



MEETING DATE: 3/19/12
ITEM NO: 8

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: MARCH 12, 2012
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: GREG LARSON, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: OFF-LEASH DOG PARK STATUS

- A. ACCEPT STAFF REPORT ON THE STATUS OF POTENTIAL DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS IN TOWN PARKS.
- B. DIRECT STAFF TO EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR A DOG OFF-LEASH PILOT PROGRAM AND CONDUCT A PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS.
- C. DIRECT STAFF TO PROVIDE AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR A DOG OFF-LEASH PILOT PROGRAM TO COUNCIL NO LATER THAN JUNE 4, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Accept staff report on the status of potential dog off-leash areas in Town Parks.
- 2. Direct staff to evaluate options for a dog off-leash pilot program and conduct a public input process.
- 3. Direct staff to provide an implementation plan for a dog off-leash pilot program to Council no later than June 4, 2012.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Los Gatos operates fourteen heavily programmed and utilized parks. These parks offer a wide array of amenities and recreational opportunities, and provide facilities for local sports leagues and the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department. The Town of Los Gatos Municipal Code states that all dogs in a park must be on leash and under control of their owner at all times. The Town currently does not provide off-leash dog facilities at any park.

Due to the high usage of parks and limited land, but also recognizing the need for an off-leash dog area, the Town contributed resources to the Santa Clara County Parks Department for the construction of a fenced off-leash dog park. This park is located in Campbell within the Los Gatos Creek County Park, and is approximately five miles from downtown Los Gatos. There are additional off-leash dog parks also located in San Jose and other nearby cities.

PREPARED BY: TODD CAPURSO
Director of Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: BSJ Assistant Town Manager Q Town Attorney SL Finance

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BACKGROUND (cont'd):

In recent years, several residents have begun utilizing Town parks, specifically Bachman, Live Oak Manor and La Rinconada, as unofficial off-leash dog areas, and many members of the community have requested that this issue be officially addressed by the Town. In October 2009, the issue was brought forward to the Parks Commission, and staff proposed exploring and evaluating opportunities to implement a pilot program. The Parks Commission voted against this, citing safety concerns and potential use conflicts in parks. More recently, informal groups of dog owners and park users have re-initiated this topic.

At the February 6, 2012 Town Council meeting, the Council requested that the topic of off-leash dog areas be brought to Council for discussion by the end of March. On February 7, 2012, the Parks Commission directed Town staff to prepare a proposal regarding an implementation plan for evaluating an off-leash dog pilot program. Following these meetings, staff contacted other local municipalities that have experience with off-leash dog programs, in an effort to gather additional information about their programs and experience with off-leash facilities.

After speaking with staff in municipalities similar to Los Gatos in terms of population, size, and environment, Town staff found that several of them have successfully addressed this issue. These cities include, but are not limited to: Burlingame, Cupertino, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz. Several of these cities are currently testing a variety of off-leash options, including: off-leash hours in non-fenced areas of parks, off-leash hours within the boundaries of athletic fields, and portable fencing to surround off-leash areas during off-leash hours. Other cities have decided instead to provide residents with information on nearby off-leash areas as an alternative to creating their own.

Feedback from these agencies indicates that fenced implementations have proven to concentrate negative turf impact to specific areas rendering them unusable for other recreational activities; they have also proven to be resource intensive. However, the concept of off-leash hours without fencing provides the flexibility to periodically alter the off-leash areas when turf renovation activities become necessary. These non-fenced areas also remain available for recreational programming when off-leash hours are not in effect.

DISCUSSION:

Staff originally identified six parks that would be of sufficient size to accommodate an off-leash dog area. However, after factoring in use patterns and recreational programming demands, only four of the six have been identified as suitable for further consideration: Bachman, Belgatos, La Rinconada, and Live Oak Manor. After gathering some initial public input earlier this year, staff has been researching use patterns at these four sites. There appears to be a demonstrated demand at three of the parks (all except Belgatos) that warrants further consideration.

DISCUSSION (cont'd):

Prior to proposing or implementing significant changes in park use, staff works to ensure the adjacent neighborhood is engaged in a community input process, and that all existing user groups are invited to participate. As part of the proposed community input process, neighborhood residents and dog-owners would be invited to participate in order to ensure optimal use of limited park space and neighborhood compatibility.

In order to fully evaluate the impacts and neighborhood acceptance of implementing off-leash areas in each of the three parks, staff recommends conducting a community meeting, inviting all residents within 300 feet of each park and all interested dog-owners. Residents would be notified by mail, while dog-owners and other park users would be notified through public postings in the parks. Through this community input process, staff would gather input that would be used to evaluate how off-leash hours could be proposed and implemented at each of the three park sites in a manner that optimizes park usage. It is likely that the off-leash program would be limited to specific times of day and potentially to certain days of the week.

Provided that there is sufficient community support, staff would recommend the implementation of a pilot program that would allow for the site(s) to be monitored for a period of six to twelve months to evaluate seasonal impacts, long-term maintenance requirements, and neighborhood impacts. In proposing potential pilot program options, staff will recommend that any implementation be resource neutral, utilizing self-policing and volunteer maintenance efforts as much as possible. Staff would also install signage which would notify park users of off-leash hours and rules.

Staff proposes conducting the community meeting in mid-April and using the input and results to formulate a proposal that would be presented to the Parks Commission in mid-May. Based on Commission feedback, the proposal may be further refined before it is presented to Council in June. Staff's proposed timeline is as follows:

Proposed Schedule:

- March 19, 2012 – Status report to Council.
- Mid-April – Conduct Community Meeting inviting user-groups/neighbors.
- Mid-May – Special Parks Commission Meeting to consider staff recommendations.
- June 4, 2012 – Staff report to Council with a recommended implementation plan.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council accept this staff report on the status of potential dog off-leash accommodations in Town parks. It is also recommended that the Town Council direct staff to evaluate options for a dog off-leash pilot program and conduct a public input process, including at least one community meeting. It is further recommended that the Town Council

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CONCLUSION (cont'd):

direct staff to provide an implementation plan for a dog off-leash pilot program to Council no later than June 4, 2012.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This action is not a project as defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Town to accept the recommendations included in this report, other than reallocating existing staff time and attention to this project rather than duties and assignments.

However, the implementation of dog off-leash areas may generate the need for additional resources to install park modifications, such as barriers and/or signage, and/or increased education and enforcement. Off-leash areas or hours may also impact park maintenance requirements by increasing the frequency and intensity of park use. Once identified, these potential impacts will be addressed and brought forward to Council on June 4, 2012 as part of the recommended implementation plan.

