

replacing the wooden retaining wall at the edge of the tennis courts with a concrete wall;
7) replacing the Pine trees with ornamental Pear trees.

Commissioner McNally asked about the status of the Palm tree. Ms. Lundberg stated it would be removed. Commissioner McNally asked if it could be relocated somewhere in the park. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes”.

Commissioner McNally noted there did not seem to be many ingress and egress points in the park and he asked if more could be added, especially along Alexander Avenue. Ms. Lundberg stated the plan could include additional access points.

Commissioner McNally had questions about repairs to the tennis courts. Recreation Director Wilkinson reiterated that determination would be made once the extent of the damage is revealed. The Commission would be recommending approval of the plan and giving staff the authority to improve the tennis courts as needed.

Commissioner Matteo asked if the proposed plantings were low maintenance. Ms. Lundberg stated other than the lawn the plantings were low maintenance and low water use. Commissioner Matteo asked if most of the park would be visible from the street. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes”.

Commissioner Hauser asked if there would be one entrance to the tennis courts. Ms. Lundberg stated there would be three.

Acting Chair Blauvelt referred to the estimated costs and noted concrete seemed to be the “big ticket item”. She asked if another material, such as decomposed granite, could be used for the path that runs through the park itself. Ms. Lundberg stated decomposed granite was not considered to be an acceptable surface. There were up front costs for concrete but the maintenance costs were low.

Commissioner McNally asked if the irrigation was on a timing system. Ms. Lundberg stated it would be on a controller.

Chair Blauvelt asked about the size of the Flowering Pear trees. Ms. Lundberg stated all the trees would be 24” box. Acting Chair Blauvelt asked about the height of the Flowering Pear trees. Ms. Lundberg stated they would be 12 to 15 feet high when planted and grow to be about 30 to 35 feet high. Commissioner McNally asked if they would provide shade. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes” and added they would fill out in about three years. Commissioner Matteo asked if they would drop leaves on the tennis courts. Ms. Lundberg stated “hopefully not”.

Chair Blauvelt opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Dorothy Erickson had questions about the concrete retaining wall and the tennis court gate. She stated most gates were located at the ends of the court. Ms. Lundberg

stated if the gate were moved it would not be accessible. She clarified that the retaining wall would be outside of the court.

Ms. Mary Mosteller asked if the roots of the new trees would impact the tennis courts. Ms. Lundberg stated “no” since they were different from that of a Pine tree and there would be a root barrier.

Ms. Laurence Garces asked if the Flowering Pear tree would lose its leaves all at once. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes”.

Mr. Dennis Gilardi asked if there would be enough money left over to address the tennis courts. Recreation Supervisor Wilkinson stated they would have about \$130,000 left over for the tennis courts. Mr. Gilardi asked if that would be enough to fix the courts. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated it would cost about \$10,000 to resurface the courts and about \$70,000 to \$80,000 to replace them. Mr. Gilardi asked if they had considered a root barrier for the existing trees. Ms. Lundberg stated that would require cutting the roots which would further damage the trees.

A resident asked if the plans included new fencing around the tennis courts. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated this item was in the original budget but eliminated to cut costs. It is still a possibility after everything else is done.

A resident asked if a root barrier would be placed along the sidewalk near the T-ball area. Ms. Lundberg stated they are putting in a new sidewalk in that area and they typically put in a root barrier in a streetscape situation to prevent roots from lifting the sidewalks.

Mr. Rich Epidendio asked if the large Oak tree would be saved. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes”.

A resident had questions about the treatment along the edge of the parking lot at Marin Primary School. Ms. Lundberg stated the lawn would come up to the edge of the parking lot.

Mr. Ted Myers, representing Twin Cities Little League, asked if it was wise to have three entrances to the tennis courts. Several of the tennis players in the audience stated there should be two.

Mr. Gilardi noted the walkway by the T-ball field comes up straight and then goes into two right angles. He asked if it could be curved instead. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes”. Mr. Gilardi asked if the Pear trees could be planted in between the existing Pine trees and the Pines could be removed after the Pears were established. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the School District and the City were very concerned about the safety of the Pine trees.

A resident asked if all the access points into the park were ADA accessible. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes”.

A resident asked if the elevation near the Pine trees would remain the same. Ms. Lundberg stated “yes”. The resident asked if the Pine tree stumps would be ground down or removed. Ms. Lundberg stated they would be ground down.

Mr. Rich Epidendio, Sycamore Avenue, President of the Twin Cities Little League, stated the Little League Board was in favor of removing the trees with the hope that something attractive and functional would be put in their place. The trees have been shown to be diseased and could be a hazard. The shade from the Pine trees makes it difficult to grow grass on the T-ball field. The plan is quite attractive and a big improvement for the park.

