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**MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
June 5, 2023**

The Town of Los Gatos Parks Commission conducted a Regular Meeting on June 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Stephenson, Vice-Chair Gleason, Commissioners, Buncic, Corenson (arrived 6:02), Mapara, Ober, and Youth Commissioner Emami.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Approve Minutes of the Parks Commission Meeting of April 3, 2023.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Ober to approve Consent Item 1.  
**Seconded** by Vice-Chair Gleason.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously (Commissioner Buncic abstained)

**VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No verbal communication.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

2. Recommend 2023/24 Parks Commission Work Plan for Submittal to Town Council

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item.

1. Inventory of Park Assets – Evaluate existing amenities and potential future needs.
2. Trail Connectivity – Consider ways to connect trails between open space areas.
3. Street Tree Program – Develop an understanding of how this program functions, including the list of approved trees.
4. Meeting Schedule – Consider converting to a monthly meeting cycle to improve communication and outcomes.
5. Park Use Fees and Agreements – Reviewing use agreement terms and associated fees.
6. Pickleball and Tennis Court Usage and Requirements for Play – Evaluate options for reducing the impact on adjacent residents of pickleball play at La Rinconada Park. This

Other Business Item #2 – continued

may include changing the mode of play, limiting hours of play or identifying potential new court locations.

7. Art in Parks – Connecting with the Arts and Culture Commission to consider the addition of art in public parks to enhance the user experience.

The Commission discussed this item.

**MOTION: Motion** by Commissioner Corenson to create an ad hoc committee for trail connectivity. **Seconded** by Vice-Chair Gleason.

**VOTE: Unanimously**

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded on how an ad hoc committee works.

The Commission had a further discussion of this item.

**MOTION: Motion** by Chair Stephenson to create an ad hoc committee to advance and promote Pickleball. Identifying other locations or a new location within the Town for the Pickleball community. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ober.

**VOTE: Unanimously**

The Commission discussed this item further.

3. Town Parks and Public Works Report (Verbal Report)
  - A. Pickleball – Nicolle Burnham

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item.

Opened Public Comment.

Joel Korelitz, Resident

- Representing the United States Pickleball Association and the LGS Pickleball Club. Concerns over safety and injury issues we are experiencing at La Rinconada Park. 20 to 25 hours of pickleball is being played per week and about an hour's worth of tennis. Which represents about 100 to 120 pickleball players per week and maybe two or three tennis players. A lot of use going on and the courts are in bad shape. A lot of cracks, and people are falling. It is my understanding that the Town does not have the funds to do the necessary repairs. It is about \$13,000 to \$15,000 to fill in the cracks and to put permanent pickleball nets in. Is there a way that we can provide the funds to do those repairs?

Other Business Item #3A – continued

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the donation question.

Joel Korelitz, Resident

- I have heard about the issue with noise, and I have talked to a company that provides noise reduction along the residential side of the fence. 10 feet high by a 120-foot-long noise abatement shield and will cost about \$13,000. Some other safety issues around the courts. There were 16 people playing and 12 people waiting to play and they all wait in the same place on the courts and eventually, someone is going to get hurt. It would be nice to have a gate opening where we store the nets in the box so people can stand outside the gate rather than inside the courts. People are getting hit by balls and the next thing they will be hit by rackets. Whatever we can do to keep the injuries down.

The commission asked questions and discussed the item.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

Debbie Pinkston, Resident

- The community is not in favor of a desirous shared plan. We feel that beggars cannot be choosers and we would like to enhance what we have to the best ability. We would like to share the same benefits as the rest of the Town shares in terms of recreational use and not pay for it and have dedicated facilities. This is a multi-year plan. This is not looked at by painting some lines and going. This should be looked at as what are we going to be doing in 2023 and what are we going to be doing in 2024. When does it start getting to be dedicated to pickleball? There is nothing else to look at that we could ask for. We are asking with an eye that exists. In a lot of people's views, lots of space at La Rinconada to drop a dedicated pickleball court without touching the tennis court. There is a lot of space at Blossom Hill Park to drop a pickleball court. There are other locations where a pickleball court could be added. Then it becomes a money issue. If money is the issue, then we need to talk about it. Where can we have in the next 12 to 24 months a dedicated space for pickleball?

Joel Korelitz, Resident

- What would be the procedure as far as funding and repairing the existing court?

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

The commission discussed this item further.

B. Kiwanis Meeting

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item.

C. Shannon Road

Gary Heap, PPW Town Engineer, verbally reported on this item.

The commission asked questions and discussed this item.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, and Gary Heap, PPW Town Engineer, responded to the questions.

D. Upcoming Events

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item.

Commissioner Ober gave an update on Music in the Park and Jazz on the Plazz.

4. Youth Commission Report

Youth Commissioner Emami, verbally reported on this item.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 5, 2023 meeting as approved by the Parks Commission.

  
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Nicolle Burnham, Director of Parks and Public Works