



CITY OF DUBLIN
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015, 7:00 PM
DUBLIN CIVIC CENTER, 100 CIVIC PLAZA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**
 - 3.1 **Brief Informational Only Reports from Senior Center and Youth Advisory Committees**
 - 3.2 **Public Comments**

At this time, the public is permitted to address the Parks and Community Services Commission on non-agendized items. The Commission must, however, comply with all State Laws in regard to items not appearing on the posted agenda. The Commission may respond to statements made or questions asked, or may request Staff to report back at a future meeting concerning the matter. Any member of the public may contact the Office of the Parks and Community Services Department related to the proper procedure to place an item on a future Parks and Community Services Commission agenda. The exceptions under which the Parks and Community Services Commission MAY discuss and/or take action on items not appearing on the agenda are contained in GC 54954.2(b)(1)(2)(3).
4. **MINUTES**
 - 4.1 **Minutes of the May 18, 2015 Regular Meeting**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Minutes.
5. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None**
6. **PUBLIC HEARING - None**
7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 8.1 **Winter Quarterly Report**

The Commission will receive a report on the programs, activities and events conducted during the winter of 2015.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Receive Report.
 - 8.2 **Dougherty Hills Dog Park Renovation**

The Commission shall receive a report on the Dougherty Hills Dog Park Renovation Plan.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Receive Report
9. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 9.1 **Brief Informational Only Reports from Commissioners and/or Staff and Reports by Commission related to Meetings Attended at City Expense (AB 1234).**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

This AGENDA is posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a)

If requested, pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.2, this agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. To make a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, please contact the Office of Parks and Community Services (925) 556-4500 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

A complete packet of information containing Staff Reports (Agenda Statements) and attachments related to each item is available for public review at least 72 hours prior to a Parks & Community Services Commission Meeting or, in the event that it is delivered to the Commission less than 72 hours prior to a Parks & Community Services Commission Meeting, as soon as it is so delivered. The packet is available in the Parks & Community Services Department at Civic Center.

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Draft Minutes

CITY OF DUBLIN

May 18, 2015

The May 18, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Parks and Community Services Commission was called to order at 7:01 PM at the Dublin Civic Center, Dublin, California, by Chair Totaro.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Totaro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners (Cm.) Present: Ballesteros, Giannini, Thalblum, Totaro, Tran

Commissioner Absent: Tucker

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 BRIEF INFORMATIONAL ONLY REPORTS FROM THE SENIOR CENTER AND YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Senior Center Advisory Committee

Ms. Eddie Jo Mack, Senior Center Advisory Committee Member, reported on the May 7, 2015, Advisory Committee meeting. The Advisory Committee received an update on the Dublin Doings Newsletter and the Senior Center Marquee project. Cm. Mack informed the Commission on the following items: the Senior Center would have a supporting "Wonder Years" mini-display at the Senior Center in support of the "Wonder Years" exhibit at the Heritage Center; the Senior Center Volunteer Luncheon was held on April 30, 2015 with over 105 volunteers in attendance; and the Mother's Day Luncheon was held on May 8, 2015 with 27 guests in attendance.

Youth Advisory Committee

Cm. Tran reported on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meeting held on April 22, 2015. Ms. Mary Ayers from the Dublin Library informed the Advisory Committee of a new summer volunteer opportunity called "Teen Tech" at the Dublin Library, with the first workshop scheduled for June 27, 2015. The Youth Advisory Committee Members were invited to attend the Tri-Valley YAC Roundtable hosted by the City of San Ramon on April 25, 2015, and reminded of the 2015-2016 YAC application deadline of April 30, 2015. Cm. Tran stated the Youth Benefit Concert on April 12, 2015 had more than 50 people in attendance and raised \$346 in donations toward the Youth Fee Assistance Program.

3.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Regular Meeting March 16, 2015

On a motion by Cm. Thalblum, seconded by Vice Chair Ballesteros, and by a vote of 5-0-0 with Cm. Tucker absent, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 16, 2015 as presented.

4.2 Special Joint Meeting April 20, 2015

On a motion by Cm. Thalblum, seconded by Vice Chair Ballesteros, and by a vote of 5-0-0 with Cm. Tucker absent, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission on April 20, 2015, as presented.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC HEARING – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Youth Advisory Committee 2014-2015 Annual Report Presentation

Ms. Jesse Sher and Mr. Neil Bedi, Youth Advisory Committee Members, presented the specifics of the item as outlined in the Staff Report.

