



Regular Meeting Agenda

Parks and Recreation Commission

David Lovato - Chair
John Moniz - Vice Chair
Julie Lucido - Commissioner
Shweta Maniar - Commissioner
Richard Scott - Commissioner
Craig van Keulen - Commissioner
Harpreet Vittal - Commissioner

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:00 PM

**Council Chamber
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

DECLARATION OF POSTING AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

This opportunity for public comment is for items that are not on the agenda. If you would like to make comments on an item that is on the agenda, please wait until we get to that item to offer your comments. Members of the public are entitled to address the Commission concerning any item within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes. Except for certain specific exceptions, the Commission is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. Public comment is intended for comments. Questions posed during public comment are not generally answered. If you have questions, please send them to the City Clerk at ccpubliccomment@morganhill.ca.gov to receive a response. (See additional noticing at the end of this agenda)

RECOGNITIONS - Magical Bridge Volunteers - The Parent Family and Tanaya Rose

PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of May 16 Meeting Minutes

Recommendation:

Accept May 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

2. Outdoor Sports Center Update

Recommendation:

Recieve Outdoor Sports Center Update.

3. Community Park Pond Update

Recommendation:

Receive update on Community Park Pond

4. Work Plan Updates and Approval

Recommendation:

1. Approve Fiscal Year 2023-24 Work Plan for City Council Review.
2. Provide Work Plan Updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE

Any documents produced by the City and distributed to the majority of the Commission less than 72 hours prior to an open meeting, will be made available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Counter at City Hall located at 17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA, 95037 and at the Morgan Hill Public Library located at 660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill, California, 95037 during normal business hours. (Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the Public are entitled to directly address the Commission concerning any item that is described in the notice of this meeting, before or during consideration of that item. If you wish to address

July 18, 2023

the Council on any issue that is on this agenda, please complete a speaker request card located in the foyer of the Council Chambers and deliver it to the Minutes Clerk prior to discussion of the item. You are not required to give your name on the speaker card in order to speak to the Commission, but it is very helpful. When you are called, proceed to the podium and the Chair will recognize you. If you wish to address the Commission on any other item of interest to the public, you may do so during the public comment portion of the meeting following the same procedure described above. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less.

Please submit written correspondence to the Minutes Clerk, who will distribute correspondence to the Commission.

Persons interested in proposing an item for the Commission agenda should contact a member of the Commission who may plan an item on the agenda for a future Commission meeting. Should your comments require Council action, your request may be placed on the next appropriate agenda. Council discussion or action may not be taken until your item appears on an agenda. This procedure is in compliance with the California Public Meeting Law (Brown Act) Government Code §54950.

City Council Policies and Procedures (CP 03-01) outlines the procedure for the conduct of public hearings. Notice is given, pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, that any challenge of Public Hearing Agenda items in court, may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or on your behalf at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at, or prior to the Public Hearing on these matters.

The time within which judicial review must be sought of the action by the Commission, which acted upon any matter appearing on this agenda is governed by the provisions of Section 1094.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.

For a copy of Commission Policies and Procedures CP 97-01, please contact the City Clerk's office (408) 779-7259, (408) 779-3117 (fax) or by email cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (408)779-7259, (408)779-3117 (fax) or by email cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least two-full business days before the start of the meeting.



MEETING MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Commission

David Lovato - Chair
John Moniz - Vice Chair
Julie Lucido - Commissioner
Shweta Maniar - Commissioner
Richard Scott - Commissioner
Craig van Keulen - Commissioner
Harpreet Vittal - Commissioner

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:00 PM

**Council Chamber
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037**

CALL TO ORDER

7:00pm

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Maniar and Scott Absent

DECLARATION OF POSTING AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

This opportunity for public comment is for items that are not on the agenda. If you would like to make comments on an item that is on the agenda, please wait until we get to that item to offer your comments. Members of the public are entitled to address the Commission concerning any item within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes. Except for certain specific exceptions, the Commission is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. Public comment is intended for comments. Questions posed during public comment are not generally answered. If you have

questions, please send them to the City Clerk at ccpubliccomment@morganhill.ca.gov to receive a response. (See additional noticing at the end of this agenda)
Public Comment by Doug Muirhead

RECOGNITIONS

The Commission recognized the Morgan Hill Unified School District and Senior Advisory Committee for support for the recent Health and Wellness Fair. Recognition accepted Julie Duran, MHUSD and Denise Melroy, Senior Advisory Committee.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion Moniz, Second Vittal, Adopted 5-0

BUSINESS

1. Accept April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Recommendation:

Accept April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Motion Scott, Second Lucido, Accepted 5-0

2. Summer Recreation Program Update

Recommendation:

Receive Summer Program Update.

Provided by Recreation Manager, Jennie Tucker.

3. Park Project Update

Recommendation:

Recieve Park Project Update.

Provided by Public Services Director, Chris Ghione.

Public comment provided by Doug Muirhead.

