

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION QUESTIONS**  
**March 11, 2020 MEETING**

**Item 3.1 – Approval of Minutes**

1. Would it be appropriate for the minutes describing the Park Land Ordinance review section to include a few consensus statements from the PRC discussion? Since this agenda item is to be input for a future council meeting and city decision-making, a few (limited) statements could enable the public (and council) to view a record of PRC consensus input.

*Attached are modified minutes that will be provided at the meeting for your review. The following has been added under Item 5.2 Park Land Ordinance Review of Modifications.*

*PRC was supportive of staff's proposal for providing additional certainty for land values and park land dedication in-lieu fees to developers. PRC was supportive of staff's recommendation of one open space credit for Privately Owned Publicly Accessible open space (POPA) as long as the POPA was clearly available to the public through prominent frontage and adequate signage. PRC requested staff review the list of elements and remove ones that may not be considered feasible such as Community Gardens.*

**Item 5.1 – Heritage Tree Appeal – 246 North Whisman Rd**

1. I'd appreciate if staff could explain their thinking about the denial of the removal request based on interference with utility services. I think it would be educational for me, since such requests used to occur with some frequency.

*The denial for the pine trees was based on staff observations in the field. Generally staff will look at the various utilities that could be impacted by the tree. No overhead high voltage utilities exist in the area. Generally staff will consult with PG&E to see what action they would support in the event high voltage lines exist above the tree(s). PG&E is typically ok with just pruning existing trees for line clearance. In some cases removal makes sense. If the tree has other issue along with the overhead high voltage wires it may help with staff decision to consider a tree. Underground issues with high voltage wires would generally come from PG&E.*

*The same would go for gas main lines and we are not aware of any gas mainline issues at this location. For the gas service lines staff generally reviews the location in relation to the main trunk of the tree. Gas service lines can generally be rerouted if needed or directionally bored with a machine. A tree directly over a gas service line with no easy reroute path would be considered.*

*For water service these lines can generally be rerouted, repaired or bored. It is also possible to run temporary connections at grade so a house does not remain without water service.*

*For sewer lines the majority of issues are from effective service life of older clay and cast iron pipes that need to be replaced. Removing a tree for failing pipes is not considered unless the trunk is directly over the pipe and causing a bow in the line. If pipe bursting is an option and the tree can remain that is the route staff tells the property owner.*

2. Is there an estimate of the approximate age of the tree?

*Staff estimates the Pepper tree to be around 65 years old. Life expectancy would range from 50 years to 150 depending on conditions around the tree.*

3. What is likely to have caused the dead areas of the tree, and could that cause spread to other areas?

*The tree has some indications of wood decay mechanisms either fungal or bacterial at work. The issue could be in the root that was feeding this part of the tree or a decay mechanism could be affecting the branch itself. Fungal or fruiting bodies that would help identify the type of fungus that may be affecting the tree are currently not present. Armillaria root rot or Verticillium wilt could also be culprits but without extensive testing it would be hard to say what specifically is affecting the dead / declining area.*

4. At the PRC meeting, would it be possible to show a slide photo of the tree, in which staff could point out or circle the branches which would need to be removed due to failure (decay, deadwood, etc). This might help provide a visual of the "remaining" tree following necessary maintenance.

*Staff has several photos of the tree and can help to visualize the impacts.*

5. Is the applicant appealing the City decision on the three pine trees, or is that portion of the application and decision final and "closed" at this point?

*The applicant did not appeal the denial of the Pine Trees. The Pine trees are not a topic of discussion because that decision was not appealed. These trees are closed until the two year hold is up.*

6. Is it correct to assume the City decision/recommendation includes a replant requirement of a single 15 gallon tree?

*Generally for single family homes and smaller rental property (duplex/fourplex) a 15 gallon is generally requested. PRC can request a larger replant if they feel appropriate given the existing tree and circumstances.*

7. Does the City Forestry Division have a process for conducting regular city wide sweeps/inspections to identify heritage (and other) trees which are unsafe or in failing health? These might be situations where the property owner is either unaware, unknowledgeable, doesn't know City processes, or wants to avoid a tree maintenance/removal expense.

*Staff evaluates trees but we do not have the capacity to review every street tree or trees on our properties on a routine basis. We do our best to review trees that are problematic such as the older ash trees in various neighborhoods. We will examine similar trees when an*

*issue occurs because generally age of the tree may play a factor in a branch failure and we look at nearby trees at that time. We also rely on the property owner of the street trees to contact us with any issues they are observing. Our contractor and tree crew will also review trees they are working on to determine if any other actions are needed in the tree in addition to trim work. We attempt to trim 2700 trees per year in combined efforts to help with staying on top of an average of a 7 year prune cycle for the street trees and trees on city property. Staff is working to update the existing work order system that is tied to our tree map information to document tree reviews that are not associated with a trim. Several City departments are working together to implement this new software.*

## **February Monthly Report**

1. Is the 42% increase in first day enrollment for Spring/Summer programs driven by certain programs in particular? Or is some of the increase attributable to timing (and has leveled off a bit moving forward)?

*Programs that saw a demand on the first day included private swim lessons, Recreation Camps, Deer Hollow Farm Wilderness Camps, and a few STEM-themed camp programs. In addition to demand for programs, staff has increased marketing leading up to the first day of registration through social media, tabling opportunities at Farmer's Markets and City events, and through targeted communications with past participants. This increase in communication has peaked interest for programs. The Division also received a decent number of first-time registrants on the first day of registration. Enrollment may level off as we get closer to the Summer session, however, we have seen a trend over the last few sessions of parents waiting until 1-2 weeks before a class/camp begins to enroll, so we do anticipate last minute surges in enrollment. Below is a table of first day enrollment comparison from the last three years:*

First Day	Summer 2018	Summer 2019	Summer 2020
Enrollments	1,907	1,459	2,076

*Staff has noticed that the first day of enrollment sets the trend for how successful the session will be when completed. Summer 2018 first day enrollment was the strongest the Division had seen in three to four years and ended strong as well. In Summer 2019, we saw a much lower first day which ended with lower enrollment than the previous summer. Based on our trending analysis, we anticipate Summer 2020 will be similar to Summer 2018 or higher.*

2. Is there a cost estimate to repair Eagle Park Pool's "full heater failure"?  
*Yes, the estimate to repair the existing heater is approximately \$16,000. Staff anticipates the heater will be repaired later this month. There is a delay in receiving the parts to fix the heater which are expected to arrive around March 17.*