Cm. Thalblum asked how many Committee Members are on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). Mr. Bedi stated there are 13 YAC Members and three alternate Members.

Cm. Giannini asked about the length of term. Ms. Sher stated the term is for one-year and Committee Members are encouraged to reapply each year.

Vice Chair Ballesteros asked about the maximum number of Members for the YAC. Ms. Sher stated 13 is the maximum amount of Members, plus three alternate members. Vice Chair Ballesteros asked what the YAC would like to work on in the future. Mr. Bedi stated the YAC enjoyed working with the City of San Ramon to organize a YAC Roundtable event with other local cities.

Cm. Tran praised the YAC members and their accomplishments.

Chair Totaro complimented Ms. Sher and Mr. Bedi on their presentation and for their efforts on the Advisory Committee. Chair Totaro mentioned a Youth Conservation Core program which is involved with park cleanup projects and similar types of events and asked if the YAC would be interested in a similar program. Ms. Sher stated she thinks there would be interest in the program as a similar program was discussed at Dublin High for volunteer hours and was well received. Mr. Bedi added that Dublin Unified School District middle schools currently have a similar program that coordinates environmental cleanup events and suggested partnering with the middle schools. Chair Totaro commented on the value of working and spending time outdoors and stated the City's Environmental Services Division holds a similar program during Dublin Pride Week.

Cm. Giannini complimented the YAC members on their desire to help the community.

Cm. Thalblum thanked the YAC for setting a wonderful example for others and representing the City.

8.2 Senior Center Marquee

Ms. Meghan Tiernan, Parks and Facilities Development Coordinator, presented the specifics of the item as outlined in the Staff Report.

Cm. Tran stated the marquee is a great idea to help promote City events.

Vice Chair Ballesteros asked about the project’s timeline. Ms. Tiernan stated if the Commission recommends approval, the project would be presented to City Council on June 16, 2015. Ms. Micki Cronin, Assistant Director of Parks and Community Services, stated the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

Cm. Giannini stated he likes the height of the marquee. Cm. Giannini asked if the City has any similar signs and if they are susceptible to damage or defacing. Ms. Cronin stated the Safeway on Dublin Boulevard has a comparable sign and the City is not aware of any issues.

Cm. Thalblum stated she is excited and grateful for the Dublin Senior Center Foundation’s contribution to the project.

Chair Totaro asked about the ground covering at the marquee location. Ms. Tiernan stated evergreen drought-tolerant shrubs would be planted around the marquee. Chair Totaro asked about the display capabilities. Ms. Tiernan stated the marquee is a high-quality full-color display. Chair Totaro also asked about the items that could be promoted on the marquee and the possibility to view recognition messages from Dublin school groups and local community groups. Ms. Cronin stated the marquee would only be used for City events and Senior Center events. Exceptions could be considered based on community benefit.

On a motion by Vice Chair Ballesteros, seconded by Cm. Giannini, and a vote of 5-0-0, with Cm. Tucker absent, the Commission voted to recommend approval of the Senior Center Marquee Conceptual Plan to City Council.

8.3 Appointment of Alternate Member to Dublin Crossing Community Park Master Plan Task Force

Ms. Cronin presented the specifics of the item as outlined in the Staff Report.

Ms. Cronin stated Staff recommends former Commissioner, Ms. Connie Mack and current Cm. Giannini switch roles on the Dublin Crossing Community Park Task Force. Chair Totaro would remain the Commission’s Primary Member with Cm. Giannini as the Alternate Member and Ms. Mack would serve as a Community Member at Large.

On a motion by Cm. Thalblum, seconded by Vice Chair Ballesteros, and a vote of 5-0-0, with Cm. Tucker absent, the Commission voted to select Cm. Giannini as the Alternate Member to serve on the Dublin Crossing Community Park Master Plan Task Force.

OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 BRIEF INFORMATION ONLY REPORTS FROM PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSIONERS AND/OR STAFF

Cm. Tran, informed the Commission the Dublin High School Club, Room to Read, received \$350 from the Youth Mini Grant Program. The club used the money for a screening of the documentary “Girl Rising” to be shown at the Dublin Library on May 30, 2015.

