



## Minutes

Town of Atherton

April 2, 2014

4:00 P.M.

City Council Chambers

94 Ashfield Ave

Atherton, California

# **Joint Study Session of the City Council & Park & Recreation Commission**

*Written minutes constitute the official record of the Council's activities. The minutes record action along with very limited discussion, including the motions made and the vote thereon. In addition, all meetings are also videotaped and archived and can be accessed on the Town's website under the meeting videos tab.*

## **ROLL CALL**

**City Council:** Wiest, DeGolia, Lewis, Widmer

**Park & Recreation:** Timpson, Crittenden, Isenberg, Merrill, Oyster, Roeser, Ramsden

## **STUDY SESSION**

### **1. PARK USE MASTER PLAN**

**Report:** City Manager George Rodericks

The City Council and P&R Commission heard the presentation from staff and the consultant team from BFS Landscape Architects. The presentation(s) centered on areas of change at Holbrook-Palmer Park as well as the survey conducted. Most of the focus of the presentation was on the proposed need for and location of an off-leash area in the Park. Council Members discussed various alternative locations as well as the size and need for the off-leash area.

The Council expressed a desire for the Commission to re-evaluate the proposed location of the off-leash area and consider a location along the east side of the Park between the Tennis Courts and existing Knox Playschool. There was thought given toward mitigating noise and the impact on the adjacent neighborhoods as well as consideration for users of the proposed off-leash area and their proximity access to the area. The Council expressed general support for the draft plan and thanked the Commission, consultant and staff for their hard work thus far. The Council also expressed a desire to take a broader look at actual facility uses in the Park as well as a desire to support physical improvements to those facilities.

Following discussion and public comment, the Council asked that the Parks and Recreation Commission take a closer look at the location of the off-leash area, that the ball field area be shown as temporary where there is an intent for temporary fencing, that circulation and parking be closely evaluated in connection with uses and that the consultant's final report include additional analysis with respect to active uses in the Park and its facilities.

**The Park Master Plan will return to the City Council at a future meeting for final review and acceptance. Once accepted, the City Council will identify funding and target specific improvements as part of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.**

**2. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN**

**Report:** Community Services Director Mike Kashiwagi

Staff and consultant Alta Design provided the City Council with a presentation on the work done thus far on the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

The Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan attempts to provide a series of visionary yet practical recommendations for improving travel safety and encouraging greater use of active, low-impact travel modes.

The Plan builds off and contributes to the region's bicycle priorities and local Safe Routes to School efforts, and includes a detailed walkability assessment for 33 miles of Atherton roadways. It provides context-sensitive policy and design recommendations to retain and enhance the Town's scenic character while improving the ease at which all ages and abilities can safely walk or bicycle to key destinations. In short, the Plan provides the Council with a framework for improvements to its bicycle and pedestrian network focusing on safe routes to school and safe travel in and through the Town.

The Council discussed issues related to identifying the best possible routes to prioritize and improve; identified safe routes to school; discussed way-finding; talked through possible design options to make available as the Plan is implemented; and discussed funding opportunities.

Following discussion and public comment, the Council commended the work of staff and the consultant and asked that the priorities and objectives stated in the Plan be reworked to identify safe routes in and through Atherton; provide a focus on safe routes to school as the highest priority; continue efforts along El Camino Real; and identify workable solutions for way-finding.

**The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will return to the City Council at a future meeting for final review and acceptance. Once accepted, the City Council will identify funding and target specific improvements as part of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.**

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Wiest adjourned the meeting.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Theresa DellaSanta  
City Clerk**