

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020, 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
450 SAN RAFAEL AVENUE, BELVEDERE, CA**

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 Supervisor Gerhard Laufer, Public Works Director Robert Zadnik, Council Liaison James Campbell, and Technician Nancy Miller.

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 4:00 PM.

OPEN FORUM

Priscilla Miller, 104 Esperanza, Tiburon, requested the Wosser Lane naming proposal be added to the May 14, 2020 POSC agenda. They have heard that there have been concerns expressed by the public although those have not been made publicly. She requested that under the current naming Policy 20.3 a petition submitted should be considered for the name change as soon as possible.

Bill Rothman, 14 Cliff Road, expressed concerns with procedures for communication with the public on items for discussion.

Joan Palmero, Greenbrae, stated the Wosser Lane naming request proposal was written to conform to the existing policy.

Chair Kemnitzer suggested that the underlying issue of naming policy came from this request for a lane name change.

Chair Kemnitzer suggested that the issue of reviewing the policies for the naming of lanes might be on a future agenda. Committee agreed.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

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

A correction to these Minutes was made to state that Barbara Winter would be a member of the Lanes task force with Bryan Kemnitzer and a third member from the community is to be determined in the future.

Minutes Approved unanimously as corrected.

2. Comments from the Chair.

Chair Kemnitzer deferred this item to a later time in the meeting.

3. Staff Reports – Robert Zadnik, Public Works Director.

A report was made on a potential Grant from the Tiburon Fire Protection District to complete the vegetation cleanup of the lower end of the Artist View lot. In addition, work on revisions to the design of that lane project is on-going. WRA, an environmental firm will be evaluating any CEQA constraints there may be for this project.

The Proposition 68 funds (\$200,000) will likely be split between the seawall improvements/landscaping and the Park Lane or Lower Hawthorne lane projects.

4. Reports from Subcommittees.

There were no reports from the Subcommittees.

5. New Business

- Hofmann Family request for additional memorial plaque on public bench.

Gretchen Hofmann, daughter of Mollie Hofmann (former member of the POSC), requested an additional memorial plaque to be added to an existing memorial bench which currently already has a plaque remembering her grandmother. The added plaque would be in memory of her sister and mother. Committee members discussed an alternative to make one longer plaque with all the names to be consistent with the City policy. A mockup could be reviewed by staff.

Committee unanimously approved a motion for a single replacement plaque of extended length with multiple names to be allowed.

Chair Kemnitzer asked that that the next item to be discussed would be the item listed below:

6. Old Business

- Continued discussion of Community Park Playground update.

Chair Kemnitzer reported that there appears to be interest in funding support for the project from the Belvedere Community Foundation, Tiburon Community Foundation, and individual funding, as well as from the City of Belvedere.

Director Zadnik stated that the Planning Commission reviewed and approved the conceptual design. The Commission defers to the POSC to choose the final colors for the matting and shade sails, although they would prefer something that would blend in with the natural environment. A color of the sails might be chosen to not show staining impacts from adjacent Oak trees. The type of material in the tot's play area (#5 in the drawing) on

the climbing hills (#3) may be up to further discussion. The Planning Commission had some concerns about whether turf material would get too hot. A discussion of alternative materials to turf and to rubberized matting including how durable each material is and which types are easiest to maintain. Rubberized matting is negatively affected by sand from the sandbox. The rubber surfacing material (#5) is a poured in place material and is more durable.

Chair Kemnitzer mentioned that there are natural materials such as jute that have been suggested.

Director Zadnik replied that organic materials do not last as long as synthetic materials. The City has experience with jute used for erosion control but he does not know how it would hold up in a playground application.

Open public comment.

Bill Rothman, agrees that there may be a heat issue with artificial turf. Rubberized matting, if made from auto tires, is actually 45% rubber and 55% petroleum products which may release carcinogens and should be avoided. If the proposed material is a similar composition, alternatives should be investigated. Research should be done to seek natural organic alternative materials that can be supported by the public.

Close public hearing.

Chair Kemnitzer responded that the task force has already done a lot of study of the proposed materials and to balance costs, disability access compliance, and maintenance concerns.

Ms. Walker asked whether anyone has looked into the use of cork as an alternative.

Ms. Bordon agrees that organic alternatives should be considered and what are the costs, durability, and maintenance requirements.

Director Zadnik stated that he can look into this further with the Architect for more information.