Vice Chair Ballesteros reported she attended the Tri-Valley Commissioners’ Dinner and the Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Cm. Giannini reported he attended the Tri-Valley Commissioners’ Dinner and the Dublin Crossing Community Task Force meeting and commented on the use of mulch for the dog parks in other cities.

Cm. Thalblum reported she attended the Tri-Valley Commissioners’ Dinner, Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, the May Senior Center Advisory Committee meeting, the Camp Parks Gate Opening Ceremony and the Mother’s Day Special Luncheon at the Senior Center.

Chair Totaro reported he attended the Tri-Valley Commissioners’ Dinner and asked if Dublin would host the Dinner in 2016. Ms. Cronin stated Staff is looking to host in 2017 in order to hold the dinner at the Emerald Glen Recreation and Aquatics Complex. Chair Totaro stated his wife volunteered at the Spring Faire event at the Dublin Heritage Park and Museums.

Chair Totaro asked about the produce and food vendors at the Farmers’ Market. Ms. Cronin stated the first couple markets of the season had a few vendor cancellations due to the weather; the produce vendors typically provide what is in season and it is anticipated that there will be more vendors as the market continues into the summer months.

Chair Totaro stated he would like to discuss with Staff a summer program for cleanup projects. Ms. Cronin stated with more information she would look into the requirements for this type of program.

Ms. Cronin provided program and project updates.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Kransky, Senior Office Assistant.

Respectfully submitted,

Micki Cronin, Assistant Director of Parks and Community Services

APPROVED:

Anthony Totaro, Chairperson



AGENDA STATEMENT
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING DATE: June 15, 2015

SUBJECT: **Winter 2015 Quarterly Report**
Report by Micki Cronin, Assistant Director of Parks and Community Services

ATTACHMENTS: None

RECOMMENDATION: Receive Report

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: None

DESCRIPTION: The Parks and Community Services Department develops and implements quality programs that strengthen community image, provides recreational experiences, encourages healthy lifestyles and preserves the City's heritage. This is accomplished by providing innovative recreational and social programs. The following is a summary of the programs and events offered by the Parks and Recreation Division during the winter quarter.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recreational Activities provide opportunities for positive recreational experiences that enhance health, well-being, and create balance in life. The classes are taught by contracted specialty instructors, as well as commercial recreational providers in the area. Total registrations this year were about the same as last year. Staff strategically narrowed the number of classes offered which resulted in fewer classes being cancelled. Popular classes during the winter quarter included Bombay Jam Fitness, Academic Writing and Reading: Persuasive, Communication Academy Combo Classes, Pilates, Gymnastics, and Zumba® Fitness with Robin. The following is a summary of registration.

Recreational Activities Winter Registration Comparison

Attendance Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Resident	278	283	392	347	335	291
Non-Resident	62	54	81	48	63	748
Total Registration	340	337	473	395	398	339
Courses Held	49	49	68	58	63	48
Avg. Registration/Class	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.3	7.1
Courses Offered	60	66	113	78	102	97
Cancellation Rate	18%	26%	40%	25%	38%	51%

COPIES TO:

ITEM NO.: 8.1

DUBLIN PRESCHOOL

The Dublin Preschool is a recreational preschool program that provides the opportunity for social and educational development under the instruction of qualified early childhood educators. Children in this program participate in activities such as games and learning activities, outdoor play, arts and crafts, music, story time and circle time. Classes are offered in two-day and three-day formats both in the morning and afternoon. There is also a four-day per week option for the Junior Kindergarten program.

There were a total of 197 registrations for Session II for the winter quarter. The three-year old classes had 89 registrations, the four-year old classes had 92 registrations, and there were 16 registrations for the Junior Kindergarten program.

Year-to-year enrollment has been declining due to the Dublin Unified School District's free transitional kindergarten program for four-year olds. Also in December 2014, the Emerald Glen Preschool was relocated to the Shannon Community Center Multipurpose Room (MPR) because of the Emerald Glen Recreation and Aquatic Complex construction. Staff held an Open House on January 2, 2015 for parents and preschoolers to become familiarized with their new classroom. The Shannon Preschool morning four-year old class and Emerald Glen preschool morning four-year old class were combined. There was a 17% decrease in enrollment due to the move from Emerald Glen Activity Center to Shannon Community Center. The schedule for the 2015-2016 program has been adjusted to accommodate the current demand. Following is a summary of registration for the winter quarter.

