



**City of Sebastopol**  
*Incorporated 1902*  
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PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF: February 09, 2021

UNAPPROVED DRAFT MINUTES

PLANNING COMMISSION  
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
MINUTES OF February 09, 2021

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

The notice of the meeting was posted on February 04, 2021.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Chair Fernandez, Vice Chair Fritz, and Commissioners Kelley, Haug, and Oetinger  
**Absent:** Commissioners Lindenbusch & Douch (excused)  
**Staff:** Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director

Director Svanstrom announced that newly appointed Commissioner Anderson resigned due to a recent change to his residential location which will put him outside city limits.

Chair Fernandez read an opening statement.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – None

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA:**

**Linda Berg commented:**

I am hugely electro sensitive and therefore, I am cellphone free, computer free, TV free, and largely electricity free. I am speaking to you on my fully corded landline on speakerphone. I know I have spoken on this subject before. Other Planning Commissioners were there. It is an issue that needs to be addressed. All the electromagnetic fields and microwaves, the pollution, the electro smog that we're being subjected to, and we are subjecting ourselves to through our wireless devices, smart meters, cell towers, etc. You should know, in any event, that we have got a cancer cluster

down there at Petaluma Avenue Homes, partly from the cell tower there behind what used to be the hospital. The City did everything right to try to remedy that situation. They tried to engage in conversation with, I think AT&T to no avail. The City has done very well with other things. Getting all the SmartMeters and keeping the SmartMeters out of Fircrest Mobile Home Park. This is such a great town. Sebastopol leads the way time and time again. That was great. The City supported the residents who organized with a petition to prevent PG&E from placing SmartMeters in the mobile home park there in the south part of town. That was a huge success. They all have safer analog meters there now. David and Goliath. Sebastopol prevailed against PG&E. The City is taking steps to keep 5G and more antennas out of town to reduce our exposure to radiation as it is called for in the General Plan. You all, as Planning Commissioners need to keep that in mind, and you need to factor that into your decisions when you are giving permits. How much radiation are these permits going to expose the public and the residents to when you are giving the permit? You can get a lot more information about this subject. If you go online and look at 'Take Back Your Power', which is about SmartMeters. Also, there is a wonderful DVD, a documentary called 'Generation Zapped'. Thank you very much.

Director Svanstrom indicated that no written comments related to the work of the Commission have been received.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Fernandez closed public comment.

**5. STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None.

The Commission agreed to switching the order of Agenda Item 6A and 6B.

**6. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

- B.** Zero Waste Subcommittee – Appoint a Planning Commission Liaison  
*This item was continued from the Planning Commission meeting of January 26, 2021*

**Sunny Galbraith**

The Zero Waste Subcommittee has been on hiatus. We had a Zoom COVID-19 meeting in April, and we have been on hiatus since. We will be back on March 1. We will meet the first Monday of each month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. At this point, I am chairing the meetings and putting the agendas together. It is a very collaborative, a really great group of folks. We have a Recology representative, youth representatives, citizens, and business owners. It is a very highly functional and friendly, cooperative group. If you join now, you get to be on the ground floor of the COVID-19-era Zero Waste team which is going to have some changes in focus. Before we went on hiatus, we put together a Zero Waste application that people who are renting City property, like Ives Park, has to follow. It has a zero-waste plan, you have to compost and recycle at your event, and various other things. Of course, there are not a whole lot of events right now so that will be in place for when we do go back to having events which we are looking forward to. We also adopted, from Zero Waste Sonoma, which is formerly named Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, their polystyrene (styrofoam) ban, and compostable/recyclable service ware from restaurants. We were in the midst of doing friendly restaurant visits and then the pandemic hit so that is on hold. There is certainly a lot of extra garbage we are creating in this era that needs attention and solution. There are also some changing needs. We want to work on food recovery. We are looking at water conservation also as a zero-waste issue. We are going to collaborate with the new Climate Action Subcommittee as well. Any questions?

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

How long has Zero Waste Subcommittee been established?

**Sunny Galbraith**

Two years now, although one of the years has been in remission. We had a good solid year. We got a lot done. I emailed Director Svanstrom highlights of what we were working on. We were also starting to explore ideas for a citywide cup sharing for reusable cups at cafes although that is probably not going to happen.

**Linda Kelley, Planning Commissioner**

Due to COVID-19, the masks are causing a lot of trouble for our wildlife, especially the elastic hoops. Is there a way for us to do a little educational campaign, maybe a flyer on all our public garbage cans, and in our city newsletter, about the importance of cutting the rings off? It is a very big problem. It has been going around the internet with reminders and also pictures of wildlife that have been trapped into the mask of elastic bands.

**Sunny Galbraith**

Interesting. Thank you. As you speak, I am typing it into our items for our agenda. I think that is a good idea, COVID-19 era tips in terms of responsible waste management.

**Linda Kelley, Planning Commissioner**

I can pass this on to Director Svanstrom too for our City newsletter, maybe there can be a section added about that?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I will pass that on to Holly Hansen. Tips for safe disposal with all the PPE that we all have these days would be great to include.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

Is the cardboard bin near the Community Center still there for recycling cardboard?

**Sunny Galbraith**

That is a good question. That is probably something we would ask Public Works about.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Yes, I can ask Superintendent Del Prete and let you know.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

The reason I am asking is, it has been there for a while and recently, due to COVID-19, there has been a lot more people ordering online, which creates a lot of boxes and cardboard that needs to be recycled. If still there, it would be good to let people know about it in case they have more than will fit in their standard bin.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I know a representative from Recology is on the Zero Waste Subcommittee. Have they had any conversations about residential and commercial stream flows?

