



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 03/04/2024

ITEM NO: 1

---

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

The Town of Los Gatos Parks Commission conducted a Regular Meeting on February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:01 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Stephenson, Vice-Chair Gleason (absent), Commissioners Corenson, Mapara, Ober, and Youth Commissioner Balasingham (arrived 6:18).

**CONSENT ITEMS**

1. Approve Minutes of the Parks and Sustainability Commission Meeting of December 4, 2023.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Corenson to approve Consent Items 1.

**Seconded** by Commissioner Ober.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

**VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No verbal communication.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

2. Election of Chairperson for 2024

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Corenson to nominate Commissioner Gleason as Chair.

**Seconded** by Commissioner Ober.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

3. Election of Vice-Chairperson for 2024

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Ober nominated himself to be Vice-Chair  
**Seconded** by Commissioner Mapara.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

4. Pickleball

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. We are working on resolving the noise and not having enough court space at La Rinconada. We are updating the signage at La Rinconada to make it clearer and will be posting new signage this spring. We worked with Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation to get consistency for the signage that they are using in the City of Saratoga. We made the signage clear of what our expectations are for court hours to keep play consistent with these hours. No leaving before 8:00 a.m., and on Sundays and holidays. This is consistent with the Town code. The rules of play are consistent with what was already on the signage. This sets the normal for what our expectations are for the court. Also, included is an article from the Mercury News about quieter pickleball equipment. Tomorrow night at Town Council the last item on the agenda is related to the Capital Improvement Projects and budget for 2024/2025. One of the items is resurfacing the court at La Rinconada and restriping at Blossom Hill court. We made it clear to the Town Council that this is a recommendation made by the Parks Commission from the October 2023 meeting. The key thing is identifying the funding source for the upgrades and improvements.

The Commission asked questions and discussed this item.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

Opened Public Comment.

Bill Crites

- Commented in favor of pickleball. I would like to stress the importance of improving the safety at La Rinconada. We need to emphasize the repairing of the courts at La Rinconada over the restriping at Blossom Hill.

Connie Kirby

- Commented in favor of pickleball. Echoed what Bill Crites said about the safety of the courts. Some areas have sizeable cracks, I call them divots. It's easy for your toe to get stuck or any part of your shoe and you will fall. This is for the entire surface of the court. The cracks are getting larger and larger, and it is a huge safety issue. Safety is a priority over the restriping of the courts at Blossom Hill.

Pickleball – continued

Commissioner Stephenson opened the discussion up to the Commission.

No further discussion.

5. Discussion of Parks and Sustainability Commission Mission and Goals

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. There has been a request to hold a special meeting on this topic to dive into it. I gave some questions to try to frame the conversation.

1. What are the most pressing topics that the Town of Los Gatos needs to address with regard to parks and sustainability?
2. What does it mean to integrate sustainability into the Parks Commission work plan?
3. What is the mission of the combined Parks and Sustainability Commission?

I included the language that is currently on the website about the Parks Commission, which still needs to be updated to Parks and Sustainability. I included the sustainability element of the general plan for some food for thought. That element is board ranging, but parsing out as you look at what relates to parks and the natural environment. As opposed to the built environment because the element covers all of it. I will leave it there; it is up to you guys to build this commission forward to how you want it and how you see it fit.

The Commission discussed this item.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, provided further direction. I would encourage folks to look at the sustainability element and parks element. This is what the community has decided and wants, and the Council has adopted it as terms of direction. This is the north star of where we want to go. The question becomes which of the directives in this element the commission wants to take on. Whittle it down to three to five items. The border scale is how to take what is in here and how to adapt it into a mission statement for the Parks and Sustainability Commission. At a more micro level in terms of thinking about priorities for the next twelve months which of the items in here really resonates with the commission?

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Stephenson proposes to hold a special meeting of the Parks and Sustainability Commission on March 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm to discuss the goals and mission to add sustainability to the Parks Commission  
**Seconded** by Commissioner Mapara.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

6. Trail Connectivity Ad Hoc

Commissioner Corenson verbally reported on this item. We have been discussing a lot of these elements regarding sustainability and trail connectivity. For example, scenic easements, and the Williams Land Act which allow us to get more easements and open spaces. Each one of these covers what we want to do. We have generated a report and will present it at the next meeting. It talks about trail connectivity within the Town. It will give us a guideline of which trails we want to take. It will be up to the commission on how they want to recommend and proceed further.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, if the commission likes the direction and I work through this, then the commission can make a recommendation that we can take to the Town Council and the Planning Commission.

The commission discussed this item.

7. Parks and Public Works Report

A. Park Operations

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. We survived yesterday's storms. We had folks on the grounds until 11:30 p.m. and lost five trees. We are about to replace all of the fibar at all of the playgrounds at the parks. Howes Playlot playground replacement was completed in early December. That playground was lost in last March's storm.

Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, verbally reported on this item. We had 793 park reservations for 2023. Park reservations are starting to come in for 2024, you can make a park reservation 180 days before the reservation date.

The Commission asked questions.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, and Meredith Johnston, PPW Administrative Technician, responded to the questions.

B. Capital Projects

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, verbally reported on this item. The one in the process is the bandstand at Oak Meadow Park. This project has slowed down because of the vacant spot we have within the department. Once that position is filled the project will pick back up. The second is the Los Gatos Creek Trail Connector Project and you may have noticed the tree removal on Highway 9. It is moving along nicely even though the contractor has lost some time due to the weather. There is going to be a new bridge over the Los Gatos Creek Trail at that location. That bridge is being fabricated off-site and it will be placed.

Capital Projects – continued

The Commission asked a question.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the questions.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, provided further detail about the Capital Improvement Projects at tomorrow night's Town Council about the master plan for parks. A town-wide assessment of how many people do we have, what kind of assets do we have, do we have enough assets to meet the demands of the community for now and in the future. Funding is limited. Before the Capital item, there will be an item about street trees. You saw it in December, and we are cross-referencing it to Council. What it means, how it operates, how it is funded, and its challenges. The last thing I would like to talk to you about the Capital Projects is we have been approached by the Rotary to do a project for their centennial. They are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and they want to do an oak grove. There is a spot at Live Oak Manor by the playground. What they are proposing is to convert that area into an oak grove consistent with the standards and goals of the Silicon Valley Re-Oaking project.

Bill Crites – asked a question about the sound mitigation walls at La Rinconada.

Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the question.

8. Beautification Committee Liaison Report

Commissioner Corenson verbally reported on this item. A good turnout on Saturday had some volunteers from Los Gatos High School. The daffodils are blooming.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Corenson asked if there was a follow-up on the Community Garden and proposed pathway. Nicolle Burnham, PPW Director, responded to the question. We had two meetings in December one was a community meeting and then we presented at the Town Council. We have received good direction from the Town Council to keep moving forward with the project. There are significant community concerns about the project. The next step is to meet with the community one-on-one to get feedback. It is a big change for the community. We need to take the time with the neighbors to mitigate some of their concerns.

Commissioner Ober informed the commission on upcoming events for the 2024 Music in the Park. We are starting to pick bands and talk to the sponsors. We are trying to do a St. Patrick's party in Plaza Park.

PAGE 6 OF 6

SUBJECT: PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 27, 2024

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the February 5, 2024 meeting as approved by the Parks and Sustainability Commission.



---

Nicolle Burnham, Director of Parks and Public Works