

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Elif Kale-Lostuvali <elifkale@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:31 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley. Regards,

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: ZAB: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Jeff Vincent <jvincent1134@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6:05 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: ZAB: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board members,
Thank you all for your attention to this important decision. Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Jeff Vincent
D2

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Willard Clubhouse Remodel Support

From: Justin Randall <jrandall.berkeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:22 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Willard Clubhouse Remodel Support

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustment Board Members,

I am currently serving as president of the PTA at Sylvia Mendez Elementary and ask that you support the Willard Clubhouse remodel. The T1 Bond Measure has improved so many of our green spaces, updating and modernizing playgrounds and parks for our children all over Berkeley.

In a city that prides itself on equity, education, and progressivism, I don't understand how this clubhouse can fall into such disrepair. While the refurbishment of the clubhouse is undoubtedly crucial, I would also like to highlight the importance of outdoor spaces and socializing for children, especially as we navigate this post-pandemic world.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable change in economics in the region. The cost of living continues its astronomical rise while wages remain relatively stagnant. The result is common in this region: Low-income families struggling to make ends meet, leaving them with fewer opportunities for their kids. Already, this neighborhood lost its pool years ago. The Willard Clubhouse's low-cost child care program is vital to many families.

I believe that we should focus on providing these families greater opportunity for their children to be outdoors and socialize with their peers. The pandemic has taken a significant toll on children's mental health, and it is critical that our community prioritizes their social and emotional well-being moving forward. This Willard Clubhouse project is a prioritization of affordable and high-quality child care that supports our community's families who are struggling the most, which will help children thrive and strengthen our community as a whole.

I understand that there are many factors to take into consideration when making decisions about community resources. I'm also certain that you've heard many of these points from members of our great community. Still, I hope that you'll take my thoughts and concerns into account.

Thank you for your service and dedication to improving the lives of families in our area.

You rock,
Justin Randall, International MBA
Randall Writes Writing Services
510.629.0337

My pronouns are: he / him

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Comments Re: 2720 Hillegass Avenue (Willard Park), Use Permit #ZP2022-0095
Attachments: 2023-04-25 Letter to ZAB_final.pdf

From: Rae Lovko <rlovko@greenfirelaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:16 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>; Riemer, Allison <ARiemer@cityofberkeley.info>; All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Comments Re: 2720 Hillegass Avenue (Willard Park), Use Permit #ZP2022-0095

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached are comments from the Willard Neighborhood Association Re: 2720 Hillegass Avenue (Willard Park), Use Permit #ZP2022-0095. This application is set for the April 27, 2023 public ZAB meeting.

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Rae Lovko, Esq.
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RAE LOVKO
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www.greenfirelaw.com

April 25, 2023

By Electronic Mail

City of Berkeley Land Use Planning Division
ATTN: Zoning Adjustments Board Secretary
1947 Center Street, Second Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
zab@cityofberkeley.info

City of Berkeley Land Use Planning Division
ATTN: Zoning Adjustments Board Staff Planner
1947 Center Street, Second Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
ARiemer@cityofberkeley.info

City Council
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
council@cityofberkeley.info

RE: Comments from the Willard Neighborhood Association Re: 2720 Hillegass Avenue (Willard Park), Use Permit #ZP2022-0095

Dear Members of the ZAB and City Council:

These comments on the application for Use Permit #ZP2022-0095 are made on behalf of the Willard Neighborhood Association (“WNA”), a group of concerned citizens that live near and use Willard Park.

Use Permit #ZP2022-0095 would allow the demolition of the existing clubhouse and restroom at Willard Park, the new construction of a 3,301 square-foot community center, and the new construction of a public restroom (the “Project”). While some changes to Willard Park may be warranted, the WNA objects that the City is considering approval of the Project without adhering to the requirements of Berkeley Municipal Code 6.42.010 and CEQA. Elements of the Project also are inconsistent with Berkeley’s General Plan. WNA’s opposition mirrors that of the neighboring Berkeley community, as evidenced by a 2021 survey conducted on WNA’s behalf in

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which 75% of the respondents identified as living within 6 blocks of the park. A copy of that survey is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

1. Consideration of the Project Without Voter Approval is in Violation of Berkeley Municipal Code 6.42.010

Measure L was adopted in 1986 and is codified in Berkeley Municipal Code (“BMC”) Chapter 6.42. It requires that plans involving change to public parks and public open land must be submitted by the Berkeley City Council “to the citizens for approval by a majority of registered Berkeley voters voting at the next general election.” (BMC 6.42.010.)

The voter information pamphlet for Measure L, attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, establishes the intent and purpose of Measure L. Recognized as a “citizen’s initiative ordinance,” the measure was created to allow Berkeley Voters to directly participate in decisions to change the use of Public Parks and Open Space.” It “**prevents the City Council from using the existing public parks and open spaces for any new use without the approval of the community. If the Council wants to remove/develop existing public parks and open space, prior voter approval is required.**” (emphasis in the original.)

Berkeley City Councilmember Terry Taplin has affirmed the importance of BMC 6.42.010, noting that “Measure L provides for the protection of open space and requires any proposed construction on existing parks be approved by voters.” (Berkeley Community Members Discuss Importance of Protecting Urban Green Space, *Daily Californian*, April 22, 2021, <https://www.dailycal.org/2021/04/22/berkeley-community-members-discuss-importance-of-protecting-urban-green-space>.)

The proposed Project at Willard Park involves the demolition of an existing clubhouse that is approximately 565 square feet in size and an existing public restroom that is approximately 114 square feet in size. It would allow the new construction of a community center that is approximately 3,301 square feet in size and a restroom that is approximately 241 square feet in size. The community center is not only larger than the existing facility, but it entails a change of use. Such demolition and new construction falls squarely within BMC 6.42.010, and therefore, the City Council is legally mandated to place the Project before voters in the next general election.

2. The Project Has Not Been Properly Analyzed Under CEQA

The agenda for the April 27, 2023 ZAB Meeting, wherein the proposed Project is to be addressed, recommends that it be “[c]ategorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (‘New Construction’).”¹ To provide the public with adequate opportunity to raise CEQA objections, the City must give notice of the grounds for making an exemption determination. (*Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power v. County of Inyo* (2021) 67 Cal.App.5th 1018, 1034.)

Nothing in the language of Section 15303 in and of itself demonstrates that the proposed Project should be considered exempt — it is larger than 2,500 square feet, and WNA objects that the City has not provided the public with grounds for this recommendation. As a result, WNA and the public are unable to raise CEQA objections and meaningfully participate in environmental review of the proposed Project.

¹ The CEQA Guidelines are codified in title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

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Relatedly, WNA objects that the information provided to the public does not address design specifications that might make the Project more environmentally friendly. For example, they would like to know whether solar panels will be installed or whether a water collection cistern will be utilized.

