

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14th, 2021, 4:00 PM
REMOTE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM**

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Public Works Director Robert Zadnik, Council Liaison James Campbell, Office Coordinator Christina Cook

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 4:01 PM.

Chair Kemnitzer read the COVID-19 disclaimer and special instructions for Zoom webinars.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Public Works Director Zadnik. Committee Member Watson signed in at 4:10 PM.

OPEN FORUM

Chair Kemnitzer asked Director Zadnik if comments for open forum were received via email. There were none, but there was a hand raised via a call-in. Annette Ryan of Lagoon Road commented that she would like to reactivate the discussion with Director Zadnik from May 2018 to plant gravilla plants along the edge of Lagoon Road north of Tom Price Park. This would provide a natural shield of Tiburon Boulevard traffic and a construction equipment staging area. She expressed that she would like to meet with Director Zadnik to discuss placement and quantity of the plants. Chair Kemnitzer agreed to meet with Annette and Director Zadnik to come up with a plan. Director Zadnik commented that if the item had been approved at a previous meeting then the Department of Public Works has enough direction to kick start the project. After her comment there were no others, and the open forum was closed.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

Chair Kemnitzer then took Item 5.

5. Continued discussion and possible action concerning Artist View lot; review and approval of Fletcher Design proposal.

Chair Kemnitzer introduced Zack Taylor who is part of the Artists' View project team. Mr. Taylor introduced himself and the additional team members and then gave David Fletcher the floor. Mr. Fletcher shared his screen and gave a presentation.

Chair Kemnitzer asked for Committee questions and comments. Committee Member Walker asked if there was a rough idea of timeline and costs. Chair Kemnitzer noted the City has \$100,000.00 and that the committee would raise another \$200,000.00. Chair Kemnitzer asked Mr. Fletcher to speak on the planning of the playground. Committee Member Watson spoke of the design element, challenges of the required maintenance and making the project easily accessible for children and people with mobility issues. David spoke about maintenance impacts of landscape being sustainable. Committee Member Bordon thanked the task force, asked relationship of the committee to task force as the project goes forward. The proposal looked to her as if there are two stages and three proposals. One dealt with the concept design, three dealt with trail alignment studies and two was about sight interventions. There were to be three sight intervention studies and she would like the task force to come back to the committee with the recommendations and the direction they are heading. Chair Kemnitzer wanted it to be clear that the task force has no authority to make decisions. He also stated that the Parks and Open Space Committee is an advisory board to the City Council. Committee Bordon shared some ideas for community outreach and involvement.

Chair Kemnitzer opened for Public Comment. Michael Davis asked Mr. Fletcher if he was aware that Artists' View is controversial project. Mr. Fletcher said he was not aware specifically, but that most public projects have opposition. Mr. Davis wanted to introduce himself and that he wanted to participate with the process. Mr. Fletcher said he wanted to touch on public outreach to stakeholders with a robust dialogue. Mr. Davis stated how this will affect him daily. Committee Member Bordon stated that Mason Wells owned Mr. Davis' land previously and allowed other to build and kept the Artist's View property for the public. John Sharp, attorney for The Johannsmeier's and Mr. Davis. He stated that he has reviewed the proposal from The Fletcher Group and Tree Vegetation and View Task Force report. He did note there is no reference that biological, geotechnical, public safety or traffic circulation studies have been done. He had some questions as to the process of going before City Council and Chair Kemnitzer reviewed the process of approval. Chair Kemnitzer then referenced the letter Mr. Sharp submitted to the Committee and requested that it be included in the record. Chair Kemnitzer noted that parts of the letter are incorrect and referenced certain parts of the City's zoning code and map. Chair Kemnitzer excused the Fletcher Group and the Artist's View Task Force. In further public comment, Klaus Johannsmeier spoke about corrections he suggested in the previous meetings minutes. It was decided that would be discussed when approval of the minutes was opened. He then commented about a promised feasibility study that was not provided in the agenda packet and asked for a timeline of the study. Barry Kuhn commented on the estimated \$300,000.00 cost of the project and asked what the money is going to be used for and where is it coming from. Chair Kemnitzer stated he did not know at this time. She also inquired as to what form the community involvement would be. Chair Kemnitzer said ideally a community meeting, but it has not been decided. Director Zadnik stated he had no other requests to speak from the public.

MOTION – Chair Kemnitzer asked for a motion. Committee Member Walker made a motion to have the Parks and Open Space Committee refer to the City Fletcher Design's proposal and to recommend going forward with the proposal.

AYES: Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Walker, Watson, Valente, and Lund

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

1. Approve minutes of the November 12, 2020 regular meeting.

THE MINUTES of the November 12, 2020 regular meeting were approved with amendments at the regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Committee on January 14, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Walker, Watson, Valente, and Lund

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Klaus Johannsmeier commented that he felt the minutes were not accurate, Chair Kemnitzer felt that they were accurate. Committee Member Bordon stated that the minutes are not supposed to be verbatim. There is a recording available.

2. Comments from Chair Kemnitzer.
None.
3. Staff report from Director Zadnik, Public Works Director.
Director Zadnik had nothing urgent in terms of updates.

Chair Kemnitzer then took Item 6 next.

