



Meeting Date: January 21, 2014

TOWN OF MORAGA

STAFF REPORT

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: January Agenda Items

New Business

Item VIII. A. Appointment of Park and Recreation Commissioner to the Hillside and Ridgelines Steering Committee – (discussion/action)

The Town Council considered a Council Goal for 2013 to protect ridgelines and hillsides from development, consistent with Moraga Open Space Ordinance, at its September 25, 2013 meeting and directed staff to develop a draft Request for Proposals for consultant services to assist with review and possible update of the Town's existing regulations related to hillside and ridgeline protection. On October 23, 2013 the Town Council reviewed and approved a draft scope of work for the project. This includes a recommendation to form a steering committee, comprised of representatives from the Town Council and Commissions, to assist with the project.

Steering Committee Charter

On November 13, 2013, the Town Council approved a charter for the Hillside and Ridgeline Steering Committee. The charter:

- Outlines the Committee purpose, to assist with the study and development of potential amendments to the Town's hillside and ridgeline regulations; and
- Identifies the composition of the six-member Committee to include two Councilmembers, two Planning Commissioners, and one representative each from the Park and Recreation Commission and Design Review Board; and
- Specifies the Committee's term, which would run until the end of February 2015, representing the one-year duration of the project from its expected early 2014 kickoff date.

At the November 13 meeting, the Town Council appointed Mayor Trotter and Councilmember Metcalf to the Steering Committee. Per the charter, the Park and Recreation Commission is requested to also appoint one member to the Steering Committee. The Commission tabled this item at their November meeting.

Recommendation

Appoint one member of the Park and Recreation Commission to the Hillside and Ridgeline Steering Committee.

Item VIII. B. Camino Ricardo Subdivision Update – (report)

The Planning Commission certified the Environmental Impact Report and approved the General Development Plan and Tentative Map for the Camino Ricardo Subdivision on January 6. The Commission also recommended approval of a Development Agreement between the Town and SummerHill Homes which addresses public improvements and benefits from the project, over and above those required by Town codes.

The project includes 27 residential units, and over 8 acres of open space, including a 2.5 acre public open space that will be dedicated to the Town. This open space is on an area of the site defined by the Laguna Creek and Corliss Tributary, and which requires bridge connections and trails from the subdivision and to connect to existing Town-owned open space and Moraga Road to the east.

There was considerable discussion of this open space area during the project approval, and particularly about the type of open space it should be (active versus passive uses) and how it should connect to Moraga Road. In its approval, the Planning Commission directed the parcel to be left as a natural open space area, with no deposition of project fill (as had been proposed by the applicant), with replanting and restoration of native vegetation and trees and a loop trail provided around the perimeter.

Regarding the bridge across Laguna Creek and trail connection to Moraga Road, the Planning Commission initially directed that this component of the project be eliminated. However, based on additional information from staff, the Commission determined it appropriate to include the bridge to enhance the connectivity and safety of the site. However, the Commission had significant concerns, for aesthetic and other reasons, about installing a pedestrian-activated signal across Moraga Road, and requested that alternative location and/or design that would orient pedestrians to the south, and discourage crossing Moraga Road at this location, be brought back for review and approval. Staff expects this to happen before approval of the Final Map and Precise Development Plan this spring.

Item VIII. C. Summary Report of Parks and Recreation Items from Town Council January 14, 2014 Goals Workshop – (report)

The Town of Moraga typically holds an annual Goal Setting Workshop in the beginning of the calendar year. The date for this years' meeting was Tuesday, January 14, 6:30pm in the La Sala building. The objective of the Goal Setting Workshop was to:

- Gain input from the Council, community and staff to establish a bigger picture vision for the work to be accomplished and/or initiated during 2014; and

- Share current activities requiring limited resources and discuss overall direction and future opportunities for the community.

Staff presented an overview of the bigger picture of ongoing, previously committed, and legally required work that must be continued, regardless of the Town's limited resources and the proposed new goals for 2014. The intent of the Goal Setting Workshop is to give the full Council the opportunity to informally discuss their goals with Mayor Chew, hear input from community members, and add or revise goals based on that input.