Preschool Winter Session Registration Comparison

Registration Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Resident	172	215	255	270	269	237
Non Resident	25	22	32	35	36	60
Total Registration	197	237	287	305	305	297

Winter Holiday Program

Dublin Preschool participants entertained their families with two choreographed dance songs at the "2015 Winter Holiday Program." The program was held on January 27-29 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the Shannon Community Center. A combined total of 700 people attended the three performances.

"Little Lovies" Story Time

This program is a weekly story-time session for children ages 18 months to three-year olds. Staff fosters a warm and caring story-time environment where each child can listen to an enchanting story, enjoy a small craft, or simply just have fun. Depending on observed City Holidays, the program operated between seven to nine weeks on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings during the winter quarter. There were a total of 47 children registered for the winter session (December through February).

"Little Lovies" Winter Registration"

Registration Type	2015
Resident	47
Non-Resident	0
Total Registration	47*

**Previously "Little Lovies" was offered as an individual class and now the class is offered as a session with seven to nine classes per session.*

FAMILY SERVICES

After School Recreation

After School Recreation is a supervised after school program for children in first through fifth grades that operates on school days at all public elementary schools in Dublin. Participants engage in a variety of activities such as indoor and outdoor games, craft projects, and quiet time for homework. The After School Recreation program provides elementary school students the opportunity to participate in recreational and educational activities in a supervised environment. There were 459 youth registered for the winter session, which was a continuation of the fall session.

After School Recreation – Session II 2014/2015 School Year

Registration Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Dougherty Elementary (110)	98	105	102	60	67
Dublin Elementary (80)	73	70	53	29	45
Frederickson Elementary (80)	72	50	51	35	34
Green Elementary (80)	77	70	57	57	56
Murray Elementary (50)	39	33	34	34	25
Kolb Elementary (100)	100	91	83	41	
Total Registration	459	419	380	256	227

The maximum capacity at each site is noted in parentheses ().

Student Union After School Program

Student Union is an after school recreation program designed specifically for middle school students. The program provides a safe place after school to engage in positive activities that will enhance social, intellectual, physical and emotional development. An emphasis is placed on academic enrichment and homework help. Student Union programs are held in two eighteen-week sessions at Wells Middle School and Fallon Middle School. The program offers the popular homework hour with a credentialed teacher and a variety of fun activities including sports and games during the recreation portion of the activity. There were 97 students registered for the winter session, which was a continuation of the fall session. The following is a summary of registration.

Student Union Registration – Session II 2014/2015 School Year

Registration Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Wells Middle School (55)	42	34	36	25	42	31
Fallon Middle School (55)	55	64	51	51	29	42
Total Registration	97	98	87	76	71	73

The maximum capacity at each site is noted in parentheses ().

SPORTS

Basketball Clinics and Lessons

The City offers three types of pre-season youth basketball clinics plus private lessons. The skill building clinic focused on teaching a new skill over four evenings and was conducted by City Staff. A clinic for beginners was held over three evenings and was conducted by City Staff. A half-day clinic of fundamental basketball instruction for younger ages was taught by Chris Meredith, a basketball coach at Dublin High School. Private lessons were offered by Chris Meredith and Brendan Devane, a basketball coach at Fallon Middle School. The beginner clinics and private lessons were newly added this quarter. Overall attendance for clinics and private lessons increased 52%.

Youth Basketball Clinics and Private Lessons

Clinic	2015	2014	2013	2015	2011
K – 5th Grade (skill-building)	122	88	76	48	55
K – 3rd Grade (beginner)	57	-	-	-	-
1st – 4th Grade (half day)	44	54	58	25	39
3rd – 6th Grade (half day)	-	20	33	-	-
4th – 12th Grade (private lessons)	23	-	-	-	-
Total Participants	246	162	167	73	94

Youth Basketball League

The Junior Warriors Youth Basketball League is for boys and girls in kindergarten through eighth grade. Games were played on Saturdays at Stager Community Gymnasium and Wells Middle School beginning January 10 and ending on March 7. There was an increase in registration of 12% from last season to 775 participants on 72 teams. Nine of the ten leagues were completely full. A total of 53 participants were on combined waitlists, unfortunately there were not enough in any individual league to form additional teams. Games and practices were held weekly. Following is a summary of registration for the league.

