



**MINUTES  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**February 27, 2018**

**CITY HALL**

**250 Hamilton Avenue**

**Palo Alto, California**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others Present:**

**Staff Present:** Daren Anderson, Kristen O'Kane, Natalie Khwaja

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

Chair McDougall: Are there any changes, additions, requests relative to the agenda? The agenda includes Baylands Comprehensive Plan discussion, a review of the retreat experience we just had, and other announcements, other updates. If not, we'll begin with Oral Communications from the public.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair McDougall: I have two cards. We'll go with—do I have more cards? If there are speaker cards, could you please ... Thank you. I have three cards, so we'll allot 3 minutes apiece for discussion, up to 3 minutes. The first speaker is Adnan Boosie [phonetic].

Adnan Boosie: My name is Adnan Boosie. I'm a resident of Palo Alto. I've been playing tennis. It's first generation. My son plays tennis. My grandson playing tennis. The rumors are that they're going to convert three courts that I've been playing for over 20 years to pickleball. This is not acceptable by me or by most people that play tennis there. The reason is there are other courts across the way that are occupied Saturday, Sunday by coaches that are appointed by the City or permitted by the City. If they convert these other three courts to pickleball, there will be no tennis courts to play. The people that play this



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1 pickleball come from all over the area, Milpitas, Fremont, Santa Cruz. 90 percent of them  
2 in my opinion are not resident of Palo Alto. There are more courts like Rinconada. There  
3 are more than ten courts. Here, we have limited courts, and they're limited because there  
4 are coaches that coach most of the day there. The parking is just impossible, impossible.  
5 I definitely oppose this idea of converting. People don't have to come in droves and bring  
6 their dogs and food and all that to the courts. Also, the lack of parking for all these people.

7 Chair McDougall: Thank you.

8 Mr. Boosie: Thank you.

9 Chair McDougall: We went through this the last item with the tennis people. If you insist  
10 on clapping, which is inappropriate in this chamber, then we won't continue with the  
11 presentations. The next is Jon Park.

12 Jon Park: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am a tennis player. I want to thank you  
13 for letting us play tennis at Mitchell Park. We really appreciate that. My group consists  
14 of working professionals, university students, and longtime friends. They would love to  
15 be here tonight at this meeting, but many work late hours so they can't be here. I'm  
16 representing them. Today is our tennis night, and we are at work or school during the  
17 daytime, so evening is the best time for us to play. It's time for us to play and get together,  
18 compete, and spend time together. I would say it will be a sad day when nearly half the  
19 existing courts at Mitchell Park would be permanently converted to another sport. During  
20 warmer days, sometimes we would wait up to an hour even with the seven courts. I can't  
21 imagine what it would be like with only four courts. On Tuesday evenings, two of the  
22 courts are allocated to lessons. With only four courts, only two would be available for  
23 tennis. During the times when I do wait for a court, I see other players play. Sometimes  
24 you'll see young kids playing first time with their parents or friends. Other times, I've seen  
25 some college-level players that are nearly professional. It's incredible. Sometimes I see  
26 elder ladies and gentlemen playing, and sometimes their serve is so much better than mine.  
27 Tennis remains a very popular sport. Sports fans see international competition such as  
28 Wimbledon, U.S. Open, and many others. Kids watch that on television. Those are  
29 promoting tennis, so there will be a constant influx of new tennis players as these  
30 tournaments play out thrilling points. Federer with his athleticism and smart playing is not  
31 just a top ten pro, but he is an incredible athlete. Venus Williams' come back from an  
32 autoimmune disease to become once again one of the top tennis players in the world is  
33 incredible. Bryan brothers' abilities are just incredible, out of this world. Just imagine  
34 when a young child sees these players play and they want to go out on the courts. They go  
35 out to Mitchell Park, and they see that half the courts are converted to another sport. It will  
36 be really disappointing to young kids. I along with hundreds of other tennis players that  
37 are not able to make this meeting today urge you to keep the courts open for tennis. If we



1 do that, we can actually share between the pickleball and tennis. If you convert completely  
2 to pickleball, we can't play tennis.

3 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Mr. Park.

4 Mr. Park: We really appreciate your time. Thank you very much.

5 Chair McDougall: Next speaker is Jennie Chen [phonetic].

6 Jennie Chen: Hi. I'm also a tennis player, and I'm a Palo Alto resident. When this whole  
7 thing started, we learned that the City of Palo Alto is making this consideration because  
8 they feel that those three courts over the bridge are not heavily used by the tennis players.  
9 That's totally untrue. I really challenge the Park and Rec to come by and see these courts,  
10 especially on a summer night. I sometimes have to wait for half an hour to an hour for a  
11 court. Those three courts are definitely used by the tennis players. The assumption that  
12 they're not used is false. I believe I read a mission statement somewhere in the City of Palo  
13 Alto that we want to have multiuse of our resources. If these were converted to pickleball  
14 court, that becomes single use and defeats the whole purpose of the City's mission since  
15 our resources are scarce. When the tennis community learned about this potential change,  
16 we started a petition. So far we have collected about 130 signatures against this conversion.  
17 We have, I think, two petitions going out. One is by Palo Alto Tennis Club, and one is by  
18 a small group of us that we're just collecting signatures. We have two sets of petitions  
19 going. My petition now has over 130-something signatures against this conversion. I  
20 challenge the City to come by to see the courts. They are heavily used by the tennis players,  
21 especially on summer nights. I do want to also point out in south Palo Alto only Mitchell  
22 Park has lighted tennis courts, and that's seven of them. If you take away three, there's only  
23 four lit courts left. That is totally insufficient to basically provide for the south Palo Alto  
24 tennis community. Thank you.

25 Chair McDougall: Thank you. The last speaker will be Monica Williams.

26 Monica Williams: Good evening. I'm Monica Engle Williams. I'm a big tennis fan, having  
27 played for over 60 years. I was a member for over 25 years of the Palo Alto Tennis Club  
28 and also served on its Board. I'm now a new fan of a sport that has been around for over  
29 50 years but has only recently been discovered by Californians. It's pickleball. I started  
30 playing 4 years ago with 10 guys I met at the paddle tennis courts. They found it hard to  
31 find paddle tennis partners, so they took up pickleball after paddle tennis champion Tom  
32 Foladare discovered the sport when visiting LA. This group of 10 has now grown to over  
33 400 players. Every weekday we average 40 players, except on Wednesdays there are over  
34 50. Saturdays there are over 70 players, and Sundays there are over 80 players. Three  
35 hundred sixty players each week playing on only three tennis courts. We put up 11  
36 pickleball nets and are hoping the City will find a way to provide multiple dedicated courts  
37 as many cities have done all over the nation. I want to thank all of you and the Community

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1 Services Department for listening to both tennis players and pickleball players alike and  
2 know that you will take into consideration all the facts and figures that you have gathered  
3 and hope that you can soon make a final decision regarding tennis and pickleball court  
4 access that will benefit the majority of the whole community. If there's any way we can  
5 help contribute to the cost, we're willing to start a pickleball raising campaign. Our group  
6 has over 100 Palo Alto residents who play regularly at Mitchell Park. If any of you are in  
7 any doubt and think pickleball may be a fad, please listen to this very carefully. The Indian  
8 Wells Tennis Garden near Palm Springs is the second largest tennis stadium in the world.  
9 This is where almost 20 years ago 17-year-old Serena Williams beat then 21-time tennis  
10 champion Steffi Graf. Nine years ago, Mr. Larry Ellison purchased this \$77 million sports  
11 complex in Indian Wells. An agreement has recently been signed for the Indian Wells  
12 Tennis Garden to host the national pickleball championship for the next 5 years. You've  
13 guessed it. Larry Ellison now plays pickleball. The 2018 USPA pickleball nationals will  
14 be there on November 22nd. For the past 2 years, CBS Sports has covered the national  
15 pickleball championships. There's no doubt that pickleball is here to stay. Please come on  
16 over. It's a sport for generations. We had a 6-year old playing on Sunday.

17 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Williams.

18 Ms. Williams: Thank you for your time.

19 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Thank you all for your comments and observations.

20 **IV. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

21 Chair McDougall: We'll move on to our next agenda item, which is Department Report.

22 Daren Anderson: Good evening. Daren Anderson, Open Space, Parks and Golf. I want  
23 to give you a couple of updates on various things within Open Space, Parks, and Golf. First  
24 on the golf course, we're in negotiations with a new company to manage the golf course.  
25 That's moving along well. We're close to an agreement. We're targeting a grand opening  
26 for the weekend of April 28th. On the parks front, our next park renovation is scheduled  
27 for Boulware Park. We're going to do a community meeting on March 6. Also under the  
28 parks section, we've got our bids for building the Peers Park dog park due on March 6th,  
29 the same date. By late April, we should be starting construction. Construction should be  
30 about a month or so, and the hope is by late May or early June we'll be opening that dog  
31 park. On Open Space, for a long time now we've discussed the closed trails at Foothills  
32 Park. In the last update I gave you, unfortunately there was one plant that wasn't in bloom  
33 during our previous surveys. We had to do another survey for this particular plant. That's  
34 happening this week. Once that's complete, we'll work with Planning to move on to next  
35 steps. The one challenge I foresee is there are woodrat nests adjacent to some of the trails  
36 on Costanoan. On Los Trancos Trail, the other trail that has these issues, there are no nest  
37 obstacles. We might split them depending on what I hear from Planning in terms of delays



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1 for additional environmental review due to those nests. I just want to keep you in the loop  
2 on that one. Every time I come to the Commission, I'll give you a little update. We're  
3 working on it actively.