**Sunny Galbraith**

I have heard a little bit and then there was a great article in the PD just a couple of days ago that was talking about how there has been a lot of cardboard increase, and that residential garbage is up. It also stated that the overall garbage amount is down because of business being down.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I was just thinking that pre pandemic, if we did take out and brought it home, we just went around to Sequoia Burger and everything was always wrapped in paper with a brown paper bag and a tissue, it was pretty simple. I have been shocked at what we come home with now. Multiple plastic bags for just two or three people and a lot of packaging. I do not know whether they are doing the best they can given the situation, but it is astounding to think that on a regular basis in the future, they would be continuing to package things the way they do. I wonder about looking at that overall, through our town, whether that is something that can be graded, or something to try to change that.

**Sunny Galbraith**

Yes, that that has come up and is already on our agenda to talk about. We want to approach it with some sensitivity to our restaurants, which are really struggling.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, I hate to complain right now.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I imagine that that would be a focus of the group as your meetings resume, how to reenvision the new normal.

**Sunny Galbraith**

Yes.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Fernandez, and Director Svanstrom thanked Ms. Galbraith for being present.

Ms. Galbraith departed the meeting.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

As to whether or not I would want to volunteer for another committee right now, I would have to give it some thought.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

It sounds like their next meeting is on March 1, can we verify who our person will be at our next meeting on February 23rd?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

It should be, yes. The meetings are supposed to take place on the first Monday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

Because the subcommittee was meeting before without a member of the Planning Commission, why is a member of the Planning Commission being requested now?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

That came from City Council understanding that as policies come back and forth between the various committees, having a member of the Commission would make sense. I believe the Climate Action Subcommittee, which I think is being renamed the Climate Action Commission, has a liaison from the Planning Commission as well, which is Commissioner Lindenbusch. I think Council appreciated that and thought that would be good for the Zero Waste Subcommittee as well. Council had too many members on the Zero Waste Subcommittee at one point and they were running into quorum issues so they thought

having a member of the Commission as a part of that group could provide tie-ins to leadership as well.

#### **A. Ives Park Subcommittee Update**

##### **Evert Fernandez, Chair**

Commissioner Haug has been doing a lot of work on this. We really appreciate members stepping up and all the work that they have been doing. Can you bring us up to date and then we can go from there?

##### **Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

We really are in a position right now where we want to rethink where we have been and continue working on some elements that we feel comfortable with. We also would need to meet as a committee to do that. We wanted to get you up to date on what we had been thinking about, in particular, to see if there is anything from your comments that we did not pick up that you would like to see here in our numbered items of things that we are discussing, currently.

1. Clean or remove two "Do not feed" signs in the fenced creek area.

##### **Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

It looks like City staff has cleaned them already. We are in discussions; it is possible for them to bring a crew in and remove them. It is just a matter of finding staff time since they are so busy with other things. There is no reason right now because there are no migrating fowl at the site as there have been in the past.

##### **Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Some of you may remember, I was not here at the time, but there used to be a weir and a dam that flooded and made a pond every year that was used by the migrating birds. That dam is not functional anymore. It has gaps in it. If you were to fill it would just erode underneath the dam, so they do not dam it anymore. That is the context. There are not really any migrating birds in the area so feeding of the birds is not the same issue it was in the past.

2. Repair wood skirting on stage front. Power wash and stain.

##### **Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I am going to be talking with Jim Corbett, Mr. Music, who may be using the stage soon to see if we can coordinate some volunteer and fundraising to make changes that they would like, along with making it look nicer, including maybe power washing, and I do not know if we need a handrail on the stairs. We want to talk with him before we consider other things to do. It certainly seems like that is something that is very doable.

3. Replant hedge where missing along Jewell Ave. and Willow St.

##### **Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I looked at that and Superintendent Del Prete was telling us that much of the damage occurs from vendors who are wheeling their wares into the park for events and people just walk through even though they replant them, I heard Superintendent Del Prete say he was going to do some replanting, which means they might need to protect those areas, particularly now when there are not events, but maybe protect them when there are. Along with that there are some areas that we will cover later where we might want to

keep the openings in the fence to allow people to walk through at a later time. We need to be thinking about that. I suppose if they do replant it, at some point, we could take some things out to make an entrance. That is something to keep in mind.

4. Paint lamp poles black.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

That, again, is doable. It is just a matter of finding staff time and money. It is not something we would probably want volunteers to be doing because it needs equipment and specialized paint equipment, but again, it is a matter of staff time to do it.

5. Continue replacing garbage and recycling cans with black metal cans.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, as we were meeting Superintendent Del Prete said he had some cans they were assembling to put up. I don't know if you've looked at cans in the plaza? Those cans are three bin style recycling cans. I am not sure whether we are getting the traditional style that have been replaced already or if we are getting some of those, but it is definitely something that he is working on to replace them. As you notice, many things are on concrete pads right now to anchor them and secure them to their site, as well as to prevent the need for maintenance underneath them.

6. Straighten and paint existing parking bollards, if needed.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, that was something Superintendent Del Prete thought he could get some crew to straighten them out. He is not sure if they need them. It turns out that this particular parcel of land is partly owned by the County, it is an easement with a line right down the middle. I really wish that everyone on the Planning Commission could have been at our meeting, even socially distanced, they probably could have heard the things that we heard, it was a really great opportunity to learn a lot about this park and perhaps other parks. It would be nice to be able to schedule one someday. Again, that is the kind of thing where it could be staff time, if we were organizing work, crew volunteers could paint them and put the orange stripes on them if they are needed, but I think some phone calls should be made to see if they are needed. At one time in the past, there were car tracks from people driving their cars across that for some reason, it might have just been a couple of people doing it for fun, and it might not be a problem. I think it is something to continue looking at.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Spoke on the potential for concrete wheel stops rather than vertical parking bollards. Spoke on discussions with the County regarding the new sculpture garden project that will be going in.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

Concurred with the idea of concrete wheel stops or railroad ties, something in the ground that is more subtle than the bollards which are not attractive.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, I think Superintendent Del Prete might have a solution for that. He keeps talking about these recycled plastic timbers that he might have somewhere. I need to find out more about those. That might be a solution for here.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

If the sculpture garden is in that area, you would not necessarily want the vertical lines competing with the sculpture. To concur with what other people have been saying, the sculpture garden will be a really great new highlight of the park and it would be really nice to be able to showcase it in a way that honors the artwork that is going to be placed there.

