you for the extra insights. I wanted to touch base on the  
7 lap swimmer hours as well. What I'm hearing from the community is in the transition to  
8 Team Sheeper there was a reduction in primetime lap swim hours for the community.

9 Ms. LeBlanc: No. There was a strong concern when we initially were developing the  
10 contract with Team Sheeper to make sure we did not go into a strongly shared-usage pool  
11 schedule. Team Sheeper's program at Burgess has a lot more shared times so that there's  
12 overlap.

13 Vice Chair Greenfield: I remember those discussions coming before the Commission in  
14 the past. It sounded like the general consensus was folks prefer to have their own block  
15 where they had all the lanes and they could spread out and make do. In the January  
16 schedule that you put up, it looked like there were no exclusive mornings. Masters and  
17 lap swimming would be sharing time every morning?

18 Ms. LeBlanc: No. Right now, the Masters have exclusive use Monday, Wednesday,  
19 Friday until 8:30, I think. There's no lap swimming on Monday, Wednesday, Friday until  
20 after that. Their proposal was to continue to offer the block of lap swim from 6:00—it's  
21 starting at 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday when they have had exclusive use for lap swim,  
22 and to offer additional lap swim hours on Monday, Wednesday, Friday that don't  
23 currently exist.

24 Vice Chair Greenfield: If I'm reading this correctly, there are 14 lanes at the pool. From  
25 6:00-8:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Masters has half the pool, and lap swim  
26 has half the pool.

27 Ms. LeBlanc: Right. That's the proposal. Exclusively used by Masters during those  
28 hours.

29 Vice Chair Greenfield: Currently, it's exclusive use for Masters. This would get cut back  
30 to half the pool. Do you understand the concerns raised by the lap swimmers about lack  
31 of primetime slots? Is primetime morning and evening, before work and after work?

32 Ms. LeBlanc: This January schedule does have—I believe there were three evenings that  
33 were open until 8:00 p.m. last January. This is two. It is something that we discussed  
34 with Team Sheeper when they sent this. We would like to get back to where we were  
35 offering evening hours lap swim on at least three week nights. That is their goal as well.

1 In the morning, there's no rejection for lap swim. If you look at the rest of the schedule,  
2 it's all additions.

3 Vice Chair Greenfield: The City does maintain ultimate control of the schedule. Even  
4 with the constraints with the RFP, we can control that.

5 Chair McDougall: I'm going to try to wrap this up. Obviously, we're dealing with a very  
6 scarce and very valuable resource. This is the same as the scarce resource for pickleball,  
7 soccer. In the City, with the energy our citizens have, it ends up being a scarce resource  
8 issue in every case, including scarce resource relative to funding. Many of these  
9 problems could be solved if we had the \$60 million that we need in the parks and rec area  
10 for the various things we have. This is continuing to be a learning process. Some of the  
11 Commissioners brought up very good points relative to the RFP process and the RFP  
12 status. I am sympathetic to the fact that you reached out to everybody and reached out  
13 again. We only ended up with one. In terms of the status, we understand stopping it now  
14 or starting over again is not possible. There was also an issue of how much outreach and  
15 transparency there was. If I had to pick on something, the transparency was probably the  
16 issue. You are in a negotiation process now. I am going to be confident that, based on all  
17 of the input that we received tonight and the conversations we have here, our negotiation  
18 might be different than it might have been 24 hours ago. We'll see what we can do with  
19 that. The discussion point tonight, the agenda item, was about the pricing. I don't know  
20 that you got approval or disapproval. This was a discussion. We are not here to vote.  
21 The questions we asked constitute recommendations. I don't think there was major  
22 objection to the pricing structure that you were talking about. Bottom line, an issue that  
23 we have that's associated with the scarce and valuable resource is trust. Somehow we've  
24 broken the trust. I don't know that the Commission's in a point to do anything about that  
25 except to use that word with all capital letters and say that's what I would ask the  
26 community to focus on as well as staff. We have to find a way together. It can't be just  
27 simply staff fix it. That doesn't work. That message of trust needs to be passed on to our  
28 contractor. That's the issue that needs to be built here in some way. In terms of the  
29 contract, it's a five-year contract, but the way we would manage that contract is going to  
30 be a one-year contract renewable five times. Every year, we will have the opportunity as  
31 a Commission to ask you to give us a status report. We can then have conversations  
32 about whether that contract should be continued. In the short term, I doubt that this is  
33 going to make everybody in the audience happy. Everybody should know that this has  
34 been recorded tonight, number one. Everybody should know that there will be a  
35 transcript of this. This isn't just hearsay that will be presented to any other staff members  
36 and negotiators that might be involved in this process. It won't be hearsay that there was  
37 52 people at the meeting. Sheper will be able to see the total transcript and view this.  
38 That's important. At this point, on behalf of my fellow Commissioners, I thank  
39 everybody who came and presented and for the civility of the process. This is the kind of  
40 democracy that is important. It's the kind of civility that's important. I thank you very