4 Commissioner Reckdahl: Daren, would the City of Palo Alto workers be doing this or will  
5 we have to put this out for bid?

6 Mr. Anderson: This would be via a contract. The ad hoc committee working on Buckeye  
7 Creek and the 7.7 acres met with staff on February 22nd to discuss a game plan for when  
8 we open that property. Again, that topic will go to Council on April 16th. That's Buckeye  
9 Creek and the 7.7 acres recommendation that came from the Commission. The ad hoc had  
10 some good creative thinking on next steps and planning. Some of the ideas range from  
11 making sure we engage with Friends of Foothills Park to contacting our Landscape  
12 Architect, which I have done, about putting together a drawing that could show some  
13 possible uses of the 7.7 acres when it's time to engage the public again for how we might  
14 use that. Peter Jensen will help put together that conceptual drawing that shows some  
15 possible uses for the site including restoration over time. The other idea was to see if we  
16 could invite some Council Members up to see that property in advance of the April 16th  
17 meeting. We're investigating both of those options. I'll get into this more obviously in the  
18 next topic. At our last public meeting on the Baylands Conservation Plan, a member of the  
19 Public Works team came and spoke and gave a couple of updates that I wanted to pass on  
20 to you. One has to do with Byxbee Park, which is why I've got this open. This aerial view  
21 shows Byxbee Park highlighted here. You see it in the light brown color. It's a former  
22 landfill. Former landfills settle periodical and have to be brought back to grade. Right  
23 now we've got some settlement happening in several areas. Public Works is going to come  
24 in and do about 10 acres of settlement, meaning they're going to bring in soil and raise that  
25 back to the necessary grades. It's going to be happening in the next couple of weeks. They  
26 figure every year they'll have to do little segments like that for quite sometime to bring it  
27 back to compliance.

28 Commissioner Cribbs: Daren, where does the soil come from that you're getting?

29 Mr. Anderson: I don't know. They import it. They do have a screening process. When  
30 they originally capped this and capped different portions over time, they have a rigorous  
31 screening process for what's acceptable and what's not in terms of capping material. They'll  
32 apply that to whatever import they bring on this one too.

33 Commissioner Cribbs: Is it an opportunity for any revenue at all?

34 Mr. Anderson: Typically not. I don't see this being a revenue one. There might be some  
35 exchange for free grading. That often happens. Our staff doesn't have to pay for outside  
36 contractors to do that. The one thing we're looking at is an opportunity, as we're bringing  
37 these low areas back to fill, for burrowing owls. Part of the conflict with owls being there

1 is the burrowing rodents, which aren't allowed. If we're adding fill, maybe there are some  
2 ways around that. That's one element we're looking at. The other one is a real challenge  
3 with invasive weeds on that site. With bringing in this new fill, what happens most often  
4 in my experience is an invasion of different invasive weeds. Can we find a creative way  
5 to stem that invasion and hopefully encourage some natives? We've got a couple of ideas  
6 that we're willing to look at for that one too.

7 Chair McDougall: Daren, we have some questions.

8 Vice Chair Greenfield: Excuse me, Daren. Any chance the overburden at the 7.7 acres  
9 could be used for fill?

10 Mr. Anderson: I don't think so. We looked at that overburden, and it's very difficult to  
11 move, very expensive just to truck it out of there.

12 Vice Chair Greenfield: Just thought I'd ask.

13 Mr. Anderson: That's a good question. Were there any other questions on Byxbee?

14 Commissioner Cribbs: The meeting on Boulware Park on the 6th of March. At what time  
15 is it?

16 Mr. Anderson: I'll send an email out at the end of tonight and advise all of the Commission  
17 on that. I want to say 6:30.

18 Commissioner Cribbs: There is that aquatics meeting at almost the same time.

19 Mr. Anderson: Peter's advised me it's 6:30 at Ventura Community Center.

20 Chair McDougall: Daren, you have another question over here, I believe. Jeff, did you  
21 have a question? Thank you.

22 Mr. Anderson: Another Public Works activity—we just looked at Byxbee. To the lower  
23 left is the Renzel Wetlands. There's a freshwater pond at the lower left. Public Works has  
24 been trying to deal with the berm on that pond and the faults in it. It's leaking, it's breaking  
25 apart. For a long time, they've tried to fix it. Most recently, they engaged with our  
26 Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan stakeholders to see if there are opportunities  
27 to expand this freshwater wetlands into an upland invasive weed area and have more  
28 freshwater wetlands, which would benefit the treatment plant to discharge more water  
29 there. In working with the regulatory agencies, Public Works has learned that's not feasible  
30 in the near term. They've got to address these repairs more immediately than that. They  
31 were given clearance to repair it from the inside. Within the next probably 6 months, they  
32 will make repairs to the berm along there. That means draining it and getting rid of the  
33 cattails that have choked off capacity throughout that area. I should mention that area gets

1 1 million gallons of treated water a day from the treatment plant. The water flows through  
2 there, into Matadero Creek, and into the flood basin. The last update that Public Works  
3 shared with us at that meeting ...

4 Chair McDougall: Daren, in the CIP that I saw recently, the money for that was 1 or 2  
5 years out. Does that influence anything?

6 Mr. Anderson: For repairs on this?

7 Chair McDougall: Yeah.

8 Mr. Anderson: It wouldn't be. Money for the emergency repairs will be covered through  
9 small capital funds in the water treatment plant facility.

10 Chair McDougall: We can use the money for something else?

11 Mr. Anderson: They won't be touching parks money for that one. Two more. The LAMP  
12 site, let me show you that. This one's hard to see. I left it high visual because I wanted to  
13 give you context. Here's Shoreline Lake. Here's the rest of the Baylands. There's this little  
14 property here called the LAMP site, the former Los Altos Treatment Plant. The City owns  
15 this property, bought it, I believe, in '74. There's a building on there. We're having some  
16 conversations about the LAMP site for our Baylands Plan, what to do with it, what's going  
17 to become of it, can parts be incorporated into the Baylands, that kind of thing. Public  
18 Works shared that there's a building on there that they're going to have to take down.  
19 Someone suggested it may be salvageable. Unfortunately, it's not. The photos of the inside  
20 are worse than this, where it's collapsing, the wood rotting. I wanted to give a heads up to  
21 those that are familiar with that site, that that building will be taken down relatively soon.  
22 That concludes my part of the Department Report.

23 Chair McDougall: Can I ask one more question? Back to Byxbee Park and the sinking  
24 land. Is that expected to happen in six or seven more places or just in that one place? How  
25 long does it take? Should we think of creating some signage and what not so we don't have  
26 the "what the hell's going on" problem?

27 Mr. Anderson: Yes to the latter. We need some signage. The Rangers will also be floating  
28 around the park. We have a kiosk at the Byxbee Hills restroom, so we can post this  
29 information about why is this happening, what we're doing, the long terms plans.  
30 Unfortunately, it's not isolated to one spot. It will continue in several areas. It's just  
31 endemic to landfills. There are areas of Byxbee that were capped more recently. It was  
32 broken into A, B, and C areas. This whole back side was capped recently relative to some  
33 of the other parts that were capped in the late '80s or early '90s. I expect this area to settle  
34 more frequently and sooner. Right now, they're starting in this area. When I was actively  
35 working at the Baylands as a Ranger, I saw areas where the trail dropped 6-8 feet. I

1 wondered why that elevation was there. I thought it was maybe a design element. No, it  
2 had settled. The entire trail had collapsed significantly. I expect the same. I think they're  
3 going to correct it more frequently.

4 Chair McDougall: Thank you.

5 Kristen O'Kane: Good evening. Kristen O'Kane, Community Services. I have a few  
6 announcements as well. Two community events. The first is our summer camp fair, which  
7 is this Saturday, March 3rd, from 11:00 to 1:30 at Mitchell Park Community Center. This  
8 is a free event that highlights the different summer camps and programs that the  
9 Community Services Department offers. We will have staff there who can assist people in  
10 planning their children's summer camps and helping to arrange different schedules for the  
11 summer. That is a part of our summer camp draw series. We can't register individuals that  
12 day, but we can help them fill out their form. The actual forms for registration are due by  
13 March 16th for the draw. The second event that Commissioner Cribbs mentioned is a  
14 community meeting the same day unfortunately as the Boulware Park community meeting,  
15 March 6th. It's scheduled for 6:00, but Commissioner Cribbs made a good point to me  
16 earlier today that the time is a bit early for some people. We might see about moving it a  
17 little bit later. The meeting is to discuss the next step in our aquatics program. As you  
18 know, we currently have a third-party provider that is providing aquatics programming to  
19 the community. Their contract expires December 31, 2018. We're in the process of going  
20 out for bid again or we will be going out for bid shortly. We want to hear from the  
21 community now on what sorts of things we can improve, what may not be working well,  
22 what other types of aquatics programming the community would like to see at the pool.  
23 This is the first step in a process of getting community input as well as specific pool users'  
24 input prior to us finalizing any future contract for the pool.

