

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA
JUNE 1, 2020
6:00 PM

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE JUNE 1, 2020 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

This meeting is being conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State of California Executive Order N-29- 20 dated March 17, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. **In accordance with Executive Order N-29- 20, the public may only view the meeting online and not in the RJ Bryant Service Center.**

PARTICIPATION

If you are interested in viewing the meeting or in providing oral comments real-time during the meeting, join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: Please click this URL to join.

<https://losgatosca-gov.zoom.us/j/95217986995>

Or Telephone: Dial: USA 215 446 3657 USA 8883634735 (US Toll Free) Conference code: 160548

During the meeting:

- When the Chair announces the item for which you wish to speak, click the “raise hand” feature in Zoom.
- If you are participating by calling in, without a Zoom app, you must notify the Parks and Public Works Department at PPWComment@losgatosca.gov which item(s) you would like to speak on prior to 5:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.
- When called to speak, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Chair may decide, consistent with the time limit for speakers at a Parks Commission meeting.

If you are unable to participate in real-time and would like to submit public comment, you may email PPWComment@losgatosca.gov with the subject line “Public Comment Item #__” (insert the item number relevant to your comment) or “Verbal Communications – Non Agenda Item.” Comments will be reviewed and distributed before the meeting if received by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. All comments received will become part of the record.

REMOTE LOCATION PARTICIPANTS

The following Commission Members are listed to permit them to appear electronically or telephonically at the Commission meeting: CHAIR CHRIS MULLEN, VICE-CHAIR ROB STEPHENSON, COMMISSIONERS MIKE BUNCIC, BRANT CORENSEN, SANDY GORDON, MATT OBER, AND YOUTH COMMISSIONER KAMRON EMAMI. All votes during the teleconferencing session will be conducted by roll call vote.

CONSENT ITEMS *(Items appearing on the Consent Items are considered routine and may be approved by one motion. Any member of the Commission or public may request to have an item removed from the Consent Items for comment and action. A member of the public may request to pull an item from Consent by following the Participation instructions contained on page 1 of this agenda. If an item is pulled, the Chair has the sole discretion to determine when the item will be heard. Unless there are separate discussions and/or actions requested by the Commission, staff, or a member of the public, it is requested that items under the Consent Items be acted on simultaneously.)*

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Commission on any matter that is not listed on the agenda consistent with the Participation instructions contained on page 1 of this agenda. To ensure all agenda items are heard and unless additional time is authorized by the Chair, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes and no more than three (3) minutes per comment. In the event additional comments were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment.)*

PUBLIC HEARINGS *(Applicants/Appellants, their representatives, and members of the public wishing to address the Commission on any Public Hearing item should register in advance to obtain the Zoom link for this meeting by following the Participation instructions contained on page 1 of this agenda. Applicants/Appellants and their representatives may be allotted up to a total of five minutes maximum for opening statements. Members of the public may be allotted up to three minutes to comment on any public hearing item. Applicants/Appellants and their representatives may be allotted up to a total of three minutes maximum for closing statements. Items requested/recommended for continuance are subject to the Commission's consent at the meeting.)*

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted for each comment on any of the following items consistent with the Participation Instructions contained on page 1 of this agenda.)*



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

*Chris Mullen, Chair
Rob Stephenson, Vice-Chair
Mike Buncic, Commissioner
Brant Corenson, Commissioner
Sandy Gordon, Commissioner
Matt Ober, Commissioner
Kamron Emami, Youth Commissioner*

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Or Telephone: Dial: USA 215 446 3657 USA 8883634735 (US Toll Free) Conference code: 160548

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CONSENT ITEMS (TO BE ACTED UPON BY A SINGLE MOTION) *Items appearing on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be approved by one motion. Unless there are separate discussions and/or actions requested by the Commission, staff, or a member of the public, it is requested that items under the Consent Calendar be acted on simultaneously. Any member of the Commission or public may request to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar for comment and action.)*

1. Approve Minutes of the Parks Commission Special Meeting of February 24, 2020.
2. Approve Minutes of the Parks Commission Regular Meeting of February 3, 2020.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Commission on any matter that is not listed on the agenda. To ensure all agenda items are heard and unless additional time is authorized by the Chair, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes and no more than three (3) minutes per speaker. In the event additional speakers were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment.)*

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3. Uphold a tree removal for a tree in the public right of way at 965 Blossom Hill Road.