1 much for attending, for spending your time. Somebody commented about spending your  
2 time at night here and it's not a lot of fun. Thank you again.

3 **3. Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Master Plan–Fiscal Year**  
4 **2018 Accomplishments and Fiscal Year 2019 Projects**

5 Chair McDougall: It's 9:00 at night. I know that you've waited this long. I'm going to  
6 preempt some conversation and ask my fellow Commission members if they would go  
7 along with me. I appreciate very much the fact that we've put this on the list. I  
8 appreciate very much the detail that somebody has gone through. I don't know whether  
9 that's you, Peter, or somebody else. It's an incredible amount of detail. I am a little  
10 confused by some of the detail, particularly when I look at anticipated FY '19 results. It's  
11 all in the past tense. I would find more interesting, having spent the time to go through a  
12 lot of it, is turning this into a very simple dashboard. I took 1A and 1A1-1A7—because  
13 it was a PDF, I had to cut and paste a bit. I put 1A1, which was periodically evaluate the  
14 use of effectiveness and evaluate a fee reduction. I said that sounds like an orange or  
15 something. It doesn't really sound like a red. We didn't do it at all. It doesn't sound like  
16 a green as in we've accomplished it. 1A2, which is develop fees for low-cost team  
17 programs, I'm not sure why I put it green since there's nothing in FY '18  
18 accomplishments. When I was done with even those seven things, I had a pretty good  
19 image of what I thought we'd accomplished. I also knew that if I had that, I could filter  
20 this into the greens, the reds, and I could make a pretty quick presentation that didn't have  
21 to go through it all. I don't know if it's reasonable or unreasonable, particularly because  
22 of the time constraint that we have and the fact that you've sat here all night and had all  
23 this fun listening about swimming, to suggest that that might be a more effective way and  
24 to invite that for the next meeting. I'll ask my fellow Commissioners if they have  
25 comments on that or if they'd like to hear the whole presentation tonight. David.

26 Commissioner Moss: The page in your report that gave us all of the things that were  
27 accomplished, that's enough. There's a ton of stuff, and the City Council is not going to  
28 go into the details. They just want to know that one page that has goal one and the five  
29 things that were done, goal two and the five things that were done. If we just said yea or  
30 nay to that list, that's what the City Council could wrap their arms around. You don't  
31 really have to go much more detailed than that.

32 Vice Chair Greenfield: I'm going to take a contrary opinion. For City Council, a high-  
33 level executive summary approach is appropriate. This is an incredible amount of  
34 detailed work, and this is very useful tracking for us as a Commission to look at and  
35 useful for staff as well. It's a method of setting your north star and looking at are we  
36 headed in the right direction. I do like the red/yellow/green idea. That would be helpful  
37 since the information is so dense.



