

**SPECIAL MEETING
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2021
REMOTE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM**

AMENDED MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Public Works Director Robert Zadnik, Council Liaison Jim Lynch, and 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 4:00 PM. Chair Bordon read the COVID-19 disclaimer and special instructions for Zoom webinars.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Public Works Director Zadnik.

OPEN FORUM

Chair Bordon read the guidelines on open forum procedures called for public comment. Director Zadnik stated he did not receive any comments via email, but he did have a hand raised in the attendee side of the Zoom platform. Chair Bordon asked for Director Zadnik to unmute the attendee so that they could make their 3-minute comment. Director Zadnik then called on Dr. Rothman to comment. Dr. Rothman reminded the Committee that each agenda item required time for public comment. He expressed his appreciation of the courage Chair Bordon had for speaking up at the council meeting opposing the use of carcinogens in the planned park remodel. He said he is trying to raise consciousness of the carcinogens.

Chair Bordon asked Director Zadnik if there were further requests for comment, there were none.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

1. Approve minutes of September 9, 2021, Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Committee Member Kemnitzer made a motion to approve the minutes as modified, Committee Member Walker seconded, and Director Zadnik took roll call.

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Comments from the Chair, Jean-Marie Bordon.

Chair Bordon stated she has two comments. First to Dr. Rothman, she thanked him on behalf of the community for keeping everyone apprised of the health risks of products. She stated the City Council had received numerous letters from young parents made clear that they preferred the benefits to their toddlers of playing on a stable surface outweigh the risks proposed by this play surface. City Council unanimously approved this play surface, and it is a final decision by the Parks and Open Space Committee. Her second comment is that several discussion items on this agenda will underscore the inadequate operating fund for Parks and Open Spaces. She outlined several of these items.

Chair Bordon called for Public Comment, Director Zadnik stated he had a raised hand from Dr. Rothman. He invited Dr. Rothman to speak. Dr. Rothman commented regarding letters received by City Council on the carcinogens and Chair Bordon's previous comments on the same.

Chair Bordon called for additional comments, there were none.

3. Report from Robert Zadnik, Public Works Director.

Director Zadnik had several updates for the Committee.

City Council began the process of formalizing an ordinance prohibiting commercial activities at City Parks. Concerts in the Park and Holiday Celebrations are still allowed through the Special Event Permit application. You may still join activities through The Ranch Recreation Department.

City Staff is working a solar project and battery backup system at the City's Corporation Yard at 85 Lagoon Road. This is a capital project that is also considering an electric vehicle charging station at the adjacent Tom Price parking lot. This is a good way for the City to achieve its Greenhouse Gas Emission goals at the same time as well as allowing the City to be better prepared for emergencies.

Soon, the Planning Commission will be considering a retroactive design review application for the illegal fencing installed around the Artist's View lot. This will be a public meeting via Zoom with the info posted on the website later today.

Last month, Director Zadnik invited the City's arborist to discuss the topping of the trees at Centennial Park. He reported that the holly tree is a tree that can withstand this type of pruning, but the Japanese maple is completely dead. The City is looking into the replacement cost of the tree and cost recovery from a nearby resident.

Chair Bordon has asked Director Zadnik to investigate overflowing trash by the gateway at San Rafael Avenue and on Lagoon Road at Tom Price Park. The Department of Public Works has since requested that Mill Valley Refuse increase their cleaning and they have found most of the excess trash is residential. Because of this, the issue has been turned over to Belvedere Police.

Tom Price Park landscape replanting project. Contractors have been selected to start clearing and replacement of the irrigation system. The plan is currently under review with the Planning Department. With the current water restrictions, the City is looking for ways to start the project by hand watering or installing a sprinkler line, both using well water. The goal is to get the plantings in place as soon as possible.

Director Zadnik opened for questions. Committee Member Walker stated she was walking Lagoon Road and noticed the final pine tree of a group of five is dead and inquired if there were plans to remove it. Director Zadnik was not sure but said he would check in to it. She also inquired the use

of well water and if an analysis of its capacity for the additional plantings. He stated we have a contractor to maintain, clean and inspect the wells. We will be asking them for their opinion before installation of the new system. There was further discussion of water quality and processes surrounding that. Chair Bordon called for further questions of the Committee and public, there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Report from Subcommittee on preparations of a Plan for Centennial Park, including replacement of stairs and railings, removal and/or limbing of trees, planting, and irrigation.

