

## 2022\_05\_03 PARC FY2021\_2022 Work Plan Achievement Summary:

The 2021\_2022 Plan Year was a roller coaster of sorts for the PARC. In some goal areas, we were very productive and busy, while in others, COVID constraints, Council direction, and Staff bandwidth limitations, limited or redirected our work.

On the unplanned upside, we benefited from many exercises that provided enrichment and education. We also took advantage of opportunities to offer Staff feedback in a few areas not initially in our Work Plan.

The chart I present here displays our specific work results in the rightmost column. I'll leave this for you to read in detail. In general, each Goal Area is color-coded so viewers can see the groupings: Yellow for community engagement, Purples for increasing park participation, Greens for goals to improve parks, facilities, and programs, and, finally, an area I added to the original chart in Blue to list those "extras" I mentioned above.

Tonight, I'll highlight a few key accomplishments.

Our biggest achievement, one that drew the largest amount of community input, was the Dog Park Pilot and our subsequent assessment and recommendation. Thanks to extensive effort on the part of our Dog Park subcommittee (Commissioners Corrigan and Morris), Staff, and large numbers of caring residents on both sides of the issue, a detailed report was generated. The learnings from the Hillview Pilot were invaluable in determining PARC's stance that unfenced dog parks on sports fields did not work, and that, for off leash activity to be successful at the levels of enforcement the city can provide, the need for fenced-in dog parks was evident. The community of dog owners was loud and clear that their dogs needed a safe place to play off leash. Our report also itemized several proposals for collaboration with Staff to continue exploration of dog park implementations in the future.

Our next biggest project was the JEDI Inclusivity Assessment of all our parks, which resulted in a 40-plus-page illustrated report that highlighted specific, actionable, and economical, recommendations for enhancing every one of our play structures, playgrounds, and park social areas. Our overarching objective was to recommend near-term, incremental investments to enhance accessibility and inclusivity in advance of future large-scale, CIP-level, wholesale replacements. Conducted by our JEDI Subcommittee (Commissioner Morris and myself), along with Staff and vendors, this comprehensive analysis also highlighted the aging status of our playground equipment, as well as the role that poured-in-place surfaces could play in saving operational costs over time and easing access to features. In parallel, Commissioner Wang's focus on adult fitness, while tabled this year, will pay dividends down the line. Beyond the Inclusivity project, other JEDI-related presentations and educational forums were valuable to both the PARC and the community in amplifying how accessibility and inclusivity across a variety of demographics and capabilities need to be high priorities going forward.

We welcomed community excitement about two recreational endeavors burgeoning in our community: pickleball and skateboarding. Our Skatepark review, conducted by our Subcommittee comprised of Commissioners Corrigan and Yeh, in collaboration with Staff and downtown business, Skateworks, revealed that the skateboarding community continues to grow in Los Altos, though it is still small enough that we did not accelerate any CIP recommendations. On the other hand, Pickleball is a different story. The demand for capacity has increased dramatically in the last two years. This game is an

increasingly big deal to a significant number of residents! PARC agreed with public input that Pickleball builds a joyful community, so we fully supported Staff's endeavor to line tennis courts with Pickleball patterns to enable this exciting, all-ages sport. This is a small investment with huge returns.

While our Grant Park initiative was tabled, PARC nevertheless made an actionable recommendation at year's end for an incremental investment to replace an electrical panel and a few other items. This decision reflected our view that incremental improvements will bring high returns in community benefit and happiness at that site, particularly with our seniors.

We closed out the year with our reorganization. On behalf of PARC, I thank Directors Legge and Hernandez for their leadership and counsel, appreciate the rest of Staff for their support which was above and beyond, and applaud Chair Pete Dailey's diligence in running PARC meetings smoothly. Finally, please join me in welcoming our newly installed Chair Teresa Morris and Vice Chair John Corrigan to the dais. This concludes my presentation. Thank you.