APPROVED

1 Peter Jensen: Because this is the first time that we've done this, the charts, the goals, the  
2 programs, the policies set in this way is valuable for the Commission and staff. It can be  
3 refined. The goal for me at this meeting was to have a discussion about this thing and the  
4 best way to set it up and how to talk about it and track successes and failures. What we  
5 as staff would like to do, if the Commission agrees, is do this at least once a year so we  
6 have an understanding of what we have accomplished and all the things we want to  
7 achieve. We can discuss what time of year do we do that, at the beginning of the year  
8 when you have a retreat. Like the Master Plan, it's in the early stages. This is the first  
9 time we've talked about how we're using it and accomplishing things. If there's feedback,  
10 as Don started to give, of how we look at this thing to better understand it, mostly for us  
11 that's what we're looking at to develop this over the next few months.

12 Chair McDougall: I view this as being for you and me. If a summary of that is valuable  
13 for us to present to Council or Council's awareness at some point, that's an interesting  
14 outcome of it.

15 Commissioner Moss: This is perfect for the offsite every January or February, not May,  
16 to plot what we want to do for the next year.

17 Vice Chair Greenfield: Could you say a little bit more about how you envision staff  
18 using this document? That would be helpful for us to understand.

19 Mr. Jensen: Mainly for the process that we're going into, the capital improvement and  
20 recommending future projects. This is a valuable tool for how we're going to do that and  
21 what we are going to prioritize or present to the Finance Committee. We have our  
22 priority projects, which are key things, we want to look at and make sure we're working  
23 on. All six goals have multiple programs and projects associated with them. If we had  
24 more staff, we could probably accomplish more. With the staff we have, we have to be  
25 realistic about what we have, the budget we have. This allows us to see where we are  
26 achieving or failing and to address those issues.

27 Commissioner Reckdahl: I love it. I thought it was very good. The only thing I didn't  
28 like was on page 2. You listed the goals and all the different items that fit in that goal. It  
29 would be really nice if you also did that going forward. This is like driving in the  
30 rearview mirror. If you want to help this driving—like you said, it's very useful for staff.  
31 It'd be nice to summarize what we plan to go forward with in each of the goals. I thought  
32 it was very well done.

33 Vice Chair Greenfield: Anything else, Ryan or Jeff?

34 Commissioner LaMere: I appreciate your taking the time to put this together.

APPROVED

1 Mr. Jensen: We're at that point in the process of the Master Plan. From staff's point of  
2 view, we want to follow this thing as the roadmap it's supposed to be. This is one of the  
3 ways to do that, by making sure we are doing that so we can have this open dialog and be  
4 transparent about what we're doing. It's nice to have it now in this format even though  
5 we may simplify it or change it a little bit. You can see them all right in front of you,  
6 what they are. You don't have to search through the Master Plan. That makes it easier  
7 for us to communicate what has taken place with it.

8 Commissioner Moss: I have three things to add to those. When you say the dog park,  
9 you should say it's the first dog park in ten years. Second, the Los Trancos Trail  
10 renovation is a big deal. It's not just maintenance; it's also redesign for the next 25 years.  
11 Third, the Cubberley bleachers.

12 Mr. Jensen: There is a process that we're trying to refine because the scope of the  
13 projects and programs involve multiple departments. We did our best to circulate it to  
14 everyone so we could add as much information as possible. I'm hoping that we did our  
15 due diligence and most staff were able to add to it. There could be accomplishments that  
16 are missing.

17 Chair McDougall: I heard Keith say that he liked it. I'm sure he liked all the detail. My  
18 experience with something like this is 90 percent of the value is in the preparation of it.  
19 It causes introspection about what we really do. For this audience, we should also be  
20 interested in the detail. Our predecessors and some of the people here were involved in  
21 the details of making the Master Plan and what 1A1 was. We should care about that and  
22 not just be at the level of the six goals and what are we doing. Continually trying to go  
23 with all the details as opposed to turning it into a dashboard that could be easily filtered,  
24 then it becomes a device for celebration or for whipping.

25 Vice Chair Greenfield: I think the word's reflection.

26 Mr. Jensen: It was valuable as a staff goal to fill this out because staff had to read all of  
27 them. That refresher is a big help. Putting it together in the future, we should talk about  
28 the PRC's role. Maybe we should send this to the Commission as well to look through it  
29 and add things. It's mostly about refreshing the mind about what we have. We have a lot  
30 of stuff here. Unless you're looking at it all the time, you could lose some of it.

