

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION QUESTIONS

January 19, 2022 MEETING

## Item 5.1 – PG&E Gas Regulator Station at San Veron Park – Heritage Tree Removal and Mitigation

1. Was consideration given to locating a few of the replacement trees more internally within San Veron Park? For example, along the pathway between the circular central planter box and the playground.

*The mitigation planting sites were carefully selected with consideration given to the sites providing screening and a buffer from the proposed gas regulator station, and we try to plant mitigation trees as close to the removed tree sites as possible.*

2. What is the likelihood that even with the retaining wall attempting to preserve the grading, damage to the root systems will necessitate removing the additional three at-risk redwood trees?

*The City Arborist reviewed the project and plan to install the retaining wall and determined that the nearby redwood trees' health will not be impacted by the project, including the wall. Tree protection measures will also be in place during the construction process.*

3. Are the three trees proposed for removal as part of the alternate plan (in the median on West Middlefield Road) different from the trees already approved for removal for the turning lane project? Would the approval of this recommended plan for the PG&E regulator result in preserving those three road median heritage redwood trees, regardless of the future turning lane project?

*At the October 26, 2021 City Council meeting, as part of the Shoreline Boulevard Interim Bus Land and Utility Improvement, Project 16-58 (Project), Council directed staff to remove from the Project's scope the second left turn lanes on W. Middlefield Road and retain the three redwood trees in the W. Middlefield Road median (shown as trees 1, 2, and 3 in figure 5 of the January 19, 2022 PRC memo). The Project will not be removing these three trees. Should PRC recommend to support the staff recommended mitigation to accommodate the PG&E GRS at San Veron Park, these three redwood trees will remain in place.*

4. Why are the heritage trees proposed to be removed at San Veron Park not identified at the site as being considered for removal?

*The heritage trees proposed to be removed at San Veron Park were marked for removal and the heritage tree posting tape was removed after the public noticing period ended.*

5. Can the smaller redwood trees be relocated?

*It was determined not feasible to relocate the redwood tree due to enormous cost, so the mitigation trees will be a larger 24 inch box size.*

6. Can the project at San Veron Park be shifted slightly to the east to make it possible to preserve the pine tree?

*The proposed location of the GRS was selected due to the least impacts within the park. If the project were to be moved east, it would likely impact other trees and be located closer to higher public use areas.*

### **Item 5.3 – Community Services Department Proposed Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2022-23**

1. Is there an estimate for the incremental income that would be generated by the additional Rengstorff House marketing investment? Is the income side of the budget being increased as part of offset funding?

*For Fiscal Year 2022-23, the revenue for the Rengstorff House is forecasted to return to pre-pandemic levels. Due to the effects of COVID-19, it is difficult to estimate the direct impact of increased advertising. However, the Rengstorff House experienced steady increases year over year in rentals and rental revenue starting in Fiscal Year 2014-15 when targeted marketing on wedding websites was first pursued. Therefore, staff anticipate the increased advertising budget will help the Rengstorff House return to rental revenue similar to pre-pandemic levels and then continue to increase as was seen leading up to 2020.*

2. What is the status of past years' Limited Period request for increasing Thursday Night Live nights from four evenings to six evenings?

*For Fiscal Year 2021-22, staff requested funds through the budget process to increase Thursday Night Live from four nights to six nights. At that time, it was determined that the Recreation Division would absorb these expenses for FY2021-22 if the events could take place due to the uncertainty of public events and the Castro Street closure. Since then, the City has extended the Castro Street closure of the 100 to 300 blocks through January 2023, impacting the potential for a 2022 Thursday Night Live in its traditional program and layout. Based on the continued street closure, staff have used this opportunity to reimagine the two downtown music events that have previously been held, Thursday Night Live and Concerts on the Plaza. In lieu of Thursday Night Live, staff are looking to expand the Concerts on the Plaza program to take place every Friday from June through September to provide live music on Civic Center Plaza (previously the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, April through September). Staff are in the beginning planning stages and more information on the expanded 2022 series will be available in the Spring.*

3. What is the criteria by which the Senior Center furniture, which seems like a fixed sunk cost, falls into the Limited Period bucket? Is it because this is a one-time amount which is not capital?