Vice Chair Watson reported out. On October 12, 2021, Director Zadnik and Vice Chair Watson met with Gary Rasmussen and walked the entire park. They discussed several improvements, maintenance issues and damage. The most prominent issue that was identified is the wooden stairs at the top. They discussed the replacement of the stairs and if the replacement would be wooden or concrete stairs. The orientation of the stairs was also discussed that there may be better placement of them. Committee Member Kemnitzer inquired if there was discussion about holly tree that was cut. Vice Chair Watson said there was discussion about the holly tree. Upon earlier cleanup of the park a rock pile was discovered, and they discussed if further work is needed regarding that.

Chair Bordon then asked to take public comment, stating we would go back to Committee after that. Steve Bauer gave a history of the park. Chair Bordon thanked Mr. Bauer, asked if there were further comment, there was none. She then moved back to Committee comment.

Committee Member Kemnitzer spoke again about the holly tree and that he had spoken to an arborist and wanted to know if Gary Rasmussen had shared any thoughts about the trees growth. Director Zadnik said he did not comment. Director Zadnik asked Committee Member Walker what she thought. She thought it would grow in an odd shape. Chair Bordon asked if any other Committee Members would like to comment on the stairs.

Committee Member Walker said she thought that seeing continuity and a concrete stairway designed in an artful way would be good. Director Zadnik was then asked by Committee Member Walker about some previous plans and stated that the biggest challenge of this planting area is water. He suggested a few different ideas and said Gary Rasmussen was aware of them. Committee Member Lund then expressed a perspective for the balance between nature and concrete. Vice Chair Watson expressed her support of Committee Member Lund's ideas. Committee Member Kemnitzer suggested permeable material.

5. Report from Subcommittee on Plan for Park Lane, including replacement of wooden stairs and wooden railings, removal and/or limbing of vegetation, planting, and installation of a viewing and seating area, with a built-in bench or a free-standing bench.

Vice Chair Watson reported out. After meeting with Gary Rasmussen for the about item the group went to the Park Lane site. Committee Member Kemnitzer joined the group. Wooden stairs in poor condition are again a concern. The City was granted a triangle of land that butts up to the park that needs design consideration. Vice Chair Watson reviewed some design ideas and concerns with railings. There are some lovely new trees and some scrubby ones that would need to be dealt with on the new parcel. Chair Bordon commented there are a lot of engineering questions, as this is a

very challenging space. Gary Rasmussen's thoughts were that the hillside erosion and shoring it up to prevent any further erosion were essential. He also suggested relocating a streetlight that is in the view corridor. Director Zadnik said next steps that the City is looking into is getting a surveyor out on site as it is a complex site.

Chair Bordon asked for Committee comment. Committee Member Valente asked of the square footage of the deeded parcel. Director Zadnik stated it was less than 200 sq. feet. Chair Bordon asked for Public Comment. Brian Mein spoke in support of the bench but is worried about tree loss and loss of privacy of his home. It seems to him there is no replanting of trees, just removals. He also mentioned that at the bottom of his property there is a non-working hillavator, and that at some point they are planning on replacing it.

No further committee or public comment was received.

6. Update on Report from Views Subcommittee on report, dated August 2021, to Irene Borba, Director of Planning, and Robert Zadnik, Director of Public Works, regarding Preservation of Views from Public Places.

Committee Member Pearson reported out. She stated that she had submitted her report and it was in the packet. She mentioned overgrown view corridors. Chair Bordon expressed that The City has not responded the report even though there are code violations. She also mentioned some trees in Centennial Park that need limbing.

7. Discussion and possible action on all acknowledgements to be installed in Community Park to individuals and entities, who contributed \$1000 or more to the Playground Renovation.

This item encompasses individuals and businesses from both Belvedere and Tiburon. Chair Bordon brought up the request received from the Johnson Family for a donation and a memorial bench and asked Committee Member Kemnitzer report on the item. Committee Member Kemnitzer reported out in support of a memorial plaque on an existing bench in Community Park for the Johnson Family and their son Brent. Committee Member Walker asked Committee Member Kemnitzer to comment on funding for the benches.

Public comment was made by Dr. Rothman as to how one person's tragedy compares to another. Steger and Astrid Johnson also made public comment of their intent with the bench. Sandy Donnell made a comment in support of the Johnsons Memorial bench. Ashley Johnson spoke in support of the memorial plaque as well.

There was no further comment.

MOTION: Committee Member Kemnitzer made the motion that the Parks and Open Space Committee recommend that a plaque in the memory of Brent Johnson as requested by the Johnson Family to be placed on an existing bench in the playground with wording to be provided by the Johnson family prior to installation. Committee Member Walker seconded. The motion was passed by the vote below.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Valente

ABSTAIN: None

Chair Bordon brought up the second part of the item as to how to memorialize donors who have contributed \$1000 or more. Committee Member Kemnitzer spoke of the phenomenal support the renovation has received. The subcommittee did state in a publication that donors who have contributed \$1000 or more would receive recognition in an installation that has yet to be determined and that will be the retroactive motion that will be made. Chair Bordon asked Committee Member Kemnitzer if he had any idea of the type of plaque or placement. Committee Member Lund suggested a concrete walkway with names. Vice Chair Watson expressed her support of the cement bricks.