Attachments:

1. Draft Parks Commission Meeting Minutes - February 7, 2012
2. Email dated March 8, 2012 from Sheila Bannan, 118 Massol Avenue, Los Gatos



TOWN OF LOS GATOS

RJ BRYANT SERVICE CENTER
41 MILES AVENUE
LOS GATOS, CA 95031

TOWN OF LOS GATOS PARKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING RJ BRYANT SERVICE CENTER 41 MILES AVENUE, LOS GATOS 6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

MINUTES

The February 7 Agenda was posted to the Public on January 31, 2012.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Parks Commission Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by **Chair Rob Rennie**.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Rob Rennie, Vice-Chair Jon Lambert, Commissioner Brant Corenson, Commissioner Karen Deloumi, Commissioner Sandy Gordon, Commissioner Barbara Holden, Commissioner Edward Scott and Student Commissioner Haserot

Absent: None

Staff: Todd Capurso, Parks and Public Works Director
Christy Wolter, Parks and Facilities Superintendent
Kevin Rohani, Town Engineer
Dave Gray, Parks Service Officer
Amber Pinkerton, Parks Service Officer
Jason Erickson, Parks and Public Works Intern

III. APPROVAL DECEMBER 8, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Corenson asked if there was any further information regarding V. Commission Matters – E. Participation in Downtown Banner Art Selection Process – January. **Director Capurso** stated that he has not heard any further information from the Town Manager’s office and will include this item on the agenda for the April 3, 2012 Parks Commission meeting.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there were any further questions or changes to the minutes. There were no further questions or changes to the minutes.

MOTION: Motion made by **Commissioner Gordon** to approve the December 6, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Corenson.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

(Three minute time limit per speaker for subjects not agendaized.)

A. Verbal

Speaker Thomas Cook spoke on the upcoming project for improvements along Blossom Hill Road that would include new sidewalks and bike lanes making it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Speaker Cook expressed that he just learned last week that the first step of that process was the removal of trees at Blossom Hill Park and is not pleased with this decision. **Speaker Cook** doesn't want to stand in the way of progress, but does want to understand the process and if there are other options for preserving some of the park's natural beauty.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commissioners if they had any questions for **Speaker Cook**.

The following Parks Commissioners had questions for Speaker Cook:

Commissioner Corenson:

What are the cross-streets of this area? **Speaker Cook** responded the cross streets are Blossom Hill Road and Cherry Blossom where the little league field is located.

Commissioner Gordon:

What is the replacement plan for vegetation in that area? **Director Capurso** responded the replacement plan is based on the canopy size per the Town Code, i.e. 2 – 24" box trees or 1 – 36" box tree. **Director Capurso** stated that the Town has already made the commitment that for every tree removed, a 48" box tree would be planted, which is a higher replacement than as mandated by the Town Code. **Director Capurso** further stated that staff is searching for other mitigation plans, which also include the option of relocating the trees.

Commissioner Holden:

Would leaving them in their current location lead to death? **Director Capurso** stated that the trees planted too close to the proximity of the construction would cause damage and death to the trees within two years. **Director Capurso** stated that the new trees would not be planted in the same location. **Director Capurso** further stated that staff is looking at what's best for the Safe Routes to School Project moving forward 1) work around the trees and plant them two years later or 2) take the issue on now, address it and let the re-vegetation start earlier.

Commissioner Gordon:

Asked Speaker Cook if what **Director Capurso** reported answered his question; that there is always a plan where it is feasible to replace the vegetation with whatever is appropriate with the conditions at hand.

Speaker Cook commented on Commissioner Gordon's explanation and expressed his confusion. **Speaker Cook** stated that if the five trees are taken out; then why not beautify the corridor by putting ten trees along it.

Chair Rennie stated that the Parks Commission can't take any action on this subject because it is not on the agenda. **Director Capurso** also stated that until Speaker Cook has filed a written appeal regarding this subject that no action can be taken, including a special meeting called by the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Deloumi:

Based on what's been described, what's the position of the Parks Commission and how are we able to help? **Director Capurso** stated that a final design for this project was approved by the Town Council; it went out for bid, a contract was awarded and the work has begun. **Director Capurso** stated that although it's possible to change contractual relationships it can only be done by the Town Council. **Director Capurso** further stated that depending on the result of an appeal, it may or may not have to go back to Town Council.

Director Capurso stated that the appeal process for publicly owned trees ends with the Parks Commission and typically do not go to the Town Council. **Director Capurso** stated that if there is conflict with an appeal and there was already an award by the Town Council, then it would be brought back to Town Council.

Commissioner Gordon:

Whom are you representing? Your community, neighbors? **Speaker Cook** stated that he is not representing anybody and is speaking for himself and family.

Commissioner Corenson:

Are these the types of projects that should've gone through the Parks Commission process prior to the determination of the Town Council? **Director Capurso** stated that the design phase typically does not go through a commission on any public project.

Director Capurso stated that the direction for this project came directly from the Town Council at which point staff goes out and executes the process.

Commissioner Lambert:

Commented that he understands **Speaker Cook's** situation and stated that as residents and the public of the Town, we should be responsible to see what the Town Council, Commissions and Committees are doing and whether it affects us personally or not. **Speaker Cook** stated that he respects Commissioner Lambert's position but feels that his statement is wrong. **Speaker Cook** said that the project has been communicated effectively and that there was no discussion of the five trees being taken out. **Speaker Cook's wife** added that her concern is that today is the day to file the appeal; however, they do not want to do it, but if that is the only way the process will allow them to be heard by the Parks Commission, they are prepared to do it.

Commissioner Lambert reiterated that if a decision was made outside of a particular forum then the appeal process is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Deloumi:

What's the difference between the sports park project and this project? How were we able to see the design for the sports park design and not this project and not be able to give input?

Director Capurso responded that technically the Parks Commission didn't see the design for sports park, but did see the sports park master plan and conceptual design. **Director Capurso** stated that the Town Council and Commissions normally see conceptual designs and typically do not review the detailed construction drawings. **Director Capurso** indicated that the master plan for Blossom Hill Park was done in 2010; feedback was used and incorporated into the design similar to what was just done for Live Oak Park Manor.

Commissioner Scott:

Does the Parks Commission have anything to decide on non-agendized items such as those that fall under verbal communications? **Chair Rennie** stated that the Parks Commission is not deciding on anything but listening to speaker comments.

Commissioner Scott stated that maybe the best path for the Cooks would be to file an appeal if they want any action taken.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there are any further comments or discussion on this item.

Commissioner Scott expressed his concerns on notification to the residents and the public for projects in Town. **Director Capurso** stated that the Town does have a policy on public notification.

Commissioner Deloumi expressed that moving forward she would like to have further discussion regarding 1) process of where the Parks Commission is involved, 2) communication to the community in relation to parks projects and 3) summary of key items that the public would want to know about.

Chair Rennie stated that the Parks Commission process will be added to the next meeting agenda.