3. The Project is Inconsistent with Berkeley's General Plan

Decisions made by ZAB and the Berkeley City Council must be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the City's General Plan. Elements of the proposed project go against the Plan's goals and policies as regards to maximizing citizen participation, maintaining open space and parks, and reducing traffic impacts on the community. The public safety and welfare have not been properly addressed.

Open Space Reduction

The new community center, which is roughly six times the size of the existing clubhouse, and new restroom will result in a marked reduction of open space, critical to the community. The increased size of the school program in the community center also would further affect open space as the program routinely sequesters section of the park grounds for their activities.

The Project would significantly change the use and feel of a relatively compact park, in an area where there is little alternative open space. Also, the City is becoming increasingly dense, making shared green space ever more important.

In the past, the lawn areas of Willard Park have been used for concerts, movies, bouncy house events, and an annual Easter egg hunt. It is unclear that sufficient open space will remain post-construction to accommodate these important community traditions.

Traffic Impacts

The current clubhouse is used for a school program involving approximately 45 children. The new community center supposedly will allow the program to serve 60 children — but it is 6 times the size of the existing structure, so this seems like an undercount². As a community center, the new building also may be used for additional community programs and events. All such increased use necessarily involves increased traffic that impacts the neighborhood. In addition to traffic congestion, the community center will increase the need for parking.

The proposed Project envisions adding a passenger loading zone on Hillegass Avenue. This addition does not ameliorate the amount of traffic or its impacts.

Noise Impacts

The new community center can handle a larger school program, and it can be rented out for parties and other events. This new and increased use will generate a substantial increase in noise levels for those living in the vicinity.

Movement of Plaza/Terrace

The new community center would allow for the expansion of the school program to include many more children. An open plaza area exists to the west of the existing clubhouse, which is utilized by the program. The proposed Project eliminates this area, and instead a terrace

² The City has not articulated why an enlarged school program is necessary. WNA is aware that public school enrollment has been on the decline in Berkeley over the past 5 years. Further, the summer school program was cancelled in 2022 and is not scheduled for 2023.

Page 4 of 4

will be located east of the community center. WNA assumes the terrace would be utilized by the children in the school program.

The new terrace area abuts Hillegass Avenue, posing a safety risk to the children that are playing there. This risk is heightened by the fact that a passenger loading zone will be added to the street near the terrace.

Movement of Public Restroom

The new restroom is located in an area of the park not visible from any of the roadways that surround the park. This impacts the ability of law enforcement to conduct visual surveillance and provide for the public safety and welfare of park users and neighbors.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

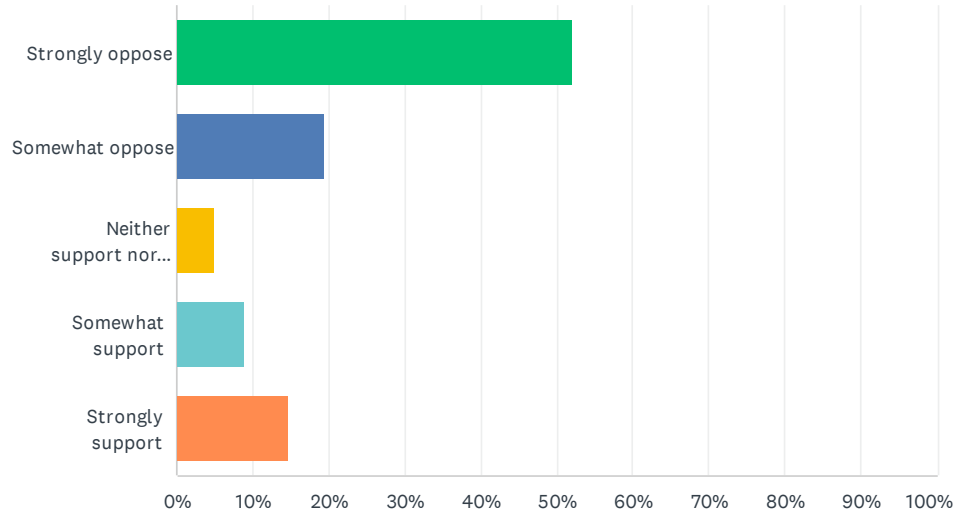


Rae Lovko
Greenfire Law, PC

EXHIBIT A

Q1 How much do you support or oppose the expansion of the Club House?

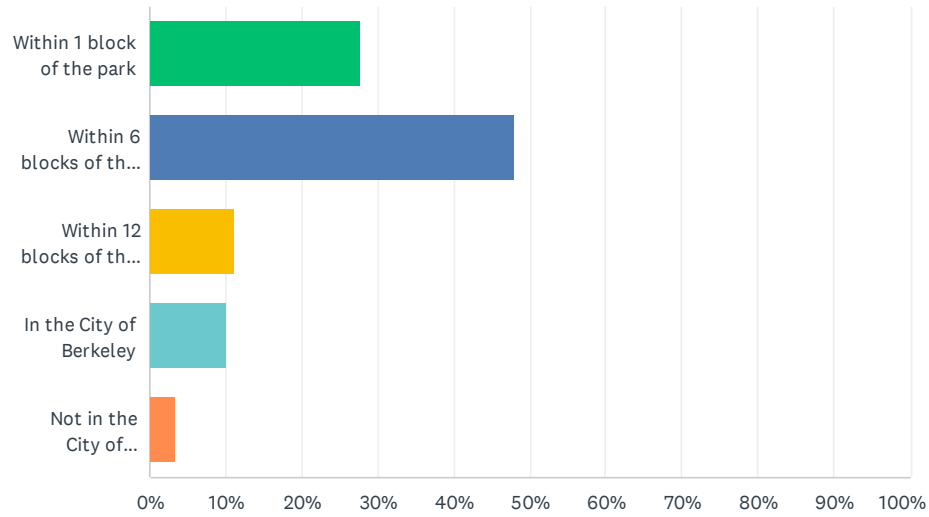
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Strongly oppose | 52.00% | 156 |
| Somewhat oppose | 19.33% | 58 |
| Neither support nor oppose | 5.00% | 15 |
| Somewhat support | 9.00% | 27 |
| Strongly support | 14.67% | 44 |
| TOTAL | | 300 |

Q2 Where to you live?