*The Senior Center furniture does not meet the requirements for Capital Outlay purchases*

*(\$5,000 for one single item or \$10,000 for multiple of the same item), and is a one-time purchase so it would be considered a Limited Period request.*

**4. What does the contracted road maintenance involve?**

*The increase to the roadways landscaping contract would cover maintenance of roadways/medians that are currently managed by the Roadway Crew. The contractor will continue to furnish supervision, labor, materials, supplies, equipment and tools to perform landscape maintenance services. The contractor will be responsible for maintaining a healthy and attractive landscape that includes trimming and pruning trees and shrubs, trash and debris pickup, mowing of turf areas, weed control, and blowing or sweeping hard-surface areas. This work is similar to the contract already in place with the North Bayshore medians. By contracting these areas to a contractor, the Parks Maintenance Works on the Roadway Crew will be shifting their focus to create a new "Central Parks Crew" to assist with park maintenance duties. This crew will be added to the existing North Parks Crew and South Parks Crew.*

**5. Will the black steel tables requested as Capital Outlay be hot in the sun?**

*The tables requested through Capital Outlay for Eagle Park Pool and Senior Center Garden have a thermoplastic coating which withstands heat, cold and other weather elements. The tables requested will be blue and green tops/seats with black frames.*

**6. Will additional truck requested as Capital Outlay be electric?**

*No, the requested truck at Shoreline will not be electric as there is currently no infrastructure such as electric charging stations to support an electric vehicle. The vehicle may be purchased as a hybrid after the request is reviewed by the City's Fleet Division.*

**7. Related to Master Fee Schedule – can staff address the neighbors' concerns about fees for the use of the community room by neighborhood groups and nonprofits?**

*Currently, the City does not have fees associated with the use of the Community Room at McKelvey Ball Park and this request will provide a fee structure to reserve the space to residents, community and non-profit groups, and non-residents in alignment with the Recreation Division's Facility Reservation program while maintaining cost recovery. The Community Room is a new asset to the McKelvey Ball Park with the redesign of the facility that was completed in February 2020, just prior to the pandemic requiring shelter in place. The room has been used infrequently since opening by City staff, recognized Youth Sports Organizations (YSO'S) and CERT program for various needs due to COVID impacts on gatherings.*

*To date, a rental fee schedule has not been formally adopted for this facility. Since the opening of the facility, staff have received an increase in interest from the general public to reserve this space for meetings, trainings, non-profit use and birthday parties. Should*

*a fee schedule be approved, staff will need to review rental requests with programming at the facility, to ensure appropriate access to parking will be available for the rental groups.*

*When developing a new facility fee schedule, similar size and style facilities are reviewed. The McKelvey Room is similar to the Adobe Building, because it is an unstaffed satellite facility and would require the City to send a Building Attendant to open and close the facility along with other Building Attendant responsibilities during the room rental. The size of this room mirrors the size of the Small Meeting Room at the Senior Center. When developing the proposed fees, staff used peak hour fees for comparison as that is typically when Building Attendants are brought in to open a facility; off-peak there is existing staff scheduled for the facility (i.e., Senior Center and Community Center operating hours). In addition to this facility, the City provides low cost reservation options during off-peak hours at the Community Center for community groups and non-profits at \$5 to \$50 an hour depending on the room size.*

<b>Renter Type</b>	<b>Proposed McKelvey Community Room Fees</b>	<b>Senior Center, Small Meeting Room Fees</b>	<b>Adobe Building Fees</b>
Resident/MV Business	\$47/hour	Off-peak: \$24/hour Peak: \$47/hour	Off-peak: \$121/hour Peak: \$182/hour
Non-resident	\$59/hour	Off-peak: \$96/hour Peak: \$131/hour	Off-peak: \$151/hour Peak: \$228/hour
Community Group/Non-profit	Under Review	Off-peak: \$18/hour Peak: \$36/hour	One time/year fee: \$92/hour Subsequent to one time/year: \$182/hour
YSO	Under Review	Off-peak: \$18/hour Peak: \$36/hour	One time/year fee: \$92/hour Subsequent to one time/year: \$182/hour

*The input received from local residents has offered staff an opportunity to take a new look at the fees for renting McKelvey's community room. All recognized YSO's are required to be non-profit organizations. Similar to other facilities, a non-profit rate is typically provided at a lower cost. However, as discussed, dedicated City staff will be required to open, close and service this room when the rental is over. Therefore, staff is interested in PRC's direction regarding the creation of a single non-profit room rental rate that would be used by YSO's and any non-profit serving Mountain View in its service area that would minimally cover the cost of the dedicated staff per hour.*

*The CERT program is able to use the McKelvey Community Room for CERT trainings and official business at no cost to CERT and are not affected by the proposed fees so long as the use is for official CERT use approved by the City's Office of Emergency Services staff.*

8. The following is not a PRC question, rather a response to the email received about irrigation budget request for Shoreline Park.