After much discussion with Speaker Cook and the Parks Commission, **Chair Rennie** stated that no further action will be taken on this matter unless an appeal is filed and closed out the verbal communications portion of the meeting. **Chair Rennie** moved on to the next item on the agenda.

B. **Written**

None.

V. **COMMISSION MATTERS**

A. **Chair Rennie** welcomed and introduced newly appointed Parks Commissioner Edward Scott.

Chair Rennie also announced that the Parks Commission is still in need of an additional Student Commissioner and the Town will be recruiting in May 2012.

B. Dogs off Leash

Director Capurso gave a summary to the Parks Commission and the public in attendance regarding the current situation in regards to dogs off leash in the Town.

Director Capurso stated that this issue is being brought back to the Town Council in March 2012 for a status update on a dogs off leash program. **Director Capurso** stated that staff would like to hear from those attending this meeting on what could be proposed not only for dog owners, but for park users as well. **Director Capurso** stated that staff is looking for a potential pilot program where there are off leash hours at particular parks in Town.

Director Capurso continued to state that this issue was brought before the Parks Commission in 2009. **Director Capurso** stated that the Parks Commission made no recommendation to implement a dogs off leash program in 2009.

Director Capurso stated that he wants to hear the opinions of those who filled out speaker cards. **Director Capurso** stated that staff would compile information from all interested parties and include that report to the Town Council in March.

Chair Rennie stated that this portion of the meeting will be run much like a Town Council Meeting.

Chair Rennie opened up the floor to the Parks Commissioners to ask staff questions regarding this item.

Commissioner Lambert:

Asked what's changed since 2009? **Director Capurso** stated that since 2009 there's been a substantial amount of turnover of parks commissioners and that dogs off leash is still an unresolved issued with the Town. **Director Capurso** stated that this was never documented in the General Plan before, but it is now and now there is more community interest.

Commissioner Holden:

If there was a dogs off leash program and a dog bit a child, who is liable? **Director Capurso** stated that he can't answer that question until something is proposed. **Director Capurso** stated that this type of question can't be addressed until a program is actually implemented.

Commissioner Gordon:

What's the short list of likely parks that this makes sense? **Director Capurso** stated that he would like to defer from an answer until he hears from the speakers.

Commissioner Corenson:

Is a motion going to be asked for tonight? **Director Capurso** stated, at the very least, staff is looking for input and if the Parks Commission chooses to make a motion that is at the discretion of the commissioners.

Commissioner Scott:

Is there a standard of care from other municipalities? **Director Capurso** stated that there is implementation of this nature that is being seen in other municipalities, i.e. San Carlos, Santa Cruz and larger park and open space districts along beaches, etc.

Commissioner Scott stated that it would be helpful to have the experiences of those other municipalities in connection with those unfenced areas.

Commissioner Deloumi:

Stated there is a newspaper article reporting that the city of San Carlos is considering implementing a pilot program allowing dogs off leash for several hours a day at designated parks. **Commissioner Deloumi** stated that she can send the article to the commissioners should they want to review it. **Commissioner Deloumi** stated that the Town should consider such a program.

Commissioner Corenson:

What's the latest in regards to the complaints from dogs off leash at Crissy Field? **Director Capurso** has no information regarding Commissioner Corenson's inquiry. **Commission Scott** stated that he is somewhat familiar with that and the whole reason Crissy Field was redone a few years ago was to create a habitat for birds that were migrating through the area. **Commissioner Scott** said the off leash dogs were creating an issue with the habitat based on articles that he read. **Commissioner Corenson** asked if he knew if they restricted the dogs. **Commissioner Scott** replied the park follows NPS rules and regulations.

Commissioner Deloumi:

Stated there are a lot of options to be considered when implementing a pilot program and the Parks Commission should investigate them.

Chair Rennie moved on to the public portion of the Parks Commission meeting and stated that the floor will be opened up for questions and discussion after hearing from those who have submitted a speaker card on this subject.

The following speakers addressed the Parks Commission in regards to dogs off leash:

Speaker Victor Faral:

Speaker Faral stated that he used the dog park in Campbell even though he had to pay the \$5 to \$6 parking fee. **Speaker Faral** stated that subsequently he discovered Live Oak Manor where he could bring his dog. **Speaker Faral** stated that he has not been averse to letting his dog off leash to run around and play. **Speaker Faral** stated, however, that in the last year and half there has been an increase of dogs in this park early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

Speaker Faral stated the dog reflects the owner and has had only one experience where his dog was attacked. **Speaker Faral** stated that he and fellow neighbor Dick Foster police the area and would like to know what can be done as concerned citizens to assist in the implementation of a dogs off leash program and also not to have to go another city, such as Campbell, to walk their dogs.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commissioners if they had any questions for Speaker Faral.

The following Parks Commissioners had questions for Speaker Faral:

Commissioner Corenson:

How do you propose citizens to control their dogs while off leash? **Speaker Faral** stated that with everything that is seen, all these dogs are properly behaved, except for Jack Terriers. **Speaker Faral** stated that you can see who are the responsible dog owners in the park.

Speaker Faral would like to see the Town assert the responsibility of the dog owner.

Commissioner Gordon asked if Speaker Faral was suggesting that if there were posted rules of engagement in any designated area, where there would be a dog off leash, that it would be responsibility of the owner's and their dogs to be mindful of that. **Speaker Faral** stated yes.

Commissioner Deloumi:

With the community policing the areas will it work and how do you see this working if there is no structure behind it? **Speaker Faral** stated that if this was an experiment, and the dog owners took the responsibility of monitoring those rules posted in the park, we would report any improper behavior by dogs and/or their owners to the Park Service Officer or to whomever would be responsible in taking corrective action.

Commissioner Scott:

Do you know to whom the \$6 parking fee goes? **Speaker Faral** stated that the parking fee goes to Santa Clara County.

Is the area fenced in for dogs also belong to Santa Clara County? **Park Service Officer Gray** stated yes, it is all one facility.

Director Capurso stated that the intent of the fenced facility for dogs was constructed by Santa Clara County for usage for both Campbell and Los Gatos. **Director Capurso** continued that it wasn't constructed to solve a specific issue but to provide an option.

Commissioner Scott asked **Speaker Faral** if he was adverse to a licensing scheme, i.e. using a designated area as long as a dog has a certain tag on it. **Speaker Faral** stated that most dog owners have their pets registered with a chip in them. **Speaker Faral** stated that if the dogs are tagged and a problem is reported to a Park Service Officer then the dog and its owner would be flagged for enforcement.

Director Capurso interjected and stated that there are a lot of implementation type questions being asked and these questions are all being asked from the first speaker when there are others waiting to be heard on this subject matter as well. **Director Capurso** suggested the Parks Commission move on to the next speaker.