25 Commissioner Cribbs: Kristen, how do people know about that meeting?

26 Ms. O'Kane: The meeting has been posted at the pool. It has also been sent out to our  
27 email list of pool users. We've also sent it to the specific lap swimmers who have  
28 designated themselves as a steering committee. We've reached out to the Masters and  
29 PASA, who unfortunately won't be able to attend because they'll be at an event. We've  
30 encouraged them to supply their comments to us through email in advance. There will be  
31 additional community meetings and opportunities for input and engagement as we continue  
32 the process.

33 Commissioner Moss: This is not talking about stopping working with Team Sheeper but  
34 tweaking it. Right?

35 Ms. O'Kane: It'll be a new RFP process. Their contract is done December 2018. We are  
36 going to start a new process where we could potentially have other bidders to supply  
37 aquatics programming and management to the City.

1 Commissioner Moss: Will this new contract be longer? It seems like a lot of work. I  
2 would hope these contracts would be more like 2, 3, 4, 5 years.

3 Ms. O'Kane: It's likely that it would be longer, but we have to negotiate that in the contract  
4 RFP process.

5 Vice Chair Greenfield: My understanding is the timing we did on the last contract—since  
6 we were doing something new, we wanted to build in an "out" if we needed it. I think that's  
7 a fair way of characterizing it.

8 Ms. O'Kane: Exactly. We've done this in phases. Initially it was an emergency basis. A  
9 few years ago, we didn't have enough staff to continue lessons and provide lifeguards. We  
10 contracted with Palo Alto Swim and Sport on an emergency basis. We did the contract  
11 with them to carry us through the interim. Now, we're going to do another RFP hopefully  
12 learning from the past process what works and what doesn't work in this kind of contract.

13 Commissioner Cribbs: I have a question about the summer fair for camps. Are you going  
14 to have information there for kids who want to be junior counselors and staff opportunities  
15 as well?

16 Ms. O'Kane: We have that there as well. Palo Alto Swim and Sport will be there as well  
17 to talk about different swim lessons and programs. We have aquatics camps that combine  
18 water time and land time, games. It provides a swim lesson during a multiple-hour camp.  
19 They will be providing information as well.

20 Commissioner Cribbs: How are we publicizing that event?

21 Ms. O'Kane: Natalie, could you help out on that one?

22 Natalie Khwaja: We have flyers that we've put up. I've posted the event on Nextdoor, on  
23 our social media. This is an event we do every year, so a lot of people are familiar with  
24 this and know it's coming up. All the community centers have it posted.

25 Commissioner Reckdahl: How do we decide what goes on the general email list and what  
26 doesn't? I would think a lot of these things should be broadcast to everyone who has the  
27 email list.

28 Ms. O'Kane: We have an email list through Active Net, which is the system we use to  
29 manage our classes and our rentals. Sometimes we use that, but it could include anyone  
30 who has ever registered for anything and their children and their family. It's quite a large  
31 list, but we can try to narrow it down. We can filter it maybe by people who have only  
32 registered for aquatics programs. We try not to just blast emails to people frequently,  
33 because we want people to open and look at them.

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: The tradeoff is if they get swamped, they ignore them. Also,  
2 some people aren't getting notified about meetings they might be interested in. A once-a-  
3 month summary of meetings that are going to be held in the next month would be useful.  
4 One email a month is not going to be objectionable. I would think there would be more of  
5 an upside than downside to that.

6 Ms. O'Kane: We can look at something maybe (crosstalk).

7 Commissioner Cribbs: What you're suggesting is news from Community Services that  
8 people would see every month perhaps. Do we ever buy ads any more or put calendar  
9 listings in the *Palo Alto Weekly*?

10 Ms. O'Kane: We do. We post our community events in the *Palo Alto Weekly*. We also  
11 have a lot of social media sites. We have Facebook pages. We're out on Twitter. We send  
12 out e-newsletters frequently. The word is getting out there.

13 Commissioner Reckdahl: I haven't heard anything, and I'm a Commissioner. Who gets  
14 the e-newsletters? How is that distributed?

15 Ms. O'Kane: You have to sign up for a newsletter.

16 Chair McDougall: It's an opt-in.

17 Commissioner Reckdahl: I get all the emails whenever there's a park—whenever  
18 something goes to Council, I get an email notification. What email list is that?

19 Ms. O'Kane: That's from the City Clerk's Office.

20 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's a different email list. How do people opt-in to get emails  
21 from the Parks and Rec?

22 Mr. Anderson: I can share a little bit about the stakeholder group I manage. I've got Friends  
23 groups specific to the Baylands, and they've signed up for that. When I've got Baylands-  
24 oriented stuff, I send them. I've got another group about dog parks, and I send them FYIs.  
25 I've got one for open space and parks. I'm a little more judicious about sending them out  
26 monthly. I've heard from my stakeholder groups, "Take me off. I don't want to hear from  
27 you anymore. It's too much." I've whittled it down to just before public meetings usually,  
28 that kind of thing, or some big movement on a project, but not the frequent reminders or  
29 updates. I usually save that for website or public meetings or notices in the park.

30 Chair McDougall: I would suggest that maybe we consider tabling this for now and pursue  
31 what kind of lists are available and how they're managed at some other time when staff has  
32 a chance to prepare some input for us. Would that be okay with everybody?

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: If staff could prepare what conduits we use for communicating  
2 with the public, that would be very useful.

3 Chair McDougall: The Chair will work with staff to see if we can come back with  
4 something on that subject.

5 Vice Chair Greenfield: I have a quick question regarding the camp draw. Forgive me if  
6 you've already communicated this to the Commission. Is this a different style draw, more  
7 equitable for anyone as opposed to a race to get to classes? There was some discussion a  
8 while back on that. I'm just wondering what the process is for getting into the summer  
9 camps.

10 Ms. O'Kane: The process is a lottery. You can submit your forms to any of the community  
11 centers by March 16. It's not a rush to get in; it's not a race. People aren't lined up outside  
12 the doors.

13 Vice Chair Greenfield: That's what it sounded like. Is this different this year from last  
14 year?

15 Ms. O'Kane: No, this has been the same way for quite some time.

16 Chair McDougall: Natalie, one quick question. You said there were posters; do we post  
17 those in the Library? That would seem to be a good place to put those.

18 Ms. Khwaja: We do. I didn't do it this time personally. Usually they post in the Library,  
19 at City Hall, and all the community centers. There are also a couple of notice boards,  
20 outside Rinconada for instance, that we post.

21 Chair McDougall: Next time, I'd like you to do it personally.

22 Ms. Khwaja: I'll work on that.

23 Chair McDougall: Thank you for that. Ms. O'Kane, anything else?

24 Ms. O'Kane: I am done with the Department Report.

25 Chair McDougall: If we're done with the Department, I will follow up on the  
26 communication list. That's a worthwhile question.

1 **V. BUSINESS**

2 **1. Approval of Draft Minutes from the January 23, 2018 Parks and Recreation**  
3 **Commission meeting.**

4 Approval of the draft January 23, 2018 Minutes was moved by Commissioner Cribbs and  
5 seconded by Commissioner Reckdahl. Passed unanimously

6 **2. Status of Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

7 Chair McDougall: I'd like to move on to the Baylands Comprehensive Plan. I do have one  
8 public speaker. Ms. Kleinhaus, you have 3 minutes.

