

have skyrocketed. Staff suspended rental of the picnic areas in 2020 but plans to start up again in June, 2021 depending on COVID restrictions. Park facilities have experienced an increase in traffic including the paths, tennis courts, and playgrounds. The soccer fields experienced a huge increase in pick-up games during the summer which were in conflict with the COVID restrictions. The Central Marin Police Authority was called out in September to break up a huge game. The Recreation Department office remains closed to the public. Staff does, however, continue to spend time in the offices. Staff is trying to figure out how to move forward in the summer. During the last Shelter in Place staff closed the playgrounds for a short period of time and put up signage- which was promptly removed and disappeared. Common public complaints include dogs off leash or people not sharing the tennis courts. The Larkspur Walkers are very anxious to get back together since it is a great way to exercise and socialize. The Community Garden is doing very well and staff recently sent out renewal notices. There is, and always has been, a long wait list for a garden plot. Recreation Supervisor Stone continues to do an awesome job- “shout out” for Nicolas!

Chair Harrison asked if garbage pick-up at the parks can be increased with perhaps a pickup on Fridays and Mondays. The garbage often spills out of the can and gets into the creek. Recreation Director Escobedo stated the Public Works Department is not open on Fridays due to the furlough. He would talk to the Public Works Director about this issue.

Chair Harrison asked how the City was handling Capital Projects that were in the queue such as the renovation of Niven Park. Recreation Director Escobedo stated the Public Works Department had to hold off on larger projects due to COVID. Many of the park projects are funded by Measure “A” so they will eventually get to them. He would talk to the Public Works Director about the status of these projects. The Public Works Department continues to work on the Bon Air Bridge Project and some paving projects.

Commissioner Blauvelt asked everyone to remember that Piper Park is a regional park and there should not be a conflict in the usage. She asked for a status report from the Public Works Director sometime soon.

Commissioner Sunshine had a question about the reduction in staff and how the Recreation Supervisor prioritizes his time. Recreation Director Escobedo stated he is working on what to do with Super Cool Summer School, facility rentals, community garden renewals, etc.

Commissioner Sunshine asked why the Super Cool Summer School instructors were not interested in participating in the program. Recreation Director Escobedo stated part of it is a reluctance to do remote teaching, Zoom, etc. He noted staff is waiting to hear from a lot of these instructors. However, most of them do not want to do anything virtual.

Commissioner Koeppel thanked Recreation Director Escobedo for his excellent report.

7. Commissioner’s Reports

There were no reports.

8. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 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.

Franklin Escobedo
Franklin Escobedo, Community Services Director