4. FY 2022/23 Work Plan Updates and FY 2023/24 Work Plan Development

Recommendation:

1. Provide Work Plan Updates for FY 2022/23 items; and
2. Finalize draft FY 2023/24 Work Plan.

Commissioners provided Work Plan updates and worked on the development of the FY 23/34 Work Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

8:00pm

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 18, 2023

PREPARED BY:

Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

APPROVED BY: Chris Ghione

COMMUNITY PARK POND UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Receive update on Community Park Pond

REPORT NARRATIVE:

Background

For decades, the pond at Community Park has been combined storm water facility and an ornamental pond that is filled with potable water. The pond being filled year round has attracted both migratory birds and people abandoning domestic birds in the park. In the mid 2000's, the master plan for the park called for the elimination of the pond to be replaced by a field area. This plan was never implemented due to funding constraints and ultimately was not carried forward in the City's 2017 Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The pond has created a location that at any one time provides space for hundreds of birds, including many domestic geese and ducks that are dropped off at the park, as well as wild migratory birds such as Canada geese. Park visitors regularly feed the ducks despite it not being allowed or good for the migratory birds. The birds at the pond often conflict with the more urban and increasing use of the park. These conflicts have grown in recent years with the growth of the park (CRC, Dog Park, Magical Bridge Playground, Pickleball Courts). Conflicts have included the adjacent dog park, which has resulted in dogs chasing and injuring birds. The birds have also regularly nested and roamed near the CRC and regularly leave feces throughout the entire area. Many park goers do appreciate the opportunity to watch and interact with the birds.

Current Situation

The pond relies on the addition of water regularly to ensure water remains when it is not raining (estimated at 1.25 million gallons annually). The pond also relies on circulation pumps to circulate the water and keep it in an improved condition. Over the last several years, the pond circulation pumps have failed and, more recently, the electric service to the pumps has failed. Additionally, the pond structure was destroyed due to arson. To make repairs, significant funds will be necessary. Staff had obtained grant funding for approximately \$20,000 to replace the pumps, but now estimates the overall repairs and construction of a new structure could exceed \$150,000.

In addition to the issues outlined above, there are many other issues the City is facing

with the Pond.

- The ongoing water needs for the pond is both a maintenance issue and a water conservation issue. The pond would not be allowed to be constructed under current water waste ordinances within the City.
- The geese/duck population at the pond creates safety and maintenance issues, with feces regularly in the adjacent areas of the Magical Bridge Playground and walkways through Community Park and the CRC. Regularly aggressive geese and ducks have nested near the CRC, which now requires significant staff time putting up and taking down fencing during the year. The population of problematic birds is primarily made up of domestic birds that are regularly abandoned in the park.
- The pond is not percolating into the ground correctly and staff believe it requires draining and clearing of much of the debris and feces at the bottom of the pond area.
- Permanent water features, such as the pond, have safety issues associated with unsupervised water and the interaction of people and animals. These risks continue to increase with the continued expansion/construction of park and recreation facilities over the last several years (CRC, Dog Park, Magical Bridge, Pickleball Courts).

Opportunity

Due to the significant cost of the repairs, staff began researching other alternatives to just simply repairing the pond as is, including potentially eliminating the ornamental function of the pond. The pond area serves as part of the park/city's storm water system, but only remains full outside of rain events due to the regular addition of potable water. Should water not be added to the pond regularly, the pond would go dry.

There are multiple alternative paths available to the City that staff have begun researching.

- Option 1 – Replace as is – Look to fund repair of existing system. This would require a significant investment of \$150,000 or more and would not address some of the issues identified above (pond percolation)
- Option 2 – Fully Renovate the pond area. This would require a very significant investment, much higher than the \$150,000 estimate. It would still require draining of the pond. If the pond is drained, then the bird population would need to be addressed. The City's environmental consultant has determined wildlife/migratory birds would just move to another site. However, the domestic birds that have been abandoned at the site will need to be managed with the draining of the pond.
- Option 3 – Use of Pond to a Storm Water Facility Only. This conversion would require the draining clearing debris at the bottom of the pond but would eliminate the need for all electrical and pump work at the site. Option 3 would require the bird population to be addressed permanently. This option would reduce maintenance and ongoing costs significantly and allow for resources to be shifted

to other areas. Option 3 would in itself create more usable active park space as risk of lost balls and falling into the water would be eliminated.

- Option 4 – Conversion of Pond to Active Recreation Space. This conversion would be a second phase to option 3 that ultimately converts the pond space to more useable grass space. Option 4 would require all elements of option 3 followed by significant design work to update the storm infrastructure and “fill-in” major portions of the area to allow for a more level turf area.

Next Steps

City staff are not yet proposing any single option, but would like to lay out a process to explore the options for the pond with the community.

1. Public Outreach – Community Meetings
2. Recommendation from Staff
3. Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation
4. City Council Provide Direction
5. Proceed with implementation of selected option

The purpose of the agenda item tonight is to allow the Commission to ask preliminary questions and provide any feedback on the potential outreach and next steps outlined.