9 Shani Kleinhaus: Thank you. Chair McDougall and Commissioners, my name is Shani  
10 Kleinhaus. I'm a resident of Palo Alto. I'm the environmental advocate for Santa Clara  
11 Valley Audubon Society and on the Executive Committee for the local chapter of the Sierra  
12 Club. I have comments on the Baylands Comprehensive Plan. I'm on the stakeholder  
13 group. Thank you, Daren, for inviting me. The first thing I would like to recommend is  
14 you change the name of the Plan to Baylands Preservation Plan rather than management or  
15 conservation. The City of Mountain View did that for the burrowing owl; instead of  
16 burrowing owl management plan, they called it a conservation plan. I think it has a  
17 different sound to it. The vision generally is good almost. It should really recognize human  
18 activity and the loss of habitat (inaudible). This goes to one of the things that was very  
19 obvious in the last meeting of the stakeholder group. There's definitely a lot of people that  
20 want to use the Baylands for recreation. It's such a fragile, unique, and threatened  
21 ecosystem, and we have so little of that left around the Bay. Not every place should have  
22 that same level of intrusion from people. The vision of having preservation and  
23 conservation should trickle down throughout the Plan to everything we do. So far, the  
24 suggested language of the draft I've seen had a lot of great statements about resiliency and  
25 balance. We lost those things. We really need to focus on preservation and how to protect  
26 this ecosystem from all the things that people want to do to it, which is a lot, because  
27 everybody needs space these days. Why not the Baylands if we can put more commute  
28 trails and more recreation of this and that? We need to look at that in the same way that  
29 we look at the other preserves, which is where can we allow some activity rather than let's  
30 bring activity and balance. We can't balance anymore. Populations of wildlife, migratory  
31 birds, shore birds are declining so rapidly. We have a treasure in Palo Alto, more than any  
32 other city along the South Bay, and we need to take care of it. I would like to suggest that  
33 the Plan starts with the old Master Plan for the Baylands. Instead of trying to make the  
34 general "let's balance things," really look at the issues that are threats and the issues of  
35 conflict, whether they're natural like sea level rise or human-caused because people bring  
36 dogs to places to where they shouldn't. It's not like they shouldn't be there at all, but you  
37 need to look at where people can do something rather than "let's balance everything and  
38 see how we can push everything in here." The Baylands is not for everything; it really

1 isn't. It's natural, and people love it this way. People in Palo Alto seriously care about it.  
2 I would say everybody in the last meeting spoke about that. I didn't hear any other voice  
3 in the last meeting, and there are quite a lot of people there. Please don't use hazy and gray  
4 buzzwords; really focus on nature, endangered species, other species, migratory species,  
5 and the plight of the species that have nowhere else to go. Sea level rise is coming, and  
6 there's so little left for them. That is something we can leave to Palo Alto as we get older  
7 and young people come in, that they have a chance to see something that is being lost all  
8 over the Bay Area and fast. Thank you.

9 Chair McDougall: Thank you. Mr. Anderson.

10 Mr. Anderson: Good evening. I'm here tonight to give you a brief update on the Baylands  
11 Comprehensive Conservation Plan. I'm going to call it either the Plan or the BCCP,  
12 probably the Plan. I'm going to cover the planning process, what we've accomplished so  
13 far, themes that have come out of the three community meetings, and some of the  
14 discussion at our most recent community meeting. The purpose of the Plan is to develop  
15 goals, policies, and prioritized actions to help manage the Baylands Preserve over the next  
16 15 years. The Plan is intended to provide clear direction on how to manage the Baylands  
17 using an ecosystem-based approach. The intent is to guide protection of the Preserve's  
18 habitat, wildlife, and resources; to ensure stewardship and access to nature-friendly  
19 recreational opportunities; to help the City manage the Baylands in a way that we can thrive  
20 in the face of things like sea level rise or climate change and include some specific planning  
21 around Byxbee Park and the former ITT property. That's the Renzel Wetlands. We hired  
22 AECOM in 2017 to help develop this Plan. We put together a work plan that has 11 tasks.  
23 The tasks start at the beginning with create an existing conditions report. Their biologist  
24 came out and toured with staff for several weeks, looked at everything in the park, every  
25 way that we currently manage it, where our weeds are, where our recreation is, where our  
26 trails and interpretive signage are, and used that to create this existing conditions report,  
27 which I shared with you in your attachments. The other tasks include developing goals  
28 and objectives and priorities and recommendations around challenges like climate change  
29 and sea level rise and the design plan for Byxbee. Early on in the process of doing the  
30 interim plan for Byxbee, we came up with a new trail system, benches, signage, and all  
31 that. The intent was the Baylands Comprehensive Plan would come along and finalize  
32 those things. We'd take some lessons learned and say, "Here's the plan going forward, and  
33 this will be the final plan for what Byxbee will look like." We also formed a stakeholder  
34 advisory board, which consists of about 20 people that have been pretty good about  
35 showing up to our three meetings thus far and providing input. The steps completed so far  
36 have been to create this work plan on what we're going to accomplish, that existing  
37 conditions report, this stakeholder engagement plan. The stakeholder advisory group has  
38 met three times now. We met on October 18th and December 5th of 2017 and then again  
39 on February 15 2018. We also hosted the tour of the ITT property I mentioned to walk  
40 around the Renzel Wetlands and talk about what trails should or should not be there, what

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1 should become of the building at the ITT property, what's the appropriate use. We collected  
2 a lot of feedback that will be incorporated into some recommendations that come before  
3 you for further discussion probably in another month or two, I would envision. At that first  
4 stakeholder meeting, we talked about what priorities the group wanted to see, what's  
5 important to you and what needs to be in this Plan. They ranged from recreation or, in  
6 many cases, what recreation shouldn't be allowed in the Baylands or where it should be  
7 allowed. We talked about wildlife, habitat, and resources. We talked about some of those  
8 big challenges. Sea level and climate change will come up over and over again because  
9 it's important when we're talking about planning for 15 years and beyond. Some  
10 community and organization partnerships like our partnerships with Save the Bay,  
11 Grassroots Ecology, Environmental Volunteers. What to do with that LATP site, Byxbee  
12 Park, and then the former ITT property. Just as a reminder, that's 36.5 acres that was  
13 recently made parkland. What are we going to do it? How will it connect to the rest of the  
14 Preserve, if at all? What to do with that building? At this meeting, our stakeholders  
15 suggested opening the meeting to the general public. I'm grateful to the stakeholders for  
16 suggesting that. We did so, posted it all over the Preserve. We got a few different folks  
17 that hadn't been part of the group before coming to the next two public meetings, which  
18 was helpful for diversifying our opinions. We also created the website that houses the  
19 material thus far and acts as another avenue for people to provide input. At our second  
20 community meeting on December 18, the group identified specific opportunities for  
21 Byxbee and the former ITT property. There were a myriad of different ideas, but they  
22 focused on hydrologic connections, which is especially poignant for the ITT area. A lot of  
23 people said this would be an awesome opportunity to look at how we might improve that  
24 habitat. A better tidal exchange is a big piece of that. We talked about trails, wildlife, and  
25 parking, how much is appropriate and where. We talked about the Measure E site at  
26 Byxbee, a 10-acre site that was taken out of parkland status for an anaerobic digestion  
27 system. I think that will come back online for Council to consider making it parkland in  
28 FY '22. Another big discussion topic was that historic building at the ITT site. There is  
29 like-minded thinking on a lot of things, but most folks were not in favor of keeping that  
30 building. They seemed to think the expense of restoration was far too great for the benefit.  
31 If you did keep it onsite, what would you do with parking, restrooms, and other amenities  
32 that would need to go with a facility like that? Not 100 percent agreement, but there was  
33 general consensus that the building would not be appropriate onsite. At the third and most  
34 recent public meeting on February 15, we got into the meat of the Plan, the goals and  
35 objectives. That focused around the same kind of topics. Our consultant is still compiling  
36 the notes and feedback, so I didn't include that in your package. I'll have that the next time  
37 we come back as well as condensing them into the beginnings of some chapters. There are  
38 a couple of interesting pieces of the last community discussion that I want to share with  
39 you. One was how we're going to address sea level rise. We're getting suggestions from  
40 the community on this. One interesting idea is the horizontal levee concept. I'm not sure  
41 if you've heard of this before. About a year ago, Oro Loma did an experiment to convert  
42 traditional steep levees into a flatter levee system that's supposed to mimic the natural slope



1 of the area. If you plant it with sedges and grasses and irrigate it with treated water, this is  
2 an opportunity for habitat. You can also slow down waves and resist floods and protect  
3 infrastructure. That's some of the benefits of this. Some of the members proposed Palo  
4 Alto as another site to do another study for this kind of thing. In fact, Peter Baye, one of  
5 the leading ecologists in the Bay and who led the Oro Loma project, met with Palo Alto  
6 staff and discussed some of the options. It could be something down the line and an  
7 opportunity for this body to make that recommendation.

