



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

MEETING DATE: 12/02/2024

ITEM NO: 1

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

The Town of Los Gatos Parks and Sustainability Commission conducted a Regular Meeting on October 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:03 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Gleason, Vice-Chair Ober (absent), Commissioners Buncic (arrived 6:07), Corenson, Mapara, Stephenson.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Approve Minutes of the Parks and Sustainability Commission Meeting of August 5, 2024.

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

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

**VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No verbal communication.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

2. Pickleball Update

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, verbally reported on this item. Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, verbally reported on this item. The resurfacing/restriping will be completed by Spring 2025. The Park Services Officer has been monitoring La Rinconada, not all of the complaints have been for Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation. We are looking into automatic locks similar to those used in Saratoga.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. We will be asking for CIP funding for the sound mitigation wall.

The Commission asked questions.

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

#### Public Comment

##### Bill Crites

- Member of the pickleball community. Thank you for the Commission to continue to move forward with the getting the work done for the resurface of La Rinconada. That is still a safety issue. No matter what we do, we need to get that court resurfaced. Saratoga did put \$26,000 for the sound barrier and the rest of the money was for the electronic gates. Blossom Hill the \$26K would be \$100 per foot of barrier because it is 240 foot around that. That is a ballpark number, if we were to do anything at Blossom Hill and La Rinconada. I do encourage with the Commission to push forward with community outreach. Like the Director said about being up and up. We all want to work together to make an access and an environment for everybody. It is a win, win for everybody. I strongly encourage the Commission to push forward with that because to be a community member to be surprised, because that has happened a lot throughout the nation were they have put something in and found out later how bad it is. They could have done something to begin with. Everyone working together for a common solution is what we want to achieve here. The automatic lock, I have been around long enough that Blossom Hill Park used to have an electronic gate, and you used to have to have a key card to access that court. Technology is there, I think what Saratoga is doing is that there will be a clock. It will open up at a certain time and lock at a certain time. I think there is something we can do there, if we need to. If the complaints are so much after 7:00 p.m., I don't know how many there are, but the league is finished. Might just be the public playing and get access to the courts. I strongly urge to continue to research and explore the sound mitigation for both La Rinconada and Blossom Hill. We want it to be something that everyone can enjoy, as best as they can.

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

The Commission asked questions.

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

### 3. Receive a Report an Update on Field Use Policy

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, presented the draft Field Use Policy.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, provided additional information on draft Field Use Policy.

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, asked the Commission for guidance on the following questions:

1. Should we allow park and field use for-profit fundraising?
2. Should there be a limit to the number of people for fun runs at Oak Meadow Park and Los Gatos Creek Trail?
3. Do we allow other organizations to rent the tennis courts other than Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation?

The Commission discussed and responded to the questions.

1. Town should not allow full rental of any public space that results in closure of space to the public.
2. Public events should be the priority always.
3. For profit events should be a special event permitted through TMO; PPW to determine the cut off between when PPW permits an event and TMO permits.
4. Set max limit / capacity of each rental space.
5. Regarding field negotiations: outline principles of how conflicts will be evaluated and resolved.
6. For tennis / pickleball courts: reservation system not a bad idea; no consensus on charging a fee; staff to evaluate provide notice of hours available for public use.

The Commission asked additional questions and discussed this item.

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, and Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, responded to the questions.

#### 4. Parks and Public Works Report

##### A. Town Sponsored Events

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

We just had Screen on the Green, thank you Craig and Meredith, it was fun. I don't know if anyone caught it, but there was a lengthy discussion about that event and whether or not Screen on the Green should become a different event. The Town Manager's office is exploring a fall festival event or something more cultural.

The Commission asked questions and discussed this item.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

B. Volunteer Programs

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

Live Oak Manor, Town Council did authorize executing the agreement with Rotary. Rotary to date has not started the project, they still owe us some paperwork.

There is a date with the Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship project. They are going to do some work at Novitiate on the Flume trail, on the east side of the Los Gatos Creek Trail from East Main Street up the hill. It will be a volunteer project and on Saturday, February 22, 2025, will be the volunteer day.

On November 19, 2024, Town Council will hold a study session on capital projects. PPW will comply list of all the various capital projects that need attention, including projects in parks and the parks and trails master plan. Any member can come and speak.

The Commission discussed and responded to the questions.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

Jim Harbin, PPW Superintendent, verbally reported on this item.

Oak Hill Play Lot we are planting out there, volunteer Bill Broad. We are ready for planting, and we will be providing him with the plants.

Robotic rabbits from Los Gatos high school. The exercise wheels at four different parks, spin it, jump, and stretch. They are at Oak Meadow Park, Bachman Park, Blossom Hill Park, and Jones trail head.

Adopt a Highway is this Saturday, October 12, 2024. This is volunteer program.

The Los Gatos Creek Trail we worked with fire department on fire fuel cleanup and took out a lot of brush. Six to eight weeks' worth of work.

The Commission asked questions.

Marina Chislett, Environmental Programs Specialist, responded to the questions about the Adopt a Highway volunteer program.

Marina Chislett, Environmental Programs Specialist, verbally reported on the Pinehurst Community Garden and Lynee Avenue Project. They met with the surrounding neighbors individually, that was completed April or May of 2024. The next steps were to work with DTSC to get any additional soil testing due to concerns. The Lynee Avenue project is paused until further soil testing. Once we get the final soil testing results, we will be taking that information back to Town Council.

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SUBJECT: PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 15, 2024

The Commission discussed and asked questions.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, and Marina Chislett, Environmental Programs Specialist, responded to the questions.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Corenson verbally reported on the Beautification Committee. We will be meeting this Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to clear out two planters at the Town Plaza. The Rotary Club would like to volunteer to clean up the Bocce Ball courts.

Chair Gleason verbally reported on MidPens opening of the new trail on Bear Creek on Saturday, October 26, 2024. It is the lower part of the preserve.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the October 7, 2024, meeting as approved by the Parks and Sustainability Commission.

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