6. Continued discussion and update from staff concerning the status of private fencing at Artist View lot.

Chair Kemnitzer asked Director Zadnik if the fence was put up without permits and then stated that it violates City code 20.04.150 regarding fences and screening. Chair Kemnitzer also checked with the BCDC who controls land within 100' of water, which the fence is within. Chair Kemnitzer does not plan on reporting the fence to the BCDC but did state the fines could be up to \$6000.00 per day since the fence was installed. Chair Kemnitzer asked Director Zadnik what the City plans on doing in regards of enforcement. Director Zadnik commented that the City was not sure if the fence is on City or private property as a survey was not provided to the City and there were no inspections. Next step is to have the City Building Official speak with property owner. It will need to be decided if the homeowner wants to keep the fence and then go into design review retroactively. The takeaway from today is to have the City work with the property owner to have the fence removed or permitted. Chair Kemnitzer stated since this has gone on for so long, he would like to see some significant movement on the situation by the City. He then asked for Committee comment. Committee Member Bordon asked if the Artist's View proposal will need to go to BCDC? Chair Kemnitzer said yes it will.

Public Comment from John Sharpe was that the fence was researched before installation. Also, in public comment Mr. Johannsmeier reminded the committee that the first fencing discussions took place with the City Council in April 2019 and that they complied with the Chairman's demands. Michael Davies stated that they commissioned a survey and recorded with the county based on the iron stake at the bottom of Artists View. He is confused about the fence being on City property.

7. Continued discussion and possible action regarding Golden Gate Lane spring 2021 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Hold off because of COVID. Will have a ceremony when we can all congregate.

4. Reports from Subcommittees/task forces.

a. Playground

Chair Kemnitzer asked Director Zadnik if there was any public comment on the playground, there was none. Chair Kemnitzer has done extensive research in playground surfacing and so has Director Zadnik. RHAA's proposal exists of using recycled rubber products with a topcoat of virgin rubber. Chair Kemnitzer called on Committee Member Valente to comment. Committee Member Valente commented that the rubber matting material that will be used at the Belvedere playground is essentially the same as what has been used in a large City of San Francisco playground upgrade project and was chosen with the upmost care. Chair Kemnitzer called on Director Zadnik for comments. Director Zadnik spoke of a few different ways to ensure that the rubber matting is up to the chosen standards and next steps.

There was some confusion on a motion that was made, and the motion was then withdrawn.

b. Lanes

Chair Kemnitzer asked if committee members received the design from John Swaine for the lane at the end of the parking lot at the San Francisco Yacht Club. No action needed; Chair wanted to make sure the Committee received it as a possible project. Committee Member Bordon commented that she liked option 2.

c. Trees, Vegetation & Views

This was addressed as Item 9.

Chair Kemnitzer then took Item 9 next.

9. Continued discussion and possible action regarding TVV survey results; consider a formal recommendation to City Council.

Committee Member Walker wants to prioritize the items on the survey results and work with the Public Works Department. First, trees – there are a lot of dead trees on the island due to the continued drought. The Task Force is looking at the dead trees as a fire safety issue. The survey resulted in 37 dead or dying trees. Committee Member Walker is proposing the City waive the arborists report requirement for these trees which have already been identified as dead by the task force. She also suggestion to make the exemption form more accessible on the website. She feels an increase in the education of the residents on invasive plants and fire hazards will increase participation in their removal.

Public Comment was then opened. There was no comment on the item.

MOTION: Have the City and Public Works Department work with the task force recommendations and have them implemented and that Parks and Open Space Committee and Trees Vegetation and Views task force cooperate and work with the City. Chair Kemnitzer made the motion, and it was seconded by Committee Member Bordon. Director Zadnik then took roll call and the motion was passed with the following votes;

AYES: Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Walker, Watson, Valente, and Lund

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Continued discussion and possible action regarding shoreline access near 1 Embarcadero.

Chair Kemnitzer stated that we would hold off for now on this item.

Public Comment was then opened. There was no comment on the item.

10. Tom Price Park Benches: Consider recommendation to City Council to amend Administrative Policy Manual section 405.24 Moratorium on Installations, to remove moratorium on the installation of new park benches.

The moratorium was approved in June 2009 and amended on March 11, 2013 by the Parks and Open Space Committee. This has come up because the Belvedere Community Foundation agreed to cover the costs of some new benches. Chair Kemnitzer suggested that the Committee could talk about it at the next meeting or allow the benches on a case-by-case basis by the need and type of other benches nearby. He then called for Committee comment. Committee Member Valente wanted rational on the moratorium. Mayor Campbell shared the in site as follow; The park was not created as a dog park and the dogs make it not as user friendly to kids and family. Dog owners have tried several times to fence in the park with strong opposition from the neighbors. Traditionally the benches were given to the City as donations to be used as memorials for people. There got to be a long list with requests for benches to be places in certain spots for a variety of reasons. The Parks and Open Space Committee tried to offer different items to be donated instead of benches, but that did not take off. This was why the moratorium was put in place. Committee Member Walker confirmed this as she was on the Committee in 2013.

Committee Member Walker stated that we need to respect the multi-generational use of the park. Older people need a place to sit and rest. Committee Member Watson agreed Committee Member Walker with new areas and changed circumstances. Maybe this is a time to reevaluate the benches on a case-by-case basis, keeping in mind the previous concerns. Committee Member Bordon suggested to put on the next agenda to amend the moratorium for memorial benches, not all benches. Committee Member Watson said it would go in line with the policy to not name the lanes and showing favoritism to certain residents. Chair Kemnitzer suggested as well putting it on the next agenda and also to see what community members felt about it.

Public Comment was then opened. There was no public comment on the item.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM by a unanimous vote.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES were approved at a regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Committee on March 11, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Walker, Watson, Valente, and Lund

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None