Speaker Isabella Rennie:

Speaker Rennie wanted to address one of the themes she's heard this evening and that is giving the residents the benefit of the doubt with dogs off leash, and that owners will be responsible for their dogs. **Speaker Rennie** stated that the residents of Bachman Park discussed different options of how dogs off leash could be addressed in a positive way.

Speaker Rennie stated that the residents came up with a pilot program that involves implementing a permit process and designated areas where dogs would have off leash hours. **Speaker Rennie** continued that these designated areas would be posted with signs for specified hours and by permit only. **Speaker Rennie** stated that the people in the community are the best watch guards to police the parks to maintain peace and quiet in the

neighborhood. **Speaker Rennie** lastly stated that it is the people who live in the neighborhood, that keep the parks safe.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commissioners if they had any questions for Speaker Rennie. There were no further questions for Speaker Rennie.

Speaker Beth Jendricks:

Speaker Jendricks was no longer present but Speaker Linda S. Rodriguez spoke on her behalf, which entailed a letter written by Speaker Jendricks.

Speaker Rodriguez read the letter from Speaker Jendricks to the Parks Commission. The letter included the following statement:

“Request that the committee consider in Bachman Park and other Los Gatos Parks to legally allow the use of a designated area of approximately 200 x 200 for the purpose of Los Gatos residents to socialize with their dogs off leash for one hour, Sunday through Saturday evening, summer hours 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and winter hours 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. It would be open only to Los Gatos residents, verified by a driver’s license or student identification. Our Town needs a simple way for neighbors to gather with their dogs. Setting a time period will all allow all other park users to be functional so if they want to avoid this time, they can plan to use the park accordingly. It will not cost the town anything in resources, but could be implemented now as a trial basis.”

Speaker Rodriguez stated that they’ve had their dogs off leash in Bachman Park for several years now and the residents are all very respectful and cognizant of the children playing at the end of the park. **Speaker Rodriguez** continued to state that they keep their dogs at one end of the park, and when people come by on the sidewalks, that they move their dogs out of the way. **Speaker Rodriguez** also stated that in many cases people from the playground bring their kids down to where they’re at to see their dogs. **Speaker Rodriguez** stated that she’s unsure of how many complaints there have been for Bachman Park, but there have been very few incidents of any dogs fighting or any problems that they have encountered with their dogs for many years.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if they had any questions for Speaker Rodriguez.

The following Parks Commissioners had questions for Speaker Rodriguez:

Commissioner Deloumi:

You indicated that there is something informal in place now for many years. So what has changed in the last few months? **Speaker Rodriguez** stated that the ranger has been threatening to issue tickets and has given tickets.

Chair Rennie stated that staff should address the question of issuing tickets after all speakers have had the opportunity to speak.

Commissioner Corenson:

The 200 x 200 perimeter, is that a fence that your setting up? **Speaker Rodriguez** stated that it is an unfenced area used in Bachman Park. **Speaker Rodriguez** continued to explain that it's an area far away from the playground and is set off in the corner away from everybody else off of Ellenwood. **Speaker Rodriguez's** final comments were that they even fill in the gopher holes and take good care of the park and clean up after others who don't.

Speaker Jonathan Knowles:

Speaker Knowles stated that he probably has researched this more than anyone has and that he has studied biology and animal behavior and doesn't have an off leash dog. **Speaker Knowles** also stated his dog is off leash if in a fenced in area.

Speaker Knowles continued to say that there are multiple pages that were talked about this. **Speaker Knowles** stated that the last time that this was brought before the Parks Commission there was 100% unanimous agreement that this was an issue in the community and that it is a shared use issue. **Speaker Knowles** stated that there are more dog owners than probably any other single type of park user in the community – this is just a fact. **Speaker Knowles** stated that the Town is ironically named due to its 12,500 households and 9,000 dogs in the community.

Speaker Knowles stated that he's thrilled that there's a tennis court near his local park, but he doesn't get to say, "Sorry, I don't want tennis players in my local area." **Speaker Knowles** reiterated that it's a shared used issue and we need to do something and something has to happen.

Speaker Knowles stated that at the last Parks Commission meeting in 2009, the general feeling was that it's working under the table, so let's continue to have it work that way.

Speaker Knowles stated that in multiple parks, there are highly organized groups who are doing this and the bottom line is, it's important for dogs to have off leash socialization, as well as their owners. **Speaker Knowles** also said it's important for the community. **Speaker Knowles** stated that

dogs that have this kind of socialization actually produce fewer biting and barking and any other kind of pet complaints.

Speaker Knowles indicated the science is hardcore and there are a lot of specific references to this in the original report that was distributed to the Parks Commission in 2009.

Speaker Knowles stated that we've learned a lot, we've interviewed many people and observed the use of our parks and the number of people that use the parks. **Speaker Knowles** said, by far, the majority of people in the park are with their dogs and no single one community wants to be the one dog park in the Town.

Speaker Knowles acknowledged that people in the different neighborhoods want to be able to walk to their local park and have some off leash time with their dog. **Speaker Knowles** indicated that the parents they talked to while doing the research said they would love to know that it's restricted to certain hours, if it's done in their park, and also to know that there are options around the Town for people to be able to go and do this kind of activity.

Speaker Knowles declared that there is a big motivation from the Town Council to do this.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if they had any questions for **Speaker Knowles**.

The following Parks Commissioners had questions for Speaker Knowles:

Commissioner Gordon:

Are you willing to put together a petition for all interested parties that could be presented, should we make a motion, to do this so there is significant reinforcement from the community that Town Council could then see? **Speaker Knowles** said that he doesn't believe a petition is necessary. **Speaker Knowles** stated bringing stakeholders together to talk about it is a good and important first step.

Speaker Knowles also thought that this process needs to be accelerated for this particular item and that the Town Council already has a good insight of this issue.

Speaker Knowles expressed that what has been mentioned are all good ideas that have been known for years; your dog must be under verbal control, your dog must stay within the areas that dogs are allowed to be in, you must pick up after your dog, and no aggressive dogs.

Speaker Knowles continued by saying, as far as policing, we enforce it the way we enforce any ordinance that is broken within the Town. **Speaker Knowles** stated that if kids are out drinking in the park, we call the Ranger and the Police, and they come out and deal with it. **Speaker Knowles** stated we'd do the same exact thing for off leash dogs, this isn't special that way. **Speaker Knowles** stated that with regard to the permitting idea, a lot of communities recommend that the dog has to be licensed and you have to pay the administrative fee and fill out a form and be on a registered list. **Speaker Knowles** said there are lots of ways to do these kinds of things and that there are best practices already in place by other communities.