31 Commissioner Moss: It should also be a useful tool for seeing what we didn't do. For  
32 instance, I see a lot of things here and not many programs or new processes or teen  
33 programs or things like that. It may cause us to reflect that we should have a better mix.  
34 We're supposed to do this over 25 years, but we should have a mix of things.

35 Mr. Jensen: For this first year, staff wasn't overly focused on achieving the goals of the  
36 Master Plan. The Master Plan has come out, and a lot of the staff weren't in the

1 development of all the details. This is a good way to refresh and educate all the staff that  
2 there are specific goals we want to work on. They can see what those are. That will start  
3 to push forward the Master Plan. In the future, there will be more accomplishments  
4 because it'll focus more on specific things.

5 Vice Chair Greenfield: I agree with that. You've elucidated the role of an aspirational  
6 document.

7 Chair McDougall: I totally agree. Is it unfair to ask—it's not unfair to ask you to look  
8 into whether it could be made into a dashboard and brought back in a useful way that  
9 would be interesting to you and us, fully understanding that we weren't supposed to do  
10 everything this year. The fact that some of these things we haven't even started is okay.  
11 These could be marked green because it's still on course to be done in five years.

12 Mr. Jensen: I was excited to see that we have started to make strides on our top priority  
13 projects. Because they will go on for multiple years, we've started the steps to achieve  
14 them. That keeps us on course.

15 Chair McDougall: The ones that I picked to look at, I'm incredibly impressed. Maybe  
16 we should end this with one more thing. This was an extremely well-done Master Plan.  
17 It was useful as an example when the Comprehensive Plan was being done. This is a  
18 better document in terms of being able to do what you just did. Evaluating and  
19 discussing it properly in detail may be a really good example for how to use the  
20 Comprehensive Plan. Anybody else want to add or have I ranted enough? Thank you,  
21 Peter. Thank you for staying through the ... Thank you for going to Cubberley the other  
22 day—not Cubberley, the Girl Scouts building.

#### 23 **4. Cubberley Fields Seasonal Lighting Proposal**

24 Chair McDougall: Good evening, Mr. Howard.

25 Adam Howard: Good evening. How is everybody?

26 Chair McDougall: Our only mistake was to tell your buddy that he should be here at  
27 8:30, not 9:30.

28 Mr. Howard: I am going to get started in hopes that Natalie returns. There's a couple of  
29 pictures that might be useful for all of you to see. Adam Howard, Senior Recreation  
30 Manager for the City of Palo Alto. We are here today to get some feedback about the  
31 seasonal lighting proposal on Cubberley's turf field and recommend a path forward.  
32 When Daylight Savings Time is over, there is a high demand for athletic fields in Palo  
33 Alto. The City has three lit turf fields, two at Mayfield and one at El Camino Complex.  
34 Those three fields are booked heavily seven days a week until 10:00 p.m. with peak times