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted to each speaker on any of the following items.)*

4. Park Stewardship Program –
 - A) Discuss Worcester Park Monthly Volunteer Clean-ups (Verbal Report)
 - B) Consider the Potential of Live Oak Manor Park or Others for Expansion of the Volunteer Program (Verbal Report)
5. PPW Director’s Report
 - A) General Plan Update – Review of the 2020 General Plan Document (Verbal Report)
 - B) Review Prop 68 - https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30095
 - C) Park Operations (Verbal Report)
 - D) “Connect Los Gatos” Transportation Project – Review Measure B Grant Applications (Verbal Report)
 - E) Capital Improvement Projects – FY 20/21 – Projects (Verbal Report)
 - F) Events (Verbal Report)
6. Youth Commission Report (Verbal Report)
7. Beautification Committee Liaison Report (Verbal Report)

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting scheduled – **August 3, 2020**

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AT (408) 399-5770. NOTIFICATION 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING WILL ENABLE THE TOWN TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MEETING [28 CFR §35.102-35.104]



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 06/01/2020

ITEM NO: 1

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

The Parks Commission of the Town of Los Gatos conducted a Special Meeting on February 24, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Mullen, Vice-Chair Stephenson, Commissioners Buncic, Corenson, Gordon, and Youth Commissioner Bernholz.

Absent: Commissioner Ober

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

None Reported.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Provide input to General Plan Update Element for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works provided an update on the item and discussed sections 8.1 through 8.3 of Initial Draft Policy Document.

The Commission discussed and provided input on all sections, which are reflected on the attached memo provided to the General Plan Advisory Committee, dated February 25, 2020.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting as approved by the Parks Commission.

/s/Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS COMMISSION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/24/2020
ITEM NO: 1

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
PHONE (408) 399-5770
FAX (408) 354-8529

SERVICE CENTER
41 MILES AVENUE
LOS GATOS, CA 95030

February 25, 2020

General Plan Advisory Committee

The Parks Commission has been actively following the General Plan 2040 Update process. In the interest of fulfilling their role as representatives of the Town's residents and advisory to the Town Council, the Commission has worked together to provide input into the process. The following recommendations reflect a special meeting of the Commission on February 24, 2020 dedicated to providing input as well as ongoing input received at previous meetings.

Trails and Open Space

- Connectivity of trails is important to the functionality of open space. Achieving greater connectivity through easements and dedications continues to be an important strategy.
- Where properties become available adjacent to open space, the Town may wish to consider acquisition to expand open space and retain the hillsides that represent the look and feel of Los Gatos. This will become ever more important as pressures to increase housing and resultant population increases tax existing infrastructure.
- Open space owned by the Town should continue to be owned by the Town. The Town should be a leader in ownership of open space for residents and visitors.
- The Town currently has an open space tax of \$0.04 per square foot of new development established in 1983. The Town should consider increasing this amount to better represent current costs.
- The Town should continue to explore ways to ensure the existing trails meet local needs. This may include widening the Los Gatos Creek Trail to allow for separation between walking and biking activities, exploration of pathway lighting to accommodate bicycle commuters, increased amenities such as drinking fountains, and continued exploration of opportunities to return concrete channels to their natural state.
- Open space should be maintained to achieve a balance between maintaining the feel of open space while managing ongoing wildfire risks.



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 06/01/2020

ITEM NO: 2

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

The Parks Commission of the Town of Los Gatos conducted a Regular Meeting on February 3, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Buncic, Vice-Chair Mullen, Commissioners Corenson, Gordon, Ober, Stephenson, and Youth Commissioner Emami.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

1. Nominations/Appointment of Parks Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Corenson to nominate Vice-Chair Mullen as Chair of the Parks Commission. Seconded by Chair Buncic. Vice-Chair Mullen accepted the nomination.

