

**SPECIAL MEETING
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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, City Manager Craig Middleton, Office Coordinator Christina Cook, RHAA's Manuela King and Kendra Manning

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.

Chair Kemnitzer read the COVID-19 disclaimer and special instructions for Zoom webinars. He also read the only scheduled item and reminded the public they can speak in the open forum on any topic except for this one.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Public Works Director Zadnik.

OPEN FORUM

Public Comment was called by Zadnik, there was no public comment.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

Chair Kemnitzer reviewed the upcoming schedule of the meeting and noted some of the speakers that would be presenting. Chair Kemnitzer reviewed previous outcomes and decisions of the Committee and Council and then read into the record a statement. Director Zadnik read into the record a portion of the RHAA report. Reviewed ASTM standards. He stated that the maintenance schedule of the rubber matting is important. This was the end of Director Zadnik summary. RHAA's Manuela King reviewed the plans that were provided in the agenda. RHAA's Kendra Manning was traveling and unable to participate. Committee Member Valente reviewed surface systems.

Committee Comment was called for. Chair Kemnitzer read a letter of thanks record the Committee received signed by seventy four parents with seventy nine children.

Public Comment was called for.

1. Adam McNeile – supports the approved plans
2. Ethan Doyle – supports the plans and supports Adam
3. Allison Richards – Children, 3 boys aged 3, 5 and 7 years. Lives in Tiburon.
4. Nikki Perlman and husband support the playground
5. Claus Lund, Belvedere 3 kids. Did not want sandbox removed or toxic materials used. Materials being discussed have been outlawed in several countries for playgrounds and sports.
6. Kristin Kemnitzer – Supports the approved playground plans. She read a statement.
7. Director Zadnik read the following comment from Heidi Robinson who voiced her opinion via the chat feature. She lives at 303 San Rafael Ave. Hello - Unfortunately, I need to step away from the call to take care of my children and won't be able to speak. I live at 303 San Rafael Ave, just down the road from the playground and am a huge supporter of the playground as designed and approved. We have found the playground and park a refuge throughout their lives, Annika is 4 and Axel is 2, and especially since reopening during Covid. We feel confident in the approved plan and look forward to continuing to enjoy a safe, accessible and hygienic playground for years to come. Thank you for your consideration. Best regards, Heidi Robinson
8. Marshall Butler and wife Ashley – huge supporters.
9. Marcia Valente 14 Laurel 3 girls 11, 9 & 5. No dangers from PIP materials
10. William Rothman as Ezra Brower. Voiced his opinion in not of support of the rubber matting that contains carcinogens. Urged residents to not approve the plans.

End of public comment.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the playground matting. Chair Kemnitzer asked for Committee Comments. Committee Member Watson, there is no perfect answer. There are risks with everything. Committee Member Bordon, questions about natural turf, not fall proof or ADA compliant, not an option. Committee Member Lund shared her screen with a presentation as sand as on option.

Committee Member Lund called for a motion at the end of her presentation as follows. Consider a motion that the Parks and Open Spaces Committee asks that the City Staff remove the degraded mats from the Belvedere Playground, fill in the previously matted areas with sand, confirm the ADA compliance of the concrete walkway, and to make adjustments if necessary. Hire a firm to do an overhaul of the current play equipment and the pot area repair, water blasting, painting freshening up and making the playground just like new. Budget \$5000-\$10,0000 for the project.

Chair Kemnitzer voiced his disappointment in Committee Member Lund's refusal to accept the democratic decision that was made about the playground. He reviewed the process that was followed.

There was discussion as to a motion to reaffirm a previous decision by Committee Member Valente about the pip surface matting. Committee Member Walker read a portion of the City Staff Report and sees no need for a motion. Council Member Campbell brought to attention that Committee Member Lund made a motion and to call for a second to her motion. There was no second.

MOTION - Committee Member Valente made a motion to reaffirm the earlier decision regarding PIP surface matting that the City has already adopted and approved and recommend staff proceed with next steps for the already approved and proposed design. Seconded by Committee Watson. Director Zadnik took a roll call. Motion passed as follows;

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

NOES: Lund

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Chair Kemnitzer gave many thanks and reviewed the two phases and wants to move ahead quickly.

Meeting adjourned 5:39 PM.

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