APPROVED

1 being Monday through Friday 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. During those times, everyone  
2 crunches and puts as many teams on those spaces as possible, but it's never enough. In  
3 late 2017, the City of Palo Alto was approached by the Palo Alto Soccer Club with a  
4 proposal to try out a temporary trial on the Cubberley synthetic field, where we would  
5 bring in temporary lights to see if we could run a trial Monday through Thursday sunset  
6 to 8:30. That proposal was brought to the Parks and Rec Commission January 23. With  
7 feedback from this Commission, we moved forward with a trial. The proposal brought  
8 forward six temporary light stations to cover the field. The lights were solar powered  
9 with generators as backups. The lights would be used Monday through Thursday sunset  
10 to 8:30 p.m. with a hard cut off. They actually ended practice at 8:15 so that the lights  
11 were off at 8:30. All additional activity for those times would be sent through Cubberley  
12 Community Center, so no pick-up or drop-off on Nelson. That additional time would be  
13 used for practice only, limiting the crowds that come and the noise levels. Those lights  
14 were secured and had 24/7 tech support. The lights were placed in a way that provided as  
15 little impact to the track as possible. We did run the trial. Some of the output from  
16 that—the trial ended up being about four weeks in duration. We had roughly 60-80  
17 participants a day, so it was about 4-6 teams using those time slots. We did end up using  
18 the full six light stations because with just four the middle of the field was extremely dark  
19 and unusable. The solar-powered lights provided everything; the generators never kicked  
20 on. The schedule of Monday through Thursday was stuck to with no reported incidents.  
21 There was some minor congestion on Nelson, but that issue seemed to be quickly  
22 resolved. The light stations had minimal impact on the track, but we didn't think they  
23 were the best locations for full field use. During that trial, my contact information was  
24 provided before, during, and after. We had one contact during the trial about Nelson,  
25 which we quickly resolved. We provided a survey after to see how the neighbors felt it  
26 went. We did it to the 18 residences that border the field; we gave them self-addressed,  
27 stamped envelopes so they could send it back. They could also take it online. What you  
28 will see are the responses from last year's trial. It may be very difficult to see.  
29 Ultimately, we felt it was successful. There was one person of the people that responded  
30 that felt the lights had a negative impact, and that was not so much that the light was  
31 coming into their house. If they looked out towards the field, they could see it. Not a lot  
32 we could do about that. That particular residence was directly in front of a tree that was  
33 not very healthy. That tree did not provide as much coverage as all the other trees. That  
34 tree has since done better, so that problem might be resolved. The other person that had  
35 negative feelings really talked about not having enough participants setting precedent.  
36 They didn't feel it was essential, which doesn't reflect on the trial itself. We are here  
37 today because, with Daylight Savings coming to an end, Palo Alto Soccer has approached  
38 again and would like to continue the seasonal lighting plan at Cubberley for the winter of  
39 2018-2019. This would run two different periods, November 5, which is the end of  
40 Daylight Savings, through December 14 and then January 7 through March 8. They  
41 would actually remove the lights between that period, December 15 through January 5.  
42 Because it is a longer time, we're going to focus on safety, which includes orange safety



APPROVED

1 fencing, high-density foam to any area that we feel is exposed. We think it's important to  
2 note that there were no safety concerns at the end of the last trial. We just figured the  
3 extra precaution would be wise to take. During the November through December  
4 timeframe, the field is used a little bit heavier for full games, so we thought better  
5 locations for the lights would be appropriate. There are two lights in each endzone,  
6 which is the same that we did last year. We would put the two sideline lights off the field  
7 and on the other side of the track. In the pictures, you can see one is this empty dirt area  
8 beside the bleachers. This would be out of the way, wouldn't get in the way of people  
9 watching if there was a game, and clearly wouldn't interfere with the track or the field,  
10 which we thought would be a good use of space. The other one is on the other side  
11 adjacent to where we store the goals when not in use. Staff prefers this option as it  
12 doesn't have any impact on the track or the field but provides the lighting for the middle  
13 of the field. That was the tweak that made us feel better about the extended amount of  
14 time. Really that extended amount of time is why we felt it necessary to come here  
15 today. It was a little unclear when we did it whether we were just talking January  
16 through March or from the end of Daylight Savings. Because we didn't feel we had a  
17 clear answer, we wanted to be sure that we gave the public the opportunity to respond.  
18 We have emailed the neighborhood associations and hand delivered information to the  
19 neighbors surrounding the field, inviting them to this meeting and to email me directly.  
20 I've only had one email response at this time, and it was pro soccer, please let them  
21 continue as they did last year. That's the information I have for you. We wanted your  
22 feedback. There are no speakers here to provide additional concerns. As before, if we  
23 move forward, we will have all of our information out there to make sure that any  
24 concerns can be addressed immediately. I'll open it up for questions or comments.

25 Commissioner McCauley: This is great, Adam. Thank you. If I understand correctly,  
26 based on what you just said about the new location of the lighting stations in the middle  
27 of the field, you won't have anything on the track any longer. There will be no intrusion  
28 onto the track, is that right?

