COVID-19 ADVISORY NOTICE

On March 16, 2020, the Marin County Public Health Officer issued a legal shelter in place order, which was updated on March 31, 2020 and again on April 29, 2020. The County Order directing all residents to shelter at their place of residence through May 31, 2020, except to perform Essential Activities and other limited activities. Additional information is available at https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/. This meeting is necessary so that the City of Belvedere can continue its business and is considered an Essential Activity. Consistent with Executive Orders No. 25-20 and No. 29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the meeting will not be physically open to the public. Members of the City Council and staff will participate in this meeting remotely as permitted under said Executive Orders.

As always, the public may submit comments in advance of the meeting by emailing the Office Coordinator, Christina Cook at ccook@cityofbelvedere.org. Please write “Public Comment” in the subject line. Comments submitted one hour prior to the commencement of the meeting will be presented to the Committee and included in the public record for the meeting. Those received after this time will be added to the record and shared with the Committee after the meeting.

The meeting will be available to the public through Zoom video conference. Those who do not have access to Zoom may access the meeting by calling the number below.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

Topic: Parks and Open Space Committee
When: Sep 10, 2020 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81439550139
(Toll Free) or 877 853 5247, 888 788 0099, or 833 548 0276
Webinar ID: 814 3955 0139

The City encourages that comments be submitted in advance of the meeting. However, for members of the public using the Zoom video conference function, those who wish to comment on an agenda item should write “I wish to make a public comment” in the chat section of the remote meeting platform. At the appropriate time, the Office Coordinator will allow oral public comment through the remote meeting platform. Any member of the public who needs special accommodations to access the public meeting should email the Office Coordinator at ccook@cityofbelvedere.org, who will use her best efforts to provide assistance.
REGULAR MEETING
PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 4:00 PM
REMOTE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM

OPEN FORUM

This is an opportunity for any citizen to briefly address the Parks and Open Space Committee on any matter that does not appear on this agenda. Upon being recognized by the Chair, please state your name, address, and limit your oral statement to no more than three minutes. Matters that appear to warrant a more lengthy presentation or Committee consideration may be agendized for further discussion at a later meeting.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

1. Approve amended minutes of May 14, 2020 regular meeting.
2. Approve minutes of July 16, 2020 regular meeting.
3. Comments from the Chair Bryan Kemnitzer.
4. Staff report from Robert Zadnik Public Works Director.
5. Reports from sub-committees/ task forces.
   (a) Playground
   (b) Lanes
   (c) Trees, Vegetation & Views

Old Business:
2. Continued discussion of Golden Gate Lane, planting plan and opening ceremony.
3. Continued discussion of Wosser family’s request to rename Albert’s Alley.

Future Agenda Items:

- Discussion of additional benches in Tom Price Park.

Posted 09/07/2020
REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 14th, 2020 4:00 P.M
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

AMENDED MINUTES

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Chair Bryan Kemnitzer, Jean Bordon, Carolyn Lund, Alison Seaman, Anne-Marie Walker, Kathy Pearson, and Barbara Winter.

COMMITTEE ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Public Works Director Robert Zadnik, Council Liaison James Campbell, and Office Coordinator Beth Haener.

These minutes are intended to reflect the general content of the regular meeting. An audio file of the meeting is available on the City website at www.cityofbelvedere.org

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 PM.

OPEN FORUM

Public Works Director Zadnik read an email from D.B. Murray which was received earlier and distributed to the group. The email discussed concerns that could arise at Artist View. Chair Kemnitzer stated D.B. Murray’s issue will be discussed once the agendized item is reviewed.

Howard and Edith Spindler of 120 Madrona Ave discussed concern of sudden Oak Death. Mr. Spindler stated an Oak tree suddenly died at 11 Crest and believes this disease will spread. Mr. Spindler stated it’s a fire and physical hazard as well. He stated the tree died over a year ago, and it needs to be removed. Public Works Director Zadnik stated he will look into the tree at 11 Crest and reach out to the property owner.

1. Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2020, Regular Meeting.
   Minutes Approved.

2. Comments from the Chair.
   Chair Kemnitzer handed the comment time over to member Winter, who stated her thanks and appreciation on behalf of the entire Open Space Committee to members Winter and Seamen who are retiring from the committee. Members Winter and Seamen stated their thanks for member Walker’s words and for the beautiful flowers received. Council Liaison Campbell also stated his many thanks on behalf of City Council for their eight years of service.

3. New Business
   a. Review recognition letter to Roger Felton for his work on the Golden Gate Lane sign artwork.
      Chair Kemnitzer stated the letter is great and they will deliver it to Roger Felton very soon.

   b. Review recognition letter for property owners donating water to Five Corners planting site.
      Member Lund asked if the cost of the water is accurate, and if listing the cost could be problematic. Chair Kemnitzer stated the cost will be taken out of the letter.

   c. Status Report on Grant for Artist View Lot Clean up.
Public Works Director Zadnik reported he talked with Deputy Fire Marshall Mike Lantier, and Belvedere has received the grant for the Artist View lot clean up. AmeriCorps, the agency who will oversee the cleanup, will not be able to work until June or July due to the Pandemic.

Belvedere resident Lilian Murray discussed activities she believes the community does not want at Artist View and gave examples of other similar areas that have issues. D.B. Murray also stated his anxieties of what could take place at Artist Way.

Barry Kuhn of 222 Beach Rd stated she can see all activity at the Harry B. Allen steps and what she ends up seeing is people partying, having sex, litter and graffiti. The garbage that is left around and her biggest concern is fire. She watched three, 12 year old kids try and start a fire on the beach. They got a fire going and by the time the Fire Department and Police Department, she had to call three times, arrived she could see the flames they were so big. That is an example. There are also fireworks, 4th of July. It’s hard to police that area. So she sees Artists’ Lane as pretty much the identical type of situation as the people at the Lava House. People, teenagers especially who are looking for some place to go hang out and party that is not their parents’ house. She has big concerns about that especially in light of how much debris that is down at the bottom of Artists’ View Lane and the fire hazard down there. She is not sure how much grant money we are getting to maintain, police and pick up the litter. She ends up picking up a lot of that stuff at Harry B. Allen steps herself. How are we going to have this lane maintained? Is the grant money going to maintain it or is the Police Department? Are the Police Department going to be able to get down there with all the other stuff they are doing? Is it going to take a fire for the Police to go down there? Literally, she sees people smoking their bongs and having sex there and it is pretty hard to get people to enforce that and she is not sure this is a wise idea.

Chris Henry who lives adjacent to the Artist View stated his concerns of potential crime. He stated he would like to be involved in this project and stated their needs to be more transparency with the community. Chair Kemnitzer invited Mr. Henry to listen in on the Lane Task Force as they would like Mr. Henry’s input. Chair Kemnitzer mentioned the Artist View project is on public land.

Public Works Director Zadnik stated the City is working on with the environmental review process of the project currently, and the City will be asking for more neighborhood input down the road after looking at potential impacts such as parking and fire risks. He stated once they have collected more information, there will be a lot more outreach to the Community.

Michael Davis who is a neighbor of Artist View asked if it was wise to invite people to Artist View while it is a fire hazard. Public Works Director Zadnik stated it is probably the best time because the City wants people to be able to access the site before fire season.

d. Consider appropriate public acknowledgement for those who contributed to the Golden Gate Lane Project as well as the upcoming Playground Project.

Chair Kemnitzer stated they are hoping for a ribbon cutting ceremony for Golden Gate Lane, but it’s on hold for now due to Covid-19.