7. Remove unreadable signs and posts.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, the picture at the top shows the square sign. Superintendent Del Prete says that is a County positioned sign that they cannot read. He is going to figure out how to cut it off so it still anchors the garbage cans, which are also on a pad that you cannot see so that might be something that gets repaired as they are doing the landscaping around the new pathway. He can remove those particular signs. This is not in your notes, but the next picture, L, has something that has a blue top to it in that same area, to the left of those garbage cans. I am not sure what that is, it probably is some marker for power or water. You do not really see it, it is probably something that needs to be there, but we have not asked about it, we need to follow up on it.

8. Remove some of the asphalt circling the Onion Patch, leave western section for access to future benches.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

For those of you who did not know, I did not know, if you have native onion patches in your yard like I do, you know what they are because when it is moved it smells like onions. Because the natives come up, onions come out, especially in the springtime, and it is almost impossible to get them out, although I am working on it. Some of the pathway, especially the picture on the right, looking to the east side of the onion patch is really damaged there. In discussions, I heard Superintendent Del Prete hinting that he could get a crew to repair that there. I was concerned about safety. At the present time, I am not so concerned about replacing it, although I know it was something that was mentioned earlier on in our discussions, so I put it on the list. Right now, my thinking is that we just need to repair that section, rather than spending money taking out pads, which may be useful right now. M 1 is the view looking back toward the sculpture garden. I took that picture because I think it is a great place to put a picnic table or bench. I understand now that we do not have benches in this area right now due to vandalism and the homeless. I thought it was a prime spot for a bench which is why I included it.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Spoke on the possibility of removing the deteriorated pathway as you cross over the bridge and head down where the rose garden used to be which leads to the ball field.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I was thinking that for now, we could leave it. I have walked on it. It is better to have it right now.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Spoke on the possibility of the north area being reconfigured to accommodate a wider creekbank. If the creek is natural, I would anticipate that that area will change very significantly.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

One thing that is not on this particular list is fencing to the north of this area, because it goes into parking garages and things. At some point, we were talking about fencing, but I did not include that fencing or I did not think of that as a priority right now. That still is something that should be looked at long term, so it is not on this immediate list.

9. Change fencing near Children's Play Area at NE corner of Vets' parking lot.
  - a. Make fencing all the same height.
  - b. Repair or replace bent sections of chain link fencing.
  - c. Remove signs and posts, if possible.
  - d. Per Master Plan, add a tree and greenery, move the fence corner about 5' south.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

This was one of my original ideas that I thought aligned well with the Master Plan in that it eliminated this pinch point where the trail is bounded by that chain link fences, and it is a very narrow point in the park. By opening it up, even just a small amount and putting greenery, it would be nice. Superintendent Del Prete tells me that the tree that used to be there, which is shown in the Master Plan, is going to be replaced. The plan is to put in a picnic table, which I think is a pretty good idea. With the tree there, maybe we can argue for some greenery along that fence there. Right now, between the COVID-19 signs and all the other signs, it does not look very good. From what I heard from Superintendent Del Prete, it would be hard to argue to remove those signs, or to put them in some other place. They can eliminate the height of the fence when they take the gate out and do the pathway work. We can make it the same height as the existing fence, which is also being repaired shortly. I suppose we could spray paint it black like the existing fence.

Commissioner Haug may be able to go into this further later, if there were a fence that we wanted to replace now, and not make it chain link, we could do a nicer fence for the children's play area.

10. Add benches in various locations TBD.
  - a. Near the sculpture garden for viewing.
  - b. North side of Onion Patch, facing south.
  - c. West side of Onion Patch, facing east.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

The included picture shows a memorial bench. We could put the word out and people could donate benches. The problem is that benches are being removed from the secluded areas where you would want to sit and relax and enjoy them because of the homeless situation. I am guessing that there may be opportunities to put not only a memorial bench around the sculpture garden because it is visible and exposed, but there could also be any opportunity to put an artistic, creative bench of some sort to view the sculpture garden, not detract from it. There could be options for putting benches in the park later that the committee might look at. The included picture provides an example of a typical bench. They usually like to put it on hardscapes, so they do not have to weed and maintain underneath it. It does not necessarily need to be, it could be on wood chips. If it were deemed reasonable to put one in, a bench could be put in near the sculpture garden or near the onion patch. We could talk them into that, but I would not want to create more hazard and work for staff in maintaining something at this point.

11. Can the wooden fence at Willow and Jewel be removed?

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Nobody really knows why that is there. We can all speculate as to why. I suppose before it has taken down, we could ask City Manager McLaughlin if he remembers why it was put



in. I do not find it terribly offensive. I hear it is used for hanging banners and signposts for events which may be why it was replaced not that long ago. It could be for safety because there is a big drop off. If cars missed and went down there, they would not only have a big drop off, but they would also hit the fence and maybe fall into the creek. I am not sure; we could look into it further. I do not personally consider it a visual deterrent to the park, but some people feel it is in that area which is why it is on the list.

12. Change or replace the white PVC curb at Youth Play Area.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Superintendent Del Prete mentioned these recycled timbers that he might have access to from some other use, and he was thinking they might be dropped in on top of the edge of the asphalt to be permanently put in place for the majority of this area. The other area would be along the grass, so maybe they could be dropped into the soil there to change that out as well? That is something that is floating around in his mind now. We could follow up and take a look at that.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

The other component of it is as the ADA pathway goes past, if it is raised, that may also help. The reason for the PVC is to keep the woodchips from running away. If this is lifted, which I have not had a chance to see if that would or not, between that and what Superintendent Del Prete is looking at, that may be able to replace what is there with something a little more aesthetically pleasing.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

Can the PVC be painted?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

You cannot paint PVC, unfortunately. It will just peel off.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

It is already damaged. Yes, that could be nice there. If they do not have it along the fence line, I guess the fence holds the wood chips in quite a bit?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Yes, and the parking lot on the other side, outside the fence, is a little higher in general.