City of Dublin / Junior Warriors Youth Basketball League

League	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Kindergarten Coed	65	61	40	40	---
1 st Grade Boys	89	80	100	72	60
2 nd Grade Boys	87	102	100	81	79
3 rd Grade Boys	110	101	80	78	59
4 th Grade Boys	88	76	60	76	59
5 th & 6 th Grade Boys	124	81	80	82	101
6 th - 8 th Grade Boys	---	80	---	---	---
7 th & 8 th Grade Boys	65	---	60	42	50
9 th - 12 th Grade Boys	---	---	---	---	20
1 st – 3 rd Grade Girls	63	55	40	40	49
4 th & 5 th Grade Girls	66	33	40	30	---
4 th – 6 th Grade Girls	---	---	---	---	59
6 th - 8 th Grade Girls	18	21	36	34	---
Total Participants	775	690	636	575	559

Contracted Sports Programs

Each quarter the City offers several sports programs by utilizing contracted specialty instructors. Contracted classes offered during the winter included Arora Tennis, Core Volleyball (new), Kidz Love Soccer, Make Me a Pro basketball and Wee Hoop basketball. Registration for contracted sports programs increased 70% from the previous winter quarter. This increase was primarily due to the tennis programs which grew by 170%. A full schedule of tennis programming was offered this winter in addition to adding cardio fitness and private lessons with four instructors. Also, pilot tennis programs at Kolb Park and Schaefer Ranch Park were launched.

Contracted Sports Registration Comparison

Camp/Program	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Arora Tennis (adult)	14	20	8	9	14
Arora Tennis (youth)	366	162	111	65	66
Arora Tennis (cardio)	20	-	-	-	-
Arora Tennis (privates)	103	4	-	-	-
CALPDA	-	33	-	12	-
CORE	12	-	-	-	-
Dublin Fighting Irish	-	-	11	6	-
Kidz Love Soccer	150	118	136	94	118
Make Me a Pro (winter break)	19	49	54	44	-
Rockin' Jump	-	3	-	11	-
Wee Hoop	53	45	37	18	24
Total Registration	737	434	357	259	222

Adult Basketball League

A Men's 5-on-5 "C" and "D" league was conducted during the winter quarter. The league began in January and ends in April. Games were held on Sundays at Stager Community Gymnasium and Wells Middle School Gymnasium. The league had a total of 11 teams this season, down one team from last year.

Winter Adult Basketball Team Registration Summary

League (teams)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Men's 5-on-5 C & D Leagues	11	12	8	12	16
Total Teams	11	12	8	12	16

SENIOR CENTER

The Dublin Senior Center offers activities and events that promote healthy living for seniors, and the opportunity to build new friendships through recreation. The following is a summary of the 2014-15 winter quarter. The increase in drop-in attendance is due largely in part to the addition of a Ballroom Dance Social, the Food Distribution Program's growing awareness and the Daily Lunch Program.

Senior Center Attendance Comparison

Attendance Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Drop-In	2,529	2,326	2,296	2,240	1,960
Programs & Activities	<u>10,124</u>	<u>9,534</u>	<u>9,054</u>	<u>9,526</u>	<u>9,465</u>
Total	12,653	11,860	11,350	11,766	11,425
<i>Avg. Daily Attendance</i>	230	212	202	205	204
	(55 days)	(56 days)	(56 days)	(56 days)	(56 days)
Total Volunteer Hours	2,815	3,074	3,521	3,429	3,231

The Senior Center experienced a 6% increase in Programs and Activities attendance, and a 7% increase in total Senior Center attendance. Total volunteer hours decreased by 8% due to a change in our food service provider and long-time volunteers moving out of the area.

Some programs showing large increases in attendance were Ballroom Dance Drop-in (+79%), Fit Over Fifty (+70%) and Balance and Agility (+25%). The daily lunch program attendance increased 39% from a year ago.

Monthly afternoon ballroom dance socials have consistently drawn crowds of 50 or more dancers. Fifty-seven participants celebrated the December Holiday Luncheon. Excursions included a trip to the Hilmar Cheese Factory and a sightseeing tour of San Francisco holiday displays.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tree Lighting Ceremony

The City’s 29th annual Tree Lighting ceremony featured musical performances by the Dublin High School Jazz Combo and the 100-member Dublin Unified Elementary School Choir which represented each of Dublin Unified School District’s public elementary schools. As the concert came to a close, Santa appeared to the delight of the nearly 600 guests who came to enjoy the concert, cookies and hot chocolate.