No discussion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gordon to nominate Commissioner Stephenson as Vice-Chair of the Parks Commission. Seconded by Chair Mullen. Commissioner Stephenson accepted the nomination.

No discussion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Nominations/Appointment of Beautification Committee Member

MOTION: Motion by Chair Mullen to nominate Commissioner Corenson as Beautification Committee Liasion Member. Seconded by Commissioner Buncic. accepted the nomination. Commissioner Corenson accepted the nomination.

No discussion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

CONSENT ITEMS

3. Approve Minutes of the Parks Commission Meeting of December 2, 2019

MOTION: **Motion** by Commissioner Gordon to approve Consent Item 3.
Seconded by Vice-Chair Mullen.

VOTE: **Motion passed unanimously.**

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

None reported.

OTHER BUSINESS

4. Establish Park Locations for June and August Meetings

Item deferred to the next Parks Commission meeting.

5. Park Stewardship Program

- A) Discuss Worcester Park Monthly Volunteer Clean-ups

Jerett Blaskey, Park Service Officer, provided a verbal report on the item.

- B) Consider the Potential of Live Oak Manor Park or Others for Expansion of the Volunteer Program

The Commission discussed the next park to target for the Volunteer Program and how to target the community. Commissioner Gordon will bring information to the next Parks Commission meeting to discuss an outline of a plan.

6. PPW Director's Report

- A) General Plan Update – Review of the 2020 General Plan Document - [Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element](#)

Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works provided an update on the item.

B) Review Prop 68 https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30095

i) Project Recommendations

Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works reported on the item. Key points were:

- Waiting for State to provide allocation of funds.
- Potential partnering of funds with the City of Monte Sereno.
- There are limitations for the use of the money.
- Discussed Oak Meadow Park bandstand potential as a project (concrete area and trees/shade).

MOTION: **Motion** by Commissioner Corenson for the Parks Commission to support the idea of a bandstand and to move forward with that project.

Seconded by Commissioner Buncic.

VOTE: **Motion passed unanimously.**

C) Park Operations

Jim Harbin, Superintendent, provided a verbal report on current projects at:

- Belgatos Park, Oak Meadow Park, Blossom Hill Park, La Rinconada Park, Valley View (Heinz Open Space), and Balzer field.

Jerett Blaskey, Parks Service Officer, provided an update on the weekend work crew clean ups.

D) "Connect Los Gatos" Transportation Project – Review of the Los Gatos Creek Trail to Highway 9 Trailhead Connector Project <https://www.losgatosca.gov/ConnectLG>

Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works presented a report on the item.

The Commission discussed.

MOTION: **Motion** by Commissioner Buncic for the Parks Commission to support the project assuming it maintains access on both sides.

Seconded by Commissioner Gordon.

VOTE: **Motion passed unanimously.**

E) Capital Improvement Projects – FY 20/21 – Potential projects

Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works, asked for input of projects to put on the list as recommendations for Council's priorities consideration.

F) Events

i) Spring into Green

Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works, reported on this item. Jim Harbin, Superintendent, provided information packets to the Commission.

The Commission discussed the booth logistics, items, and signage promoting parks.

7. Youth Commission Report

Youth Commissioner Emami provided an update and handed out stickers for the anti-vape ordinance.

8. Beautification Committee Liaison Report

Commissioner Corenson provided a verbal update on this item.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the February 3, 2020 meeting as approved by the Parks Commission.

/s/Matt Morley, Director of Parks and Public Works



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 06/01/2020

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: May 29, 2020
TO: Parks Commission
FROM: Matt Morley, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Uphold a Tree Removal Permit for a Tree in the Public Right of way on Blossom Hill Road

RECOMMENDATION:

Uphold a tree removal for a tree in the public right of way at 965 Blossom Hill Road.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks Commission has the responsibility for hearing appeals to tree removals for Town street trees – those trees in the right of way.

As a part of an annual project to repair sidewalks, the Town often needs to replace trees that have outgrown their space, usually in the park strip (the area between the street and the sidewalk). These trees are often the cause of upraised sidewalk, creating tripping hazards. These tripping hazards are a main cause of claims against the Town for injury.

