

PPCC Park Advisor Report / Joe Halper - May25 2023

Playground refurbishment.

Over the past years there has been interest shown by the PAB to have the playground at Palisades Park refurbished as a Universal or Inclusive playground to accommodate the needs of handicapped children, as well as the general population. A project of this nature would normally depend on the availability of Quimby funds accrued from the development, within a five-mile radius of the park. I have been advised that the residential development within the radius of the park has been limited and that the funds available for the playground project would not be sufficient for this purpose. The funds available from this development source is also shared by the parks within the Venice area of the city. The Palisades Park playground is over 25 years old. The safety surface is antiquated and labor intensive to maintain. The resiliency of the current sand safety surface is not up to the current standards for playground safety and requires daily raking and sanitizing. RAP Assistant General Manager Cathy Santo Domingo has committed to have RAP design and budget for a refurbished playground area if the community was interested in considering raising the funds locally for its redevelopment. This issue was brought to the attention of PPCC President Miriam Zar and PAB President Andy Starrels. Both indicated that they would appreciate RAP's offer to provide the proposed plan for refurbishment of the playground design as an inclusive facility and consider the possibility of locally funding the project.

I have since been advised that RAP is currently in the process of engaging a pre-approved planning service for this purpose. I have requested that the RAP outreach activity be closely coordinated with the Palisades Park PAB. The PAB has indicated their interest in the rest-rooms being refurbished to ADA standards.

In the event PPCC and the PAB propose to initiate a fund-raising effort, Shane's Inspiration, an organization whose mission is to advance the inclusive design of playgrounds, would be available to the Pacific Palisades Project for consulting in the fund-raising effort. The founder of that organization Scott Williams would be a good source to explore the private funding opportunities.

Pickle ball

The interest in the sport of Pickle Ball remains strong. RAP Staff recognized the issue of the noise associated with the sport in their report to the RAP Board on proceeding with plans to accommodate the activity. The 11million dollars appropriated by the State to fund the bridge project has been transferred to the City BOE.

Staff requested approval to line tennis court 7 at Palisades Park for use as a pickle ball site. The RAP Board of Commissioners approved the request with the condition that the site

be in keeping with the LAMC sound ordinances. The services of an acoustical engineer were secured as a courtesy from Pickle ball USA. The results of the analysis of the sound engineer were that it would be impractical to attempt to mitigate the sound of pickle ball play at that location due to the terrain issues involved. The adjacent homes to the park on Alma Real are at a height above the tennis courts that would require a 17-foot high sound absorbing or deflecting wall to shield the noise at that location to mitigate the noise of pickle ball play. City Ordinances provide that sound should not disturb the occupants of homes by causing noise above the assumed ambient sound at a residence. The adjacent residence on Alma Real complained. The use was in violation of LAMC and PC415.

The use of Tennis courts 7 and 8 are no longer permitted for use for pickle ball. Badminton Courts in the gym are to be used for pickle ball during specified times and tennis courts 1 and 3 under the tennis concession are being considered for pickle ball at scheduled times if the sound at these locations can be mitigated to be compatible with the LAMC. This should be established before the use is authorized. The current use of Courts 7 and 8 where fees were collected by a private individual as a donation was deemed as a violation of the city code governing concessions. The consolidation of the management authority at the park (as opposed to the bifurcation of management of these facilities in Palisades Park) at Griffith Park are now under the management of the Palisades Park Director. With the current uses to include the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon, Palisades Park has exceeded its carrying capacity including parking. The downside of super success.

Potrero Canyon Bridge

The BOE was authorized to enter into an agreement with Caltrains on the pedestrian bridge by a Project Initiation Document or PID. The PID is not intended to determine whether or not the bridge project should happen, rather how the bridge will be built. BOE has confirmed that it is technically feasible to build a bridge. The PID which takes approximately 12 to 18 months is intended to conduct a Geotechnical study for the position of the bridge, basic design elements and other engineering activities.

The contract includes a comprehensive professional outreach campaign to ensure the community is engaged in the project elements and able to weigh in with any views or comments. A consultant will be selected in the coming months to realize the PID and the community outreach component. There are four outreach meeting to be scheduled in the proposed contract at which time the concerns from the community are to be heard. It is suggested that in the interim, the PPCC Potrero Canyon Committee the Palisades Park PAB use the time to identify the concerns and suggested solutions related to the bridge and be prepared to share them with the consultant at the times of the outreach meetings.