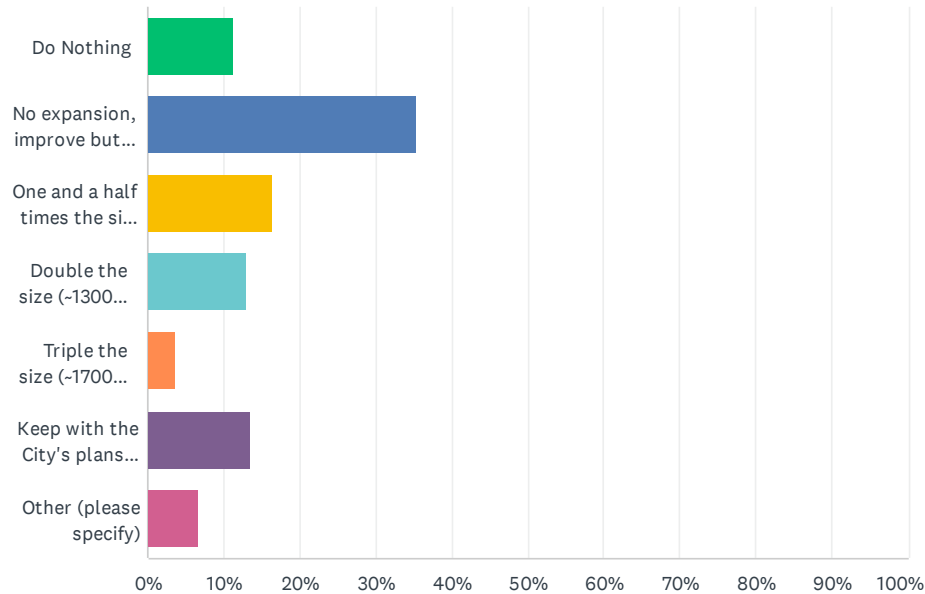
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Within 1 block of the park | 27.67% | 83 |
| Within 6 blocks of the park | 48.00% | 144 |
| Within 12 blocks of the park | 11.00% | 33 |
| In the City of Berkeley | 10.00% | 30 |
| Not in the City of Berkeley | 3.33% | 10 |
| TOTAL | | 300 |

Q3 What size Club House would you like to see?

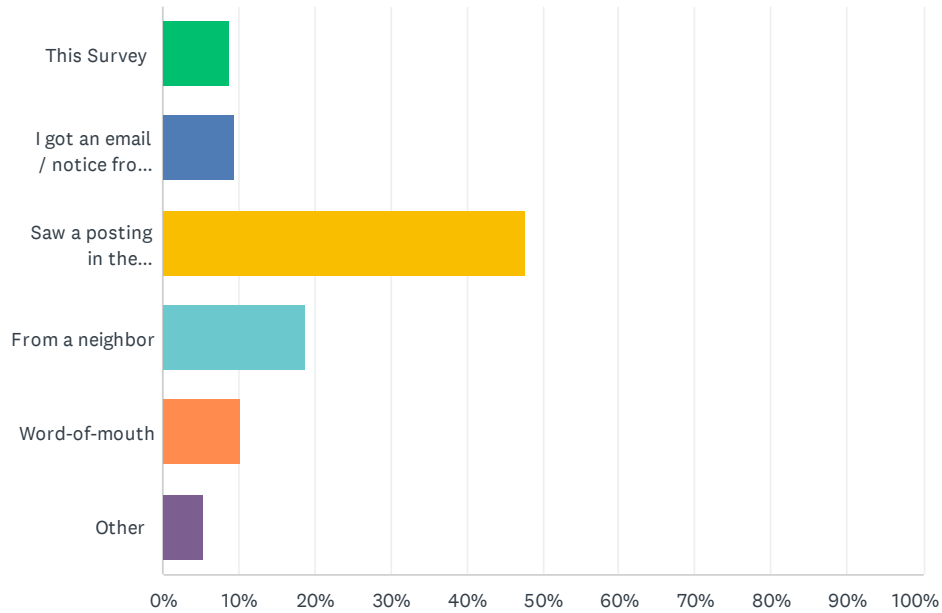
Answered: 299 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Do Nothing | 11.37% | 34 |
| No expansion, improve but keep the same size | 35.45% | 106 |
| One and a half times the size (~850 square feet) | 16.39% | 49 |
| Double the size (~1300 square feet) | 13.04% | 39 |
| Triple the size (~1700 square feet) | 3.68% | 11 |
| Keep with the City's plans (~5000 square feet) | 13.38% | 40 |
| Other (please specify) | 6.69% | 20 |
| TOTAL | | 299 |

Q4 How did you find out that this is being planned?

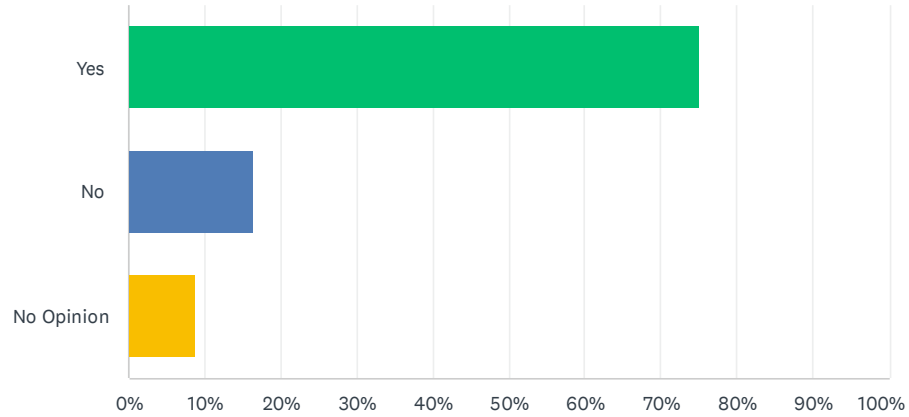
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| This Survey | 8.67% 26 |
| I got an email / notice from the City | 9.33% 28 |
| Saw a posting in the neighborhood | 47.67% 143 |
| From a neighbor | 18.67% 56 |
| Word-of-mouth | 10.33% 31 |
| Other | 5.33% 16 |
| TOTAL | 300 |

Q5 Do you support a public bathroom in the park (separate from the Club House)?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 75.00% | 225 |
| No | 16.33% | 49 |
| No Opinion | 8.67% | 26 |
| TOTAL | | 300 |

EXHIBIT B

CITY OF BERKELEY INITIATIVE ORDINANCE

| | |
|--|-----|
| <p>MEASURE L: Shall an ordinance be adopted to require voter approval of non-recreational uses of parks or open space and require acquisition of open space controlled or leased by the City if acquisition is the only means of preserving the open space?</p> | YES |
| <p>Financial Implication: Increase in landscape assessment fees; acquisition costs unknown.</p> | NO |

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE L

LET IT HEREBY BE ORDAINED that an Ordinance shall be passed which shall provide:

THE BERKELEY PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE: PROPOSAL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACE WHICH EXIST IN BERKELEY, AS WELL AS TO ACQUIRE AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IN THE CENSUS TRACTS AND NEIGHBORHOODS OF BERKELEY HAVING LESS THAN THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF OPEN SPACE RELATIVE TO POPULATION (2 ACRES PER 1,000) IDENTIFIED IN THE BERKELEY MASTER PLAN OF 1977; AND TO REQUIRE THE CITY TO SUBMIT TO A POPULAR VOTE ALL PROPOSALS TO WITHDRAW FROM RECREATIONAL USE PUBLIC PARKS OR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.