Parks & Recreation Commission

FY 2023-24 Work Plan – Draft for Council

Project (Commissioner Responsible)	City Council Priority Supported	Staff Resources Required	Desired Outcome
1. Get youth more active in Parks and Recreation	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	Recreation Manager (Minimal)	Review program opportunities for new youth programming. (Maniar/Vittal/Lovato)
2. Support bicycle and trails development efforts	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal)	1. Work to coordinate with community members on bicycle and trails issues with volunteer Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocacy Group. (Lovato)
3. Support the Morgan Hill Magical Bridge ongoing operations	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	Recreation Supervisor and Coordinator (Moderate)	Support and enhance the ongoing volunteer and ambassador efforts at the Morgan Hill Magical Bridge Playground, including a youth volunteer program. (Vittal)
4. Support planning for updated sports facilities and partnerships	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community Economic Development	Recreation Manager (Minimal)	1. Monitor Outdoor Sports Center transition to new operator. (van Keulen) 2. Monitor Centennial Recreation Center Expansion programming. (van Keulen)
5. Support City in grant opportunities	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community Fiscal Sustainability	PS Director (Moderate) Mngt Analyst (Moderate)	1. Support City staff in identifying and evaluating grant opportunities and associated projects. (Scott/Maniar) 2. Explore opportunities for tree establishment watering funding. (TBD)
6. Increase volunteer Adopt a Park Program participation	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community Fiscal Sustainability	PS Director (Minimal) CS Supervisor (Minimal)	As an exploratory committee, evaluate the opportunity to recreate ongoing volunteer groups to support park maintenance. (Scott/Lovato)
7. Evaluate opportunities to increase youth involvement in park planning	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal) Rec Coord (Minimal)	Work with City staff to review opportunities to more formally include youth in park planning projects. (Vittal/Lovato)
8. Support City park planning efforts	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal)	1. Evaluate future opportunities for parkland acquisition and development. (van Keulen/Lovato) 2. Research opportunities for the creation of additional dog parks in existing or new park spaces (Moniz)

Project (Commissioner Responsible)	City Council Priority Supported	Staff Resources Required	Desired Outcome
8. Support the Annual Open Streets Event	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal) CS Supervisor (Moderate)	Support the planning and implementation of the annual Open Streets Event. (Moniz/Lovato)
9. Explore an “Art in the Park” Type Event	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal) CS Supervisor (Minimal)	Explore the opportunity to develop and implement an “Art in the Park” event. (Moniz)
10. Develop Health and Wellness Fair for the General Community	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	Sr Rec Supervisor (Moderate)	1. Evaluate the opportunity and community need for a health and wellness community resource fair. 2. Potentially organize and implement the event. (Vittal/Lucido/Lovato)
Staff Resources Required: 0-50 hours = Minimal 51-100 hours = Moderate 100+ hours = Significant			

From: [D. Muirhead](#)
To: [Chris Ghione](#)
Subject: comment Morgan Hill Parks and Recreation Commission June 20 #2 work plan
Date: Sunday, June 18, 2023 11:27:16 AM

Hello Morgan Hill Parks and Recreation Commission,
A few thoughts for your June 20 meeting
Item #2: Work Plan Updates and Approval

1. Get youth more active in Parks and Recreation
Review program opportunities for new youth programming. (Maniar/Vittal/Lovato)
7. Evaluate opportunities to increase youth involvement in park planning
Work with City staff to review opportunities to more formally include youth in park planning projects. (Vittal/Lovato)

I would combine these two, since you have one target audience with different ways to engage. What is your outreach plan? Are you working with City Youth Action Council? How about high school clubs? Is it worth presenting to the bi-monthly Morgan Hill City/School Liaison Committee (next meeting Friday August 18)?

2. Support bicycle and trails development efforts
 1. Work to coordinate with community members on bicycle and trails issues with volunteer Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocacy Group. (Lovato)

While I hope that Doug Hall can provide new energy and focus for the BPAG and encourage you to have a liaison to that group, your Commission should also be active in the Transportation Master Plan. Since I am a process/documentation fanatic, I continue to advocate for regular status reviews of the Vision Zero action plan and the 2017 Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

5. Support City in grant opportunities
 1. Support City staff in identifying and evaluating grant opportunities and associated projects. (Scott/Maniar)

What specifically are you doing to identify and evaluate grant opportunities? What does the City do? What are the past successes? What are the current active and upcoming/potential opportunities? I know that Mr. Ghione and teammates do look/apply/receive grants, but the process is opaque. Over the last several years, I have informed the City of several grant opportunities, all but one of which the City already knew about and for some were actively pursuing.

6. Increase volunteer Adopt a Park Program participation

As an exploratory committee, evaluate the opportunity to recreate ongoing volunteer groups to support park maintenance. (Scott/Lovato)

I have asked but never received a list of volunteer opportunities with the number of people participating and their total hours. Covid likely skewed these numbers, but what baseline are you increasing from? FYI, County Parks does a yearly report on their volunteers and assigns a dollar to that work. I would love to see the City do the same. Note that this overlaps #1. Get youth more active in Parks and Recreation.

Thank you for your consideration. Doug Muirhead, Morgan Hill

WARNING: This message is from an external user. Confidential information such as social security numbers, credit card numbers, bank routing numbers, gift card numbers, wire transfer information and other personally identifiable information should not be transmitted to this user. For question, please contact the Morgan Hill IT Department by opening a new helpdesk request online or call 408-909-0055.