The Town works directly with the immediately adjacent property owner for support of the project and routinely posts a notice of removal on the tree to make other interested parties aware of the project. The notice also identifies a protest process.

DISCUSSION:

The tree under discussion in this item is in front of 965 Blossom Hill Road. Photos in attachment 1 show the tree and sidewalk at this location. The Town Arborist has determined that it is necessary to remove this tree to repair the sidewalk as any modifications to the trees root system during sidewalk replacement would cause the tree to become unstable and die.

PREPARED BY: MATT MORLEY
PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

PAGE 2 OF 2

SUBJECT: UPHOLD A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT FOR TREES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
ON BLOSSOM HILL ROAD

MAY 29, 2020

DISCUSSION (continued):

Following the posting of notice of removal on the tree, the Town received an email and follow up correspondence appealing the removal decision (Attachment 2). The property owner immediately adjacent has also provided a letter in support of the decision (Attachment 3).

CONCLUSION:

The Parks Commission should review the information and determine whether to

- a) support the removal of the tree; or
- b) support the appeal and determine the tree should remain.

If the Parks Commission determines the tree should be removed, staff will proceed with the removal and replacement of the tree and replace the sidewalk at the next available opportunity.

If the Parks Commission determines the tree should remain, the sidewalk and tree will remain in place.

Attachments:

1. Photos of the tree and sidewalk at 965 Blossom Hill Road
2. Appeal Correspondence
3. Support Correspondence

- On street bike facilities should provide a comfortable route for families and connectivity to off street trails.
- Recreational road bike routes should be widened as hillside areas like Shannon Road, Kennedy Road, and Hicks Road are improved.

Parks

- The Town should establish metrics as guidance for park availability to residents. This might include guidelines for the target distance every residence is to a park or the amount of developed park acreage per resident.
- Given the use of parks for off leash dog activities, the Town should establish dedicated off leash park areas so residents know when and where the activity is acceptable.
- As housing increases to meet State mandates, the number and size of parks should have a corresponding increase.
- Sports fields at Town parks are fully programmed. The Town should look for partnership opportunities with schools to make more space available. Existing infrastructure should be reviewed for potential changes to meet expanded needs, such as adding lighting to allow for extended hours.

The Parks Commission has reviewed the Initial Draft of the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element and with the emphasis and additions noted above, support the direction.

Sincerely,

/s

Matt Morley
Director of Parks and Public Works

Legend
📍 965 Blossom Hill Rd



Google Earth

© 2020 Google

Attachment 1 - 965 BHR

8.05 ft







Matt,
What you say makes sense and I agree with all of it.
Lets the park commission hear this story again.
Thanks
Mehrdad

On Wed, May 27, 2020 at 8:48 AM Matt Morley <MMorley@losgatosca.gov> wrote:

Thanks Mehrdad. The sidewalk also creates a safety hazard and is something that needs to be fixed. The other improvements you are asking for on Blossom Hill Road are unrelated and will not be linked to this sidewalk repair. As you know, I have put forward a budget proposal to look at this stretch of Blossom Hill Road and design improvements with multi modal users as a focus.

Based on this email from you, we will proceed with the appeal and I will provide the Parks Commission with your correspondence.

Thank you,

Matt Morley

From: Mehrdad Alipour
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Matt Morley <MMorley@losgatosca.gov>; Joanne Justis
Subject: Re: Appeals - Not to remove the tree at 963 Blossom Hill Road

Matt,

The reason of my appeal is to help protecting the people at the sidewalk. As we all know, there have been so many incidents that cars ended up inside the sidewalk.

The main purpose of the tree is NOT to protect the people at the sidewalk, but with the lack of the safety at BH road and many past experiences, the tree is last resort.

Please convey this message to the Parks Commission and have them know the reason behind the appeal. I will not be able to attend this meeting due to some other engagement at the same time.

And I am not willing to stop the improvement to the town and fixing the sidewalk and I am not willing to pursue the appeal, "IF" the town is willing to consider the safety of the people at the sidewalks of the BH road within school and BH park.