FINDINGS:

WHEREAS the Berkeley Master Plan of 1977 (hereinafter Master Plan) provides for a minimum standard of two acres of public open space per 1,000 persons and identifies specific Berkeley census tracts as having high population density and high open space demands, and attainment of the minimum standard is jeopardized by continued loss of Public open spaces:

WHEREAS the City of Berkeley is the second most densely populated city in California, undeveloped land is at a high premium in Berkeley, there are significant pressures to convert City owned or controlled open space to permanent or long-term non-park, non-open space uses and there exists a clear and present emergency in that the threatened loss of open space, parks and recreational opportunities in the neighborhoods in Berkeley, will cause irreparable damage to the health and welfare of Berkeley residents.

WHEREAS the Berkeley City Council has failed to provide and fund the Master Plan minimum standard of public parks and open space in every Berkeley neighborhood, and in particular in those census tracts having high park and open space requirements:

WHEREAS, specific procedures and directives to the Berkeley City Council are necessary to insure that the Master Plan's minimum park and open space goals are not rendered impossible through the continued loss of public open spaces:

VOTER AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURE

Section 1: That no public parks (hereinafter defined) or public open space (hereinafter defined) owned or controlled or leased by the City of Berkeley or agency thereof, shall be used for any other purpose than public parks and open space, without The Berkeley City Council first having submitted such use to the citizens for approval by a majority of registered Berkeley voters voting at the next occurring general election.

FUNDING LEVELS TO ALLOW FULL USE

Section 2(a): That wherever public parks and open space currently exist in Berkeley, such use shall continue and be funded at least to allow the maintenance of the present condition and services. (b) That all undedicated or unimproved open space owned or controlled by the City of Berkeley (including land held by the City in trust) shall be retained and funded by the Berkeley City Council to enable public recreational use of those lands. (c) That those census tracts containing less than the Master Plan provision of two acres of parks and open space per 1,000 population shall be singled out as having a high priority for funding the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

BM-30

DEFINITIONS

Section 3(a): **Public parks** shall be defined as City of Berkeley parks, public school playgrounds or lands held in trust by a public entity, which have been formally dedicated to permanent recreational use by the City of Berkeley, and funded for recreational use by City of Berkeley public funds.

Section 3(b) **Public open space** shall be defined as all City of Berkeley parks, public school playgrounds, and vacant public land, whether dedicated formally to park use or being used de facto as open space with recreational use or potential use on or after January 1, 1985.

ADOPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE

Section 4(a): If the petition accompanying this proposed ordinance is signed by the number of voters required by the Berkeley City Charter, Article XIII, Section (3) or (4) or (5), the Berkeley City Council is hereby directed to submit this ordinance forthwith to the vote of the people pursuant to the appropriate Charter Section that applies to the highest number of voter signatures certified by the City Clerk, unless the Council passes this ordinance pursuant to the Charter, Article XIII, Section (3)(a).

RETROACTIVITY

Section 5(a): Upon passage of this initiative, all actions taken on or after January 1, 1985, by the Berkeley City Council, Housing Authority, or any agency of the City of Berkeley which contravene the provisions herein shall be declared null and void.

Section 5(b): Upon passage of this initiative, all actions, even administrative, taken by the Berkeley City Council, or Housing Authority or agency of the City of Berkeley occurring after the date this initiative is certified for placement on the next occurring general election ballot, which actions are not in full conformity with this Ordinance, shall be declared null and void.

SEVERABILITY

Section 6: If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

BERKELEY CITY ATTORNEY ANALYSIS OF MEASURE L

The initiative ordinance would have the following effect:

1. Require that all existing public parks and vacant public land, either formally or informally devoted to recreational use after January 1, 1985, be retained and maintained at their present level of service. This requirement would only apply to land owned or controlled by the City of Berkeley, since the City does not have the authority to regulate land owned by other public entities such as the school district or the University of California. The Berkeley Redevelopment Agency and the Berkeley Housing Authority are independent state agencies and thus would be immune from regulation in this manner.
2. Require prior voter approval if such City of Berkeley public parks or open space are to be used for any other purpose. This measure requires the City to acquire land it does not presently own, if acquisition is the only means to retain the land as open space or public park. As of the date this analysis was prepared, several City parks are owned by others, including: sections of Ohlone Park, leased from Bay Area Rapid Transit District; six school parks owned by the Berkeley Unified School District and maintained, in part, by the City; and Douglas Park on Dwight Way which is owned by the University. The City has plans underway to acquire the remaining section of Ohlone Park.
3. Census tracts that do not meet the Master Plan open space requirements will have priority for the funding, acquisition, development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

Financial Implications

Currently park maintenance is funded by fees through the Landscape Assessment District. Increase in fees will be required to maintain additional land. Costs to acquire land owned by others is unknown at this time, but may be significant.

BM-31

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE L

Approval of this citizen's initiative ordinance will allow Berkeley Voters to directly participate in decisions to change the use of Public Parks and Open Space. Berkeley's parks and public open spaces are highly used and valued by all parts of the community. They help provide for the health, fitness, children's play, entertainment, and recreational needs of all citizens. Decisions to reduce our presently insufficient number of parks belong on the ballot where all citizens can express their opinion with their vote. This initiative ordinance requires that the voters must approve new uses for city lands held in public trust. It does not limit or prohibit any potential new uses approved by the majority of the voters. Approval of this ordinance would certify that Berkeley Census tracts that presently contain less public open space than the Master Plan standard of two acres per 1,000 residents be given priority funding in acquisition, development and maintenance of parks/recreational facilities. It will help make distribution of parks more equitable throughout Berkeley. This is a minimal standard, since Berkeley has fewer parks than state and national averages. The provisions of the Master Plan combined with the approval of Measure Y (1974) park funding, strongly suggests that the Citizens of Berkeley believe that Public Parks and Open Space need expansion. Since there is no indication that Berkeley has changed its opinion, it is all the more appropriate to require voter approval when potential development removes parks and open space called for in the Berkeley Master Plan. You can help Preserve Berkeley's parks and open space by voting YES on Measure L.