13. High St. Parking Lot:

- a. Remove 6 unused signposts.
- b. Add plants in bare planting bed areas along High Street.
- c. Add trees and/or shrubs along the east side boundary to help cover buildings and large trash bins used by the commercial tenants.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, it is a little controversial to be on our list because it is not part of the park. It is part of the City's property. I know they have been considering many things for years, which may be why they have not done anything except now there are at least two or three electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot. I do not know that right now there any plans to do anything in the parking lot. I understand that vendors from past events have damaged the drip system so in some areas, the plants have not survived. Our thought was originally to throw some plants in, but you would need a drip system to keep them alive. To put in some trees and shrubs to hide, particularly the buildings to the east of the parking lot as well. We put that on our list to hopefully prompt some funds from other

areas to do a rehab of the parking lot. We could throw in some plants and hope they survive or get the drip system fixed and then throw in the plants. I think the parking lot probably deserves a new landscape plan; long-term I would like to see that. Maybe we can put it on somebody else's list? Or maybe, if we can work it out, we can at least repair the area that is opposite the sculpture garden so it can become a more pleasant entrance to the park.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

I remember them cutting down a bunch of red maples a few years ago that had a mistletoe infestation, I think was the problem. They cut them down. There were quite a few nice sized trees in that parking lot which is now very bare.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

There is one more thing about the parking lot. Originally, it used to have reserved spaces and they had these posts, I think six or seven of them, but they no longer have signage attached. That is another thing that if they had staff time or were working in the area, they could take them down. Unless they have plans to put signage on them again, but I do not think that is the direction they are heading on that.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I wonder if that could be a place for a solar covering, I do not know if that has been thought about.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I think it is an ideal location, particularly along back edge. You could even put some shade loving shrubbery underneath it too.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

The next group of items is the high priority items per Measure M and other funding.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Commissioner Haug do you want to take over?

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

I think you are doing an excellent job summarizing. I am finding it very informative and I was at the meeting. I can take over if you want. I can talk more about the Public Arts Committee meeting, the potential mural, and fencing, but I have been enjoying your presentation. Unless you want me to add anything? On the High Street parking lot, it is rather unsightly because the view is of a bunch of garbage dumpsters and a slightly graffitied building. Any improvement in that area would set the tone for the park. I feel like there needs to be more continuity. Even if it is just a few trees and shrubs, it does not have to be super fancy, but some level of effort to be made to connect the parking lot meridians with the greenery of the park.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

The Center for the Arts did a big relandscaping project a couple years ago. I think it was a partly volunteer driven project. It would be nice to pull that over across High Street and do something, at least along the street edge. The only thing that has survived is some junipers. The landscape around the Center for the Arts is looking nice, filling in, really growing, and it would be nice to incorporate that on both sides of the street.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

I agree. I think the landscaping around the Center for the Arts is so lovely. It would be wonderful to continue that. It is very thoughtful and well maintained. I appreciate that tremendously.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

It is much better than the grass it used to be.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I am going to make a quick note about that because the designer who did that work has a little sign on the other side, maybe we could contact them, and they could come up with a design?

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

Yes, I think the same organization also did the landscaping in front of the Chamber of Commerce.

1. Fencing - Start at High Street Entrance and move toward Jewell.
  - a. Replace chain link fencing.
  - b. Propose options with safety, durability, and visibility in mind.
  - c. Measure each section for estimating costs.
  - d. Can any be replaced when asphalt is removed, there are some sections of asphalt designated for removal which are very close to existing fencing.
  - e. Phase if necessary, over a 3-year period using Measure M funding.
  - f. Children's area and steep portions of creek could be replaced first.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, everybody hates the chain link fencing. It is a lot of money to invest, but if there was something that we wanted to do to really make the park look nicer, that would be one of the big things. We are looking at a lot of options. I do not think wood is going to work. It cannot be climbed. It makes sense that if we are doing anything, it should work with some of the other fencing in the park. There is a lot of work that we need to do, a lot of thinking, talking, and research that we need to do to come up with good ideas for temporary or long-term solutions, that is what we are looking at.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

I would just add, after talking to Superintendent Del Prete, it was my impression that at this point, chain link may be our best option, sadly. If we find the black chain link more aesthetically pleasing, which I personally do, we could replace all of the existing chain link fencing with black chain link fencing for about \$60,000. That is something we can think about. Director Svanstrom is looking to apply for a grant next year for creek naturalization, hopefully in 2022.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Yes, that particular grant that we talked about is an every two-year grant.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

Hopefully, we will get the hydrology report done in 2021. The grant would hopefully go in 2022. Theoretically, in best case scenario, we would not necessarily break ground on the creek naturalization for maybe 5 to 6 years, if we did get the funding for that. That is something to throw out into the conversation around the fencing, options, timelines, and whatnot.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

If it is somewhat likely that that is going to happen, you wouldn't want to replace a bunch of fencing only to tear it out in five years because you are relying on the creek, or something like that. It may be best to maintain what is there, and if there's really badly damaged sections, maybe replacing pieces of it. It might not make sense to replace a lot of it if the creek naturalization seems somewhat likely to happen.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Originally, when we were looking at it, we thought that there were two areas just as you enter the park that might stay because they would still have the steep edges and still need containing but then when you look at the Master Plan, you realize that they are moving the bridge. Those two places are only one spot that needs fencing. Whatever we did, would have to be redone to work with whatever the new bridge would. I think it would be nice with the bridge and whatever fencing there is there works with the bridge. That is an idea that we need to keep thinking about and looking at for what we would like to see there when that does happen that maybe works then with other places in the park. It has been really frustrating. I think it is hard to raise funds for chain link. That is the problem. It might be easier to raise funds for something really nice when we get to that other point. We need to keep thinking and working about it because sometimes you can make things happen, and they can look nicer and be more enjoyable.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