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa is a family-oriented special event co-sponsored with the Dublin High School Band Boosters. The event was held at the Shannon Community Center on Saturday, December 13, 2014 and had three seating times. Each seating had an average of 152 participants. The City provided the facility, decorations, novelty items, staffing, and promotions for the event. The Band Boosters provided a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, juice, fruit, milk, and coffee. The band members served the breakfast and operated the “Photos with Santa” area. There were 456 participants this year, a 9% decrease from last year, due to neighboring cities holding similar events the previous weekend and the following weekend.

Breakfast with Santa Registration Comparison

Attendance Type	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Dublin Residents	373	431	440	407	380	361
Non-Residents	83	68	7	116	71	47
Total Registration	456	499	447	523	451	408

YOUTH FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Youth Fee Assistance program promotes access to City recreational classes and activities by providing eligible Dublin youth financial assistance with registration fees. The Youth Fee Assistance Program fund is funded by a mix of private donations and a match from the City up to \$5,000. There are currently 55 active participants in the Program.



AGENDA STATEMENT
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING DATE: June 15, 2015

SUBJECT: **Dougherty Hills Dog Park Renovation**
Prepared by Meghan Tiernan, Parks and Facilities Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS: Dougherty Hills Dog Park Renovation Plan

RECOMMENDATION: Receive report

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The estimated cost of the proposed improvements is \$91,000. Sufficient funds have been allocated to complete the renovation in one phase.

DESCRIPTION: The Dougherty Hills Dog Park on Amador Valley Boulevard is approximately two-acres in size and has both large and small dog areas as well as 18 off-street parking spaces. Other amenities include fencing, double-gated entries, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, benches, signage and artwork. The design was approved by the City Council in February 2006 and the dog park was opened to the public in May 2007. Since opening, the Park has received tremendous use not only from Dublin residents but from residents of surrounding cities, and remains a popular destination.

Background

Staff presented the project, which included an overview of the existing conditions and a list of proposed improvements, to the Parks & Community Services Commission on March 18 of this year. At that time \$40,000 from the Park Maintenance Budget for this fiscal year was identified for the project, however, implementing all of the recommended improvements exceeded the available budget. The Commission recommended Staff meet with the stakeholders to identify priorities for the first phase of the project with other improvements to follow as funding became available. Since the March 18 meeting Staff has identified additional funding to augment the budget so that all improvements can occur in one phase and therefore a meeting with the stakeholders to identify priorities became unnecessary.

Current Conditions

The park has continuous active use which has led to the deterioration of the site over time. The ground surface within the dog areas, which is a combination of turf and no-mow turf, is worn from heavy use, wear and tear and lack of resting periods. The dirt is compacted which reduces oxygen to the roots and makes it difficult to keep turf alive. Additionally, drainage problems and the loss of groundcover create muddy conditions during the rainy season and contribute to soil erosion over time. The no-mow turf on the hillsides is bare in some places and also needs to be renovated.

COPIES TO:

ITEM NO: 8.2

While turf is the most desirable for dog owners, and in fact received overwhelming support when the dog park was first proposed, turf suffers the most from use and requires ongoing maintenance and closures to allow the turf to rest and keep it looking good. Staff recommends providing turf areas within the small and large dog park areas that can be fenced-off seasonally for maintenance while leaving the surrounding area open for use. The surrounding area would contain a mix of no-mow turf on the perimeter, mulch near the maintenance gates between the two dog areas, and unit pavers or decomposed granite paving in the heavily used area known as the “launch” at the large dog park entrance.

Additionally, some of the plantings in the surrounding landscape are in need of renovation. Park users are concerned with plants that may host fleas and ticks. There are several aromatic plants, including sage, lavender and rosemary, which repel fleas and ticks and may be suitable for the perimeter plantings outside of the fence. These plants are low maintenance, drought resistant and provide color and fragrance. They will also soften the edge of the park.