29 Mr. Howard: There would be no intrusion. This location right here, although I measured  
30 it, it might stick out 6 inches. I don't think it will, but I want to—it should have very little  
31 if any effect on the track or the field.

32 Commissioner McCauley: Is there a long-term plan either for permanent lighting or to do  
33 this year after year?

34 Mr. Howard: The long-term lighting is a different conversation. If the Commission  
35 wanted to address it, we could, but that hasn't been discussed. This is going to be a  
36 seasonal lighting plan, which would only be in effect year after year during the time that  
37 Daylight Savings Time is over. However, if this field is replaced with a brand new all-  
38 weather track, that could change our feelings about putting these lights out there. If this

1 works, that's another option. We might not feel the same way about putting these on  
2 brand new turf fields or brand new all-weather tracks. Barring the changes, this would be  
3 the seasonal lighting plan moving forward.

4 Commissioner Reckdahl: When we put them down on the turf, we would put plywood  
5 over the top?

6 Mr. Howard: Yeah. They were put on the turf, and there was no damage to the turf last  
7 year.

8 Commissioner Reckdahl: If we had new turf, you'd be hesitant to do that?

9 Mr. Howard: The hesitancy is more about the track and driving out and back. They're  
10 big, and they come out on a truck and have to be towed onto the field. There's additional  
11 concerns about the wear and tear of that. I'm not saying that we would say no, but we  
12 would want to re-address the conversation based on whatever changes were made out  
13 there.

14 Commissioner Reckdahl: High schools have the all-weather track, and I assume  
15 maintenance vehicles drive on that track. It might be worth a call to Gunn or Paly to see  
16 how they handle their tracks and how careful they have to be.

17 Mr. Howard: I think that would definitely be a conversation we'd have based on  
18 whatever changes occur out there.

19 Commissioner Reckdahl: These lighting units, are they the only type or are there other  
20 competitors that might have smaller ones that would be easier to get on?

21 Mr. Howard: We did look for ones with smaller footprints, but they typically are more  
22 generator-operated rather than solar-powered. When we last checked, which was about  
23 six months ago, we didn't find any with a smaller footprint. I'm sure they're coming  
24 though.

25 Commissioner Reckdahl: Just give it time. Overall, this is a good use. We have this  
26 field; we have the demand. It's a good idea. It ends at 8:30, which is a very reasonable  
27 time. The fact that we had all these surveys, there was only one, 1 1/2 people that  
28 complained, and half of them weren't even returned suggests that they were happy with it.  
29 I say go for it.

30 Commissioner LaMere: Adam, thanks for putting this together. Obviously, we have  
31 need for field use and lighting. What are the other uses of the field?

32 Mr. Howard: Outside of soccer?

1 Commissioner LaMere: Yeah.

2 Mr. Howard: Those are the primary permitted users because they're the priority groups  
3 during this season. It does sometimes get lacrosse or ultimate frisbee. Soccer is probably  
4 99 percent of the use.

5 Commissioner LaMere: What's the process—I'm not on this committee at all. In terms  
6 of how field users are decided, this would seem to make that Cubberley field a very  
7 coveted asset for groups to use if they know it could be lit. How do we determine that  
8 Palo Alto Soccer Club has first priority use to that year-over-year and what can other  
9 groups do if they were to determine they'd be interested in this field because it can be lit  
10 at night during the winter?

11 Mr. Howard: The field would be brokered as it is for any other space. We look at  
12 residents, priority sport, and so forth. This has actually been offered to all the clubs.  
13 Because Palo Alto is footing the bill—it's basically if you're willing to pony up for some  
14 of the lighting prices, then we'll broker slots to you just like we would any other field.

15 Commissioner LaMere: I understand that. This is the only field that would—have we  
16 determined that there are other fields available for usage of lights?

17 Mr. Howard: This would be the only one that could house temporary lights because it's  
18 turf. Grass couldn't handle the additional play.

19 Commissioner LaMere: If another group came in and wanted to put in lights, they would  
20 have an opportunity to, but they would first have to have the opportunity for field use.  
21 Correct?