- s/Martha Nicoloff, Co-Author, Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance
- s/Clifford Fred
- s/Dorothy Bryant
- s/Carroll B. Williams, Former Berkeley School Director
- s/John G. Cecil, Chair, Preservation Initiatives Committee

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE L

The need for parks is a serious issue which should not be the subject of the scare tactics employed by the proponents of Measure L. City parks are designated in the Master Plan for recreational use. Contrary to implications made by the proponents of this measure, no one can recall any City plan—past, present, or future—to reduce the number of parks serving Berkeley's recreational needs. Open space, sometimes a vacant lot, on the other hand, is usually held by owners other than the City. They may, or may not, have plans for future use of their property. The real reason for Measure L is the Housing Authority's plan to build 12 single-family townhouses for low income families on a small portion of School District property at Savo Island (MLK, Jr. Way between Detroy and Ward). The remaining piece of land is large enough to accommodate a football field. The neighborhood will still be able to enjoy the use of this open space. Measure L does more than require a vote for new uses for City lands held in public trust. It requires the City to acquire land. But where will the money come from? Given the tremendous federal budget cuts to municipalities and the demands on the City's budget, from what other City services will the trade-off come? And given the pressure of Measure L on the City, property owners would be foolish to negotiate. If we want additional parks, someone has to pay. And since we will ultimately pay, we should know the cost before we make such an important decision.

Don't let the proponents of this measure scare you into believing that our parks will disappear. Quite honestly, they won't.

VOTE NO ON MEASURE L

- s/Wesley E. Hester, Chair, Council Committee on Revenue and Finance
- s/Arlene Irlanda, Member, Berkeley Chicano/Latino Network
- s/Maudelle Miller Shirek, Berkeley City Council
- s/Stacy Wilson, Chair, Citizens Budget Review Commission
- s/Carole K. Davis, Former Vice-Mayor

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE L

On its face as a statement of community values, Measure L seems harmless. What could be wrong with wanting additional parks? However, the difference between the outcome of Measure L and the kind of program which can come from a thoughtful parks proposal such as Measure Y (1974) is a budget—a specific amount dedicated to acquiring and maintaining parks and open space. In 1974 voters passed a park acquisition, renovation and development ordinance: Measure Y. It raised more than \$5 million. As a result, the City was able to create 9 new parks and 8 parks on school grounds. That measure was a direct result of the recognition that Berkeley was deficient in park space and was able to accomplish what it did because it included a budget.

As a community we are stretched thin in trying to fund a variety of City Services ranging from police services to sidewalk repair. New parks and additional open space cost money (if and when the City can get title to the property. In fact, this measure may well prejudice City negotiations with landowners who will use this measure in their bargaining. The proponents of Measure L are irresponsible in offering this proposal without including the means by which to finance it. They have made promises but have not provided any way of keeping them. The citizens deserve to know how the money will be obtained, and what the price tag will be.

- s/Hynetha Hewitt, Parks and Recreation Commissioner
- s/Carole Davis, Former Vice-Mayor
- s/Maudelle Shirek, Berkeley City Council
- s/Carole Lewis, Social Services Director
- s/Rich Illgen, President, Planning Commission

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE L

The opponents of Measure L have missed its major provision. Measure L prevents the City Council from using the existing public parks and open spaces for any new use without the approval of the community. If the Council wants to remove/develop existing public parks and open space, prior voter approval is required. At this time, no law prevents our elected officials from placing such decisions on the ballot. Measure L also requires that the minimal standard for parks already in existence be observed in areas that presently have less than their "fair share" of parks called for in the Berkeley Master Plan of 1977. We do not agree with the opponents financial argument.

Despite the implication of the opponent's argument, responsibility for implementing and financing the Master Plan has not shifted from Council and Staff to individual community members. It should be noted that determined citizens who believe in the importance of parks and recreational facilities in everyone's quality of life, have and will continue to assist in the search for sources of new and additional funding. Measure L ensures the community will be directly involved in decisions to re-use existing Public Parks and Open Space by placing every proposed development plan on the ballot and letting the voters decide between parks and development.

Vote YES on Measure L.

- s/Michael Winter, Executive Director, Center for Independent Living
- s/Pamela J. Ferguson
- s/Gloria A. Belsky
- s/John G. Cecil, Chair, Preservation Initiatives Committee
- s/Janet M. Maestre

CITY OF BERKELEY INITIATIVE ORDINANCE

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| M | MEASURE M: Shall an ordinance be adopted requiring voter approval for non-educational and/or non-recreational uses of Berkeley Unified School District property? | YES |
| | Financial Implications: Unknown. | NO |

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE M

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY:

FINDINGS:

WHEREAS the Berkeley City Council and Berkeley Housing Authority have attempted to acquire, develop, use or approve Berkeley Unified School District property for non-educational purposes.

WHEREAS the Berkeley Unified School District (hereinafter School District) has been given a public trust in real property to use for the educational benefit of the Citizens of Berkeley.

WHEREAS the School District has purchased and developed real property with monies received in trust and intended to be expended for the educational benefit of the citizens of Berkeley, which property, if lost to the originally intended and dedicated educational and related recreational uses, will be unavailable or irreplaceable when needed for those uses.

WHEREAS there is a potential that use or development of School District property for non-educational uses will ultimately act to the detriment of the Citizens of Berkeley and will violate the wishes of a majority of the Citizens of Berkeley regarding the use of that property.

WHEREAS these actions have been proposed and are being undertaken without the approval of the voters of Berkeley.

WHEREAS there exists a clear and present emergency in that the threatened sale or long-term lease of School District real property and buildings for non-educational or non-recreational use will cause irreparable damage to the health and welfare of Berkeley residents.

BM-34

LET IT HEREBY BE ORDAINED that an Ordinance shall be passed which shall provide for the following:

VOTER AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURE

Section 1: That should the Berkeley City Council, Housing Authority or any other agency of the City of Berkeley propose to acquire, or approve the use of, School District property (hereinafter defined) for other than educational or existing recreational purposes, and should that approval or use require the purchase, sale or long-term encumbrance (hereinafter defined) of that property, the Berkeley City Council shall first submit that specific proposal, detailing the specific use, transaction sought, and the site involved, after being approved officially by the appropriate City agency and the Berkeley City Council, to the Citizens for approval by a majority of registered Berkeley voters voting at the next occurring general election.

DEFINITIONS

Section 2(a): School District property shall be defined to include the land and buildings which have been used by the Berkeley Unified School District for educational purposes, child-care, recreation or School District support services (including maintenance) at any time since January 1980.

Section 2(b): A long-term encumbrance shall include a lease whose term is greater than five years or where options are granted such that the term may be extended beyond five years by option of the lessee. In addition, a long-term encumbrance shall include any mortgage transaction which pledges the property as security.

ADOPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE

Section 3(a): If the petition accompanying this proposed ordinance is signed by the number of voters required by the Berkeley City Charter, Article XIII, Section (3) or (4) or (5), the Berkeley City Council is hereby directed to submit this ordinance forthwith to the vote of the people pursuant to the appropriate Charter Section that applies to the highest number of voter signatures certified by the City Clerk, unless the Council passes this ordinance pursuant to the Charter, Article XIII, Section (3) (a).

RETROACTIVITY

Section 4(a): Upon passage of this initiative, all actions taken on or after January 1, 1985, by the Berkeley City Council, Housing Authority or any agency of the City of Berkeley which contravene the provisions herein shall be declared null and void.