8 Vice Chair Greenfield: Excuse me, Daren. Where is Oro Loma?

9 Mr. Anderson: It's in the North Bay. They have a treatment plant, and that's the first site  
10 they did it. I could come back with more information if you'd like. It's helpful to see a  
11 drawing because it's hard to envision what they mean. I'm sorry I don't have one with me  
12 tonight. Next time I'll bring one. There was also an interesting discussion—I'm sure the  
13 ad hoc committee, who participated in this meeting, will add to this. There was also an  
14 element to balance recreation with environmental sensitivity. Our group has a lot of  
15 environmental stakeholders. It's a little tipped that way because they're passionate about  
16 the Baylands. They care, and they want to protect it. There is a definite feeling that we  
17 should err on the side of protecting this resource. Recreation, where appropriate, should  
18 fit in, but we're not looking at an equal balance. This place is for preservation was the  
19 opinion of a good many stakeholders. I'll let the ad hoc committee chime in on that and  
20 share some of the thoughts. The other piece is the vision. We put together a sample vision.  
21 By and large, people supported it with a few recommended tweaks, and that's with the  
22 consultant now. I'll get the feedback soon, and we'll probably have a revised vision  
23 statement for you. The next steps are to send notes and a summary to stakeholders, put  
24 them on our website, incorporate feedback on goals and objectives into corresponding  
25 chapters. In March and April, we'll be putting together those elements of the Plan and keep  
26 working on those parts you saw in the staff report. Ultimately, we're looking to have the  
27 Plan completed in December 2018. We'll return to the Commission several times between  
28 now and then for your input and feedback. This was how we broke up these tables at this  
29 community meeting. We had these rotating tables with topics, so everyone got to  
30 participate in each of the sub-discussion groups. They ranged from management and  
31 organization partnerships and public art, which is a piece of this Plan too. There is already  
32 a tremendous amount of public art in the Baylands. In fact, Byxbee Park was an art park  
33 when it was built. There are a number of features there that are public art. We want to be  
34 thoughtful as we go forward on where that public art goes, making sure it's complementary  
35 to the environment, to the rest of the Baylands. That's why this is included and why I want  
36 our stakeholders to have a say on this topic as well. Of course, we talked about Byxbee,  
37 ITT, Renzel Wetlands. That concludes my presentation. I'd like to offer the ad hoc  
38 committee the opportunity to share some thoughts. Again, I thank you for your  
39 participation in those meetings.

1 Chair McDougall: Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Moss, do you have any comments,  
2 Commissioner Moss?

3 Commissioner Moss: I thought the workshops were really well run. We got many ideas.  
4 It was terrific. I notice on the Plan itself that there is really no plan. So far, it's just existing  
5 this, existing land uses, existing management. Coming out of the workshops, there are  
6 goals and objectives and plans. I'm assuming this is a work in progress and the next five  
7 chapters will be about plans. Right?

8 Mr. Anderson: That's correct.

9 Chair McDougall: I'll add a comment as part of the ad hoc. The thing I thought was really  
10 interesting and a very specific outcome goes back to page 6 of your presentation, where it  
11 talks about the general goals and a balance between recreation and habitat preservation. I  
12 think the general discussion ended up saying maybe we want to have balance of recreation  
13 versus preservation throughout the whole City including the Baylands, including the  
14 Foothills, and including all the parks. In the Baylands and the Foothills specifically, we'd  
15 like to see an imbalance, and the imbalance would be in the direction of the habitat. I use  
16 the word habitat deliberately because nature is hardly relevant when we've got the ground  
17 sinking 4 feet out there. Notwithstanding that, it is a habitat without question. That was a  
18 key outcome of the third meeting and a cumulation of the first two meetings. One of the  
19 suggestions was we shouldn't talk about recreation; we should use the word access. We  
20 want people to know they have access; we want them to access it, but we don't necessarily  
21 want it to be interpreted as full-blown recreation. Like Commissioner Moss, I applaud the  
22 staff work, the consultant work, and the participants. We have so many of these stakeholder  
23 meetings where two people show up. We had 30, 40 people in the room. That was very  
24 impressive and well done. Do any other Commissioners have questions? Mr. McCauley.

25 Commissioner McCauley: Daren, when the Baylands Comprehensive Plan comes  
26 together, is it going to include the Baylands Athletic Center or is that totally separate?

27 Mr. Anderson: It is separate. We consider it a park versus open space. It won't look at the  
28 ballfields necessarily.

29 Commissioner McCauley: On the topic of balance, let me try and provide a little bit. I  
30 appreciated your comment, Daren, that you think the stakeholder group may be of a  
31 particular persuasion. I understand there are sometimes vocal and certainly passionate  
32 folks who feel strongly about the Baylands and its current and future uses. I am a little bit  
33 concerned about the feedback to date being primarily from folks who are going to quibble  
34 over preservation versus conservation, which is frankly not a distinction I totally  
35 understand. If there were to be some quibble over that, I would be on the side of  
36 conservation because these are dynamic spaces that will change over time. I don't know  
37 that we want to lock something into exactly what it is now or to decrease or try to tamp

1 down public access to our resources. I certainly don't want to advocate for recreation that's  
2 not appropriate for this space, but it's great that we have people run in the Baylands.  
3 Making sure we have the right trail system to accommodate those people is important. I'm  
4 not sure what we can do to capture additional feedback from people who presently recreate  
5 in that space. If there are things we can do, it would be great to try and draw them into the  
6 stakeholder group.

7 Chair McDougall: Commissioner Cribbs.

8 Commissioner Cribbs: Following on that comment, I was wondering about the  
9 stakeholders too. How young are the youngest participants in the meeting? Would it be  
10 beneficial to reach out to the Youth Council or some of the youth groups or even a couple  
11 of elementary school children who are interested in conservation or sustainability to get an  
12 opinion about what kids and youth want for the future of the Baylands?

13 Mr. Anderson: That's a good suggestion. I don't think we have much youth represented  
14 on the stakeholder committee. It's a more senior group. I've been ruminating on this too.  
15 Having worked at the Baylands for a decade or so, I know there are different groups, and  
16 some of them are less engaged. Getting them to come repeatedly to meetings in the evening  
17 is unlikely for some of those groups. There are other ways. There are user groups that we  
18 issue permits to and that we communicate with. A lot of youth come out through our  
19 partnership with Save the Bay to do restoration programs. Through those conduits, I can  
20 reach out to some different voices that might be valuable to this input. I've just been  
21 thinking on that. In talking with you, that makes a lot of sense and will provide some input  
22 to these other things we should be looking at, whether it's access and importance of trails.  
23 Hopefully we can find a really good compromise where we're still protecting all the wildlife  
24 and all the habitat while still addressing some of those concerns and the important parts of  
25 their needs.

26 Commissioner Cribbs: Thank you very much.

27 Chair McDougall: Commissioner Moss.

28 Commissioner Moss: This thing about recreation, it takes many forms. When I was biking  
29 through there today, I saw two professional dog walkers with eight dogs. What Shani said  
30 about wildlife taking precedence, when we talk about recreation, it doesn't mean a free-for-  
31 all. There's going to be some pushback. Making sure we get all the stakeholder groups—  
32 one of them may be professional dog walkers. I don't know if these dogs are Palo Alto  
33 dogs or Mountain View dogs, but the bottom line is I don't think it's appropriate. You will  
34 get pushback, but we'll have to work that into the Plan even if it means some prohibitions.

35 Commissioner McCauley: David, just to clarify, were these dogs on leashes?

1 Commissioner Moss: Yes, they were on leashes.

2 Commissioner McCauley: It's the number of dogs that was troubling to you?

3 Commissioner Moss: Yeah. There were very few other people in the park. When people  
4 come to the park and there are very few people at 11:00 a.m. on a weekday, they think it's  
5 underutilized. When we talk about recreation versus preservation or conservation,  
6 underutilized has no meaning when you're talking about wildlife. They're there; that's  
7 where they live. I don't mind if it's quiet most of the time. Just because it's not used by  
8 humans every hour of the day doesn't necessarily mean it's underutilized.

9 Commissioner Cribbs: I had one more question, if I could.

10 Chair McDougall: I think we have some more here. I'll come back. Commissioner  
11 LaMere.

12 Commissioner LaMere: First of all, thank you for your work on this. I had a quick  
13 question. In looking through the Plan, one of the notes on nonrecreational uses was that  
14 there is traffic from people test driving cars. Is it a problem or is just a few cars that they  
15 notice or is it a path that's given to somebody when they go into the dealerships near there?

16 Mr. Anderson: Great question. It's a longstanding issue. For as long as I've been with the  
17 City, we've had to—probably on an annual basis, the Rangers talk to the sales crews about  
18 not bringing customers down the road for test drives, especially speeding. It's an ongoing  
19 thing. I wouldn't say it's a huge problem. Where they drive is where everyone drives, to  
20 the duck pond and the Nature Center. We don't want extra, unnecessary, nonpark visitors.

21 Commissioner LaMere: I appreciate that. The Rangers actually reach out to the car  
22 dealerships. That's great. Thank you.

23 Chair McDougall: Commissioner Reckdahl.

24 Commissioner Reckdahl: I had a question about those horizontal levees. Would we restrict  
25 what grows on there? If you had a natural shoreline with a collection of plants, would all  
26 those plants be acceptable for a levee or do we have to worry about roots degrading the  
27 levee?

28 Mr. Anderson: I don't have in-depth experience with these. There's only one that I know  
29 of in our area. I did read that Save the Bay was involved in that project and planted 70,000  
30 plants on that area. They're intentionally putting what they want to grow there. Knowing  
31 how that ecosystem works, you're going to get volunteers growing. By and large, if you're  
32 getting tidal influence, it takes care of most of your weeds with a few exceptions. Most of  
33 what would come in in addition to what you've planted would probably be okay. Ideally,  
34 you wouldn't have to remove anything.

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is the LATP site considered parkland or open space?

2 Mr. Anderson: It's City-owned, but it is not parkland at this time.

3 Commissioner Reckdahl: If we came to the conclusion that we wanted that part of the  
4 open space, that would take Council to incorporate that?

5 Mr. Anderson: There is some Council direction on the LATP already in terms of how it's  
6 zoned. I'm sorry I don't have all the information handy. The next time I come I will. Part  
7 of the recommendation from this Plan could guide what we want to see with the natural  
8 elements. There are some jurisdictional wetlands within the LATP site. Right now, it's  
9 fenced off and separated from the rest of the Baylands. Part of the recommendation could  
10 be we want to include that or when that should be included and how, and should it be  
11 restored, that kind of thing.

12 Commissioner Reckdahl: If we wanted to do soccer fields there, for example, would that  
13 be feasible?

14 Mr. Anderson: It would not be feasible on the jurisdictional wetlands without going  
15 through a tremendous amount of permitting and mitigation work. There is an upland area  
16 that's developed. Currently GreenWaste is using part of that. I also know Public Works  
17 rents certain portions.

18 Commissioner Reckdahl: If we wanted to put buildings there, for example (crosstalk)?

19 Mr. Anderson: It'd have to check on the zoning. I know that governs it. I don't have all  
20 the information with me right now.

21 Commissioner Reckdahl: That's it. Thank you.

22 Chair McDougall: Commissioner Cribbs. Vice Chair Greenfield.

23 Vice Chair Greenfield: Is there any discernible call within the community for increased  
24 recreation or access in the Baylands?

25 Mr. Anderson: There have been comments in the past, especially while I was working on  
26 the dog parks, about putting a dog park on the 120 acres of Byxbee. There have been calls  
27 for events like bike races up and down Byxbee. Staff long ago, at the direction of the then-  
28 Director, made certain calls that some things were not acceptable and to focus mainly on  
29 nature-friendly recreational activities. Events like moto-cross were not permitted, but fun  
30 runs were permitted. We get lots of requests for running and some for geocaching.

31 Vice Chair Greenfield: Are there arguably appropriate requests for increased recreation  
32 coming in? It sounds like there are limited requests. Is there a question within the

1 community in terms of do we need to increase recreation within the Baylands as opposed  
2 to focusing on conservation and preservation, which we agree is the priority for a natural  
3 environment.

4 Mr. Anderson: I'd say there is some demand for certain things like running. That's a very  
5 clear, longtime, consistent request. The City sometimes hosts running events, the  
6 Moonlight Run for example. We don't get requests for other activities as much as for  
7 running.

8 Vice Chair Greenfield: The running sounds like an appropriate area of focus for the Plan  
9 to consider. On a more philosophical level, I'm curious about the biggest challenges for  
10 the Conservation Plan moving forward. Is it the process? Is it a lack of resources, whether  
11 financial or otherwise? Is it consensus building?

12 Mr. Anderson: I think it's our recommendation on the ITT property, "our" meaning the  
13 stakeholders and this body. I know there are differing opinions amongst other City groups.  
14 Our Planning Commission is looking at it, and they have certain recommendations that are  
15 different. They have historical preservation in mind. We might be at odds on some of  
16 those things. The eventual funding of some of the recommendations for the ITT property  
17 will be difficult to manage. When we talk about increasing water flow from the Bay into  
18 that ITT property, that's no small feat. In many ways, you'd have to rework that land to get  
19 it to drain and flow properly. Some of those things are going to be challenging. This is all  
20 achievable, but to some degree getting agreement will be a challenge, but this Plan needs  
21 to achieve agreement. The process of debating and discussing the Plan is valuable.

22 Vice Chair Greenfield: Thank you. I applaud all your efforts on this process. The  
23 summary of the current status was excellent. I generally support the emphasis on  
24 conservation and preservation while maintaining access. That seems to be the general  
25 prevailing opinion. Keep up the good work, and thank you.

26 Chair McDougall: Do you have any other comments? If there are no other comments, I  
27 would like to reiterate thanking Mr. Anderson for an incredible amount of work on this.  
28 Your whole team is doing a great job. The whole approach is worthy of the City and the  
29 Baylands itself. Thank you.

30 **3. Review Outcomes from 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission Retreat**

31 Chair McDougall: The next item is review of the retreat and a discussion of that. Ms.  
32 O'Kane. You might notice I am making an effort to be a little more formal than we might  
33 have been. We don't particularly have an audience at the moment, but at times we do have  
34 an audience. We're better to be on the high ground than not. If any of the Commissioners  
35 want to send me a note or tell me to stop or take a different approach, I'm willing to listen  
36 to it. I would like to try and add some deference to our approach.



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1 Ms. O'Kane: Kristen O'Kane, Community Services. I'm going to rely on you, Chair and  
2 the other Commissioners who were at the retreat, to correct anything that I may not have  
3 captured properly. I wanted to provide an update on the outcomes from our retreat, which  
4 was last Friday. I thought it was very productive. We accomplished a lot. It was great  
5 having Council Member Scharff there to weigh in on some of our priorities and some of  
6 our discussion points on what he thought Council might support and not support. That was  
7 very helpful. The first slide I have is a recap of the priorities that were discussed and agreed  
8 upon. The first was recreation. While this is quite broad, there were some specifics  
9 mentioned including aquatics, lighting, turf fields, seniors, youth, dogs, and inclusion. The  
10 next was field, court, and facility usage policy. The third was Foothills Park, specifically  
11 7.7 acres and Buckeye Creek. The fourth is parks usage, development, and access. The  
12 fifth was the Baylands. I grouped those together to focus specifically on the 10 1/2 acres,  
13 the Baylands Conservation Plan, and the golf course. The sixth one was maintenance. This  
14 was discussed specifically to focus on maintaining what we have and ensuring we maintain  
15 what we have efficiently and sustainably. Did you want to add anything, Chair, to these  
16 priorities or did you want to have a discussion before I move on?

17 Chair McDougall: Is everybody with happy these as discussed? Any changes? I'd like to  
18 take this chance to thank Natalie for paying attention to us all day and feeding us and  
19 helping us with the whole thing. Thank you for that. Are there any comments on our  
20 priorities? Commissioner Moss.

21 Commissioner Moss: Did fundraising or funding come up especially with Council  
22 Member Scharff?

23 Chair McDougall: I would say Council Member Scharff was very generous with his  
24 support and direction and insight into the funding issue. He clarified that any funding  
25 approach would be specific to parks and recreation. It wouldn't be part of a larger effort  
26 that would include fundraising for other activities. It would be specific. He clarified that  
27 Cubberley would not be part of that conversation because it added too much complication  
28 to it. I forget the other one. We're going to talk specifically about the other approach we  
29 took, which was to list the topics.

30 Ms. O'Kane: That's correct. We did talk about fundraising. I know Commissioner Cribbs  
31 was hoping we'd have more time to talk about some fundraising efforts. Our discussion  
32 focused mostly on a potential ballot measure in the future and the current efforts of the City  
33 to do some initial polling on that effort. We didn't get into a great amount of detail about  
34 other fundraising.

35 Chair McDougall: I think the real interest was to identify what the net requirement might  
36 be after we figure out what some of the incremental funding opportunities and sources  
37 might be. That'll circle back around.



1 Ms. O'Kane: We also had a separate list called "other." There are other areas of focus that  
2 the Commission will pay more attention to this coming year and have involvement. The  
3 first was inclusion. The discussion was about cultural inclusion and making things  
4 accessible and inclusive for different cultures in Palo Alto. The second was the Ventura  
5 Coordinated Area Plan, which is often referred to as the Fry's site. The next was Cubberley.  
6 We're about to kick off the Cubberley master planning effort. That's something the  
7 Commission will want to pay attention to. We grouped a gymnasium in this category  
8 because the discussion focused on Cubberley as the logical location for a new gymnasium.  
9 The next was the Stanford General Use Permit as it relates to parkland and recreation needs  
10 in Palo Alto. Pocket parks and pop-up parks were also discussed. I've included a photo of  
11 of a pop-up park that was on University Avenue a couple of years ago. Any discussion on  
12 these other areas of focus?

13 Chair McDougall: Any questions?

14 Commissioner McCauley: I do have my pet project, my pet issue, which is consideration  
15 of access at Foothills Park.

16 Chair McDougall: We did discuss that. We should make sure we cover that somewhere  
17 in this list. That's a worthy discussion.

18 Ms. O'Kane: We also talked about a potential ballot measure and the initial stage that the  
19 City will be going through, which is polling the community to see what might be viable for  
20 a ballot measure. We started the conversation by talking about what staff identified as  
21 priorities with respect to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Some other projects were  
22 discussed, a second phase of the Junior Museum and Zoo, an animal shelter. I didn't  
23 include those on this list because they're not directly in the Parks Master Plan. The  
24 Commission built on staff's list for a final list, which I have provided to the City Manager's  
25 Office and the Public Works Department who are leading this effort to do the polling.

26 Commissioner Cribbs: I didn't think we were going to poll on Foothill Park. I thought that  
27 was going to go in the other areas of focus to be discussed. Maybe I just didn't understand  
28 it.