22 Mr. Howard: Right. They'd have to be a priority group in order to even have the  
23 opportunity first. The priority groups have had the offer to them.

24 Commissioner LaMere: Appreciate the outreach to the community. I may have asked  
25 this before. What would it take—we need to have a turf field in order to have lighting. Is  
26 that what we're determining?

27 Mr. Howard: Yeah, turf is key so it can handle the additional play. The grass really  
28 wouldn't handle the extra play that would come with lighting it.

29 Chair McDougall: David.

30 Commissioner Moss: Thank you very much. Being a near neighbor, I really appreciate  
31 your going the extra mile to get feedback from everybody and reacting to it. The only  
32 concern I still have is I want to see the number of participants increased. Going back to  
33 what Commissioner LaMere said, if Palo Alto Soccer doesn't come up with enough

APPROVED

1 people, the other teams should be allowed to use it. If we have all of this resource and  
2 only 30 or 40 kids show up, that's not good long term. It was okay for the trial, but I  
3 want to see more participants. They've got plenty of time to deal with that.

4 Mr. Howard: I appreciate that. Palo Alto Soccer's addressed that, and they feel they'll  
5 probably be closer to 100, which is actually quite a bit. Even 50 kids on a field for  
6 practice, they are very well-organized to pull that off. They are anticipating more now  
7 that they have planned for it and see it coming.

8 Chair McDougall: Jeff.

9 Vice Chair Greenfield: Thank you, Adam, for pulling this together on short notice. This  
10 was an effort on your part to act quickly, particularly after a week off. We all appreciate  
11 that. I agree that the peak demand for fields is evenings in the time when Daylight  
12 Savings is off. The weekends, the fields are open. I'm out there, and there are open slots.  
13 One other point I'd like to add. The ad hoc discussed with staff the compromised  
14 timeframe, which we're permitting this seasonal lighting. Palo Alto Soccer Club had  
15 actually asked to start the seasonal lights a week early. Staff reasonably articulated  
16 concerns that when we did the trial initially it was a trial. We don't want to open  
17 ourselves to concerns about excessive expansion of a program. The general guideline  
18 that we're working with is this program would be permitted during Pacific Standard Time  
19 when Daylight Savings Time is off. That puts a clear guardrail and bracketing of when  
20 the program would be permissible. That's a great compromise. I do know for a fact that  
21 the cars do run on the artificial track at Gunn. This weekend is homecoming, and they  
22 will be out pulling the floats around. I'm sure that's a consideration when we get into a  
23 study to spec out the project. We're not turning over new ground in this one. Palo Alto  
24 Soccer Club is going to fill up the field with probably more people than we recommend.  
25 I don't think that's a concern. Thank you very much.

26 Chair McDougall: Adam, thank you. This is an action item. An action item implies that  
27 we should have a motion. The motion should be to support the Cubberley Field Seasonal  
28 Lighting proposal. Do you need anything more than what I just said?

29 Mr. Howard: No, that will do it.

30 Chair McDougall: Is there ...

31 Vice Chair Greenfield: I do have one question before we move. In the January to March  
32 timeframe, will the lights be off the track or on the track?

33 Mr. Howard: Our ideal situation would be to leave them where this priority is. If that  
34 absolutely didn't work, we would probably go back to the 50/50, but I don't foresee that  
35 being a problem.

1 Vice Chair Greenfield: That's something we talked about. I agree it would be great to  
2 keep them off the track and particularly ...

3 Mr. Howard: This is the ideal, and Palo Alto Soccer agrees to that. Because they can be  
4 pointed, it shouldn't cause any additional problems.

5 Vice Chair Greenfield: Particularly as we're looking to redo the track and the turf field,  
6 this sets the precedent for where the lights would be located. I'm supportive of that. I'd  
7 be happy to make a motion.

