



Item No. 11 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – CONSENT AGENDA

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER

DATE: JULY 15, 2020

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF CONTINUING EMERGENCY AND RATIFICATION OF SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS ENACTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council certify the continuing emergency and ratify such rules and regulations enacted by the Director of Emergency Services in response to COVID-19.

BACKGROUND | ANALYSIS

The City Council last met on June 17 and certified the continuing emergency and ratified such rules and regulations enacted by the Director of Emergency Services in response to COVID-19.

Since that time, discussion was held by the Restart Subcommittee to discuss appropriate protocols and phasing for re-opening of activities at Holbrook Palmer Park consistent with the County's re-opening phases.

Following discussion, it was recommended that the Town's rental facilities remain closed through the month of July. Although the County's guidelines allow for gatherings of 50 or less, it was felt that given the difficulties in managing expectations, monitoring, and cleaning, it was best to keep the facilities closed. This recommendation was also made out of concern for the County and State's rising COVID-19 statistics.

The continued closure applies to day use permits as well - essentially, no organized activities except for the already authorized Tennis and any stand-alone activity that previously conducted outdoor activity only - such as the Dog Training or outdoor yoga classes - provided they employ proper social distancing and face covering protocols.

If there are summer camp programs that can meet the County's requirements, those may proceed with proper permitting - this is unlikely. Ad hoc groups that use the Park must abide by the social distancing and face covering protocols and are subject to monitoring by the Police Department and park staff.

Restrooms, Par Course, Picnic Areas, and Children’s Play areas remain closed.

Events can reserve for time in August but can only do so subject to the County’s guidelines of 25% capacity or 50 people, whichever is less, restroom, face covering, and social distancing protocols. The potential rentals must be advised that their reservation is subject to cancellation if the Town does not move forward to re-opening.

FISCAL IMPACT

There was one event scheduled in July that remained booked and had to be cancelled. Refunds will be made.

There are two events in August that remain reserved. One is for a wedding (approximately 180 people) and one is for a company picnic (40 people). Both have been advised that if restrictions continue, they may either need to cancel or limit attendance at their event.

POLICY FOCUS

Policy issues are limited to the continuing emergency.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town’s electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town’s electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders – to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service provides (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

This item ___ has or X has not been before a Town Committee or Commission.

- Audit/Finance Committee (meets every other month)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (meets as needed)
- Environmental Programs Committee (meets every other month)
- Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)
- Planning Commission (meets each month)
- Rail Committee (meets every other month)
- Transportation Committee (meets every other month)

ATTACHMENTS

None.