Member Bordon stated there are issues with the Playground Project that have not been finalized. She stated this Committee needs to give advice on the color of sails and discuss the issue of a substitute for artificial turf. Member Walker stated she offered a report from the City of Portland’s Parks and Open Space Committee to Chair
Kemnitzer and Public Works Director Zadnik. This report ruled out cork and other turf that requires constant watering. The City of Portland came to the same conclusion as the architect recommended for Belvedere. Member Walker also stated she looked into colors for the sails, and Forest Green seems to be the most appealing. Chair Kemnitzer stated we should share this color with the Committee and add this color selection to the next agenda. Member Walker stated she will reach out to the company and ask for material samples.

e. Discussion of POSC vacancies for 2020 and reception for retiring members. The committee discussed submissions for the vacancies.

f. Review of current Subcommittee list.

The committee discussed termination of certain subcommittees and replacing with a task force. Member Bordon made a motion to create a Tree and Vegetation Management Task Force with member Walker as the chairperson. The motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of the Cities naming policies for Lanes and Memorials.

The Committee discussed the City of Belvedere’s Administrative Policy Manual guidelines for public memorials. Belvedere resident Roger Felton stated it would be a mistake to rename lanes after persons as there is no real criteria. Member Winter stated Albert’s Alley, which originally was Lower Hawthorne Lane, should remain Lower Hawthorne Lane. Member Winter stated the City’s record should be corrected to reflect the lane as Lower Hawthorne Lane, and a sign should be placed. Member Lund stated that lanes where originally identified and named after foliage, view, or distinct landmarks. A member of the Wosser Family stated she agreed the City’s rules of naming lanes are not clear and renaming the lane would not be after one person but a family. Member Bordon made a motion the Committee amend the City of Belvedere’s Administrative Policy Manual, Section 20.3.4 subdivision A. by adding a sentence that states no lane shall be named after persons. This motion was passed unanimously by the Committee.

b. Report on Lane Task Force

Chair Kemnitzer reported on the meeting the Lane Task Force had on April 23 via Zoom. He stated the Task Force will be meeting again in June and will have a more detailed presentation for July’s meeting. Discussion of how many members from the Committee and from the community can be on a Task Force was had. Member Walker stated the model of the Lane Task force is a great model to follow for other task force groups. They agreed to have up to 5 members from the public on a task force and no more than 3 from this Committee. Member Bordon proposed a motion the Public Lane Task Force be approved as consisting of 3 member of the committee who are Chair Kemnitzer, Member Winter, and Member Lund, including up to 5 members of the community. This motion passed unanimously by the Committee*.

Council Member Campbell requested the Hoffman Family receive dimensions to replace a plaque on a bench. Director of Public Works stated he will make sure they get the dimensions if they haven’t already.

*Note: Minutes from the January 9th, 2020 Parks and Open Space Committee states “The Committee voted unanimously to continue to have a Lanes Task Force; they would meet frequently, and the members would be Brian Kemnitzer, Kathy Pearson, one other committee member, and invite others
in the community to be on it as well.

**Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM.

**THE FOREGOING MINUTES** were approved at a regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Committee on September 10, 2020, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**APPROVED:**

______________________________________________
Bryan Kemnitzer, Chair

**ATTEST:**

_____________________________________________________
Robert Zadnik, Public Works Director
MINUTES

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Chair Bryan Kemnitzer, Jena Watson, Jean Bordon, Carolyn Lund, Anne-Marie Walker, Kathy Pearson, Mario Valente

COMMITTEE ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Public Works Director Robert Zadnik, Council Liaison James Campbell, Office Coordinator Beth Haener

These minutes are intended to reflect the general content of the regular meeting. An audio file of the meeting is available on the City website at www.cityofbelvedere.org

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

OPEN FORUM

Chair Kemnitzer called for any comments received by Director Zadnik who commented that there were two late correspondence items received but there were no requests to read them into the meeting.

Chair Kemnitzer asked Director Zadnik if comments for open forum were received via the zoom platform, Director Zadnik had not received any. Chair Kemnitzer said he received a comment from Dan Murray.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of the May 14, 2020, Regular Meeting.

   Corrections to the minutes were requested to state that Barbara Winters name be corrected. Chair Kemnitzer asked for clarification if the Trees, Vegetation and Views Task Force (TVV) was in fact a committee or task force. It was confirmed that it was a task force. Barry Kuhn asked for her comments to be recorded differently.

   Committee member Jean Bordon made a motion to have the audio minutes reviewed and Mrs. Kuhn’s comments be recorded as presented. It was seconded by Committee member Pearson and the vote was unanimous. The minutes were not approved.
2. **Comments from the Chair.**
   Chair Kemnitzer deferred this item to the new and old business sections of the agenda.

3. **Staff Reports – Robert Zadnik, Public Works Director.**
   Director Zadnik gave an update on Golden Gate Lane.

4. **Reports from Subcommittees.**
   This item was not addressed.

**New Business**

5. **Introduction of new members of the Parks & Open Space Committee.**
   - Mario Valente and Jena Watson introduced themselves and gave their vision for this Committee.

6. **Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chair.**
   Discussion was had over exchange of seats. Brian Kemnitzer was asked to serve as Chair for an additional term. He was reappointed as Chair and Anne-Maire Walker was appointed as Vice Chair. The vote was all in favor with exception of Committee Member Lund who wished to abstain.

7. **Discussion and approval of Belvedere Parks and Open Space Committee directory, Sub-Committees and Task Forces.** Discussion was had and Task Forces were preferred over subcommittees. New task forces were stated as:
   - Lanes Task Force
   - Trees, Vegetation and Views Task Force (TVV)

8. **Discussion of installation of additional benches at Tom Price Park and related application to the Belvedere Community Foundation and provide direction to Staff.**
   - Staff received direction to place item on September agenda.

9. **Consideration of donation request to install Frog trashcan(s) near Community Park Playground and provide direction to Staff.**
   - There was no opposition or comment regarding this item.

**Old Business**

10. **Receive a report from the Lanes Task Force on Artist’s View resident survey and other city lanes and provide direction to Staff.**
   - Report provided by Member Lund. Chair Kemnitzer summarized his thoughts on the survey and called for Public comment; the following residents commented:
     - DB Murray – argued that it was a biased survey.
     - Kevin Kuhn – commented that he thought the survey should be offered to everyone.
     - Michael Davis – Commented that he think the survey was not professional.
- David Ganapolar at 330 Beach – commented this a substantial item, a legal matter. Stated the survey needs to be more professional. Wanted to know if the issue of traffic and parking has been considered.
- Bert Richards– additional survey thinks the website survey is a good idea. More input is desired. Feels he has heard that there is enough dissatisfaction with the survey that it needs to be re-written.
- Kevin Kuhn – did not receive survey. Include in survey all relative information, costs, impacts to the City. He feels that would be very helpful.
- Klaus Johansimeier – 6 Blanding Lane – Read a statement of the purpose of the committee and the dangers of a lane at Artist’s View.
- Unnamed - commented on the professionalism of the survey. He also brought up that Artists’ View is un-police able.
- Unnamed – if the City cannot police visible areas that are problematic, how are they to police an area like Artists View?

Director Zadnik suggested putting a survey on the website and Chair Kemnitzer thought that was a good possibility. Chair Kemnitzer wanted everyone’s comments. Committee Member Lund explained how she came to the list for the survey recipients. Council liaison Campbell agreed with Director Zadnik that a survey on the website is a good idea. Chair Kemnitzer reviewed the history of the deeded land to the City and called for a motion to put the survey on the City’s website. Committee member Bordon made a comment that the vision of the donor needs to be remembered. Chair Kemnitzer brought up several additional security ideas that Chief Wu may want to consider. Chair Kemnitzer brought up last year’s special meeting of the POSC regarding Artist’s View and said after the new survey he would be happy to have another special meeting.