Mr. John Burton, William Avenue, stated the park is a wonderful amenity for the area and the plan is quite thoughtful. He stated the courts were currently a hazard and he wanted to know what was planned for the courts.

Ms. Julie Elm, representing Marin Primary School, stated she supported the plan to improve the park

Mr. Dave Hood, Acacia Avenue, stated the tennis courts were a hazard and an eyesore and the Pine trees were diseased and need to be removed. He wondered, however, if some of the trees could be saved. He supported the plan and stated it was time to renovate the park.

Ms. Katie Ibanez, Loma Vista, stated she loved the plan and would like to see the Pine trees removed.

Mr. Ted Myers stated he liked the plan and was happy to see the continuation of the sidewalk for the T-ball players. The tennis courts are in terrible shape and the Pine trees should be removed. Leaves on the courts are an issue and he suggested they reduce the number of trees near the courts. They should consider putting in a fence near the tennis courts to address the noise from the baseball field. He stated the City was welcome to use their water and electric meters.

Mr. Peter Pfau, architect and parent of a Marin Primary student, stated the plan was wonderful and great for the City and the school. He stated the edge to the school parking lot should be given more consideration. There could be more consideration given to the paths used by the kids through the park and additional access off of Alexander Avenue. He did not see a connecting path from the parking lot to the southwest corner of the tennis courts. He wanted to know what type of accommodations there would be for kids in the park.

Mr. John Girton, La Rosa Way, stated the plan looks great but he asked them to consider the addition of a play structure. He likes the Pine trees but they if they are a danger then it would be acceptable to remove one or two of them. He thought the Liquid Amber trees, and not the Pine trees, damaged the tennis courts. He noted the Pine tree closest to

the street has been severely pruned and looks unhealthy. The others provide a lot of shade and there was no reason to remove them.

A resident asked if there was money in the budget for maintenance. Chair Blauvelt stated the Public Works Department was responsible for maintenance of the park.

Acting Chair Blauvelt closed the public hearing to comments.

Commissioner Hauser stated the plan was great and addressed all the issues previously raised by the Commission. He would like to see an additional point access to the park along Alexander Avenue. The Pine trees are impacting the tennis courts and should be replaced. This should remain a passive park and he would not want to see any play structure installed.

Commissioner Matteo stated this was a great plan. He stated this was not a big enough park for a play structure. The Pine trees can be troublesome with the dropping of needles throughout the year and several of them are diseased. He liked the idea of replacing the Pine trees.

Commissioner McNally stated this was an excellent plan and he would like more access from Alexander Avenue. This should remain a passive park with picnic tables, walking paths, etc. There are other parks in Larkspur with play structures, etc. He noted this was the entrance to Larkspur and it should be beautiful. This plan has accomplished that goal. If the Pine trees are diseased then they should be replaced.

Chair Blauvelt agreed with the comments made by the other Commissioners. The Pine trees have provided years of shade. The plan is beautiful and it was time to move forward on it.

Recreation Director Wilkinson reiterated the following comments and concerns made by the Commission and residents: 1) provide irrigation to the entire area between the tennis courts and the T-ball area; 2) eliminate the right angles in the path near the T-ball area; 3) additional access points from Alexander Avenue; 4) give staff discretion regarding resurfacing or replacing the tennis courts.

M/s McNally/Matteo, to approve the plan with the suggestions reiterated by Recreation Director Wilkinson.

Ayes: All Absent: Wall

Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the plan would move forward to the City Council for approval.

Chair Blauvelt thanked everyone for his or her comments.

The Commission took a 5-minute break at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT

Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the City Council presented Ms. Nancy Spivey of the Larkspur Walkers with a Proclamation thanking her for her 20 years of service to the City and the citizens. He announced there would be a training workshop for Parks and Recreation Commissioners held on Saturday, October 20th in the Corte Madera Recreation Center from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The training would include discussions on the Brown Act, Parliamentary Procedures, etc. Recreation Supervisor Whitley reported on the Bacich and Hall Middle School After School Programs. He has been asked to participate in the "Kids and Community Health Summit" in Roseville on November 30th. Topics will include childhood obesity, etc.

Commissioner McNally noted the Fall Brochure included a lot of different activities and he asked how the department comes up with the ideas. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated there is a lot of communication with other departments throughout the County. Commissioner Matteo had questions about the programs for the developmentally disabled. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated Larkspur had the most extensive program for this population due to the wonderful efforts of Ms. Erin Duggan Sanders.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Matteo had questions about a tree that was removed on William Avenue. Recreation Director Wilkinson stated the Fire Chief issued an emergency permit to remove the tree since an arborist report indicated it was in imminent danger of falling.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary