



**CITY OF CUPERTINO
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
PLANNING COMMISSION
BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
Teleconference Joint Special Meeting
Monday, June 13, 2022
6:30 PM
DRAFT MINUTES**

Chair Xu called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via remote teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Parks and Recreation Commissioners: Xiangchen (Minna) Xu, Sashikala Begur (6:46 p.m.), Gopal Kumarappan, Carol Stanek
Planning Commissioners: Steven Scharf, Sanjiv Kapil, Vikram Saxena, R (Ray) Wang
Bicycle Pedestrian Commissioners: Ilango Ganga, Jack Carter, Erin Lindskog (6:35 p.m.), Gerard Eschelbeck
Commissioners absent: Seema Swamy (Parks and Recreation), Muni Madhhipatla (Planning), Grace John (Bicycle Pedestrian)
Staff present: Joanne Magrini, Rachelle Sander, Jessica Javier, Kevin Khuu, Lisa Cameli, Susan Michael, Matt Morley, David Stillman, Kimberly Lunt, Piu Ghosh, Cyrah Caburian
Guest speakers: Jan Eiesland, Myrna Ortiz, Steve Lang, Mike Campbell

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Connie Cunningham, Cupertino resident, strongly recommended consideration of zoning during the housing element discussion to encourage all to be able to build and live in the community.

Lisa Warren, Cupertino resident, thanked the Commissions for the having the joint meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Subject: Consider an update to the Joint Commission on the status of the Environmental Summary Report, public outreach process, and next steps for the Lawrence-Mitty Master Plan project.

Recommended Action: Receive an update on the status of the Environmental

Summary Report, public outreach process, and provide input on next steps for the Lawrence-Mitty Master Plan project.

Written Communications for this item included an email to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Joanne Magrini, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced Lisa Cameli, Project Manager, to present on the item. Lisa presented an overview of the project phases and site context. Lisa introduced Jan Eiesland, MIG Consultant, who presented a project overview on the existing conditions and environmental summary report. Jan introduced Myrna Ortiz, MIG Consultant, who presented on the community outreach, online survey results, and key considerations for the site.

Vice Chair Carter suggested signage be put up to inform bicyclists that there is no crossing past Mitty Way going north.

Commissioner Lindskog recommended that there should be more research into the northern access and connection to create a more bikeable and walkable path for students at Cupertino High School.

Commissioner Eschelbeck recommended looking into widening the bridge by Sterling Barnhart Park, especially if there is no northern access point.

Commissioner Wang raised concerns surrounding safety and patrolling since there are homeless encampments in that area.

Chair Xu suggested making it clearer for residents that parking will not be possible for the site.

Jennifer Griffin, Cupertino resident, supported a passive corridor for residents to enjoy the creek, nature, and area. Recommended benches, exercise equipment, and dogs on leashes due to coyotes in the area.

Connie Cunningham, Cupertino resident, read her written communication as submitted.

Betsy Megas, Santa Clara resident and VTA Bicycle Pedestrian Committee member, supported access to the north, trees, and shade on the trail corridor. Recommended a soft separation between the trail and park uses.

Lisa Warren, Cupertino resident, recommended a name change for the site to avoid confusion with the freeway and San Jose. Raised concerns surrounding Calvert Drive and it being a one-way street in regard to north access and safety. Supported berms being kept as needed for the tree roots.

Commissioner Saxena expressed concerns regarding general liability and site safety.

Chair Ganga recommended widening the bicycle pedestrian access part, widening the bridge from Barnhart Avenue to the park, extending the bicycle pedestrian access across Lawrence Expressway through Mitty Way or connecting through Moorpark Avenue and Barnhart Avenue, extending the sound wall from the south to north side, and a northern access point. Suggested the City be actively looking for private properties on Sterling to acquire for additional access points into the park. Supported the park opening from sunrise to sunset to not disturb the wildlife.

Commissioner Kapil raised concerns surrounding the air quality due to the surrounding traffic in the area. Recommended that the soil samples results be made available to the community.

Commissioner Stanek supported completion of the trail with a northern connection, the sound wall as a high priority, and dogs on leashes. Recommended that if there is interest for dogs off leashes, that should be looked at separately. Expressed concerns regarding requests for a performing arts and picnic space.

Chair Xu expressed concerns regarding planting of new trees due to the drought. Also supported adding restrooms.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Xu adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Javier, Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department

Minutes approved by the Planning Commission at their 07/12/22 meeting

Minutes approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission at their 07/14/22 special meeting

Minutes approved by the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission at their _____ meeting

Parks and Recreation, Planning,
and Bicycle Pedestrian
Commissions

Special Joint Meeting

June 13, 2022

Written Communications

Item 1

Consider an update to the Joint Commission on the status of the Environmental Summary Report, public outreach process, and next steps for the Lawrence-Mitty Master Plan project.

From: [Connie Cunningham](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
Subject: 2022-6-13 Joint Planning Commission, Bike Ped Commission, Parks Rec Commission Lawrence Mitty
Date: Monday, June 13, 2022 4:50:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

2022-6-13 Joint Planning Commission, Bike Ped Commission, Parks Rec Commission

Lawrence Mitty. Saratoga Creek

Please note that I plan to speak at tonight's meeting.

Good evening, Chairs and Commissioners,

This is an exciting topic—a new park in Cupertino—I have walked the length of the planned park from Bollinger Road to Lawrence and Mitty at the pedestrian crossing. My friends who live nearby, are also excited about walking this trail.

The several plans, General Plan, Bike-Ped Plan, Parks and Rec Plan, and CAP 2.0 all speak to balancing the needs of nature and the needs of the community. It is heartening to read about the community input supporting the local wildlife habitat and use of parks that promote education about nature and play that allow time for interaction with nature. Although this particular location has noise from Lawrence Expressway, that noise can be mitigated

One addition to your report about the CAP 2.0 plan that is different from the existing CAP: the addition of the tree canopy as an important climate change strategy. This park is large enough to accommodate many California native trees, plants and grasses. It already has several of these trees so will support the existing natural growth.

1. I urge the designers to put the bike trail as far from the creek as possible to keep the faster traffic away from the quieter area of the creek. The bikes will still be in the vicinity of the creek and can enjoy it a little farther away than those who are walking.

I urge the planners to take more soil samples throughout the area, rather than just the portions of the park along the street. This was a construction yard where many things have been discarded over the years. It will be important to ensure that toxic waste or lead is not in the soil, nor the berms nor piles of debris, nor in the soil beneath the impervious surface of the previously developed area

Eliminate artificial lighting. Artificial lighting disturbs the natural biological rhythms of birds, insects, animals, and plants. Many studies show that light pollution impacts humans, too, leading to moods changes, difficulty with sleeping, as well as cancer.

This park is ½ mile in length. Since it is planned to be a connector for an existing trail, it is important to note that perhaps design elements and signage to slow bicycles through this area be considered.

With the 280 overpass, the bicycle route north of the park needs to go through neighborhoods using bicycle lanes with as much separation as possible for the type of ongoing trail that this plan envisions.

Please ensure that appropriate irrigation is included for the native vegetation that is planned. Native vegetation needs some irrigation for up to 8 years to become established. After that, natural rainfall and below surface water will be appropriate.

Allow for bulb outs for people to approach the creek, but keep some locations non-admissible by people. Too much compacted earth and foot traffic disturbs the natural ability of trees to cope with dry times.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this exciting new park.

Connie Cunningham

Resident

Audubon Member and Advocate for Birds/Wildlife/Native Plants