Section 4(b): Upon passage of this initiative, all actions, even administrative, taken by the Berkeley City Council, Housing Authority or agency of the City of Berkeley occurring after the date this initiative is certified for placement on the next occurring general election ballot, which actions are not in full conformity with this Ordinance, shall be declared null and void.

SEVERABILITY

Section 5: If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

BERKELEY CITY ATTORNEY ANALYSIS OF MEASURE M

The initiative ordinance would have the following effect:

1. Require the City Council to submit to the voters for prior approval any proposal to acquire, encumber or lease for a period longer than five years, or approve the use of property owned by the Berkeley Unified School District, if the property is not intended to be devoted to educational or recreational uses. Under current law, voter approval of such a proposal would be required only if the property was to be used for specified kinds of public housing and the City had exhausted its current voter approved authority to construct such units. The Housing Authority is an independent state agency implementing statewide laws and is not subject to this ordinance. Zoning or other City land use approvals of projects proposed by other private or public persons or entities would not be subject to prior voter approval under current case law.

2. Provide that any actions taken by the City Council or the Berkeley Housing Authority or other City agency after January 1, 1985, which contravene the ordinance in the above respect, are null and void. The Berkeley Housing Authority has entered into a long-term lease with the Berkeley Unified School District

BM-35

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Nicole Una <nicoleuna@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:05 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley. Regards,

Nicole Una

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Jennifer Ruskin <jenruskin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:40 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Jennifer Ruskin

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Willard clubhouse

From: Larry Snyder <larrysnnyder22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:32 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Fwd: Willard clubhouse

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Larry Snyder** <larrysnnyder22@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 25, 2023 at 8:27 AM
Subject: Willard clubhouse
To: <mayor@cityofberkeley.info> <mayor@cityofberkeley.info>, <mhumbert@berkeleyca.gov>, <council@cityofberkeley.info>

You proposed one project and delivered something entirely different! We have many objections to the size of what you now propose. You must get further community input before going ahead!

Larry and Marian Snyder

2812 Regent St.

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Stephanie Allan <stepbad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to other obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. My son graduated from Willard a long time ago and no longer needs childcare, but, as a single mom, I well remember the struggle to find after-school care for him.

When he was at Washington Elementary, I helped plan the remodel. A key element was the makeover of the large space adjoining the school. We put in a slide, climbing structures and a basketball court, all with a mind to giving kids in the neighborhood a safe, clean, upgraded space to "hang out." It worked beyond our wildest expectations.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. I urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards, Stephanie Allan

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Nathan Francis <nathan.francis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:08 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Nathan Francis — Berkeley resident and parent of two school age children.

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Katie Aftosmis <katie.aftosmis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:49 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I am writing in support of the Willard Clubhouse redesign. Willard was the primary park for my family and our young children when we first moved to Berkeley, and our girls attended any number of city sponsored programs at Willard, from the Easter Egg Hunt to summer camps.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Katie

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Kneebone <elizabethkneebone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:47 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: Diana Hristova <hristova@gmail.com>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

My family won't be able to attend the meeting, but wanted to send our support for the proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse. The proposed remodel will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. The programming offered at the park is a critical resource (our family has benefitted from aftercare) that could be made available to more families under the proposed plan.

We urge you to support this important project. Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Elizabeth Kneebone and Diana Hristova

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: I support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Ben Finkel <finkel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 5:25 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: I support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Ben Finkel

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: PLEASE support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Pamela Hyde <pamela@hydromatic.net>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: PLEASE support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

I'd like to underline that the South East Berkeley general area has been short on community resources since the closing of the Willard pool. We've watched what's possible in terms of community building and enjoyment at Kenney, Albrier, Live Oak, King pool, West Campus swim center, and sites on UC grounds, and it's impressive! Many of us in South & East areas feel stifled of these essential public goods. We really hope the vocal minority doesn't stop the City from recognizing the majority need and voice in favor of this crucial project.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Pamela Hyde
2732 Prince St.

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Vishal Shah <shahvr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Vishal Shah

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Heather M. Fernandez <heather.fernandez@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 3:31 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Heather Mirjahangir Fernandez

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Kim-Mai Cutler <kimmaicutler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 3:02 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

My toddler goes to Willard Park every weekday to play in the tot area and she will hugely benefit from the proposed improvements to the clubhouse.

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Kim-Mai Cutler

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Delilah Raybee <delilahlah@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:04 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Delilah Raybee
2727 Russell street

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Approve OVERDUE Willard Clubhouse Remodel

From: Rana Cho <rana@ranacho.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Cc: Lori Droste <lori@loridroste.com>
Subject: Approve OVERDUE Willard Clubhouse Remodel

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustment Board Members,
As the current head of the PTA at Emerson Elementary School in Berkeley Unified, I implore you to support the Willard Clubhouse remodel. After extensive community engagement, multiple participants, including the parents we represent, the City of Berkeley is finally moving forward on a desperately needed clubhouse remodel.

Lori Droste, the City of Berkeley and the Parks and Recreation department presented an informative and engaging presentation to our PTA Association Meeting on September 21 2021, where our members weighed in on design directions and concerns. I am disappointed that almost two years have gone by since that very relevant community engagement, where our community clearly stated support for this project.

As you surely know, [hundreds of children were placed on a waitlist for childcare](#) this school year. [Childcare and education is in a crisis nationwide](#) due to the pandemic. The City of Berkeley's childcare program at Willard offers the lowest cost childcare in the whole city and is a vital resource for low-income children. Right now, the 52-year old clubhouse is in disrepair and doesn't even have an ADA bathroom. We need to do better for our community. Please remember that dozens of families have participated in this process but are unable to attend the meeting due to parental obligations. Please approve moving ahead with this important project for South Berkeley children and families.

Thank you for your service.
Rana Cho
President, Emerson Elementary PTA
Redistricting Commissioner District 7 for 2020 Census

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please fix the Willard Park Buildings

From: Willis, Lauren <lauren.willis@lls.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:33 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please fix the Willard Park Buildings

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I will not be able to attend the zoning board meeting but wanted to write to urge you to fix the Willard Park buildings. The bathrooms are a disgusting embarrassment -- how can we ask children to use these bathrooms? The playhouse building is tiny and over-full.

One reason to live in Berkeley is to be in a community where families can use public spaces together with other families, regardless of income. By allowing the public infrastructure of the city to rot, we drive affluent families to seclude themselves and their children in private clubs and childcare (or leave the city) and less affluent families to seclude themselves (and possibly under-supervised and under-stimulated children) at home. Isn't it better to create a Berkeley where all families and their children feel safe, and enjoy our parks together?

