



**CITY OF CUPERTINO
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Teleconference Meeting
Thursday, June 3, 2021
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stanek called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. via remote teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Carol Stanek, Xiangchen Xu, Gopal Kumarappan,
Neesha Tambe, Sashikala Begur

Commissioners absent: None

Staff present: Joanne Magrini, Whitney Zeller, Jenny Koverman,
Katy Nomura, Karen Levy

CEREMONIAL MATTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Subject: Meeting Minutes for the May 6, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Recommended Action: Review and approve the minutes for the May 6, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Commissioner Tambe requested to amend her comments in the last part of the first paragraph for item five to read “organization specific rather than school specific”.

Vice Chair Xu requested to amend her comments on page two for item three to reflect that she mentioned there is already a lot of activity at Jollyman Park.

Commissioner Tambe motioned to approve the minutes with the two amendments.

Vice Chair Xu seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with five votes yes.

POSTPONEMENTS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Community member Nori provided oral communications and recommended building an all-inclusive playground at Memorial Park as opposed to Jollyman Park.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Written communications were received for items two and three.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Subject: Update on the Extension of the Dog Off-Leash Area Trial at Jollyman Park.

Recommended Action: Receive an update on the extension of the Dog Off-Leash Area trial at Jollyman Park.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Joanne Magrini, provided a presentation on the item.

The following community members provided public comment on the item:

Louise Saadati – Provided a presentation and requested to extend the DOLA

Ruchika Varanasi – Requested to keep the DOLA

Deepa Mahendraker – Requested to make the DOLA permanent

Debashis Rao – Requested to make the DOLA permanent

Tony Alexander – Recommended to move forward quickly with the DOLA

Helen Sharkie – Supported making the DOLA permanent

Mahadevan Arivazhakan – Supported making the DOLA permanent

Ajit Chamraj – Requested to keep the DOLA

Ansh Chopra – Supported making the DOLA permanent

Charles Zhang – Requested to keep the DOLA

Ankita Goyal – Supported making the DOLA permanent

Rick Greaves – Provided a presentation in support of the DOLA

Commissioner Kumarappan noted the high use of the DOLA and the low number of incidents reported was impressive.

Commissioner Begur commented that extending the trial would help collect the data needed.

Vice Chair Xu thanked the members of the public for participating and shared that she has heard good things about the Jollyman DOLA and that people who originally had concerns are happy with the current situation.

Commissioner Tambe recognized that there is potential for additional field use with the new Field Use Policy but contended that a one-year extension is not fair to the community. She recommended shortening the time period to a quarterly extension and reasoned that this would expedite the process necessary to have Council review the DOLA and approve any changes to the municipal code needed to implement it.

Commissioner Tambe added that she would like to see the schedule and set expectations for monitoring the Jollyman DOLA trial to determine if it is successful. Chair Stanek commented that Commission would like to have the item return for discussion before the year ends and to continually update Council on its status. She added that they would like to see what the expectations are for a successful DOLA trial and recommended Commissioners have an active role in collecting data to assist staff. She shared that her hope is that with the new Field Use Policy, that both sets of users are being considered and that the DOLA is not always being impacted due to field use.

Commissioner Begur commented that she would like to give staff the chance to go through the process and feel comfortable with making a recommendation on the Jollyman DOLA trial, and that the data gathered will be useful.

Commissioner Kumarappan shared that they agree on the importance of the DOLA and that it is a key part of the community that needs to be supported. He suggested to make the Jollyman DOLA permanent and then address any concerns as they arise.

Commissioner Tambe reiterated that a compromise would be to extend for a quarter. She noted that Jollyman Park is meant for everyone, not just those who utilize it for athletic field use. She commented that it is important to make the process transparent to the community, maintain accountability, and not have the community accommodate for changes within the City. She applauded the members of the community and encouraged them to continue their involvement. She recommended a three- or six-month extension and to start taking steps to make the DOLA permanent.

Chair Stanek clarified that the Commission would like to see the list of criteria for the DOLA trial with a tentative review date at the July 1 meeting.

Commissioner Begur agreed she would like to see the criteria and added she is happy to help collect data at the DOLA.

Vice Chair Xu supported the idea of reviewing the criteria at a future meeting and added that it is a good idea to make the extension for one quarter and reassess in the Spring.

3. Subject: Blackberry Farm Golf Course Feasibility Study Options.

Recommended Action: Receive a report on the Blackberry Farm Golf Course Feasibility Study Options and provide a recommendation to City Council.

Recreation Supervisor, Jenny Koverman, provided a presentation on the Blackberry Farm Golf Course Feasibility Study Options.