Commissioner Gordon asked Director Capurso what is missing from either the Parks Commission or the residents that will create a greater sense of urgency or prioritization for Town Council. If it's not a petition than what? **Director Capurso** stated that a petition would not be necessary since there is already a high level of demonstrated usage already. **Director Capurso** stated what we are trying to find is if this is something that we could find a way to make it successful. **Director Capurso** stated that there would be a public notification process before there is a rule change, but that's really the extent of it.

Speaker Knowles stated that the organized groups will keep doing it until there is some responsibility put around it.

Commissioner Scott:

Commissioner Scott wanted to state for the record that permitting wasn't his idea. **Commissioner Scott** also stated that he wanted to make sure that every single speaker addressed the issue because then he'd be repeating himself if he kept asking it.

Commissioner Scott stated that he would like to hear what the experiences are from other jurisdictions because he is ill informed about it.

Speaker Knowles said that there is one data point that should be mentioned and that is that the Town Attorney at the time, Orry Korb, was completely in support of this and he said that there was never any legal action in the State of California taken over any municipality that has done this.

Commissioner Deloumi:

Commissioner Deloumi stated that she would like to hear the rest of the speakers, listen to all the information, and better understand the process.

Speaker E. E. Buckholz:

Speaker Buckholz stated that she would like to withdraw her comments as her issues were being addressed.

Speaker Melissa Torran:

Speaker Torran stated that she is from the Live Oak Manor Park neighborhood and is in favor of dogs off leash hours in the morning and evening, and indicated that she does not understand the permit process, but will find out about it later.

Chair Rennie stated that the main idea of the permit would be to potentially limit it to only Los Gatos residents and take permits away from abusers in order to police repeat offenders. **Chair Rennie** also stated that along with a permit, it would be easier for the rangers to enforce.

Commissioner Gordon interjected that she didn't want to operationalize this right now.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if they had any questions for Speaker Torran. There were no further questions for Speaker Torran.

Commissioner Corenson asked the audience how many of them have licenses for their dogs? **Chair Rennie** stated to Commissioner Corenson that this type of question should not be asked right now.

Director Capurso reminded the Parks Commissioners that they are still in the public comment portion of the Parks Commission meeting. **Director Capurso** stated that all public comment should be heard, closed and then deliberated. **Director Capurso** stated that the Parks Commissioners are asking questions out of order and should follow the order of the speaker cards.

Speaker Carla House:

Speaker House stated that she is part of the group from Bachman Park. **Speaker House** stated that one thing that needs to be kept in mind is that bringing dogs to the park at certain times makes it safer. **Speaker House** indicated that this group looks after what is going on, not just with dogs, but also with young children, etc. **Speaker House** said it brings the community together which is what Los Gatos is all about.

Speaker House stated that if you're going to look into other areas that do this, look into other states, such as Boston; dogs off leash is done all the time. **Speaker House** said it's a neat way of getting to know and take care of people and so forth.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if they had any questions for Speaker House. There were no further questions for Speaker House.

Chair Rennie stated to Director Capurso that the Parks Commissioners wants to poll questions. **Chair Rennie** asked Director Capurso if that was more appropriate for a community meeting rather than a commission meeting.

Director Capurso stated that it might be helpful if he reiterates the direction of where this meeting should go. **Director Capurso** stated that Town Council asked for a status of off leash dog areas in March. **Director Capurso** stated that this period is too short to get any valuable or measurable community input from the neighborhood perspective on a specific proposal. **Director Capurso** indicated that there needs to be a level of notification and outreach to surrounding neighborhoods. **Director Capurso** stated that what staff would like to get from this meeting is the Park Commission's input for what we will be telling Town Council - whether a pilot dogs off leash program is going to be recommended or not. **Director Capurso** stated that staff is looking for a short list of parks, approximate times of days in order to propose an implementation plan based on best practices.

Director Capurso asserted that at this point all staff wants is high-level input.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there were any additional questions or discussion on this item.

Commissioner Coreson asked for a show of hands from the audience with regard to the following questions:

- How many dogs are licensed? **Speaker Knowles** stated that according to Animal Control in San Jose probably around 50% of all dogs in their served agency are actually licensed. **Speaker Knowles** stated that they indicate that it is because most people don't know they are supposed to get a license.

Speaker Knowles stated the reason we know the number of dogs we have isn't because of licenses, it's because whenever veterinarians give rabies shots to dogs, they report it to Animal Control. **Speaker Knowles** states they are the ones who came up with the number of 9,000 dogs for Los Gatos based on rabies vaccinations versus licenses.

- How many dogs have gone to obedience school and how many have not?
- How many of your dogs have chips?
- How many of your dogs are small, medium and large?
- How many of you pick up your dog's excrement? **Speaker Knowles** stated that let it be known that the group in this room paid for the dog dispenser boxes that are all along North Santa Cruz. **Speaker Knowles** stated the money was raised by the people in Los Gatos who

do off leash activities. **Speaker Knowles** stated that they are replenished by the dog community of Los Gatos on a regular basis, as well as the rangers putting them in the park.

Commissioner Deloumi asked for a show of hands of who visits Butcher Park and the dog park in Campbell.

Commissioner Deloumi asked how many have been close to a bite situation? **Speaker Faral** said he wasn't, but his dog was. **Speaker Knowles** said a bite usually happens because the dog hasn't been properly socialized off leash.

Chair Rennie closed the public comment portion of the the Parks Commission meeting and moved for deliberation of this item.

Commissioner Gordon stated that she wanted to make a comment with a recommendation at the end.

Commission Gordon said that one of the beautiful things about Los Gatos is that it is actually a Town that cares about what the residents think – we want harmony here and it's the reason residents can make them happen or not. **Commissioner Gordon** also expressed that residents have the benefit of a lot of beautiful parks which are shared use. **Commissioner Gordon** declared that a lot of time has been spent figuring out how to accommodate soccer fields, sports and now it's time to find a way to support the other parts of our family – man's best friend.

Commission Gordon recommended that the Parks Commission take into account the interest of the community, create a short list of parks that are a likely candidate for an off leash program and put this issue on the agenda for the next Parks Commission meeting.

Commissioner Holden stated that she would like to hear from the rangers on why they are writing tickets for dogs, have they always written tickets for dogs or have they just started writing tickets for dogs.

Chair Rennie stated that it would be more appropriate to address the question from Commissioner Holden to Director Capurso. **Director Capurso** stated that the Parks Service Officers have not written an exorbitant amount of citations. **Director Capurso** stated that citations are issued only on rare occasions. **Director Capurso** stated that what's more present is the perceived threat that citations are coming, but again, the Park Service Officer hasn't written very many.

Parks Service Officer Dave Gray stated that he only recently issued two tickets at Bachman Park. **Parks Service Officer Gray** further stated that other than those two, he hasn't written a ticket for dogs off leash in three years. **Parks Service Officer Gray** stated the reason he did it was

because of the rules in Los Gatos, the County of Santa Clara and the State of California and that a 6' leash is required at all times and dogs must be kept under physical control, that is the law. **Parks Service Officer Gray** indicated that it got to the point that there was so much activity at Bachman Park and that some of the people within the playground were continually complaining about it and he had to do something about it.