If we were able to secure the grant, Director Svanstrom, how much of the funding would that supply? Do you have any idea?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

There are all sorts of grants out there. The one in particular that we discussed was a matching grant program that is Sonoma county specific through Ag & Open Space. The grant itself is a 50% match. Part of what we need to do with the hydrology study is to look at whether it is feasible. What would that look like? We need to look at the cost estimates because the City would need to come up with half the money for it. The City would need to show that we have the funding in place for a match. Their next grant cycle will begin in February 2022 and the award will be granted sometime later that year. Once awarded, the recipient has several years to implement it. We would not have to have all the funding in place at the time. If we are using Measure M and we need 1 or 2 more years, that could be part of our match. The City will need to commit to that by having the Council pass a resolution for our half of the grant.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

If I remember correctly, the original bid from the Master Plan for creek naturalization was around 1 million dollars.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I do not have it parsed out and how it could be parsed out potentially, Commissioner Haug. It is a very significant number, that is absolutely true. If it is 1 million, I do not know if that is the full figure. If you recall, the Master Plan has, on the southwest side by the redwood trees, that channel would get covered and the rest of the creek would be naturalized once the pathway that goes from the stage areas up towards the ball fields. Then, from the east side up to High Street more or less, the creek would be naturalized. I do not know what part of that was included in that cost estimate part of it. That was a Master Plan level cost estimate, not an engineer's estimate of what it would cost. It is also important to note that this was prepared some years ago. That is why, in this year's

budget, we wanted to look at doing the actual feasibility of what the creek channel is. That will allow us to get a more realistic cost estimate to understand the feasibility of it.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

In terms of process, we will do the hydrology report and have clearer cost estimates first. If the City is going to have to come up with \$500,000 for a matching grant, I do not know if that is a tenable prospect or not. That may also then inform us more about how we want to conceptualize the fencing. Curious about funds that the City may have access to in terms of matching abilities.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

It seems like there would have to be some kind of active fundraising campaign in town to raise money for improvements to the creek at Ives Park. The City's not going to come up with a half million dollars out of thin air, unfortunately.

2. Safe pedestrian access at Willow and Jewel, coordinate with hedge planting. Construct temporary steps at one of the locations where pedestrians currently enter at the corner of Jewell and Willow.

- a. Plan for an additional entrance with steps or improve the grade.
- b. A new entrance should be designed to establish a connection between the existing park and a future parklet.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes, if we use the barricades in that area after COVID-19 we do need to plan for a way that people can walk down safely. It would make sense to make it either a better grade or to put some kind of steps in. I did not hear a definitive answer, I heard a solution. Oh, you mean like timbers backfilled with gravel? I responded, yes, something like that.

Ultimately, in the grand scale of things, you would want something a little bit more permanent if the parklet became permanent. In addition, something else that is going on in my mind right now is that if there is a parklet there, when people enter the parklet from Jewell Avenue, they are going to enter from perhaps that corner and there is currently a tree and some landscaping there. We need to plan for moving drip lines and landscaping to make it an obvious place for people to walk so that they are walking in obvious places, not over landscaping. That is something to keep in the back of our minds as we are putting in a parklet, people need to get into it and out of it.

3. Bathrooms and Pool Building.

- a. Refresh existing bathrooms by swapping out toilets, vanities, mirrors.
- b. Repair dry rot on bathroom exterior walls.
- c. Add high windows or sky light to bathrooms.
- d. Power wash Ives Pool building.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

It would be so nice to make those bathrooms look as nice as the ones in the plaza, which I understand City staff visits multiple times each day in order to keep it clean and nice. You can compare the plaza bathrooms with the bathrooms over at the skate park which do not get the same kind of attention, they're pretty horrid. Graffiti and damage is a current thing going on daily at Ives Park. It seems like it would be unwise to spend money to rehab things that are broke right now just to make them nice, especially since we do not have a lot of events going on there right now. It is a difficult situation, but it is on the list.

4. Work with Public Arts Commission for a spray-paint mural on the west wall of pool fence.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I was envisioning it could be multiple pieces of art, or it could be one piece of art that emerges from one wall to the next and all the way up the hill. Right now, the pool is using this as a COVID-19 entrance, because you do not have to go in the building to get into the pool. Eventually, that will change. We have to remember too that there is a lot of chain link fencing and more of this slatted fencing to give the pool area privacy up on Willow Street. That area also could make a really nice mural, except that it is used for wayfinding for Ives Pool, but a mural that did that would work, as long as there were some areas for the pool to put up its program advertisements, warnings, and things about the pool that they need, it is like their bulletin board. That might be an area that could be considered as a mural spot if it could accommodate those things for the pool. Invited Commissioner Haug to speak about her meeting with the Public Arts Committee.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

Thank you, Director Svanstrom, for facilitating the meeting with the Public Arts Committee. I wanted to learn more about the Public Arts Committee and to find out what their mission is. They are an excellent group of people, and they were very receptive. I understood from them that they would be interested in a slat mural here. They were very interested in making sure that site locations were specified, I came with a very vague idea and with a sense of wanting to learn more about their work, their goals, and what they want to accomplish, because I do not know much about that committee. They said that they were interested in placing more public art in parks. Their mission is to place public art in public spaces. If we are interested, I felt that we could come back with a specific site, with dimensions, and necessary information, and present a potential proposal to them. If we are interested, I would be happy to, or Commissioner Oetinger and I could together present proposals to the Public Arts Committee. Commissioner Oetinger did some excellent research on spray painting slats to create murals. We could present that information. I felt it was clear that if the Public Arts Committee were to take on a project, they would run the call for artists, it would be their project. I do not necessarily think that we, as the Commission, would have that much influence over what they would select for the site, but I am sure we could give comments. That was my impression.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Spoke on the process for public art, including Call for Artists and commented that the Committee seemed open to how the Commission may want to work on this and noted that the Council would want to know what the recommendation is, regardless of who it came from, if it is on public property.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