Thanks

Mehrdad

On Tue, May 26, 2020 at 4:24 PM Matt Morley <MMorley@losgatosca.gov> wrote:

Mehrdad

The Parks Commission is going to be able to meet on June 1 and as this appeal falls under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commission, we would like to bring the appeal to them. The Parks Commission meeting will be held via Zoom at 6 pm on that date.

Town staff had previously coordinated with the adjacent property owner for replacing the tree to allow for repairing the sidewalk which has been significantly uplifted by tree roots. If the appeal is upheld (supporting your position) the tree and the sidewalk will remain. If the appeal is not upheld, the tree will be replaced to allow for the sidewalk replacement.

Please confirm that you wish to pursue this appeal. Your written appeal will be submitted and you may provide verbal testimony at the meeting for up to 3 minutes if you choose.

I will also inform the adjacent property owner of the meeting so that they also are able to participate.

Thank you,

From: Mehrdad Alipour

Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 8:32 AM

To: Town PPW <ppw@losgatosca.gov>; Matt Morley <MMorley@losgatosca.gov>

Cc: Joanne Justis

Subject: Appeals - Not to remove the tree at 963 Blossom Hill Road

Hi,

On March 7, 2020, I noticed the attached flyer for Tree Removal at **963 Blossom Hill Road**.

I am writing this Appeal for **NOT** removing this tree!

Reason for Appeal:

There have been many accidents and collisions on Blossom Hill Road that cars have gone onto the sidewalk. **This tree at 963 Blossom Hill Road** can save a life by stopping the cars from going onto the sidewalk.

At this specific location, cars have gone onto the sidewalk twice. On Jan 10, 2015 a Toyota Corolla went onto the sidewalk, picture attached. Another car has gone onto this sidewalk on October 2016, I don't have a picture of it.

Thanks

Mehrdad Alipour

Resident of 957 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos

To: Suyesh Shrestha
Assistant Engineer
Town of Los Gatos

Date: March 17, 2020

Subject: Tree removal and sidewalk repair at 963-965 Blossom Hill Rd

We are providing our comments in response to the objection that has been made from the tree posting regarding the removal of that tree at the above address.

This tree has been a concern to us for many years. It has been noted in your files numerous times when we have come to your office to express our worries about the safety issue of the damage to the sidewalk from the tree roots. The tree was planted by the Town of Los Gatos when the duplex was constructed in the 60's.

The sidewalk has risen over recent years to the point that it poses a very real hazard for the people utilizing it. Children on skateboards, scooters and other devices or walking come over it on their way to Blossom Hill School which is probably 100 yards away. The Terraces of Los Gatos is also very nearby and seniors walking with perhaps limited vision and mobility could trip and fall from the raised sidewalk.

I am sure that if my insurance company did an inspection they would say "fix it" or we will cancel your insurance.

Attached please see:

1. A letter from our tenant, Rosilene Martins, pointing out her ingress/egress concerns.
2. Photos showing the damage to the sidewalk and curb.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Clayton & Sue Bruntz
Owners of 963-965 Blossom Hill Rd. Los Gatos

From: rosapersa@gmail.com,

To: cbruntz@aol.com,

Subject: Request for pavement repair (tree removal)

Date: Mon, Mar 16, 2020 3:39 pm

Dear Clayton,

This is in regards to the repair of the abnormally high pavement on my driveway.

While I always prefer that trees are preserved, and understand that a tree may act like a shield against car collisions onto pedestrians or homes, fixing the abnormally raised pavement on my driveway has a higher priority. My car is a Mazda Miata, which makes exiting and entering the garage a challenge, and also damaging to the car. I have to exit and enter the garage at an angle and facing oncoming traffic. When I exit the garage, I have to turn the car into the right direction in the driving lane. This happens during rush hour every morning when I take my daughter to school (exiting the garage in the thick of traffic around 8 am). This is very dangerous. Drivers are less and less courteous, normally not allowing me to maneuver.

I have been waiting forever for the city to address this problem. I therefore request that they proceed with whatever is required to fix this pavement, even it means removing the maple tree.

Please let me know if/when there is a hearing regarding the petition against the removal of the maple tree and I will attend to state my case.

Thanks kindly,
Rosilene Martins
(408) 668-4389 (mobile)