Anne-Marie Walker made a motion that the City draft a new survey, put it on the website and follow that up with a Special Meeting on Artists View. Item was seconded by Committee Member Watson.

Director Zadnik called the Committee members individually for a vote.

**AYES:** Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Walker, Watson, Valente and Lund  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

Chair Kemnitzer invited the public to submit questions they would like included in the survey, not guaranteeing they would be included, but they would be considered.

11. Discuss the status of Lower Woodwardia Lane (270 Beach Road).

Chair Kemnitzer opened up with the reasoning for placing this item on the agenda. He stated 270 Beach is under construction and there have been a lot of issues with the
neighbors. Could be a Lane that could go to Beach? Called on Bert or Roxanne Richards to comment on saving the trees.

- Bert – Is interested in saving their redwood tree during replacement of the lane.

Chair Kemnitzer read the arborist report of June 30, 2020 and diagrams of protecting the trees in regards to the lane. He asked Alec (Project Architect) to comment. Alec reviewed the history of the lane and construction plans of replacing the stairs.

- Klaus Johanasimeier (6 Blanding Lane) was called on to comment and stated, he is not using Artist’s View as a trash dump; this was a false comment.

Chair Kemnitzer commented that he had a conversation with Fire Chief Peirce and was told the Fire Department would not be cleaning up Artists’ View Lane.

- Klaus Johanasimeier – (6 Blanding Lane) concerned about fire hazard on Artists’ View and asked that Chair Kemnitzer’s comment struck from the record.

12. Discussion of beach access via eastern side of the Island—review of public land areas.
   Chair Kemnitzer asked to postpone this item to a later date.
   - Kevin Khun—asked what where information could be found on City land.

Chair Kemnitzer asked for any additional comment, there was none.

13. Playground Task Force update: Review and provide recommendations for Playground Task Force (Belvedere Community Foundation application due to by September 1, 2020.)
   - Chair Kemnitzer asked Director Zadnik and Committee Member Valente to comment on request or donation from the Belvedere Community Foundation.

   Director Zadnik reviewed the proposal and estimate from Mack 5. Chair Kemnitzer thanked Robert and asked if RHAA could come before the Belvedere Community Foundation to make a presentation. Director Zadnik felt that the proposal should go before the Playground Task Force first and laid out next steps. There was further discussion of the proposal. Committee Member Jean asked about City Council input concerning the color of the turf and sails and also if this item would have to go back to Council.

14. Discussion and confirmation of revision of guidelines for public memorials re: City of Belvedere administrative policy manual policy 20.3.4 “lanes will not be named after persons.”
   - Chair Kemnitzer reviewed the item and opened up to Public Comment.

   - DB – Asked to have the Lane by his home renamed. Commented that he heard you can pay to have Lanes renamed.
   - Joan Palmero – Representing people who would like Albert’s Alley to be renamed Wosser Lane. Joan read a statement in favor of naming Albert’s Alley after the Wosser family.
   - Chair Kemnitzer read a public comment letter from Roger Felton, Committee Member Winter, and Committee Member Lund and closed Public Comment.
• Chair Kemnitzer then called for a motion.

Committee Member Bordon made a motion to confirm the revision of the Belvedere administrative policy manual policy 20.3.4 “lanes will not be named after persons.” The item was seconded by Committee Member Pearson

AYES: Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Walker, Watson, Valente
NOES: None
ABSENT: Lund
ABSTAIN: None

Motion made to adjourn:

AYES: Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Walker, Watson, Valente
NOES: None
ABSENT: Lund
ABSTAIN: None

Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES were approved at a regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Committee on September 10, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

APPROVED: __________________________
Bryan Kemnitzer, Chair

ATTEST:
Robert Zadnik, Public Works Manager
Objectives of Trees, Vegetation and Views – Task Force of the Parks and Open Space Committee of the City of Belvedere