Chair Bordon called for public comment. Dr. Rothman made a Public Comment that he feels this is a strange procedure. Committee Member Walker commented that it was far more productive to commemorate people with a plaque and thanked Committee Member Kemnitzer and all the contributors for their efforts.

There were no further comments from the public.

MOTION: Committee Member Kemnitzer made retroactive motion that anyone making a contribution of \$1000 or more for the playground renovation would receive name recognition on a plaque or other installation recognizing donors. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Walker.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Valente

ABSTAIN: None

Item 10 was taken next.

8. Report from subcommittee on Placement of two 36-inch box Tilia Cordata (Green Spire Linden) trees offered to be donated by the family of the late James Walsh of Tiburon for planting in Tom Price Park.

Council Liaison Mayor Campbell advised Chair Bordon after the last meeting that donations can be accepted by citizens of Belvedere only per the City's Municipal Code. Therefore, the trees cannot be accepted. The Walsh family was advised by resident Roger Felton.

Subcommittee Chair Walker said she would be brief as her report was included in the agenda packet. She touched on acceptable City trees and that a Linden Tree is not an acceptable City tree per the Belvedere Muni Code. She suggested at the next Parks and Open Space Committee meeting adding an agenda item that would suggest to residents who are interested in a memorial to apply to plant a memorial tree. Subcommittee Chair Walker Suggested a plan and budget to present to City Council to maintain clean and simple, parks lanes and open spaces.

Chair Bordon called for Public Comment, there was none.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Report on existing trees in Tom Price Park, which were inventoried and evaluated in the POSC 2018 Tree Report, and on other existing plantings in Tom Price Park, and required maintenance and future planting.

Committee Member Walker commented that it was hard to justify planting new trees when the ones existing in the parks are not receiving the best care. This needs to be factored into the City budget. There was discussion about staffing in The Department of Public Works. Committee Member Walker and Committee Member Kemnitzer are going to work together with Director Zadnik on maintenance costs and budget for the Department of Public Works.

Chair Bordon called for Public Comment, there was none.

10. Discussion and possible action on a request to replace a memorial dedication to Bob Gordon, currently on the Playhouse in Community Park, with a memorial dedication to Bob Gordon on the Boat or other structure in Community Park.

Chair Bordon by way of background is speaking for Committee Member Valente as he has left the meeting. The Playground Committee decided that the playhouse had gotten to the state that he no longer allowed his children to play in it. They would come home with slivers, and it is a confined area and he has COVID concerns about that. The Playground Committee intention was to move the memorial to the boat as it was being renovated. Chair Bordon then gave a background of Mr. Gordon's tenure with the City. There were many letters included in the agenda packet of support for moving the memorial from the playhouse to the boat.

Chair Bordon called for public comment and Sandy Donnell spoke in support of the item. Committee Member Kemnitzer then suggested that the boat should be named the SS Bob Gordon on the front sides of the bow of the renovated boat. Vice Chair Walker spoke in support of the idea.

MOTION: Committee Member Kemnitzer made a motion that in recognition of Bob Gordon and his contributions to the previous playground and the City the existing boat be names the SS Bob Gordon on both sides of the bow. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Walker.

AYES: Kemnitzer, Pearson, Bordon, Committee Member Walker, Lund, and Watson

NOES: None

ABSENT: Valente

ABSTAIN: None

11. Discussion of railing installation and repairs and stair maintenance requirements for all improved lanes and possible action to establish a subcommittee to report at the January Park and Open Space meeting.

Chair Bordon requested that between now and he next meeting if members of the Committee would please walk lanes and send notes of items that need work to add to the January agenda.

FUTURE ITEMS

12. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Changing the meeting time to 6 p.m. if Zoom meetings are no longer approved or allowed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize a Survey of the Citizens of Belvedere on Organizing and/or Participating in Community Clean Up Projects on the Second Saturday of every even month of the year (i.e., February, April, June, August, October, and December).

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Park and Open Space Committee Task Forces.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:52 PM.

Committee Member Valente signed off at 5:33 PM. Committee Member Lund signed off at 6:00 PM. Vice Chair Watson signed off at 6:05 PM

THE FOREGOING AMENDED MINUTES were approved at the regular meeting of the Parks and Open Space Committee on January 13, 2022, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Pearson, Valente

ABSTAIN: None