8 Vice Chair Greenfield: Please.

9 **MOTION**

10 Vice Chair Greenfield: I'll move that we adopt the Cubberley Seasonal Lighting Plan as  
11 proposed.

12 Chair McDougall: Do I have a second?

13 Commissioner Reckdahl: I second it.

14 Chair McDougall: Thank you. All in favor? Any opposed? It passes unanimously.

15 **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY** with Commissioner Cribbs absent

16 Chair McDougall: Adam, thank you very much.

17 Mr. Howard: Thank you.

18 Chair McDougall: Once again, looking after our scarce and valuable resources. The  
19 final item is to go back to what should have been the first item and have the Department  
20 Report with Daren. Thank you for being here so late, Daren.

21 [The Commission returned to Item IV.]

22 **5. Other Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Updates**

23 Commissioner Reckdahl: We had our School/City Liaison Committee meeting last week.  
24 Very calm, no ranting and raving by any Commissioners. The only thing that influenced  
25 us was the Cubberley update. The School Board Members had a suggestion that we need  
26 more outreach to high schoolers to get their input on Cubberley. That was the only  
27 comment. It was pretty much the same update that we've seen from Cubberley before.  
28 Also, we had the Fry's site, that North Ventura site. I'm the liaison for that for the  
29 committee for the CAP. I'm not sure what CAP stands for. Comprehensive Area Plan.  
30 The first one was just the icebreaker to get to know everybody. Next month we will start

1 doing the real stuff. What's strange is it's all privately owned. If we want to do  
2 something with Cubberley, we do it. Here, if you want to do something, you have to  
3 convince the private owners to do it. I'm not sure exactly how well that's going to work.  
4 The area is now from El Camino to the train tracks and from Page Mill to Lambert, which  
5 runs by Boulware Park. Boulware Park is not part of it; it's right next to it. Some of the  
6 people from the neighborhood were really insistent that Boulware be thought about as we  
7 make these plans. We'll see.

8 Commissioner Moss: Any update about the solar panels and JLS?

9 Commissioner Reckdahl: They're still there. That's the update.

10 Commissioner Moss: I meant with other schools.

11 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's a good question. Did you ever get your ...

12 Chair McDougall: There are no other schools. That was their commitment.

13 Vice Chair Greenfield: There seemed to be some question about plans that may have  
14 already been approved but haven't been implemented, such as solar panels at JLS on the  
15 roofs of buildings. It would be good to get some clarification on that.

16 Commissioner Reckdahl: When we were at the City Council meeting a month and a half  
17 ago, they said there's nothing else in work. I think that was misleading. I think they  
18 meant no new ones would be approved. They're still doing some construction, but I don't  
19 think there's any more construction on open fields. They're doing some rooftop solar  
20 panels.

21 Commissioner Moss: They put a ton of them in Terman and one other place. They were  
22 over parking lots; I'm concerned about the open space.

23 Chair McDougall: Keith made a lot of friends with that. Doing it when we did it, there  
24 was some question about urgency. It made a difference, to your question of there are no  
25 more going on, if we had not acted when we did—it provided a platform for Kristen to  
26 work with the School Board representative as well. It was a great outcome and  
27 appreciated. I appreciate Keith and Jeff pushing that forward. That was well done on  
28 their part. Anything else?

## 29 VII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2018 MEETING

30 Chair McDougall: In terms of identifying topics, I would suggest that rather going  
31 through a list right now, I'll meet with Kristen and arrange a topic. Jeff is always good at  
32 identifying what we need to do. He and I and Kristen will get together and do that unless  
33 anybody has anything in particular.

1 Commissioner Moss: (inaudible)

2 Chair McDougall: I have the Bol Park and the AT&T ...

3 Commissioner Moss: Not Bol Park (inaudible).

4 Chair McDougall: Including Bol Park, we need an update on the ...

5 Commissioner Moss: (inaudible)

6 Chair McDougall: Anybody else have anything they're desperate to hear about?

7 Commissioner Reckdahl: We skipped over ad hoc.

8 [The Commission returned to Item VI.5.]

9 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

10 Meeting adjourned on motion by Commissioner Reckdahl and second by Commissioner  
11 Moss at 9:55 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

