



Parks and Waterfront
Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR

October 26, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Parks and Waterfront Commission
 Submitted by: Gordon Wozniak, Chair, Parks & Waterfront Commission
 Subject: Parks and Waterfront Commission Work Plan for 2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Waterfront (P&W) Commission is responsible for reviewing and advising the City Council on the policies, projects, planning efforts, activities, funding, and the physical condition of parks, pools, camps, recreation centers, the Marina, and public greenery.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

During the past year, the major task of the Parks and Waterfront Commission was to work with staff and the Public Works Commission to develop recommendations for Phase 2 Measure T1 project funding. These recommendations were completed in December 2020 and submitted to the City Council.

The attached work plan outlines the specific activities and deliverables the Parks and Waterfront Commission will work on over the next year. The members of the Commission developed this work plan in consultation with City staff.

At its meeting on September 8, 2021 the Parks and Waterfront Commission voted to approve the attached workplan and send it to the City Council as follows: M/S/C: McGrath/Kamen/U) Ayes: Cox; Diehm; Kamen; Kawczynska; Landoni; McGrath; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the City Council directed all commissions to submit annual work plans to the City Council at the beginning of each fiscal year.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Recently, the Parks Department replaced its manually operated irrigations system in City Parks with a computer-controlled system, which reduced water usage by 40%. Recent renovations of park buildings have incorporated energy efficiency improvements and where feasible solar panels.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The projects contemplated in the attached work plan could result in recommended actions which, if subsequently adopted by the City Council, would entail a variety of costs and benefits.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

To be determined.

CONTACT PERSON

Roger Miller, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-6704

Attachments:

1: Parks and Waterfront Commission's 2021-22 Work Plan

Parks and Waterfront Commission 2021-2022 Work Plan

MISSION

The Parks and Waterfront Commission advises the City Council on the policies, projects, planning efforts, activities, and funding that impact the physical condition of parks, pools, camps, recreation centers, the Marina, and public greenery. A major goal is to ensure that marginalized and underrepresented communities have equitable access to Parks, Camps, and Recreational facilities

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Parks and Waterfront Commission will work on the following Objectives over the next year:

- I. Create a vision and explore funding options for park and waterfront improvements that could not be funded under T1: such as a more vibrant park and habitat at Aquatic Park, restoration or replacement of the fishing pier, improvements at San Pablo Park, and a more resilient shoreline.
- II. Maintain and improve parks, recreation, and camp facilities, and associated programming, so that they can be enjoyed by all residents. Phase 2 of Measure T1 funded projects are crucial to this effort.
- III. Refresh the Berkeley Waterfront by addressing its unfunded capital and operating needs. Increase recreational opportunities and improve ADA accessibility at all parks.
- IV. Develop a resilient vision that protects our waterfront parks from sea level rise.

ACTIVITIES

To advance each of these objectives, the Commission will focus on the following specific activities.

Objective A. To maintain and improve park, recreation, and camp facilities.

1. Monitor the design and construction of Phase 2 Measure T1 Projects

- *Deliverables:*
 - Review designs and monitor construction progress
 - Participate in public outreach

2. Monitor the progress in rebuilding and reopening Tuolumne Camp

- *Deliverables:*
 - Regularly review progress at Commission meetings

3. Civic Center Park Group

- *Deliverables:*
 - *Appoint a liaison from Commission*
 - *Participate in discussions and report back to Commission*
- Lead Commissioner: Diehm

4. Promote Greening Berkeley

- *Deliverables:*
 - Develop ideas for softening the city's hardscape
- *Lead Commissioners:* Landon and Diehm

5. Adopt a Spot

- Deliverable:
 - Advocate for creating and financing an Adopt a Spot program in parks
- *Lead Commissioners:* Diehm and Srioudon

Objective B. To refresh the Berkeley Waterfront by addressing its unfunded capital and operating needs, to increase recreational opportunities, to achieve financial sustainability for the Marina Fund.

1. BMASP Process

- *Deliverables:*
 - Develop a vision for the Waterfront that preserves open space, recreational, and waterfront activities. Continue to support nonprofits that provide low-cost access to waterfront recreation.
 - Evaluate proposed developments for impact on existing programs and progress towards the goal of achieving a sustainable Marina Fund.
- *Lead Commissioners:* McGrath, Brennan, Kamen, and Landoni

2. Pier/Ferry Process

- *Deliverables:*
 - Evaluate siting options and the impacts on traffic, parking, recreation, and revenues.
 - Evaluate the impact of new uses at the Waterfront and the potential to create new recreational opportunities, while protecting existing access and uses.
- *Lead Commissioners:* Kamen, McGrath, and Wozniak

3. Cesar Chavez Park

- *Deliverables*
 - Establish land uses and accessible trails for the undeveloped portion of the Cesar Chavez Park.
- *Lead Commissioners:* Kawczynska, Diehm, and Srioudon.

Objective C. Develop a resilient vision that protects our waterfront parks from sea level rise.

1. Develop a regional vision for resilience from the Albany Bulb to the Bay Bridge in cooperation with Albany, Emeryville, East Bay Regional Park District, and Caltrans.

- *Deliverables:*
 - One or more meetings and a graphic for a resilient shoreline
- *Lead Commissioners:* McGrath, Landoni, and Kawczynska

2. Develop a Plan for further restoration of Aquatic Park that takes advantage of the closure of the Potter Street on-ramp and includes a hydraulic analysis that balances flood control, habitat enhancement, and recreation.

- *Deliverables*
 - Grant application for funding by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
- *Lead Commissioners:* McGrath, Diehm, and Kawczynska

3. Identify areas along the Berkeley Waterfront, where swimming can safely be encouraged, and enhanced by measures such as restoration of sandy beaches.

- *Deliverables*
 - Mapping of beach enhancement opportunities in the update to the Marina Plan and in any updates to the East Shore State Park Plan.
- *Lead Commissioners:* Landoni and Srioudon