Ms. Lund asked what the other new structures will be made of, such as the boulder, the climbing hills, steps, benches and tables, etc. and whether these could be natural materials.

Director Zadnik replied that organic alternatives will be reviewed. It could be challenging to be 100% natural. The most wear occurs on the surface matting.

Ms. Seaman asked for a list of other playgrounds that are using artificial turf. She commented that the proposed climbing hills near the boat may be dictating the use of turf because it requires the use of a moldable material. At College of Marin, who are very environmentally sensitive, the artificial turf they have used has a substrate construction and the area must be watered frequently. If that maintenance is required for the proposed artificial turf at Community Park that might not be the best choice as the idea should be to have a low water and high durability use.

Chair Kemnitzer asked if Mr. Zadnik could report back to the Committee on these items in May, including provision of color samples for the shade sails.

- Discussion of completion schedule for Golden Gate Lane.

Director Zadnik reported on remaining items for the project, including reestablishment of some irrigation and deer fencing for Mr. Snow's property, and added installation of low retaining walls at intervals under the bench areas. New low water plantings will be needed in those areas. The approaches to the Lane on Golden Gate and Belvedere Avenues will be finished with related storm drain catch basin work. Handrail and guardrail installations will follow. Signage at both top and bottom will be installed. The signs have been created by Roger Felton.

Council Member Campbell suggested that plantings might be similar to those found on Pine Avenue to Belvedere Avenue as these are succulents and geraniums that do not require irrigation.

Ms. Winter asked when the telephone poles might be expected to be removed.

Director Zadnik replied they hope to have those come out in May, depending on PG&E and the undergrounding project.

- Continued discussion of Park Lane and potential seating area update: Director Zadnik stated that can be encompassed into the next item for discussion of budget items.
- Review of 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget. A handout was provided for the discussion.¹

Director Zadnik and Committee discussed how the Lanes Initiative Program format might continue for future lane projects where the City would provide matching funds to private donations for new lanes projects.

Committee discussed whether there would be a similar format for funding lane maintenance. Director Zadnik replied that would not be the same format for maintenance. That process is more for the larger capital projects to build or rebuild those areas. Other items shown on the handout pertain to projected budget items for future discussion by the City Council in May. The current \$80,000 item for the playground matting replacement from 2019/20 will be carried forward. Additional funding will come from donations and contributions to the larger playground project.

Committee asked whether additional DPW staffing would be a part of this budget discussion. Chair Kemnitzer replied that it is a topic for City Council discussion. Director Zadnik stated that staff is sufficient for current levels of maintenance. If there is an increase in the work scope then that could be discussed.

Committee discussed whether the reduction of fuel load in areas other than Artist View would be a budget consideration given the low rainfall this winter. Chair Kemnitzer replied that the TFPD is interested in knowing where there are other areas of concern.

Member Walker reported that she has still has concerns about several dead Oak trees on Madrona Avenue. Outreach to TFPD has not yet received a response.

Director Zadnik reported that the budget worksheet did not show a planned increase to 5 Chipper Days this year, plus a vegetation drop-off event at Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon. The budget worksheet proposes \$45,000 for vegetation maintenance and \$55,000 for tree maintenance. PG&E performs line clearance routinely on trees as well. The Bordon's and the Lasky's have provided some donated help from their own gardeners at 5 Corners, and

¹ The handout is archived with the record of the meeting.

the neighbor at 102 Golden Gate Ave (the Hasler's) have offered to assist with hand watering if needed also.

Public Works Supervisor Gerhard Laufer reported on the situation regarding dead trees at 101 Golden Gate Avenue. Several notifications have occurred in person, and by mail from the City and the Fire Marshal but there has been no progress yet to address the problem by the owner. The process for mandating dead tree removals in the Municipal Code is complex.

- Parks and Open Space Committee vacancies for 2020.

Item was not discussed at this meeting.

6. Future Agenda Items

Member Bordon requested that a future agenda item would be public acknowledgement to many who have contributed in time and money for the Golden Gate Lane project as well as the work on the Playground project and other contributions.

- a. Consider appropriate public acknowledgement to the citizens at 101 Golden Gate Avenue who are donating the water for the new plantings.
- b. Consider the installation of a water meter at the 5 Corners planting location in the FY 20/21 budget.
- c. Wosser Lane naming request.
- d. Review of naming policies for lanes.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES were approved at a regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Committee on May 14, 2020, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None