Director Capurso restated that the issues are the conflicting rules and park behavior. **Director Capurso** stated that the goal is to establish clear definition of these rules and behavior and to find a workable solution that accommodates as many people as possible.

Commissioner Scott stated that he feels very ill informed about this entire issue. **Commissioner Scott** stated that he doesn't know what parks and hours are being talked about and what the track record has been on the various violations. **Commissioner Scott** stated that he would like to be brought up to speed on other municipalities' experiences and Los Gatos in particular before he could even consider a motion.

Chair Rennie stated that different kinds of motions can be made and it is probably inappropriate to make a motion to approve because the Parks Commission doesn't have a proposal. **Chair Rennie** stated more than likely, there would be a motion to ask staff to form a proposal.

Commissioner Corenson:

Assuming there is a 200 x 200 boundary at a certain time and then if the dog had a problem, would someone still be able to complain to the Parks Service Officer about the problem if it's clarified? **Director Capurso** stated that the heart of the issue would be if the dog is under the control of the owner.

Commissioner Deloumi:

Why was the person ticketed? **Director Capurso** stated that he would prefer not to give an answer to a particular incident because the Parks Service Officer has a pretty good record of not issuing citations on a regular basis. **Director Capurso** stated that the issuance of a citation is at the discretion of the Parks Service Officer and the circumstance.

Commissioner Deloumi stated that she just wants to understand the reason. **Director Capurso** stated that it may never be answered – if dogs are off leash in play lot and a parent feels threatened, they are within their rights to say that there is a dog owner not in compliance with Town Code. **Director Capurso** stated that the Town is obligated to do some level of enforcement based on that type of complaint.

Commissioner Deloumi stated that if the Parks Commission decides to go further, she wants to make sure there is a means for incorporating and discussing this.

Commissioner Gordon said even if the Parks Commission makes a recommendation or motion; the commissioners have to do the diligence behind it in order to pursue it. **Commissioner Gordon** stated that there is a lot of work to do in terms of where, what are the rules, how do you post information, how do you present it to the Town Council for their review and/or approval. **Commissioner Gordon** asked the Parks Commission if they agree to make a motion or not.

Commissioner Gordon made the following motion.

MOTION: Motion made by **Commissioner Gordon** that staff comes back to the Parks Commission with a proposal with appropriate parks and other considerations for off leash opportunities for dogs.

Seconded by **Commissioner Holden**

Chair Rennie asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding this motion.

Commissioner Scott stated that his problem is that he has no data and he wants data.

Commissioner Corenson wanted to amend the motion to include, as indicated by the audience, a pilot program.

Chair Rennie asked if Commissioner Gordon and Commissioner Holden agree with Commissioner Corenson's amendment to the original motion. Both commissioners agreed.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there was any further discussion on this motion.

Commissioner Scott asked Director Capurso if staff has the resources to come back with a proposed recommendation, because he is concerned that the Parks Commission and staff don't have the resources to do this.

Director Capurso stated that staff will not have an implementation plan ready by March. **Director Capurso** suspects that if a recommendation is passed, staff will go back to the Town Council in March telling them here is an implementation plan, here's what we think we're going to do and here's the timeline for such a proposal. **Director Capurso** stated, after which, staff will go back to the Parks Commission and ask for assistance with the implementation plan.

Director Capurso stated that the resource question is less about responding to the Town Council, Parks Commission and the residents. **Director Capurso** stated the resource issue and concern is if staff and the Town can manage its own separate dog permit process internally. **Director Capurso** stated that staff might have to rely on the licensing process that the Town already participates in and may very well recommend that only licensed dogs are able to participate.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there were any additional comments or discussion on this item. There was no further discussion or comments from the Parks Commission.

Chair Rennie asked for the original motion to be re-read to include the added language of "pilot program" as suggested by Commissioner Corenson.

The motion was re-read by the Board Clerk.

MOTION: Motion made by **Commissioner Gordon** that staff comes back to the Parks Commission with a proposal with appropriate parks and other considerations for an off leash pilot program for dogs.

Seconded by Commissioner Holden

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there were any additional comments or discussion on this item. There was no further discussion on this item and a vote was taken.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Director Capurso stated that if the Parks Commissioners have any input regarding this pilot program to submit them via email to him.

Director Capurso stated that there will be a single community input meeting. **Director Capurso** indicated that he would like to get the word out to the dogs off leash community; the two parks represented tonight and those residents that live within a 3 to 500' proximity of those parks.

Speaker Faral asked if staff needs assistance in getting volunteers. **Director Capurso** stated that it is more important that word gets out; the process works best when there's more participation.

Speaker Rennie stated that her concern is that this issue will result in ambiguity and wants to make sure that this issue is resolved sooner rather than later.

Chair Rennie stated that the next step is for staff to come up with the pilot program proposal and that Director Capurso received a lot of input from tonight's speakers. **Chair Rennie** added that he liked the idea of multiple parks included in the pilot program – Live Oak Manor Park, Bachman Park, La Rinconada Park and Belgatos Park, but it's up to staff to make the recommendation.

Chair Rennie stated that the Parks Commission definitely heard from one side of the community tonight, but the opposing side needs to have their concerns addressed as well.

Commissioner Corenson wanted to know if staff was going to take into account the motion and ideas discussed at the Park Commission in 2009, as part of the implementation plan. **Director Capurso** stated current issues will take precedence; however, what was discussed in 2009 will be considered as well.

Chair Rennie stated to Director Capurso that Commissioner Corenson wants to make sure that staff reviews the minutes from the 2009 Parks Commission meeting.

Commission Deloumi asked if a sub-committee will be formed. **Chair Rennie** asked the commissioners if they were interested in being on a sub-committee to discuss the issue versus sending input to staff.

Commissioner Scott asked given the time table and when the next Parks Commission meeting is, isn't there a possible scenario that staff is going to make a proposal and Town Council is going to approve it and it's going to be in place and that there will be no role for the Parks Commission further, unless Town Council asks? **Director Capurso** stated, that is the scenario, but the Town Council can provide input on what sites and hours they want to see, but Town Council is not prepared to propose rules and regulations. **Director Capurso** stated that the Town Council will certainly look to the department for that. **Commissioner Scott** reiterated that he is not sure what the Parks Commission's role is with this moving forward. **Director Capurso** stated that the Parks Commission is as an advisory body to the Town Council.

Director Capurso stated that staff will bring back the information that was heard at tonight's meeting to the Town Council in March and ask for their input. **Director Capurso** then stated the Parks Commission's role would be to assist in forming the implementation plan – not writing the verbiage, but to define areas within parks, sign locations, etc. **Director Capurso** indicated that staff will also get input from the community on it as well.