1. Review Tree Survey conducted in 2018 and report on status
2. Walk the City of Belvedere (Belvedere Island, Belvedere Lagoon and Corinthian Island) and report on status of invasive weeds, dead trees and vegetation accumulating as potential fire hazard to report on Vegetation
3. Walk the City of Belvedere and report on Visual Easements as recorded on the City Map to report on Views

Tools provided to do the above:

1. Copy of City Map
2. Copy of Tree Survey
3. Copy of Invasive weeds list with photo id
4. Copy of City of Belvedere 2030 General Plan Land Use Map and Parks and Open Space Map

Reporting findings:

The Task Force members shall record their findings utilizing personal iPhone “Compass” app and to record longitude and latitude of invasive weeds as well as take a photo of area. To report views, they shall record with a photo visual easements as noted on the City’ s Parks and Open Space map.

Goals:

1. Gathering the collected data of the Task Force members, a report on Trees, Vegetation and Views shall be made to the Parks and Open Space Committee (POSC) at their January meeting in order to review preliminary findings.
2. With input provided by the Task Force, findings shall be prioritized to develop next steps.

Remember, in order to manage, we must first measure.

Thank you for considering to serve on this Task Force.
Trees, Vegetation and Views Task Force

City of Belvedere, August, 2020

1. **Survey Area**

Golden Gate Avenue (from San Rafael Ave. to Cul-de-Sac, “B”)
Pine Avenue
Eucalyptus Avenue

**Surveyor: Shan Gao**

2. **Survey Area**

Madrona Avenue including Five Corners “A”
Bayview Avenue
Fern Avenue
Marin Avenue

**Surveyor: Fred and Judy Rose**

3. **Survey Area**

Corinthian Island: Bellevue Avenue
Main (Beach to Bellevue)
East View
Alcatraz and Overlook “C”

**Surveyor: Sallie Griffith**

4. **Survey Area**

San Rafael Avenue
Teal
Oak Avenue
Oak Place
Oak Mini Park
Buckeye
Acacia

**Surveyor: Jena Watson**
5. Survey Area
Peninsula Road
Lagoon Road
Maybridge
Tom Price Park
Cove Road
Cove Road Place
Barn Road

Surveyor: Adam Gavzer

6. Survey Area
Beach Road
Land Co. Park
China Cabin
Winnie Allen Bench
Artist's View
Blanding Circle

Surveyor: Anne-Marie and David Walker

7. Survey Area
Belvedere Avenue
Belvedere Way
Belvedere Way Park
Cliff Road
Crest Road

Surveyor: Sandy Donnell

8. Survey Area
Bella Vista Avenue
Toyon
Centennial Park

Surveyor: Wendy Miller

9. Survey Area
Community Road
Leeward Road
Mallard Road and Terminal
Laurel
Community Park

Surveyor: Doug and Laurel Holm
10. **Survey Area**

Britton
Tamalpais Avenue
Tamalpais Circle
Marin
Pelican Point
North Point

**Surveyor: Ron and Jennifer Sann**

11. **Survey Area**

West Shore Road
Hilarita
Windward
Edgewater

**Surveyor: Kathy Pearson**
Interesting Facts for Parks and Open Space Trees, Vegetation and Views Task Force Surveyors
Prepared by Anne-Marie Walker, September 5, 2020  
Source document: A Pictorial History of Belvedere, The Landmarks Society