At the December 11, 2013 Council Reorganization meeting, newly appointed Mayor Chew expressed a desire to have four broad goals for the coming year in order to keep the staff focused on keeping the organization transparent and fiscally sound, to encourage community and staff initiatives, creativity, and responsiveness to opportunities as they arise. He expressed a desire for a flexible organization that can manage time and available resources to quickly respond to issues as they arise. The big picture goals fell into the following four categories:

1. Maintain Excellence in Stewardship
2. Maximize Existing Resources for Enhanced Community Use through Partnerships and Agreements
3. Celebrate the Town's 40th Anniversary Around the Pear and Wine Festival
4. Enable the Organization to Respond to Opportunities as they Arise

The key objectives under the Mayor's four goals, as they relate to Parks and Recreation, include:

1. Maintain Excellence in Stewardship

Internal Operations

- Ensure Town's compliance with Fair Political Practices Commission regulations.
- Enhance staff training and development.

External Community-Based Activities

- Continue Livable Moraga Road Project to create bicycle/pedestrian pathways between commercial centers and public parks consistent with Transportation for Livable Communities grant and AB1358.
- Continue to manage and coordinate community events: Mom/Son Dance, Mother/Daughter Tea, Moraga Beautiful, 8th Annual Triathlon, Senior Health Fair, MYIC Movie Night(s), 4th of July, Pear and Wine Festival, Holiday Tree Lighting, Breakfast with Santa, Santa Visits Moraga, over 20 different summer youth enrichment offerings, etc.

2. Maximize Existing Resources for Enhanced Community Use through Partnerships and Agreements

- Develop joint use agreements based on subcommittee recommendations derived from partnership with Moraga School District, Saint Mary's College, Campolindo High School and sports organizations to enhance community benefits through shared facilities and resources.
- Support Hacienda Foundation by assisting with facility improvements and partnering with their strategic planning efforts.
- Continue to partner with the Moraga Park Foundation to support the free summer concert series.

3. Celebrate the Town's 40th Anniversary Around the Pear and Wine Festival

- Enhance the 2014 Pear and Wine Festival to celebrate the Town's 40th Anniversary with a community fun run or other community-based activity.

4. Enable the Organization to Respond to Opportunities as they Arise

- Create a new project-oriented Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee to develop a Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan.

On Tuesday night, January 14, the Town Council focused on the following topics as they relate to Parks and Recreation:

- 40th Anniversary Community-wide Celebration
- Identify and explain the cost to manage and maintain our Town parks and open space, Hacienda property and Public Library.

Item VIII. D. 2014 Park and Recreation Commission Goals – (discussion/action)

Annually, the Commission discusses and adopts a set of goals. These goals are typically carried out by department staff. However, unlike most communities, given the volunteerism in town, the Moraga Park and Recreation Commission is often actively involved in assisting with accomplishing annual goals. A list of proposed goals is provided below. Goals can be added, subtracted, or modified. Please note that our department is extremely active with existing town-wide special events, summer camps, senior citizen programs, teen activities, facility rentals and day-to-day operations. In addition to already existing programs and events this year, our department is tasked with the 40th Anniversary celebration, replacing the outdated Town Marquee on Moraga Road, upgrading the Hacienda fireplace, participating in the Café Hacienda Subcommittee discussions and staffing the newly appointed Ad Hoc Facilities Planning Subcommittee.

Proposed Parks and Recreation Commission Goals for 2014:

Trails signage program
Hacienda Foundation Strategic Plan assistance
Update Memorial and Donation Policy
Livable Moraga Road
Trails Challenge Event (Similar to East Bay Regional Park District Event)
40th Anniversary Celebration
Facilities Tour

Further explanation on proposed goals will be provided when this items is presented during the meeting.

Recommendation

Provide direction to staff on suggested Park and Recreation Commission Goals for 2014