Proposed Improvements

The proposed improvements will be installed as one project. Attachment 1 is a conceptual renovation plan. The proposed improvements include:

- Correction of the drainage issues
- Turf renovation and seasonal fencing for maintenance purposes
- Repairs of large holes
- Moving the bench away from the top of the steps in the small dog area
- Relocation of the small dog area fence along Amador Valley to the top of the slope
- Installation of new surfacing at the “launch” area of the large dog park entry
- Installation of a small retaining wall or header in the small dog park at the steps
- Installation of a new drinking fountain
- Renovation of the perimeter planting areas
- Irrigation modifications for improved efficiency

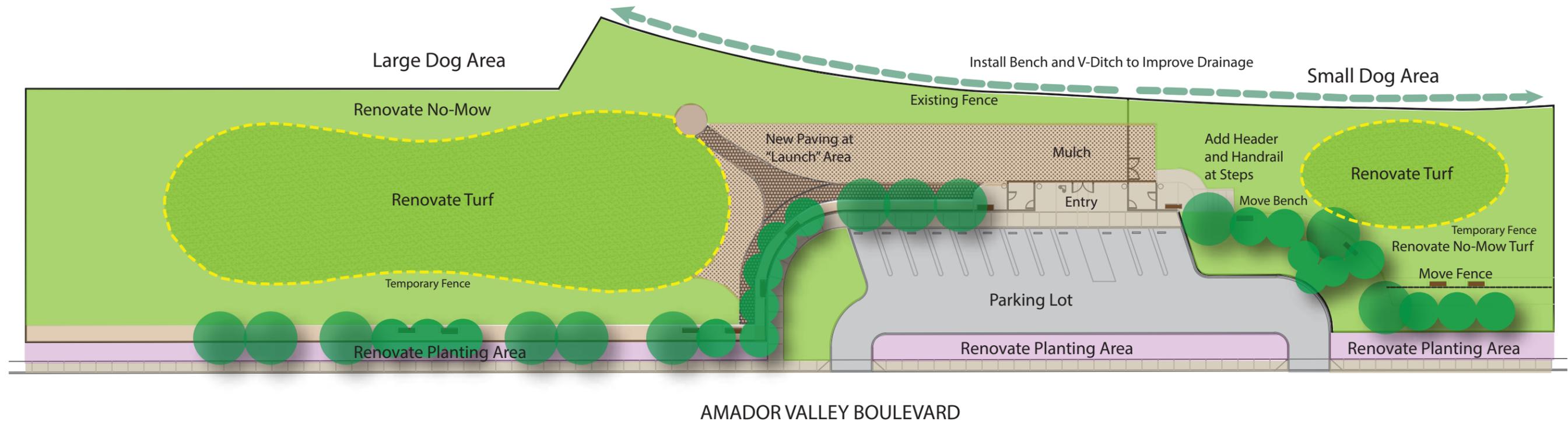
Operational Changes

Staff is recommending new operating procedures related to dog park hours and closures. Currently the hours for the dog park are sunrise to one-hour after sunset. In response to complaints from neighbors regarding the noise emanating from the dog park, Staff will be recommending the City Council update the Resolution regarding Dog Park rules making the Dog Park hours 9:00 AM to sunset daily.

Staff is also recommending rain closures for the dog park, similar to the City’s sports fields. The dog park would be closed when it rains, and for a day or two after a rain event to allow the ground to dry. This will reduce soil compaction and damage to the turf.

The turf zone within each dog park would be fenced-off annually from March through May for major turf renovation and resting during the best recovery time for the grass. The Turf Sustainability and Maintenance Report identified May 1 through July 30 as the optimum time for this closure, as these are warmer months, the ground is warm enough to encourage root development, and the turf can heal faster. However due to the significant number of requests from the public to shift that to the winter, Staff will pilot the March through May in 2016 and reassess in future years. During this time the City

would condition the soil, thatch, reseed the turf, and allow for the plant establishment period. The no-mow and bark areas could remain open during this period allowing partial use of the dog play areas.



Proposed Operational Procedures:

1. Close Dog Park turf areas seasonally with temporary fencing for maintenance.
2. Close Dog Park during and after rainy weather.
3. Limit Dog Park hours from 9:00am to sunset daily.

Proposed Improvements:

1. Renovate turf area and repair large holes
2. Renovate no-mow turf as needed
3. Pave "Launch" area in Large Dog Park
4. Provide mulch near maintenance gates
5. Correct drainage issues
6. Install header at steps in Small Dog Park
7. Move bench at top of steps in Small Dog Park
8. Relocate fence in Small Dog Area to top
9. Replace drinking fountain
10. Renovate perimeter plantings
11. Modify irrigation for improved efficiency

DOUGHERTY HILLS DOG PARK RENOVATION PLAN

City of Dublin, Parks & Community Services

June 15, 2015