29 Ms. O'Kane: I questioned that as well. I have the photo of the whiteboard, and it was on  
30 there. It may have been one we decided to take off and didn't remove it.

31 Vice Chair Greenfield: I think the consideration of Foothills Park was more general rather  
32 than specific to the Buckeye Creek restoration plan.

33 Commissioner Reckdahl: I think it was trail improvements, and we were just talking  
34 general improvements, would the public be interested in us putting money into Foothills  
35 Park, whether it be trails or facilities or whatever.

1 Vice Chair Greenfield: On the fourth bullet, it might be helpful to rename that additional  
2 parkland acquisition fund. It will be more obvious what it is then.

3 Chair McDougall: It might be worthwhile, for purposes of communicating with other  
4 internal organizations, if we had polling priorities and then Parks Master Plan and listed all  
5 the ones you have here and then something that said "outside the Master Plan" and added  
6 the Junior Museum and the dog thing back in. I'm a little concerned there are other parties  
7 interested in those things. We're going to end up having that conversation anyway, so we  
8 may as well talk about it now. Does that make sense?

9 Ms. O'Kane: It does make sense. These were just prepared for the purpose of this meeting  
10 today. Those other projects are already being provided by others. Moving on to our ad  
11 hoc assignments. I have them here. I think I accurately represented what we discussed.  
12 Now would be the time to make any changes if anyone has had second thoughts or if  
13 something wasn't properly recorded.

14 Vice Chair Greenfield: On the park and facilities policy, perhaps you could change that  
15 too park and facility use policy.

16 Chair McDougall: Does anybody else have any questions or comments?

17 Commissioner Moss: You can add me to the park dedication policy.

18 Chair McDougall: Are there any other comments or questions?

19 Commissioner McCauley: I have one very minor comment. Anne, do you think park  
20 facilities would be more descriptive than park amenities? Perhaps it doesn't matter one  
21 way or the other.

22 Commissioner Cribbs: It could be.

23 Vice Chair Greenfield: I would suggest keeping amenities so it isn't confused with the park  
24 and facility use policy committee.

25 Commissioner McCauley: In part, what was driving my thought is one of the items we put  
26 under the charge of this committee was to consider maintenance issues, which I think is  
27 primarily a facilities issue rather than amenities. Again, I don't feel strongly one way or  
28 the other. I thought it might be more descriptive.

29 Chair McDougall: Could we consider calling it parking amenities and maintenance to  
30 embrace them both?

31 Commissioner Reckdahl: What about development and maintenance of park facilities or  
32 park amenities?

1 Chair McDougall: We did make that a slightly bigger, more interesting challenge. I would  
2 ask Commissioner Moss if he would be interested in joining that one as well.

3 Commissioner Moss: Which one?

4 Chair McDougall: What do we call it now? The park amenities one, the final one. That's  
5 the whole issue of dog parks, bathrooms, ongoing maintenance. If you're not interested,  
6 that's fine too.

7 Commissioner Moss: I'm not interested.

8 Chair McDougall: If that ad hoc wants to meet and say they've renamed themselves, that  
9 would probably be okay.

10 Ms. O'Kane: What's important is to think about the original intent of the ad hoc, which  
11 was including dog parks and restrooms when we're designing new park features. We could  
12 add maintenance to it, but maybe that's another ad hoc.

13 Commissioner McCauley: Anne and I will certainly tell you if we think it should be  
14 another ad hoc and too much for us to work through with Daren.

15 Chair McDougall: Would it be appropriate to suggest the ad hocs meet with staff at their  
16 first opportunity and come back with a short definition of the committee's goal?

17 Ms. O'Kane: Are you suggesting holding meetings up front or when the committee begins  
18 work?

19 Chair McDougall: I'm suggesting whenever the first meeting is. I'm not suggesting  
20 separate meetings to discuss goals. It would be appropriate if we came back with some  
21 agreement as to what we're going to do in those ad hocs for the year.

22 Ms. O'Kane: That's would be really helpful to set clear expectations upfront and the goal.

23 Chair McDougall: Do we want to talk briefly about the liaison?

24 Ms. O'Kane: These are the liaison assignments. The maintenance piece doesn't have a  
25 liaison.

26 Commissioner Moss: I was the liaison to the Friends of Parks. Does that change?

27 Chair McDougall: I suggested that change in that they are sufficiently important that we  
28 might want to set a precedent of the Chairman being the liaison to the Friends. I would  
29 like to take the same approach as last year with both of us going to the meetings. Telling  
30 them that the Chairman is the representative would be more powerful.

1 Commissioner Moss: The only liaison assignment that's not assigned is maintenance to  
2 amenities. What's that?

3 Commissioner McCauley: In our conversation on Friday, we determined it was probably  
4 best for the ad hoc committee to take that in the first instance. Something that Anne and I  
5 will be doing in one of our future meetings with Daren is look at Daren's comprehensive  
6 list or plan on the maintenance front and provide feedback. I think that one's covered.

7 Commissioner Cribbs: About the maintenance, it really is an opportunity for the staff to  
8 say, "We don't have enough money to fund this particular project or to take care of it the  
9 way it needs to be taken of." Daren had a good example about the \$15,000 a year you had,  
10 but you needed more so something didn't get maintained. This an opportunity for us to  
11 play a part in helping get more money when appropriate. It actually turned out to be a  
12 really cool thing that came out of the retreat. That was something we could really help  
13 with.

14 Commissioner Moss: Does that mean you need a liaison for that or not?

15 Chair McDougall: As Commissioner McCauley said, that was moved into park amenities,  
16 which is why we were saying park amenities and maintenance there. This was one of the  
17 things Council Member Scharff helped us with. This is a way for the Commission to see  
18 if we can stand behind or in front of Mr. Anderson to get money for what's necessary.

19 Commissioner Moss: Do you still need someone for park amenities? I was on the funding,  
20 but I guess I'm not on the funding anymore.

21 Commissioner LaMere: David, do you have any interest in the Palo Alto Recreation  
22 Foundation liaison? I can drop off that; I have two others besides that.

23 Commissioner Moss: I guess I'd rather do funding than park amenities. If it's already  
24 taken, I'll do park amenities. If you want to make a switch ...

25 Commissioner LaMere: I wouldn't necessarily switch. I would drop off Palo Alto  
26 Recreation Foundation if you wanted to do that.

27 Chair McDougall: The other thing we might consider is—it came to light that there is a  
28 Friends of the Foothills. We don't know if it exists or if we have any relationship with it.  
29 Maybe Commissioner Moss would like to explore the Friends of the Foothills and report  
30 whether it's interesting or useful. Would that be interesting?

31 Commissioner Moss: I've always thought the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space because  
32 of connectivity to other parks—I'm very interested in that. That would be more appealing  
33 for me.

1 Chair McDougall: I would defer to Staff relative to connecting with Midpeninsula Open  
2 Space.

3 Mr. Anderson: We have a good relationship, mutual aid agreements. We have a staff  
4 member, a Ranger, that also works for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space. We've got a  
5 great connection there already. I don't know that we need one. If you wanted, there might  
6 be opportunities including attending their board meetings to learn what they have going  
7 on.

8 Chair McDougall: For one of the Commissioners to be informed on that would be positive.  
9 I would support that. We have that one. What did you think about the Foothills Friends?  
10 Would you like to at least explore that for us?

11 Commissioner Moss: Yes, that would be fine.

12 Chair McDougall: I'd like to echo the comment that that was a constructive session on  
13 Friday and thank staff again for their participation and support.

14 **4. Other Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison Updates**

15 Chair McDougall: We should be able to move on to Other Ad Hoc Committee and Liaison  
16 Updates. These would obviously be older ones if they've changed. Are there any other  
17 comments or updates?

18 Commissioner LaMere: I had a question. We mentioned looking at a date for Palo Alto  
19 Recreation Foundation and Friends of the Parks to come in and speak about what they were  
20 going to do. Is there any update or thought on what date we may want to do that so I can  
21 reach out to the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation.

22 Chair McDougall: We'll simply add that to the tentative agenda items. That's going to  
23 depend on other topics. I think we should do that sooner rather than later.

24 Ms. O'Kane: The Chair and I can work on the agendas for the next couple of months and  
25 see where we might have space to fit that in and let you know.

26 Commissioner Reckdahl: Is there any news on the ad hoc for funding? Council Member  
27 Scharff mentioned that we have to get something to them by their June meeting. That's  
28 like 3 months away.

29 Ms. O'Kane: I provided the list of your priorities to the City Manager's Office. I've let  
30 them know that Council Member Scharff recommended a joint meeting.

31 Commissioner Cribbs: Would we hear from the Manager's Office about when that meeting  
32 is? That is a pretty important meeting.

1 Ms. O'Kane: You would hear from me. I'll follow up with the City Manager's Office this  
2 week and find out if that's (crosstalk).