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley,

Lauren Willis
2811 Stuart Street
Berkeley, CA 94705

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Alexander Wooten <alexander.wooten@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:19 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Alex Wooten
Russell St. Berkeley Resident

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Chrissie Kazerooni <chrissiekazerooni@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Chrissie Kazerooni

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Support Willard Clubhouse Remodel

From: Heather Ball <hubvox75@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:07 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Support Willard Clubhouse Remodel

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustment Board,

I am the PTA President at Malcolm X Elementary School this year, but writing as a parent, educator, and community member in Berkeley for 20 years.

Please approve the plans for the Willard clubhouse remodel. The building has been insufficient for years. The bathrooms and community space are in dire need of upgrade. After school and day camp program staff have never had enough room in the current building to support the work they do.

We are in need of more options for after school care in Berkeley. Families at Malcolm X are scrambling for after school care for their children. Our on-site programs are understaffed and haven't been able to accept everyone. We often recommend that they sign up for the City of Berkeley programs at Willard and San Pablo park, but those are apparently at capacity as well. This remodel could allow for more families in need of after school care to send their kids to Willard park, keeping them close to their school and homes, and accessing the very reasonably priced and quality childcare programs that Berkeley should be very proud to offer.

This is a no-brainer. Plans have been hashed out with community support, most of the park remains intact, and our kids and staff get the facilities they deserve to have. Working parents are often unable to attend these meetings to voice their support, but please know that we are in full support of this project.

Thanks for your time,
Heather Ball

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Michael Piliero <michael.piliero@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:06 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Michael Piliero

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Letter in support of Willard Park Playhouse

From: Chelle Putzer <cputzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:52 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Letter in support of Willard Park Playhouse

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Unfortunately, my wife and I are unable to attend the meeting this week. We are neighbors of Willard Park and fully support the proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse. We urge you to support this important project-Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Regards,

Chelle & Lindsay Putzer
2713 Derby St

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Justin Dawe <dawe.justin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:57 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
The current facilities at Willard Park are a disgrace, and if you think a remodel is not needed then I'd encourage you to find a different line of work.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for understanding that there is never a solution that makes everyone happy, but that if Berkeley is to function sometimes you just have to do the obvious necessary thing.

Regards,
Justin Dawe
100% voting record in local elections

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Jessica Bylo <jessicabylo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:57 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
--
Jessica Bylo

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Josh Buswell-Charkow <jbuswellchar@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Josh Buswell-Charkow, Berkeley Resident
3011 Dohr Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Bridgette Lehrer <bridgettelehrer@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:20 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Bridgette Lehrer
Berkeley resident

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Catherine <mcplunk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:24 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week, but I did want to share my support for the Willard Playhouse remodel.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Mary Catherine Plunkett
Berkeley Resident
2806 Stuart St

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Sara Shnider <sara.shnider@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:39 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Sara

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: chris <chrisee.public@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley. Regards,

Chris Lee-Egan

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryn Singley <rynsingley@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:01 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Kathryn singley

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: My kid needs Willard Park

From: Vivian White <vivwhite@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: My kid needs Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I'm sorry I missed the meeting this week but I want to please ask you to keep funding the remodel of Willard Park. My kid Ace was there for 3 years afterschool when there was nowhere else that had space. As a single mom working in SF I desperately needed the aftercare. Please continue this wonderful, affordable program!

Vivian White
415-279-2932

--

Be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love, to work, to play, and to look up at the stars.
Henry Van Dyke

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Jeffery Cross <jeffery@jefferycross.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I will be unable to attend the meeting this week due to other commitments. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse sounds like a much needed addition to the park. This will no doubt serve the diverse demographics of our community, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Seems like a grossly underutilized space in its current state. Let's get this project started and polish it into the gem it deserves to be!

Even though I can not attend I'll be watching online!

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Jeffery Cross

--

Jeffery Cross
Jeffery Cross, Inc.
415-640-1457
jeffery@jefferycross.com
jefferycross.com

NOTICE: This communication is intended solely for use by its addressee and contains confidential information. If you receive this transmittal in error, please email a reply to the sender and delete the transmittal and any attachments.

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Neighbor in support of rec space at Willard Park

From: Matt Small <smaulio@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:23 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Neighbor in support of rec space at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I am a Willard neighborhood homeowner. My family lives just a block away from the park on Hillegass, we have raised our child at and around Willard Park, and we strongly support the remodel plan for the Willard Playhouse.

I believe that the new project is a substantial aesthetic and functional improvement to the park and the surrounding neighborhoods. It also meets a critical need for childcare for families in Berkeley.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Matt Small and family

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Molly Burnett <mollyburnett@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley. Regards,

Molly Burnett
2820 Regent St
Berkeley 94705

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support recreation space for kids at Willard Park

From: Caroline Massad Francis <cemfrancis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 5:00 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support recreation space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will likely be unable to attend the meeting this week -- as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, but it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. Like many others, I urge you to support this important project.

Please remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley and its future as a family-friendly city.

Regards,
Caroline Massad Francis
6029 Chabolyn Ter, Berkeley

--

Caroline Massad Francis
415.410.3631

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Kris Piliero <kristine.piliero@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 6:31 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
-Kris Piliero

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: In Support of Recreational Space for Kids at Willard Park

From: Brian Wong & Scott Hofmeister <Brian.and.Scott@levitas.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 6:43 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: In Support of Recreational Space for Kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Zoning Adjustments Board,

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed Willard Clubhouse project and to urge you to approve it. While we are unfortunately unable to attend the meeting in person, we feel it is important to voice our opinion on this matter.

The proposed remodel of the Willard Playhouse will not only improve the aesthetics of the area and protect valuable green space, but it will also have a significant positive impact on children and families across Berkeley. In particular, it will greatly benefit low-income families who rely on affordable and high-quality childcare services in our city.

As parents of children who attend or will attend Willard Middle School, we know firsthand how important it is to have access to safe and clean neighborhood spaces for our children. The Willard Clubhouse project will not only support all families in the area, but it will also contribute to the overall safety and cleanliness of the neighborhood where the middle school is located.

