

DRAFT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA TELECONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 19, 2023

COMMISSION:       PRESENT: Acting Chair Koeppel, Baxter, Friedel, Harrison

COMMISSION:       ABSENT: Chair Sunshine

STAFF:             PRESENT: Recreation Director Nick Stone  
  Public Works Director Julian Skinner  
  Public Works Analyst Rita Schoch

1. Roll Call

Acting Chair Koeppel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Erik Bowen thanked Recreation Director Stone for the portable nets at the temporary Pickleball courts and the paddle racks. He noted the number of players continues to grow. He urged the Commission to consider installing Pickleball lines on Court #4. The Park Master Plan talks about maximizing active use areas by encouraging multiple uses within the existing area.

Mr. Marcello Bowman stated he loves to play Pickleball after school. He agreed that Court #4 should have lines for Pickleball.

3. Approval of the Consent Calendar

3.1 Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2023

M/s Friedel/Harrison, to approve the September 21, 2023 as submitted.

Ayes: Baxter, Harrison, Koeppel, Acting Chair Koeppel

Absent: Chair Sunshine

4. Public Hearing

There were none.

5. Business Items

5.1 Eagle Scout Proclamation

Acting Chair Koeppel read the Proclamation recognizing Colby Triboley for his contributions to improving the community and his efforts as an Eagle Scout.

Mr. Triboley thanked the Commission for the Proclamation.

Recreation Supervisor Stone asked the Commission to move agenda item #5.3 ahead of #5.2. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve this request.

### 5.3 Larkspur Community Foundation Presentation

Ms. Laura Anderson and Mr. Lee Stern, representing the Larkspur Community Foundation, gave an update of activities including the celebration of the Foundation's Tenth Anniversary. There are eighty four members and they meet monthly. The group recently established a fund in honor of Ms. Sandy Blauvelt, long-time member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and aide to former Marin County Supervisor Hal Brown. She discussed the group's Mission, Wish List, grant opportunities, and projects.

The Commission thanked them for their great work and urged them to return with updates.

### 5.2 Niven Park Update

Public Works Analyst Schoch presented a staff report and a PowerPoint presentation. The public input included the desire for a larger playground and staff decided to look for alternate locations. The map shows Options A (original location), B, and C.

Acting Chair Koeppel opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Sally Ferrell, Greenbrae, stated residents north of the Corte Madera Creek are underserved in terms of a decent sized play area. The designers have created a thoughtful, innovative space that take into consideration the needs and sensitivities of adjacent neighbor. Option A is optimal and safest. Option B and C are too close to busy streets.

Ms. Lucy Partridge, Greenbrae, supported Option A and stated it would be a beautiful space.

Ms. Kammy Acker, Drakes View Circle, supported Option B or C and stated they were furthest from the surrounding homes. Option A is narrow and closest to the residences.

Mr. Tim Farrell supported the redevelopment of Niven Park and Option A.

Acting Chair Koeppel closed the meeting to public comments.

Acting Chair Koeppel stated the Commission will not be making a decision or recommendation tonight.

Commissioner Friedel stated Options B and C pose more of a safety issue and asked why they were considered. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated they are in the widest areas and there would be less impact to park users during construction. Option A is the most constricted area.

Commissioner Friedel referred to the ambient noise and asked staff if they considered playtime hours. Recreation Director Stone stated the park is open from sunrise to sunset.

Commissioner Harrison noted there were concerns about safety with respect to Option B and C and she asked if there could be some design mitigations aside from the fencing. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated this is a playground for children two to five years of age and it is set back from thirty feet from the street.

Commissioner Baxter asked if there were plans to install a Dog Park in Niven Park. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated “absolutely not”.

Acting Chair Koeppel asked which Option could impact other uses such as throwing Frisbees, etc. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated probably Option B since it is in the center.

Commissioner Harrison referred to the landscaping plan and asked if it would follow whatever Option is chosen. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated “yes” but the configuration could be a bit different.

Acting Chair Koeppel asked where the plan is in the process. Public Works Director Skinner stated it is out to bid with a parallel process occurring regarding the location of the playground. The next step is City Council approval of a construction contract. The Council would have to approve the location change.

## 6. Director’s Oral Report

Recreation Director Stone reported the new Pickleball nets were well received- players were stoked! The paddle rack was also appreciated. Katia and Company, the after-school theater class, will be performing Matilda at the San Anselmo Playhouse. They have been performing in the Hall Middle School Gymnasium for the last two months! The class will begin rehearsals for The Wizard of Oz in November. Tomorrow night Marin Girls’ Softball will be hosting a registration kick-off in Piper Park at 6:00 p.m. The Fall Garden Work Day will occur this Saturday followed by a Pot Luck. The gardeners will paint the shed, tools, do some weeding, etc. The department has received quite a few donations for Lights in the Park. Twinkle Lighting will begin wrapping trees next week. The number of events will be expanded this year and will include Hot Cocoa Night.

Commissioner Friedel asked if staff has planned any Halloween events. Recreation Director Stone stated “no”, although a Doggy Dress-Up Day could occur last minute.

Acting Chair Koeppel had questions about the extent of the tree lighting. Recreation Director Stone stated they might be able to add some lights to the trees near the soccer fields.

Commissioner Baxter asked if staff was seeking additional funding or donated lighting. Recreation Director Stone stated “yes” although the official deadline was October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Friedel stated she loved the lights and the stage platform. She noted the walking path was a bit uneven and she asked about installing down lighting. Recreation Director Stone stated staff is discussing solar lights, etc.

Acting Chair Koeppel suggested staff reach out to the Marin Girls' Chorus to sing carols during one of the events. Recreation Director Stone stated that was a great idea.

The Commission thanked Recreation Director Stone for his great work!

#### 7. Commissioner's Reports

There were no reports.

#### 8. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,  
Recording Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Larkspur Parks and Recreation Commission.

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Nick Stone, Recreation Director