3 Chair McDougall: It's the Council Finance Committee that Council Member Scharff was  
4 talking about a mutual meeting where we would be invited. That would be valuable to get  
5 insight into their thinking. Any other comments?

6 Commissioner Moss: Do you need any more of our help at the staff level to do the funding  
7 options, like grant writing and going to Friends of Palo Alto Parks or others?

8 Ms. O'Kane: Possibly as we move forward. As of today, we don't have something that  
9 we've decided to do, such as pursue grant funding for this or pursue donations for that. We  
10 should be paying more attention to public-private partnerships, donations, grants, things  
11 like that. As something comes up, we would engage the Commission.

12 Chair McDougall: I've shared that analysis that I showed you with staff so we could look  
13 at which of the topics we should raise money for and which of the topics might be totally  
14 funded. If we meet with the ad hoc to go through that with staff, then we can maybe come  
15 back with a better analysis of here's the whole list, here's how we could go after our liaisons  
16 or whatever. It's important to remember that we're liaisons, not salesmen or closers. We  
17 had a good conversation on that at the meeting. Is that fair?

18 Ms. O'Kane: It is. We always welcome you promoting and selling our services and  
19 program to the community. I would agree that the closing part is probably more of a staff  
20 role.

21 Chair McDougall: I was trying to differentiate marketing from selling. We should be  
22 marketing like crazy but not necessarily out doing deals. Ambassadors is perfect. Thank  
23 you.

24 Ms. O'Kane: I like ambassadors.

25 Commissioner Cribbs: It's a little bit fuzzy for me because we did hear about the  
26 opportunity for a bond issue and the timing of that. They think that's going to be great to  
27 get all that confirmed. There are other possibilities that we've been tossing around in the  
28 ad hoc and on the Commission. One would be opportunities for the City to reach out to or  
29 make the opportunity for various wealthy individuals who would like to help fund  
30 something important in Palo Alto. This is not in order of importance. This is the kinds of  
31 buckets you could identify. The other are the grants that are available and take a longer  
32 time to write. We should probably think—Daren, you said you might have some money  
33 for a grant writer. There are the smaller things that could be funded. We talked about the  
34 future dog park. A list doesn't have to be perfect; it can be a work in progress. Certainly  
35 look to staff for whatever your thoughts are on the direction. I understand we're not going

1 to be out there selling this, but there have been a lot of good ideas. It's probably time to  
2 put them down on a piece of paper and decide whether we're going to move forward with  
3 them or not and what other good models we have, like Stanford, to see how they do their  
4 fundraising and endowment.

5 Chair McDougall: I'd suggest the ad hoc do that, and then we work with staff relative to  
6 bringing that back here so that everybody can see it. Is there anything else that we need to  
7 cover? If not, I would entertain an adjournment.

8 Commissioner Cribbs: Could I say one more thing please? In the interest of everybody's  
9 time, I'm having a lot of trouble trying to figure out when we can have meeting. I can have  
10 one between this and this and this. I know that's just life in the big city. It would be great  
11 if each of the Commissioners could set aside a time on the calendar for whatever ad hoc  
12 meeting would come up. Is it possible to set aside an 8:30 a.m. slot or a 5:00 p.m. slot for  
13 a particular ad hoc? If something came up that needed to be addressed, we could add that.  
14 Trying to set up a meeting with six or seven emails seems like a big waste of time and, for  
15 me, frustration. I apologize for bringing it up right now, but it would be great if we could  
16 think about how that might work with consideration for the staff.

17 Vice Chair Greenfield: You're suggesting a standing meeting date for specific ad hocs on  
18 the calendar.

19 Commissioner Cribbs: Like that, yeah.

20 Vice Chair Greenfield: Maybe the staff liaison to each of the ad hocs could suggest a date  
21 if appropriate for the ad hoc based on their schedule.

22 Commissioner Cribbs: It might not work, but I'd like to try it.

23 Vice Chair Greenfield: It sounds like something for each ad hoc to discuss the next time  
24 they meet. I would like to discuss the agenda for next month before we adjourn.

25 Chair McDougall: Let me go back. It's been pointed out that we do need to identify the  
26 staff person for each of these ad hocs. Is that not right?

27 Ms. O'Kane: That's correct. We'll provide that.

28 Chair McDougall: The ad hoc can work with that staff person. Some of these might work  
29 with having a regular meeting. Others are just totally irregular and can be worked out  
30 independently.

31 **VI. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

32 Chair McDougall: Comments and Announcements. Commissioner Moss.

1 Commissioner Moss: I wanted to make a comment when the tennis players were talking.  
2 I feel that by not saying anything, it hardens the two sides. Month after month, they come  
3 to us with emotional and impassioned pleas. We really have to come up with a  
4 compromise. I rattled off six things that could be used for a compromise. I would like that  
5 to be a high priority for the next meeting. It's bad PR for us when you get 15 people out  
6 here, and we don't say a thing. Can we get that on the agenda for next—can we get them  
7 together outside of this meeting and come up with a compromise? I'll send the six ideas,  
8 but we need to address it just like we did with the dog parks and just like we did with the  
9 Rinconada pool.

10 Chair McDougall: We do have an ad hoc on that. Adam's done an extremely good job of  
11 having various outreach meetings. There's an outreach meeting planned to involve both  
12 parties. I would suggest that we leave that with the ad hoc. I felt it was inappropriate to  
13 start a conversation on a topic that wasn't agendized. I didn't think we should engage. It  
14 was appropriate to listen, thank them, be aware, but not engage in this particular meeting.

15 Commissioner Moss: I agree, but what you just said should have been said to them, and it  
16 wasn't. Knowing there is an ad hoc meeting and they are meeting with representatives  
17 would allay the concerns of the public. I'm surprised that they're still coming to us if  
18 something is being worked on behind the scenes.

19 Chair McDougall: I don't think it's behind the scenes because the same people have shown  
20 up at all the ad hoc committee meetings.

21 Commissioner Moss: Then why are they still here?

22 Chair McDougall: I can offer an opinion on that, but I don't—they came to the last meeting.  
23 I don't know if anybody else wants to comment on this. They know that we're listening,  
24 both in the ad hoc and here. Are there any other comments?

## 25 VII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MARCH 27, 2018 MEETING

26 Commissioner Reckdahl: I have some topics for the agenda. Commissioner LaMere  
27 mentioned the Friends of the Palo Alto Parks and the Palo Alto Recreation Foundation.  
28 We had Friends of Palo Alto Parks come in 4 or 5 years ago, and it was very useful. I'd  
29 like to see that again. On the parks dedication, have someone from the Legal Department  
30 tell us what the ramifications of park dedication, what kind of constraints does it have, and  
31 other ramifications.

32 Commissioner Moss: I want to make sure people realize that they were asked to—we  
33 talked to them about Baylands signs. I'm not sure it's appropriate to have them talk to us  
34 right now.

1 Commissioner Reckdahl: This is just a generic discussion of—last time it was focused on  
2 this is what our organization does, this is how we work with the City, an overview. I think  
3 that would be appropriate.

4 Chair McDougall: We can at least ask the Friends if they'd like to come and update the  
5 Commission on how many members they have and what their focus might be. That could  
6 be appropriate. Commissioner Moss, I'd like to work with you on that to make sure we  
7 approach them properly, if that's okay. While I'm speaking to Commissioner Moss, thank  
8 you for pointing out that maybe I should have reminded them about the ad hoc committees.

9 Vice Chair Greenfield: My request for the agenda matched Commissioner Reckdahl's.  
10 Those were the top two on my list. The park activity guidelines is something we've been  
11 looking forward to for 6 months or more. I'd really love to see that come to fruition.

12 Chair McDougall: Commissioner Cribbs.

13 Commissioner Cribbs: I'd like to add a request to learn about the rules and regulations of  
14 placing art in parks, specific to the dog park across from California Avenue and in general,  
15 so that we understand what agreements are out there and how we respond to that.

16 Chair McDougall: Anybody else? I guess we would want to make sure that we were  
17 continuing to have the many things that are being worked on and moving forward as the  
18 staff thinks is appropriate to bring them for discussion or action.

19 Ms. O'Kane: For the March meeting, we'll have a discussion on the Boulware Park  
20 improvements. This will follow the community meeting. Daren, did you have anything  
21 specific for March.

22 Commissioner Cribbs: Would that be the time to have a report or observations about the  
23 temporary lights at Cubberley?

24 Mr. Anderson: That sounds reasonable.

25 Vice Chair Greenfield: One evening Commissioner Moss and I met with Adam and Neil  
26 from Palo Alto Soccer Club. They were still tweaking the adjustment, but they looked  
27 pretty nice. It seemed to meet expectations as described.

28 Commissioner Reckdahl: There wasn't bad bleeding into the neighborhood?

29 Vice Chair Greenfield: It didn't appear bad to me.

30 Chair McDougall: Nobody's run into one yet. Any other topics.

**APPROVED**

1 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

2 Meeting adjourned on motion by Commissioner Reckdahl and second by Commissioner  
3 McCauley at 8:53 p.m.