I also spoke with Ricardo, the manager of Ives Pool. He is also very open to, and supportive of this idea. When I spoke with him, I let him know that we were doing basic research of this idea and wanted to know if he had any conflicts with the idea of a mural. I do feel like this is a project that we could move forward with if we are interested in doing so as a group. I also do think it would add a really nice visual element to the park and provide a connection to the Art Center and the sculpture garden. Also, to the fact that this is a downtown park that is also a cultural venue as well, my thought is that it is very uplifting to think of something like this happening in Ives Park.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

I think it is a great idea. I think it would be interesting to have it on both sides of the fence, because the view from inside the pool could be improved as well. It would be nice to completely spruce it up.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

I was thinking it would be good to take it a test area or two, and see how it goes, before taking on the whole thing in case there is something that we didn't think about or conceptualize. But I agree, I am open. For the inside, doing something on the inside of the fence would definitely have to be something that the Ives Pool people want and agree to.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I think it is a great opportunity.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Yes. Once again, you can see through the fence that they are using that wall for a lot of signage. There are signs everywhere. That may be an issue, but usually signs can be worked in around artwork.

5. Create a temporary parklet at Willow and Jewel.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

It looks like an afterthought, but from what Director Svanstrom was saying, it looks like it is something we might be doing.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I think there are definitely some logistics on that. That was an idea that came from the Master Plan which incorporates that area into the park. The nice thing about parklets is that they can be temporary. Once we do not need the concrete barriers in the downtown area, we could try it, do a temporary expansion of that area, and see how it goes.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

I think it would be important to not just put-up barriers, we would need to figure out what kinds of park activities we would want to occur in there to attract people to actually hang out there.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I am glad that the garbage cans are being replaced and upgraded. One thing I noticed is that there was not much of a coordinated effort. In other words, in one location there would be a garbage can and a recycle can, and then in another location there would only be a garbage can, then the next can or cans would be quite a ways away. I think there needs to be better coordination in terms of where the cans are placed. On the concrete, I brought this up before as a possibility if it makes sense and it is aesthetic, to put a trail line through the park. It could be a white line on either side of the of the pavement, like a road, to break up the black pavement. Would like to figure out something to bring attention to the trail. Have you given any thought to what projects might be appropriate for a public workday, such as spreading bark, or something like that? I know we might be limited due to COVID-19.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

We did talk about that. We assumed that there would be some workdays for specific projects. I think we need to work with Public Works to see where volunteers can fit into that, or where it is just not safe for us to be doing that. I know Director Svanstrom has the form. If we did have a group that was going to work on something, we could help with getting the forms filled out the way we do for other City events. We need to work with Public Works on what the project is, and how useful volunteers could be, before doing that.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Superintendent Del Prete's advice, if you are planning workdays, is to try to plan it for a one-day activity because you end up losing 50% each day that it goes on. More focused, one day events are more successful. I believe that is what the Rotary did when they were doing site work for the Super Park.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

We talked a little bit about the ball field, the possibility of maybe removing every third sign so that people can look into the field. I know that is more complicated because Sebastopol Little League controls that. If possible, that would be an easy fix. But again, we would have to have a conversation with Sebastopol Little League on coordination and possible relocation of the moved signs. I think that is something that could be easily done and would immediately provide a visual impact.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

Great. That is a good idea. I remember hearing that before, I have put that on my list of things to add to our list of things to talk about.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

Appreciates the detailed work that Commissioner Haug and Commissioner Oetinger have done here. I think this is going to make a difference. Thank you again for what you have done.

Chair Fernandez opened public comment.

**Linda Berg**

Ives Park, and just about everywhere in this town, our exposure to Wi-Fi is grossly overlooked, it is absolutely overlooked. It needs to be considered. I have donated a Gauss meter to Superintendent Del Prete in the Public Works Department. I think it is available for you to borrow currently so you too can find out what like the magnetic field is. You need you need to know what these things are. Ives Park, I am sorry to say, is a pretty polluted area because of the antennas on the Fire Department which is near there. I have been through there with my radio frequency meter and it is intolerable for me as many, many of the areas in town are. I will leave it at that. Thank you.

**Michael Carnacchi**

Good evening. One quick comment regarding the funding. When I was on the Council, I brought forward a proposal to do a cannabis tax with the idea that it would fund Ives Park. That was not met with much support, but we did agree to revisit it at some point in time. That might be one way to earn some money too, especially with a matching grant. The conversation may change a little bit if the County does give the Veterans building to the City, and there is a very good chance that that will happen at some point. I think that there was some discussion about the City wanting to do a bond measure to revitalize that area of town. With the library coming in, and where the former dry cleaners was, that site is contaminated, it would be nice to do a bond where the City could actually try to purchase that property and with the Ives Park Master Plan, which I had not considered originally, the old dry cleaner property would be great for some mixed-use housing in that area, it would really revitalize that section of the of the downtown. I think that that would be something that we should consider in the future. Thank you.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**



Thank you, Mr. Carnacchi. I do not see any other public comment at this time, and I have not received any written comments on this item.

Hearing nothing further, Chair Fernandez closed public comment.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

Should Commissioner Oetinger and I consider making a presentation to the Public Arts Committee regarding the mural at Ives Pool? Is that something that we are all in favor of?

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

I think that is a great idea.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I would agree with that. It would be helpful to involve the Commission, as the Parks Commission, to keep us apprised of what is going on there.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

Thank you.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

Thank you for your work on that.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

### **A. Parks Budget discussion**

Director Svanstrom presented the staff report.