- If you are surveying San Rafael Avenue or West Shore Road, did you know that until the 1930’s, this corner was the site of a shell mound some 60 feet high, 50 feet deep and about 600 feet long? In the 1940’s, the mound was used as fill to form peninsulas of land in the Lagoon.
- If you are surveying Britton Avenue, did you know this was once a knoll, part of the Belvedere Golf and Country Club? About thirty feet of hill was removed for residences to be built near the former Clubhouse (first residence on the right of Britton)
- If you are surveying Beach Road and streets along the lagoon, did you know that the Belvedere Land Company granted the gift of the Cove shoreline to the City without any conditions except to reclaim it if the public trust was not kept?
- If you are surveying San Rafael Avenue, did you know that the European pear tree in Community Park was part of Israel Kashow’s Orchard Garden on Belvedere, then known as Kashow’s Island?
- If you are surveying Barn Road, did you know this commemorates the site of the “stagecoach barn” built by the Land Company to house horses and carriages used to pick up passengers at the Tiburon Ferry? It was demolished in 1966
- If you are surveying Bayview Avenue or Bella Vista Avenue, did you know that in 1867, then President Andrew Johnson declared by Executive Order that Angel Island and Promontory Island (one of Belvedere Island’s six names) a military post? U.S. troops were in command of the island and camped in the vicinity of Bayview and Bella Vista keeping unauthorized visitors at bay.
- If you are surveying San Rafael Avenue or West Shore Road, did you know that the tide lots along these streets were sold off in 1871 by the state of California? In 1954, a developer put forth a plan to build out these lots. Over the next 25 years, many joined forces to preserve the tidelands as open water. The final piece was put into play by Belvedere voters who passed a bond issue to create a wildlife refuge area; Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.
- If you are surveying Land Company Park, did you know that it was once called the Village Green? The Land Company donated the park to the City in the 1970’s following the widening and dividing of Beach Road as part of the City’s waterfront Open Space project.
- If you are surveying Tamalpais Avenue, did you know that this incline was once a fairway of the Belvedere Golf and Country Club? Because of its incline, the hole was nicknamed Matterhorn.
- If you are surveying Bellevue Avenue on Corinthian Island, did you know that Holly Lane led to public beach access? Other lanes in Belvedere provide beach access as well.
- If you are surveying Cliff Road, did you know that the sheltered cove at the bottom of the road is called Rix Cove? For many years, it was a favorite picnic spot accessible only by water or what was then considered a very rugged hike.
- If you are surveying West Shore Road, did you know that the Union Fish Company built a very large cannery in the 1870’s which later, in 1937, burned to the ground? Oils used canning Alaskan cod were the likely cause of fire. Some surviving buildings served as an artist’s colony followed by housing for shipyard workers during WWII. Residential development began in 1963.
- If you are surveying Laurel Avenue, did you know that the ark “Alice” was moved from the lagoon to 12 Laurel Avenue in 1939?
August 26, 202

Belvedere City Council

Re: Artist’s View gift of Mason Wells

To Whom It May Concern:

We especially appreciate that the Parks and Open Space committee and the city of Belvedere have taken action to proceed with Mason Wells' Artist’s View property, since the city accepted the gift 44 years ago. As stated in his deed, Mason gifted this property so that it would be used for "scenic, open space, and hiking purposes" fostered by "constructing pathway and stairway improvements".

We see Mason’s gift as similar to beautiful Centennial Park, 1996, which offers a nature's pathway between Bella Vista and Bayview, that we have actively enjoyed over the years; the city has a serious obligation to follow through on Mason’s gift as soon as possible—44 years is a long-time delay.

Marty often quotes E. O. Wilson, from his book, Half Earth, "If we save half the earth for nature, we can save ourselves and Mother Earth." Mason Wells' gift is doing its part to save another bit of nature. I have walked it and found myself spellbound by nature’s wild glow right here in the city.

We are grateful for all the lanes connecting various levels of Belvedere, and are especially thrilled with Mason Wells' gift for this glorious opportunity to enjoy one more, and that it leads to the bay. In this time of covid-19, when more people enjoy walking, it’s significant to have these Belvedere lanes to navigate the island, and if need, a route to escape in emergency. Artist's view is most consequential as it leads to the water for boat access and safety.

This important project for nature honoring Mason Wells' thoughtful gift shall be celebrated by all citizens of Belvedere upon its hopefully early completion.

Sincerely,

Marty Griffin MD

Joyce Griffin MA