

Melissa Thurman

From: Useless <not9inuse@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: The Doggy Park Initiatives Are Insensitive and Undemocratic

Dear Council Members,

I am a senior citizen of Los Altos.

I am dismayed at the rapid initiatives favoring dog owners in Los Altos.

I find that without much consultation, significant initiatives are undertaken. Consultants are appointed at significant cost to derive “solutions” which appear pre-destined in favor of dog owners.

I was mortified when giant trees of Los Altos at Los Altos Library grounds were cruelly brought down. These ancient trees are symbols of Los Altos and deserve some respect and consideration. That area is a space of distinction encompassing the Heritage Museum, the orchards and the shady trees. As stewards of Los Altos, it behoves the council to be more understanding of heritage, especially at a time of global warming.

Let us come now to dog parks. There is already a dog park in the Los Altos Community Center area. As far as I can see, it is never over-crowded. I am perplexed that one more of your consultant studies makes the case for another fancy dog-park, while cutting more trees and reducing parking space at the library. There is some lack of logic in this drive towards to another dog park at the Library.

Dog owners routinely exercise their dogs off-leash at Los Altos parks, where the city ordinance clearly says that it is a violation. I was recently bitten in my right hand by a large off-leash dog at Rosita Park. The notion that all these dog owners are only going to use your new dog park is seriously flawed.

In summary:

1. For the City Council to cut down trees while exhorting residents to preserve heritage trees is farcical.
2. Wasteful consultant studies that produce preferred outcomes do not serve the needs of Los Altos citizens.
3. Dog owners themselves prefer open dog parks, not enclosed fenced-in spaces.
4. The new proposed dog park is wasteful, redundant and a benefit to neither dog owners or any one else
5. Please create proper “Mixed Use Rules” instead for use of open parks by dog owners and others by using **timing control**, with enforcement.

For example:

Dog Hours (Off Leash Allowed) : 5 am - 6:30 am, 3:30 - 5 pm, which can vary by park, to allow flexibility to all.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melissa Thurman

From: Useless <not9inuse@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Jonathan Weinberg; Public Comment
Subject: Re: The Doggy Park Initiatives Are Insensitive and Undemocratic

Dear Mayor Jonathan Weinberg,

I am concerned that the City of Los Altos has lost its way in public discourse and thoughtful action. I recall the disaster of the speed bumps installation on Cuesta Road a few years back. The original speed bumps which were too high for emergency vehicles had to be torn down and redone.

On this doggy park issue, the City is rushing into wasteful spending and questionable action. At a time of unbelievable climate change, I am shocked at the “developer mindset” to cut more trees. By the questionable argument that “As we all know, all trees have a lifespan”, possibly hundreds of trees in Los Altos need to be cut down.

The City Council is in the process of removing our “public good” - namely tree cover and scarce parking lots for a “selective benefit” to some dog owners. By the way, many dog owners do not support the proposed doggy park.

I am in the Library almost every day, and I often find it difficult to find parking nearby. Moreover, the temporary dog park at the end of the soccer field is used infrequently by dog owners as per my almost daily assessment. By far, dog owners prefer the open parks where they can let their dogs run and exercise off-leash.

How did the City weigh the reduction of the “public good” for green cover and parking, versus the “selective benefit” of more dog parks? Where is that comparative study? Did the City conduct an impact study of tree-felling and reduced parking?

Moreover, if this dog park is built, does the City plan to cite all dog owners who let their dogs off-leash in all Los Altos parks for violation of city ordinance? I am sure many dog owners would not be happy about that.

There is a wiser way to handle this, as I proposed in my note. That is to allow dog owners to use all public parks using “Off-Leash” hours. Please see the Mountain View policy which has implemented this since 2015:

“Off-Leash Dog Areas

The City allows dogs to be off-leash in designated areas of selected local parks and hours. The City of Mountain View asks that you be respectful of other park users and that you comply with all rules and ordinances ([SEC. 5.61. Dogs in posted off-leash areas](#)).”

I suggest that this contentious dog park proposal be brought as a ballot initiative, where residents can properly weigh their choices. The City Council is disappointing a lot of Los Altos residents whose “public commons” is being eroded away willy-nilly.

Please post the arborist report and the dog park study for public viewing. If an impact study was conducted of the proposed action on reduced tree cover and parking, kindly post that as well. It would be good for all to see the conclusions reached in those reports.

Sincerely,

A Senior Los Altos Resident

On Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 10:01 AM Jonathan Weinberg <jweinberg@losaltosca.gov> wrote:

Dear Resident:

First, I apologize for not using your name, but you did not include your name in your email.

While I thank you for taking the time to write to the Council and to express your feelings, I feel compelled to respond to two points:

First, the process leading to the policy decision of establishing a permanent dog park at the Hillview Community Center was conducted with a tremendous amount of public consultation. Multiple community meetings were held at both the commission and Council level over the span of years. Two pilot programs were tested at the community center, the second of which was a success. Simply put, I vehemently disagree with your accusation that the decision to proceed with a dog park was undertaken without much consultation.

Second, the trees that were removed at the community center were long past their expected life and posed a threat to public safety. Last year, a limb fell off the tree that had stood next to the Bus Barn Theater. Fortunately, no one was hurt. In the aftermath of that incident, an arborist was retained, and their professional opinion was that the trees would continue to deteriorate, posed a threat to public safety, and could not be saved. As we all know, trees have a lifespan. I trust you would agree that the City has an obligation to protect the safety of everyone who uses the Hillview Community Center.

If you would like to discuss the other details of your email, I would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

- Jonathan

Jonathan D. Weinberg | Mayor, City of Los Altos

Los Altos City Hall

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Melissa Thurman

From: Harry Guy <harrypguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Aida Fairman; Angela Averiett; Kathryn Krauss; City Council
Subject: Public Comment on Consent Item #2 Bear Electrical Solutions contract - 01/09/2024 Council meeting

I urge Council to approve this funding request.

As a strong believer in the importance of having safe streets in our community for all modes of transportation (vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, etc), I applaud the work done by the Public Works organization to develop this important funding request. Engaging a qualified and responsive contractor to provide ongoing maintenance of traffic and crosswalk signal systems, as well as callout emergency response service as needed is very important to keeping our signals operating smoothly and addressing outages quickly and effectively.

WAY TO GO TEAM!!

There may be additional work for the team to implement, between Public Works and PD to fully establish procedures and training for short-term response to traffic and crosswalk outages that occur during off-hours when PW staff are not around. It is important that PD Patrols and Dispatchers have clear instructions and capabilities to provide short-term mitigations of outages during those periods.

Respectfully,
Harry Guy - Los Altos Resident

Melissa Thurman

From: Mia Ravishankar <mia.ravishankar3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment - 01/09/24

Dear Los Altos City Councilmembers,

I'd like to comment on Priority #4 for the City's Strategic Goals.

Please consider the implementation of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's zero-NOx appliances rule. The city can help residents prepare for the ruling through outreach and education about the benefits, huge financial incentives and practical advice, streamlining permitting, and training inspectors to help homeowners avoid unnecessary electrical upgrades.

It would also be beneficial to implement a Dark Skies policy, especially in the new street lighting to be paid for by the \$200,000 from state funds recently presented to the city by Senator Becker.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mia Ravishankar
Member, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
Member, 350 Silicon Valley