Chair Fernandez asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

What is the total anticipated budget for the entire pathway?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I do not know at this time. I have asked engineering to help us cost estimate that. I would anticipate, beyond what is already budgeted, that it will probably cost at least another \$100,000 to complete.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

Do we have enough money to do the whole thing?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I do not know, and we will not know until we go out to bid. We will try to get a reasonable estimate. Spoke on the budget process.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

If the Commission is in consensus on getting the pathway done, there is still a slight chance that there might not be enough funding for it, correct?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Correct. In which case, the designers have designed it, and they understand that there may be a place where there needs to be a transition to the existing pathway, that is built in, they have accounted for that in their design.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

Is the shower for Ives Pool inside where the pool is, or is it on the exterior?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I believe it is slated to be exterior to the pool area.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

It is still on the pool area property, it is not in the middle of the park, is it?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

It is not in the middle of the park. It is there so that people who are using the pool can use it.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

Is there a possibility for them to fundraise for part of those costs?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I have brought that up. At this point, I think they are certainly struggling with reduced revenues, just like everybody.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

When we are talking about completing the pathway, that is the engineered pathway that we have seen, correct?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Correct. It is that one main pathway that goes from the very southwest picnic tables, by Jewell and Willow, and then all the way to High Street past the connection. It is a whole block, basically, and then the area down by the playground to the pool has already been completed in terms of ADA access so that part is also done.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

With regards to the Ives Pool shower, we may have talked about this before, but I am wondering where that is being proposed. I know Ives Pool has showers in the building. What is this exterior shower for? It seems to have a relatively hefty price tag. Is it for a single showerhead, what is it for exactly?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

My understanding of it is that about three years ago the City embarked on upgrading the interior showers and restrooms to be ADA accessible. During that time, they built an exterior temporary, and it was always built to be a temporary shower for use at the pool, by pool users. It proved to be very popular so they held on to it for as long as they could however, it didn't have proper drainage, it wasn't ADA accessible, and it was causing some damage to the building, so it needed to be removed. This would replace that with a more permanent exterior shower. My understanding is it would be outside of the pool and usable by anyone.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

It sounds just like it would be a single shower.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I believe so. It has not been drawn or designed yet. We need to do that piece of it to understand and then be able to do a proper cost estimate on it. It needs to include ADA

accommodations, drainage, plumbing, and those types of things which all have a cost. I think the original cost was \$30,000. I think it will be significantly more expensive than it was first thought to be.

**Paul Fritz, Vice Chair**

In terms of public benefit and spending public monies, it seems like the Ives Park pathway should be a higher priority and serves a greater number of people than an external shower at Ives Pool, which already has showers. I do not exactly understand, next year outdoor showers might be nicer than indoor showers, but it might be worth the cost savings to go with updating the existing showers on the interior instead depending on what is needed to do that. If we are trying to complete this paving project and we're short money, I would rather take some money from the shower idea and finish the paving and put the shower off for the future.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I am more than happy to take this group's recommendation to the budget subcommittee, even though there may be things that have existing approved funding.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I know we covered the trail connection. Coming back to the park to the west property line, is that a clearing area?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

I do not know if any of you remember reviewing the Davis Townhomes project? From the connector trail that goes from Sebastopol Avenue down to the Joe Rodota trail and bicycle path, the Davis Townhomes project, which is now called, Barlow Crossing Townhomes, is under construction. If you have been in that parking lot you have seen, it is going quite well. It seems that we will have a sidewalk that goes from the trail over to the eastern side where it can connect in with Park Village and then with Tomodachi Park. As Commissioner Oetinger rightly brought up and the Council agreed and asked for an irrevocable offer of dedication so that that could potentially be a public sidewalk in the future, not just an interior to the project sidewalk. The idea behind that is to then, where that sidewalk meets the gates of Park Village, to continue that with a pathway that goes down through a pedestrian gate that could open and close, can then go down and connect to Tomodachi Park to provide additional pedestrian bicycle connections to the park and for Park Village residents to be able to come up into town without having to go out to Highway 12. It will be a much safer connection there. The \$5,000 in that is a placeholder for some of the design and initial work part of it. The paving of it would be a future year CIP and that has not been identified yet. It is not that the whole project will cost \$5,000. There will be a cost to putting in the actual paving. We are trying to keep that fairly low and fairly streamlined in that it would generally go along the driveway location that avoids the wetlands and is easier to do right off the paving that is there but provides a trail connection.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I am sorry if I missed this, but on the AmeriCorps Trail, does that go to the bridge, and does that include any facilitation to go from either under the bridge or across the bridge?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

It goes down and connects into the sidewalk at the bridge (Shared a map on screen to show the route). Spoke on planned improvements as well as improvements that have already been done in the area to remove invasive species and to do some replanting.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

Part of that includes pedestrian bridges because there are a few areas that you cannot really cross.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Yes, there are a couple of bridges included in the trail.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

When the temporary bridge is out, I guess there is no easy way if you wanted to go from that youth park to the other side.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Right. Unfortunately, after the bridge, there is no sidewalk. Long range, one of the things that I have talked about with a few folks, include members of the Council, and some of the trail advocates is looking at a potential connection there. Ideally, we would be able to do that. Then people could do a much simpler loop when the bridge is in, or at least get over there without having to go all the way down to the parking lot by the Chevron station.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

It would also facilitate going from the Rodota Trail to be able to connect to the Laguna to go to the other side because there is really no way to do that now.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Referred to a map on screen and spoke on the connector trail.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I am more concerned about summertime with that. Being able to connect with the Laguna Trail without having to go on Highway 12 with your bike, which can be a hazard especially with crossing over.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Right now, that connection is really at Morris Street.