Director Capurso said that the Parks Commissioners shouldn't be surprised if staff clears the April meeting to obtain the implementation input from the user group and the residents.

Speaker Knowles wanted to go on record that he's not here as an off leash dog user. **Speaker Knowles** stated he is here as a community member who happens to have a dog, who's always on a leash when she's out. **Speaker Knowles** stated he is here because as a community member, he thinks it's important for us to deal with – not as a person who will ever let his dog off leash during whatever program you come up with, as much as that would be neat, it's never going to happen for him. **Speaker Knowles** stated he is here as community member and not as a user, just to be clear.

Chair Rennie closed the discussion of dogs off leash.

Chair Rennie called for an intermission at 8:01 p.m. before reconvening to the remaining items on the agenda.

Chair Rennie reconvened the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

MOTION: Motion made by **Commissioner Corensen** to move out of order from the agenda to hear the presentations from Community Outreach Coordinator Jackie Rose (VI. Items for Information – B. Los Gatos Shines Presentation) and Town Attorney Judith Propp (VI. Items for Information – A. Brown Act & Presentation and Form 700 Status Update).

Seconded by **Commissioner Deloumi**.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there are any further comments or discussion on this item. There were no further comments or discussion from the Parks Commission.

VOTE: **Ayes:** 6
 Nays: 1
 Abstain: 0

C. Park Volunteerism

Vice-Chair Lambert reported that the sub-committee met with a couple of proposed park leaders for Live Oak Manor Park. **Vice-Chair Lambert** stated that the proposed park leaders will report back to the sub-committee with their thoughts and ideas from that meeting.

Vice-Chair Lambert also stated that staff is still working on getting the Town Council apprised on the Park Volunteerism program.

Vice-Chair Lambert stated that he obtained a list of other agencies who adopted similar programs from Community Outreach Coordinator Jackie Rose and will need to review it and will provide an update to the Parks Commission at the next meeting.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there are any further comments or discussion on this item. There were no further comments or discussion from the Parks Commission.

D. **Turf Conversion Update**

Commissioner Corenson reported that the sub-committee held a meeting and had several discussions on how to proceed with turf conversion.

Commissioner Corenson reported that the sub-committee proposed the following outline in order to proceed with turf conversion:

1. Parks and Facilities Superintendent Christy Wolter has made progress with the Water District.
2. The sub-committee would like to draw up a basic landscape plan and use this plan to conduct a survey, followed by holding a Community Meeting and complete these efforts by May 2012.
3. Incorporate the turf conversion plan into the Parks and Public Works Department work plan by summer 2012, which would include volunteerism.
4. Develop a plan to continue to maintain the converted townscapes.

Commissioner Scott asked the purpose of turf conversion. **Multiple Parks Commissioners** explained that it is a means to save Town money by using less water, remove unmaintained lawn space and make them drought tolerant and to beautify the area.

Commissioner Holden indicated that the two areas under consideration for turf conversion are at the corner of Hillbrook and Blossom Hill Road (Hillbrook Townscape) and the intersection of Los Gatos-Almaden Road and Los Gatos Boulevard (El Gato Triangle).

Vice-Chair Lambert asked if it is worth the Parks Commission's time to move forward with this project since there has been little progress. **Commissioner Holden** replied that it's taking a long time because it's been difficult getting the information from the Water District.

Parks and Facilities Superintendent Wolter stated that the next step is to submit the formal plan to the Water District before making their final approval. **Parks and Facilities Superintendent Wolter** stated the Water District wants to see the layout and specifics of the turf conversion plan.

Commissioner Holden asked if a motion is needed in order to survey the neighborhoods. **Director Capurso** stated that if this is a Town project then staff has to have some involvement. **Director Capurso** further stated that staff doesn't survey; staff generally holds a community process.

Commissioner Corenson proposed that through volunteerism that the Parks Commission develop a survey (which is done), approve the survey and then volunteers conduct the survey. **Commission Corenson** stated that once that is complete with the Town's efforts there can be the community outreach step.

Director Capurso stated that to Commissioner Corenson that those efforts are redundant. **Director Capurso** stated that his concern is having volunteers conduct a community process and not adequately represent the Town.

Commission Corenson responded that the purpose was to get input from community members surrounding the parks and that it be used as input for the community meeting. **Commissioner Corenson** stated it would give an indication as to whether there was interest in this program or not. **Director Capurso** stated he would see that happening at the community meeting, such as what took place at the first meeting for the Creekside Sports Park. **Director Capurso** stated that adding a survey to the process is a rather labor intensive step in order to get outreach from the community versus by just having the community meeting.

Commissioner Deloumi stated that she would like to know how much the Town would save from the turf conversion projects. **Commissioner Deloumi** stated that given the Town's current budget situation, are there resources to move forward with this project if it has no beneficial value to it.

Vice-Chair Lambert agreed with Commissioner Deloumi that it sounds like a good idea and is an interesting thing to do, but what kind of impact would it have for the Town.

Director Capurso stated that this is the big unanswered question because there are no Town resources allocated for this program; it's not the priority of the community or the Town Council.

Commissioner Deloumi proposed that perhaps the Parks Commission should understand the financial benefits of this project before moving on to the next level. **Commissioner Deloumi** stated that if there are major savings, then it makes sense to move forward, but the Parks Commission should understand it.

Director Capurso stated that there isn't a major savings, but there is a savings and it's not more than \$10k for the two sites indicated.

Multiple Commissioners continued to debate extensively on the purpose and validity of this project.

Commissioner Scott stated that it's an important issue and that he was asked about it during his interview process. **Commissioner Scott** further stated that the Town Council already recognizes it as an important issue and as an advisory body; the Parks Commission should do its due diligence and bring it forward for consideration in 2012/13.

Vice-Chair Lambert stated that this project needs staff involvement in order to succeed.

After much deliberation, it was decided that the Parks Commission will give staff a summary of the financial information for the turf conversion project in order to get it in the proposed Capital Budget for 2012/13. It was agreed that Commissioners Corenson and Holden will send the report to Director Capurso at least three weeks before the April meeting so that it will be included on the agenda and be ready for distribution and discussion.

Director Capurso also suggested that the Parks Commission make a motion at the next meeting to recommend that the Parks and Public Works Department include it in the 2012/13 Capital Program.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there were any further comments or discussion on this item. There were no further comments or discussion from the Parks Commission.

Chair Rennie closed the discussion of the turf conversion program.

Commissioner Sandy Gordon excused herself from the Parks Commission meeting at 9:22 p.m.

E. **La Rinconada Sign Project**

Commissioner Holden presented the newly designed interpretive sign produced by Student Commissioner Haserot to the Parks Commission as an informational item.