*Irrigation for Shoreline Park utilizes a blend of recycled water and potable water and is entirely funded from North Bayshore Funds. Both types of water are pumped into Pond 4 (in front of the Pro Shop and Michaels) where they are mixed together and then used to irrigate around Shoreline. Because recycled water has much higher salinity than potable water, it is more harmful to many plants. This impact is exacerbated in areas where soil percolation rates are low, such as at Shoreline Golf Links and the surrounding park, which overlay a landfill. It is important for the condition of the cap over the landfill that we keep the vegetation alive and healthy. Therefore, staff currently uses a blend of recycled water and potable water to irrigate at Shoreline.*

*Based on the amount of recycled and potable water that is used to fill Pond 4, each Division at Shoreline that utilizes irrigation is charged for a percentage of that water. It is not measured by the various uses when leaving the pond because that would require many meters and a lot of additional tracking. This budget request will add budget and a percentage allocation for environmental reasons for the water that is being pumped into Pond 4. Staff performed an analysis of acreage within Shoreline that utilizes irrigation from Pond 4 and determined what percentage is specifically for habitat and ecological purposes. Based on this percentage, the requested dollar amount was determined. This dollar amount is consistent with other Division's budgets that also utilize water from Pond 4. The amount also represents the maximum budget and maximum water usage for one fiscal year. Staff does not anticipate utilizing this full budget unless there is no rain or additional watering is needed due to an unforeseen circumstance such as a disease for certain plant life that needs to be flushed. In addition, a large portion of the water that will be used by this budget will help start new habitats, where additional watering is needed in order for the plants to get established. Once established, many of these areas will require less water. Therefore, this dollar amount will help to get multiple habitats established over the next few years instead of being a consistent ongoing cost for already existing habitats. It is anticipated that additional areas of Shoreline will be improved, and additional water will be needed to irrigate additional vegetation. The new Wildlife Management Plan may call out for additional projects/improvements that may utilize additional irrigation as well. After multiple areas are established, staff will revisit the water budget and determine if this level of budget is still needed for ecological and habitat purposes. All water budgets are typically assessed every year to determine if the allocation is too large or too small based on water rate increases and need for irrigation.*

*Lastly, over the past decade, Mountain View, Palo Alto and our partners have worked to reduce recycled water salinity by over 25% and are now preparing to begin construction on a \$20+ million salt-removal facility at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant that will reduce salt levels by another 50%. Once this facility is completed, Mountain View will be able to increase recycled water use throughout the service area, including at Shoreline. We expect the new facility to be online within the next few years. This will even further lower the ongoing budget for water and already have the infrastructure in place to maintain the various habitats with recycled water.*

## **Item 5.4 – Parks and Recreation Commission Sub-Committee to Support Community Tree Master Plan Update**

1. Will each of the items on which the PRC subcommittee assists eventually flow to the full PRC as part of the Community Tree Master Plan update?

*Yes, the intent is to have the subcommittee assist staff with items related to the Community Tree Master Plan update, then bring those items to the full PRC for review and feedback.*

2. What is the StoryMap?

*The Storymap is an online tool where the public will be able to explore and learn more about trees throughout the City, including canopy cover and the benefits trees provide to the community. The Storymap combines maps, text, videos, photos and other media to lead the viewer through a narrative and allows them to find information for the locations they are most interested in. The Storymap can be used to define City values, connect people to places, and help build a sense of shared stewardship and relationship with trees.*

## **Item 5.5 – 2022 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule**

1. Council policy K-2 appears to cover the advisory body appointment process, but I don't see where it specifically discusses the requirement to adopt meeting schedules – meeting schedule is mentioned in 3c on page 6, but only as it relates to the expectation that PRC members attend meetings. Is there a separate policy that covers meeting schedules?

*The Advisory Body schedule adoption requirement is listed under bullet 6, in Council Policy K-2: "Each Council advisory body shall adopt an annual schedule of meetings each year."*