



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 06/03/2024

ITEM NO: 1

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 1, 2024**

The Town of Los Gatos Parks and Sustainability Commission conducted a Regular Meeting on April 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Gleason, Vice-Chair Ober, Commissioners Buncic, Corenson, Mapara, Stephenson, and Youth Commissioner Balasingham (absent).

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Approve Minutes of the Parks and Sustainability Commission Meeting of March 4, 2024.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Stephenson to approve Consent Items 1.

**Seconded** by Vice-Chair Ober.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously (Commissioner Buncic abstained)

**VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Dick Conrad

- Commented in favor of the Senior Road Map. The Town approved the Senior Road Map. It instructs each Commission to come up with an action plan to meet the Senior Road Map. There are several action plans for the Parks and Sustainability Commission. He asked that the Senior Road Map be agenized to have further discussions.

Chris O'Reilly

- Commented in favor of Los Gatos Cupertino Saratoga (LGCS) Girls Fastpitch Softball. Chris O'Reilly is the President of LGCS. Largest softball organization in the Los Gatos area. LGCS has been around for 30 years serving the girls of the community. A non-profit and volunteer supported organization supporting a broad spectrum of girls ranging in the ages of 6-14. They play softball year-round supporting both rec teams and tournament teams. Over 160 children play in the league. Before the league was developed in 1992 the girls had fewer options. Play on a boys' team, play on Saratoga Rec softball at a lower level, go to a different town, or give up the sport. The problem is even though the majority of the league live in Los Gatos and attend Los Gatos schools only one of the six fields is in Los Gatos in spit

Verbal Communications (continued)

of years of effort to change that. Many of the families that live in Los Gatos have to travel to Saratoga or Cupertino to practice and play. This is true even though the boys of this town of whom have sister playing for LGCS have seven different baseball fields in Los Gatos to play. A founding member of this league and experienced litigator Bernie Greenfield has taken on this case. He and his team have already done research confirming that the Town of Los Gatos and LGUSD are in violation of Title 9. The federal statute requires equitable access to athletic opportunities. This inequity between the Town and school district's support of girls' softball is very clear and he is eager to file a lawsuit. If a Title 9 lawsuit were to be filed and picked up by the Federal government, the Federal government would enforce Title 9 and would be extremely disruptive to the boys of this town. We expect the Town would be required to allocate one of its two of its fields to girls' athletics as soon as the judgment is rendered. As the status quo cannot stand I also do not want to take away from the boys in this town. The right solution is for the Town to find the girls of this community a new permanent softball home. This could mean the Town invests in a new facility it could be the rejuvenation of an existing facility. It could be better resourcing of existing fields or collaboration with the schools. Whatever it is, the Town needs to ensure that the girls get as good as the boys get and progress must be quick.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 2. Pickleball Update

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. The court at La Rinconada and the potential conversion of one of the courts at Blossom Hill is being proposed as a capital project. The proposed budget should be released later in April. We continue to work with Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation to manage how the courts at La Rinconada are being used.

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, verbally reported on this item. We have updated the new signage; we have new signage for pickleball and tennis. It is a large sign, and it is very clear. It was installed last week.

The Commission asked a question.

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, and Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the question.

### Public Comment

Connie Kirby

- Commented in favor of pickleball. It is my understanding then that there was approval for resurfacing or is that still outstanding?

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the question.

Public Comment (continued)

Bill Crites

- Commented in favor of pickleball. Asked about the possibility of including sound mitigation in the capital budget for La Rinconada and Blossom Hill. We have been hearing from the neighbors that sound is an issue and will possibly occur at Blossom Hill. We need to be cognizant of the sound issues and need to be ready to respond to them. I encourage you to continue to add sound mitigation to the capital budget.

Debbie Pinkston

- Commented in favor of pickleball. Is in favor of adding a fence. The fence that does not need to be high would make a big difference with rolling balls.

3. Review, Discuss and Consider Adoption of Parks and Sustainability Commission Mission

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item.

The Commission asked questions and discussed this item.

The Parks and Sustainability Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Town Council on matters pertaining to public parks, off-street trails, open space, public grounds, street trees, and creeks and waterways. The Commission shall receive public input, evaluate options, and make recommendations on policy issues including, but not limited to:

1. Biodiversity, landscaping, infrastructure, water usage, recycling and equitable access.
2. Current and future needs of the changing Town, society and environment.
3. Coordination of services and programs with other governmental agencies and service organizations.
4. Education, outreach and research related to sustainability and parks initiatives.

**MOTION:** Motion by Vice-Chair Ober in favor of the mission and to replace voluntary with service.

**Seconded** by Commissioner Stephenson.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

4. Spring into Green Giveaways and Commissioner Volunteer Times

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, verbally reported on this item.

The Commission discussed who will be responsible for covering the volunteer times. The Commission asked for a park usage and park sustainability survey using a QR.

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, will be creating a survey with a QR code.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the survey question.

5. Trail Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Corenson and Chair Gleason verbally reported on this item.

Commissioner Corenson commented that Los Gatos has a lot of trails and a lot of potential to interconnect the trails. He asked once we have the report what do we do with it, how do we proceed. Do we do in-depth research on interconnections, do we look at properties, do we look at issues with properties, do we look at easements? You can link up certain properties for trail connectivity.

Chair Gleason we are definitely not making any certain proposal. We want the ideas to be out there for the Town to consider. There are some corridors with the Williams Act properties. Lets look at that and see if there are any opportunities.

Chair Gleason informed the Commissioners that some of other cities and towns have taken an active approach. For example, the City of Saratoga has the Pedestrian, Equestrian, and Bicycle Trails Advisory Committee (PEBTAC). The Committee is actively working on trial connectivity. The City of San Carlos has a trail master plan. In 2010 they went through a trail master plan process connecting open spaces.

The Commission asked questions and discussed this item.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, gave some feedback for the direction the Commission should consider for the next steps.

6. Parks and Public Works Report

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, verbally reported on this item. We have reseed the lawn at Town Park Plaza. At Winchester Blvd and Lark Ave, we have restored the water and will be replanting the area. At the downtown Lot 4 we will be adding the topsoil with mulch

a. Town Sponsored Events

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, verbally reported on this item. All we have is Spring into Green.

b. Volunteer Programs

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, verbally reported on this item. The only volunteer program we have is the Beautification Committee.

The Commission asked questions about Vasona, the Hwy 9 trail connector project, and the Pinehurst Community Garden project.

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, and Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

Marina Chislett, PPW Environmental Program Specialist, informed the Commission about Arbor Day on Friday, April 26, 2024.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Ober informed the Commission of the St. Patrick's Day event that took place on Sunday, March 17, 2024, at Town Park Plaza. There was live music and about 1,000 people attended.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the April 1, 2024, meeting as approved by the Parks and Sustainability Commission.

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/s/ Nicolle Burnham, Director of Parks and Public Works