Commission Holden indicated that one sign will be displayed in La Rinconada Park and is fully funded by herself.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there were any further comments or discussion on this item.

Vice-Chair Lambert asked whose name will be on it and will it be the Parks Commission. **Commissioner Gordon** stated that there will be no name on it.

Vice-Lambert wanted to express that he doesn't understand the purpose of the interpretive sign and doesn't find it educational. **Commissioner Scott** agreed with Vice-Chair Lambert, but doesn't see any harm in displaying it.

Chair Rennie asked the Parks Commission if there were any further comments or discussion on this item. There were no further comments or discussion from the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Barbara Holden excused herself from the Parks Commission meeting at 9:26 p.m.

VI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A. Brown Act & Presentation and Form 700 Update by Town Attorney Judith Propp

Town Attorney Propp thanked the Parks Commission on behalf of the Town for all of their volunteer hours they have contributed as commissioners.

Town Attorney Propp stated that in support and in return of their service that the Town would like to provide them with the proper resources and tools to be effective commissioners.

Town Attorney Propp stated that as commissioners for the Town serving on a board that makes recommendations, their job is to be open and available to the public and to follow the confines of the Brown Act.

Town Attorney Propp continued to state that the idea of the Brown Act is to be open, transparent and do the public's business in front of the public.

Town Attorney Propp discussed the following Brown Act guidelines and boundaries with the Parks Commission:

- Brown Act meetings, exceptions to meeting definitions, serial meetings, technological/email/phone conferencing
- Agendas, notices and public participation
- Closed Sessions
- Brown Act violations

Town Attorney Propp discussed the following requirements for California Form 700 – Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) with the Parks Commission:

- Members of boards and commissions not yet covered under a conflict-of-interest code must fill out California Form 700.
- The deadline date to file this form with the Town Clerk is April 1, 2012.

Town Attorney Judith Propp stated to contact the Town Clerk or herself for additional questions or refer to the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Town Attorney Propp also stated that the Town will be conducting, under state law, AB 1234 Ethics Training for all commissioners. **Town Attorney Propp** stated that this is a requirement for commissioners to complete in 2012. **Town Attorney Propp** stated that commissioners are required to complete this training every two years.

Town Attorney Propp stated that training for AB 1234 training will be offered online or conducted by the Town's legal counsel.

B. Los Gatos Shines Presentation by Community Outreach Coordinator Jackie Rose

Community Outreach Coordinator Rose presented and distributed an informational flyer regarding the Los Gatos Shines program to the Parks Commission.

Community Outreach Coordinator Rose stated that the purpose of the program is to make volunteering easier for community members to participate in a Town coordinated volunteer program. **Community Outreach Coordinator Rose** further stated that the Parks and Public Works Department would be involved with the implementation and coordination process of this program.

Community Outreach Coordinator Rose stated the program would provide and allow volunteers to:

1. Choose an area where they would like to assist with trash pickup, trail maintenance or various clean-up efforts throughout the Town.
2. Volunteer projects can be scheduled and organized through the Community Outreach Coordinator, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
3. The Town will provide trash bags, vests (on loan) and trash grabbers (on loan).

Community Outreach Coordinator Rose stated that the program would require minimal staff time and that the estimated cost to run the program would be approximately \$600 per year.

Community Outreach Coordinator Rose stated that the cost has been approved by the Town Manager's Office and the next step would be to request the Parks Commission's recommendation, and bring it forward to approval for the Town Council.

Chair Rennie opened up the floor to the Parks Commission for discussion of the Los Gatos Shines program.

Multiple Parks Commissioners discussed cost and benefits of this program with Community Outreach Coordinator Rose and staff. After much discussion, the **Parks Commission** approved their recommendation of the Los Gatos Shines program.

C. **Parks Update**

1. **Creekside Sports Park**

a. **Parks and Facilities Superintendent Wolter** provided the following timeline of the Creekside Sports Parks to the Parks Commission:

- Plans and specifications were approved by the Town Council on Monday, February 6, 2012
- Bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2012.
- Construction to begin in April 2012.
- Completion scheduled for the end of this summer.

2. **Oak Meadow Park**

a. **Parks and Facilities Superintendent Wolter** reported on the following regarding Oak Meadow Park:

- Project was awarded by the Town Council on Monday, February 6, 2012
- The renovation will include picnic areas #1 and #2 to address several deficiencies of the picnic areas, including concrete floor, barbecue areas, and the replacement of fencing around the airplane play structure.

3. **Live Oak Manor Park**

a. **Parks and Facilities Superintendent Wolter** reported on the following regarding Live Oak Manor Park:

- Project for the paved pathway at Live Oak Manor Park will go out to bid at the end of the fiscal year.
- Construction to begin in August 2012.

VII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- A. **Beautification Committee** (Holden)
No meeting, no report
- B. **Bicycle Advisory Committee** (Gordon)
No meeting, no report

VIII. DIRECTOR MATTERS

Director Capurso provided the following update from the Town Council Retreat on January 28, 2012 and the Town budget to the Parks Commission:

- Budget Update – The General Fund shortfall for 2012/13 was updated from the original amount of approximately \$4M was downgraded to \$1.4M due predominantly to the redirection of the NetFlix sales tax to the Town.
- Budget Proposals – Staff is now working on the Operating Budget Proposal for 2012/13 after receiving direction from the Town Council.
- Budget Priorities – The Town defined the budget priorities for the next fiscal year through a tiered system of high to low priorities.

IX. ATTENDANCE

The current Town Attendance Resolution No. 2003 – 136 states that any Commissioner who is absent from four (4) regular meetings held in a 12 month period, shall surrender his or her office on the Commission.

Please contact the Commission Chair or the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770 if you are unable to attend.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Corenson that the February meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m., to the next meeting of Tuesday, April 3, 2012.

Seconded by Commissioner Scott.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved at the Parks Commission Meeting on Date Day, Year.

Respectfully Submitted by:
D Romero, Parks and Public Works
Administrative Assistant / Board Clerk

From: Town PPW
Subject: FW: (TC Agenda item) bark for a park

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Bannan [<mailto:sjbannan@comcast.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Council
Subject: bark for a park

To all council members,

I am a long time resident of downtown Los Gatos. I am NOT in favor of a any off leash activities at any parks especially Bachman Park.

Many residents and other dog owners already allow their dogs to run off leash at Bachman park as I have witnessed many times.

Why does Los Gatos have to be known as a dog friendly town? People are already bringing their dogs into stores and restaurants no matter what the regulations may be. The downtown sidewalks and nearby streets more often than not have dog pop that an owner has not bothered to pick up. Please consider this issue carefully. Thank you, Sheila Bannan, 118 Massol Ave. ,Los Gatos.

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