

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
LARKSPUR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19
JULY 29, 2021

COMMISSION: PRESENT: Chair Blauvelt, Harrison, Koeppel

COMMISSION: ABSENT: Friedel, Sunshine,

STAFF: PRESENT: Community Services Director Franklin Escobedo
 Public Works Analyst Rita Schoch
 City Clerk Alison Foulis

1. Roll Call

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

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the Consent Calendar

3.1 Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2021 and July 15, 2021

M/s Harrison/Koeppel, to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes as submitted.

Ayes: Harrison, Koeppel, Chair Blauvelt

Absent: Friedel, Sunshine

(through a roll call vote)

M/s Koeppel/Blauvelt, to approve the July 15, 2021 minutes as submitted.

Ayes: Harrison, Koeppel, Chair Blauvelt

Absent: Friedel, Sunshine

(through a roll call vote)

4. Public Hearing

There were no Public Hearings.

5. Business Items

5.1 Dolliver Park Upgrades

Public Works Analyst Schoch presented a staff report and a PowerPoint presentation that included the following: 1) Proposed New Tot Play Zone at Dolliver Park; 2) 2015 Playground Remodel; 3) Private Donation Creates Opportunity; 4) Caretaker Intervention Required; 5) Structures too big for little guys; 6) Something's Missing; 7) A Small Hiccup- relocation of existing metal climber needed; 8) One Small Change- Big Results!; 9) Current Playground Layout; 10) Proposed Playground Layout; 11) Proposed Draft

Design for Tot Play Zone; 12) Safety and Peace of Mind thru Fencing; 13) Safety Matters; 14) Next Steps.

Chair Blauvelt asked where the metal climber would be relocated. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated she was thinking about Greenbrae School Park.

Chair Blauvelt opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. James Holmes, Larkspur, asked if the enclosure will have a gate. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated “yes”. Mr. Holmes understood the desire for a gate but noted it could be a maintenance issue. The most unfortunate aspect of the plan is the need to segment the park. Attention needs to be paid to the aesthetics of the interior of the fencing and he suggested a “lighter” version of the proposed split rail fence. The wire should be as light as possible and painted black so it is not too visible. The colors should remain muted and earth-toned- consistent with the aesthetics of the park. He liked the idea of the playhouse but noted it should be open on all sides. He asked that the survey not be exclusively on the Internet. The mushroom shaped structures seemed very close together with the potential of a “bumped head” if a child fell off.

Chair Blauvelt closed the meeting to public comments.

Commissioner Koeppel stated Mr. Holmes has a good point about the fencing. He would hate for it to feel like the kids are “caged in”. He understood the need for safety but would like to consider other alternatives for the interior fencing. There is plenty of shade in Dolliver Park and he questioned the need for a roofed structure. He asked what else was considered for replacement play structures.

Public Works Analyst Schoch stated the proposal is not “set in stone” and another model is included in the survey. This is a small area and options are limited. The structure is available without a roof. She noted all the items are scaled for young, small children. The actual colors will look brighter than the renderings. This is a brand new fence that will start to “grey out” and blend in well over time. She thinks it will appear very transparent. The fence would be four feet high which is the safety requirement.

Commissioner Harrison asked if the tot lot would be separated from the older kids play area. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated “yes”. Commissioner Harrison referred to the fence and stated it would make it difficult to see the older kids playing on the other play equipment. She was not sure how that would work functionally for adults watching kids in both areas. She asked if there was any thought to run the fencing so it encompasses the entire park but protects the kids from the creek. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated they could look at this but it would become a budget issue. She reiterated this is a private donation. Commissioner Harrison asked if there could be multiple gates. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated “yes”. She pointed out the location of the proposed gates. Commissioner Harrison asked about the play surface. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated they would use the surface that is out there. Commissioner Harrison asked if the donor was paying for everything. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated “yes”.

Commissioner Harrison stated she was concerned that Niven Park is “sitting in the wings” and needs attention. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated Niven Park is an active

project and staff was ready to go when the pandemic hit. Staff recently got the approval to start up with these projects.

Commissioner Koeppel asked if there was enough room in the tot zone for a bench. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated “yes” and pointed out a good location.

Commissioner Harrison asked if a “cattle gate” could be installed. Public Works Analyst Schoch stated probably not- the intent was to keep kids from slipping out of the play area.

Commissioner Koeppel liked the upgrades and would like to flesh it out a bit more.

M/s Harrison/Koeppel, motion that staff continues the planning process of adding a tot lot to Dolliver Park.

Ayes: Harrison, Koeppel, Chair Blauvelt

Absent: Friedel, Sunshine

(through a roll call vote)

6. Director’s Oral Report

Community Services Director Escobedo reported he has hired a part-time position to assist Recreation Supervisor Stone and recruitment opened up for the Community Services Assistant. This position will work in both divisions- Recreation and Library. KinderCamp starts next week at Bacich Elementary. The additional staff will help the department prepare for Fall and Winter programming.

Chair Blauvelt had questions about how the Community Services Assistant would split the duties.

Commissioner Harrison asked if the kids kayaking in the creek was a part of the Recreation Department programming. Community Services Director Escobedo stated “no”- it was a rogue group that he was able to bring into compliance. Recreation Supervisor Stone is on top of this.

7. Commissioner’s Reports

There were no comments.

8. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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