Approving this important project will help maintain a diverse population in our city by supporting recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options. We believe that these benefits are crucial for the health and well-being of our community as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Brian Wong and Scott Hofmeister
Woolsey Street, Berkeley

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Orli Cotel <orli.cotel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 7:15 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I live in South Berkeley and my family enjoys playing at Willard Park. Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Thanks,

Orli Cotel
2424 Dowling Place
Berkeley, CA 94705

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Willard club house

-----Original Message-----

From: Pascale Fisher <pascalefisher@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 7:19 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Willard club house

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Pascale Fisher
2373 Woolsey St
Berkeley, CA 94705

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Alyssa <sophiaalyssasimpson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 7:57 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley. Regards,

Alyssa simpson rochwerger

--

[S. Alyssa Simpson Rochwerger](#)

m. 415.235.1306

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Mollie Starr <starr.mollie@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:04 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley!
- Mollie Starr

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Colleen Kantner <clskantner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:17 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Colleen Kantner
(Elmwood resident)

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Arabelle Malinis <amalinis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:48 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, and it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Berkeley should prioritize the needs of children and their families by providing a safe, improved space for gathering and play

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Kind Regards,
Arabelle

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Jef Cunningham <crowcrag@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:56 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Jef Cunningham

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Emily Murphy <emilyhaassmurphy@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board, Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city. The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families. We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley. Regards, Emily

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Williams <billwilliamsjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:16 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Bill Williams

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Tanya Brown <tanyasbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:32 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Tanya Brown

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Amy Neuwelt Max <amy.neuwelt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:35 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Amy Max

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Kerry Birnbach <kerryhb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:41 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Finding affordable childcare is one of the biggest challenges parents face today. One of my children currently attends a City of Berkeley after school program at Live Oak Park and I'm incredibly grateful for the program.

As a main source of after school programming for south Berkeley children, willard playhouse is in desperate need of repair and renovation. All children deserve clean and updated places to play and learn.

I urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Kerry Birnbach

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: In support of rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Merrian Goggio Borgeson <merriangb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:45 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: In support of rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Sam and Merrian Borgeson
3051 Benvenue Ave

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park!!

From: Vlad Gutkovich <vgutkovich@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 10:56 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park!!

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I live at 1932 Blake Street, and have an incoming Kindergartner at Malcolm X, soon to be followed by his younger sister in a year.

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Vlad Gutkovich

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell <roselynn20@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2023 11:37 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell
South Berkeley Resident and Homeowner

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Shawn Jackson <shawnjackson77@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:28 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: David Rose <davidstuartrose@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:58 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

I recognize there are probably many places the City can deploy resources but this one seems to have a very good cost/reward ratio.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

David Rose
Former Emerson Elementary PTA President, District 8

Sent from my iPhone

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooke Groves-Anderson <brooke_grovesanderson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:59 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Brooke Groves-Anderson

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Emma Cott <emcott@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:01 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,
Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,
Emma Cott
3140 Eton Ave.

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support recreational space for kids at Willard Park!

From: Laura King <lking788@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:09 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support recreational space for kids at Willard Park!

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi folks on the Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to our community!

Best,
Laura King

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please approve the variance for Willard Clubhouse

From: Lori Droste <lori@loridroste.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:13 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please approve the variance for Willard Clubhouse

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi ZAB members,

I am writing in my personal capacity as an Emerson parent but also as the former Councilmember who helped oversee the project.

First of all, I truly believe this is the most important project for South Berkeley children in recent memory. Childcare options are very limited and parents are struggling. At Emerson, parents are on the waitlist for childcare for months. Thankfully, through Willard, there are some affordable options for parents. The PTA presidents for Emerson, John Muir, and Malcolm X all have expressed strong support for this project. So, please keep that in mind when people speak about what is in the best interest for children.

Unfortunately, the space is decrepit and is not ADA accessible. The bathrooms are unsanitary and it hasn't been remodeled in 50 years.

During the community engagement process (and yes, there was extensive outreach and input), most of the participants wanted the project to be even bigger than what was originally planned. However, the project was then further scaled down. No green space will be lost and the resulting project would be a huge benefit to the community.

Moving forward on this project will ensure that South Berkeley, and particularly its kids, will be prioritized with city funding.

If you would like to learn more, I wrote an email outlining the process:
<https://mailchi.mp/cityofberkeley/district-8-willard-park-special-newsletter>

I sent a series of emails to my list of 3,000 over the course of this project development as well.

Thank you so much for your service to our city.

--

Thanks,
Lori Droste

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

-----Original Message-----

From: Carrie Gray <grayce24@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:26 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to my parenting obligations (kids ages 9 and 11) I am unable to attend the meeting this week as will many of the parents that I know.

I'm writing in support of the proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse. It will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

I urge you to support this important project. Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for the work you do and for your dedication to Berkeley.

With gratitude,
- Carrie Gray

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Ryan L. Smith <Ryan@ryanlsmith.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:30 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

Due to parental obligations, I will be unable to attend the meeting this week as will the dozens, if not hundreds of parents who desperately need or rely on childcare in our city.

The proposed remodel of Willard Playhouse will not only be an aesthetic improvement and protect green space, it will dramatically help children across Berkeley, particularly low-income children and families.

We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

-Ryan

▪

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Mari Larangeira <mariwork2019@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:32 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Mari Larangeira PhD, CST

“Without justice there can be no love.”
— bell hooks

mariwork2019@gmail.com

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Jonathan Hankar <jonathan.hankar@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city. Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Jordan Gill <jordan.m.gill@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Regards,

Jordan Gill
Parent, Former PTA President - Willard Middle School

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support recreation space for kids at Willard Park

From: Marc Hedlund <marc@precipice.org>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support recreation space for kids at Willard Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board,

I'm writing regarding item 9, 2720 Hillegass Avenue, on ZAB's Action Agenda for your April 27th, 2023 meeting. I urge you to approve the Use Permit named in that item, #ZP2022-0095.

I live close to Willard Park and have attended several community meetings about this development. Many of the people who have opposed the work at Willard Park speak about the impacts of the project in racist terms, saying that they don't want people coming from "other parts of town" to come to "our" neighborhood. I vehemently reject this framing. We live in a city together, and the entire idea of a society is to pool resources for the benefit of all. Our area has high-resource residents who benefit from a huge number of city services and we are lucky to live where we do. It is our obligation to support the city in making Berkeley more welcoming to all and more supportive of the needs of all. Providing space for kids to play and get care should be absolutely uncontroversial and should be approved easily. I hope to see a unanimous vote in favor of this item to send a clear message to the neighborhood that Willard Park should support all Berkeley residents and visitors, and not be claimed as an extension of property rights by those who happen to live near it.

Thank you for all your work on this and other items.

Regards,
Marc Hedlund

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Stephanie Boys <stefi113@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:50 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley!

Regards,
Stephanie Boys

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Matt Boys <matt.boys@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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We urge you to support this important project and remember that Berkeley needs these types of recreational improvements, community spaces, and childcare options in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to Berkeley.

Regards,

Matt Boys
178 Hillcrest Road
Berkeley

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: anne nachtwey <yeahanne@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:15 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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--

Anne Atkinson Nachtwey

We do best those things that we know how to do skillfully and those things about which we feel passionately.

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Rob Nachtwey <robnachtwey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:34 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Regards,
Rob Nachtwey
2943 Pine Ave, Berkeley

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Kim Zylker King <kzylker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:39 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Regards,

Kim Zylker King

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

From: Patricia G Hankar <pattygmez@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Please support rec space for kids at Willard Park

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Regards,

Patricia Hankar

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