The following community members provided public comment on the item:

Chris Chapman – Recommended funding and supporting the golf course
Georgia Law – Recommended keeping the golf course as is
Rose Grymes – Recommended pursuing a feasibility study on option three
Linda Ruthruff – Recommended returning the golf course to nature
Shani Kleinhaus – Recommended option three
Bob Hirt – Recommended option three
Wing Law – Recommended keeping the golf course

Administrative Assistant, Whitney Zeller, read comments from the following community members into the record:

Barbara and Paul Davis – Recommended keeping the golf course
Pearl Law – Recommended keeping the golf course
Dave Forster – Recommended keeping the golf course

Chair Stanek inquired what community outreach was done for the item.

Commissioner Kumarappan commented that expenses for options one and two are clear, but when it comes to the natural habitat, is harder to break down the cost. Director Magrini added that option three for a natural habitat has not been studied, so a cost breakdown is not yet available.

Commissioner Begur commented that although Blackberry Farm Golf Course and Deep Cliff Golf Course are next to each other, they are very different courses that seem to target a different audience. She added that we would need to do a lot more than fix the irrigation and remove the grass to return it to nature and we would need better understanding of the cost to accurately compare it to the other two options.

Vice Chair Xu commented that after we remove the grass and plant new trees, they will need maintenance for the first several years, so the annual subsidy increases. She assumes after 10 years the maintenance fee may drop.

Chair Stanek commented that having a banquet facility with option two would have the largest impact with light and noise in the corridor. She noted that the Golf Course users like that it has a community feel and would not want it to be a larger course. She added that she does not see us as a city going forward with option two, as it would not serve our residents best. The Chair commented that a lot of emails were received in support of option one. She shared that a flyer was distributed by a resident regarding the item and included the three options but did not include any associated costs. She expressed concern that community members may not have understood the cost associated with

minimal maintenance. She noted there is a lot of interest for options one and three. The Chair concluded that to make a decision, the Commission would need a side by side of options one and three with a comparison of the costs and staffing levels to maintain it.

Director Magrini noted that minimally, we want to address deferred maintenance and will need to spend money to do infrastructure upgrades.

Chair Stanek commented that the feasibility study should include if there are grants available. She added that we need community feedback from those who use the golf course as well as those who do not. She proposed closing the golf course for one or two days a week or on an open house basis and share it as a walking corridor. This would allow the rest of the community to experience the space and better envision its future.

Commissioner Tambe commented that there is an inherent leaning in the NGF report and that a banquet facility in the corridor is not feasible. She referred to a graph that was provided when the topic was discussed previously that illustrates the operational costs, upkeep, City funding, expected revenue, and cost comparison for each option. She noted that she would like to see that graph updated. The Commissioner stated that options one and two need updated numbers and a feasibility study needs to be conducted for option three. She added that she understands the irrigation system needs to be addressed, regardless of the option pursued, and that there should be an understanding that there will be costs associated.

Director Magrini clarified that staff are looking for direction on which options to pursue for further research.

Commissioner Tambe commented that she leans towards updating the numbers for option one, doing a feasibility study for option three, and not pursuing option two.

Commissioner Kumarappan motioned to recommend to City Council to update the numbers for option one and to continue with a feasibility study for option three. Commissioner Tambe seconded the motion.

Commissioner Tambe commented that the way we communicate to City Council is critical and she would like to make sure they understand the numbers provided are not hard numbers. She added that there are partnership opportunities for options one and three, which is part of why both options need to be studied.

The Commission carried the motion unanimously with five votes yes.

NEW BUSINESS

None

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

4. Subject: Monthly Update Reports.

Recommended Action: Receive monthly update reports from the Director of Parks and Recreation and Commissioners.

Parks and Recreation Director, Joanne Magrini, provided the Director's update.

Commissioner Tambe attended the Mayor's meeting and provided an update on the information discussed. She added that she will be giving a presentation for the Teen Commission's Hack Cupertino program in June or early July.

Chair Stanek shared that the Community Funding item was on Council's agenda twice and would be going back tomorrow night at their June 4 meeting.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE AT UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

5. Subject: July and August Meetings.

Recommended Action: Consider cancellation of the July or August Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting.

Director Magrini shared that Council will be canceling meetings in both July and August for summer recess and suggested that the Commission consider canceling either the July or August meeting, with a staff preference of canceling for August.

Vice Chair Xu supported canceling the August meeting.

Commissioner Tambe noted she is hesitant to cancel the August meeting, depending on what we have on the schedule. She recommended revisiting the option to cancel at the July meeting.

Commissioner Begur supported canceling the August meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to move forward with the July 1 meeting and revisit the topic next month.

FUTURE AGENDA SETTING

Director Magrini reviewed the tentative agenda for the July 1 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stanek adjourned the meeting at 10:42 p.m. to the July 1, 2021 meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitney Zeller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'W' and 'Z'.

Whitney Zeller, Administrative Assistant
Parks & Recreation Department

Minutes approved at the _____ regular meeting