**Kathy Oetinger, Commissioner**

I believe Geoffrey Skinner was working on a trail from Tomodachi Park south to the Joe Rodota Trail.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

It is kind of there, but not really.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

There is a very informal trail there. It is incredibly difficult to find from the south. Has a quarterly check in with Regional Parks to talk about stuff like this, signage is one thing that could be possible. Coming into the south side of Tomodachi Park, it is a seasonal trail, and it can get very wetland like. Public Works cannot even go in to and mow the area, including the pathway that comes down until a certain time because of the biologic resources there. There are some native species that need to grow and there is some vernal pools and things like that, so they wait until the vernal pools which are frog habitat and wildlife habitat dry up in the spring. There is also a couple of them at the frontage so they have a biologist come out and they have a training and then they have a biologist give them a go ahead, that they have dried up and that the species are gone, so they can

proceed with their seasonal mowing of the area. Formalizing that some more in the future is a longer-range plan.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

It is even more difficult to find the trail from the other side from Tomodachi Park. I walked all over, and we did not end up finding it.

Chair Fernandez opened public comment.

**Linda Berg**

On the trail, I have a wealth of information regarding the number of ticks, and infected ticks. Some of you might know that I did Tick Tock Tuesday, which was a Lyme support and advocacy group for over four years, meetings were held at the Youth Annex where we had over 1,300 attendees. Lyme disease here, I am sorry to say, is an epidemic. It has only gotten worse. I have been dealing with it for over 30 years. The Laguna is rich in ticks. Lots of ticks require a damp area. The deer tick carries Lyme and multiple other pathogens. We have a number of people in Sonoma County that have Lyme disease that are not getting adequate treatment, I can guarantee you. The whole thing is costing the county millions and millions of dollars and it is preventable. My point is, with the trail there, and I have already done it with Superintendent Del Prete at Public Works and City Manager McLaughlin. We already got some science, there is a treasure trove of decent information at the state level that is not being utilized or posted. Those trails need to be adequately posted with general information, which is available for free from the state. I have it, and I would be happy to share it. It is a real necessity. In fact, the ticks are so prevalent down there, all throughout the Laguna area, dogs probably should not even be allowed on the trail. I personally collected over 400 ticks on the Laguna de Santa Rosa trail about six years ago, between the months of May and September. That is a hotspot. The City is behind me on this one. I have spoken with staff several times and they are willing to do whatever is necessary to help prevent that. It is hard to get the government who essentially says that Lyme does not exist, certainly in the numbers it does, and insurance often does not cover the treatment. Talk to me about signage. I will be more than happy to make sure you get what needs to be done. Thank you.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

The City has not received written comment on this item.

Chair Fernandez closed public comment.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

If the Commission has any recommendations, I certainly want to get your input on that. It would be helpful to know if the Commission agrees with staff's recommendation to prioritize the full funding of the pathway. Council wants to know what the Commission, as the advisory board on parks, is feeling on parks as well.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

You also got some of our comments made about trails and such along the way there.

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

Correct. I do not know if any of those will make it into this year's budget items. It would be helpful to know if there is consensus or any other comments in terms of either, staff's recommendation on the pathway or, as Vice Chair Fritz had brought up perhaps delaying the exterior shower at Ives Pool. Any direction like that would be helpful. I am happy to be the conduit to the City Council on your recommendations and thoughts.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

Can you summarize what you do have as a starting point?

**Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director**

The big things that I heard that would require a budgetary change are focusing on the Ives pathway, and potentially delaying, removing, or finding alternative funding from Ives Pool in terms of the exterior shower. The others are longer range, such as pathway connections for future planning.

**Kate Haug, Commissioner**

I feel that we should try to do whatever we can to get the pathway fully funded. I also think, if it is possible, to do some sort of matching grant with Ives Pool for the exterior shower, I think the exterior shower at the pool is awesome and would be a great benefit to the pool. I think it is a great idea, but I also agree with Vice Chair Fritz that, at this point, I feel that we need to try to get the pathway completed. I think it will be much less expensive if we try to do it all at once. Then we will also have the sense of completion with a major improvement to the park under our belts. I support the exterior shower but wonder if there are ways, since it is just in its design phase, that we can maybe engage in conversation with Ives Pool about figuring out how much this is going to cost and working out an agreement with them to fundraise for a portion of it. I feel like there could be some flexibility there. I know the current configuration they had was two showers, which is great, so I am assuming that they would again install two showers. I am also wondering, in terms of the Luther Burbank restrooms as well, I support that project and I know it says that the labor is going to be done by volunteers, but I am wondering if there is any wiggle room on that one in case, we need to pull a little bit of funding for the pathway. The pathway should be our priority and we should be thinking about our budget in terms of completing that project. At some point, maybe we can have another discussion about fencing because if we can replace all the fencing for \$60,000, and the creek naturalization budget is somewhat unclear at this point, if I am looking at a bathroom that costs \$70,000, and I can replace all of the fencing for \$60,000, it seems like all new black chain link fencing across the park would look great. It seems like it also has a public benefit to it as well. I want to keep that on the table for consideration. I really feel that we should try to complete the pathway this round, if possible, because once you engage a contractor, it seems better to just do the job all at once in my mind. Thank you.

**Evert Fernandez, Chair**

I would concur with that logic as well, both cost wise and on getting it done.

**8. PLANNING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**Director Svanstrom provided the following updates to the Commission:**

- At the last City Council meeting:
  - Planning Commission composition discussion.
- Upcoming items for the Planning Commission:
  - Regional Parks will give a presentation on the Petaluma Sebastopol Regional Trail. They are looking for a resolution of support from the City.
  - Formal review/recommendation on Planning Commission composition.
- Upcoming items for City Council:
  - Interviews for the DRB alternate position.
  - Mid-year budget review.
  - Benedetti Car Wash hearing continuation.
- RHNA requirement adjustments for Sebastopol.

- Future Housing Element update.
- Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant.
- Sonoma County Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update.

The Commission asked questions of Director Svanstrom.

Vice Chair Fritz acknowledged Commission Douch and Earthtone Construction for donating materials for a platform at the parklets at Retrograde Coffee and Sunshine Café. The platform should be installed next week. That was generous of them, and we are looking forward to seeing that finished project. The platform will probably get it a little more level with the sidewalks.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Svanstrom  
Planning Director