PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
Frances Albrier Community Center
2800 Park Street, Berkeley, CA

Agenda
The Commissions may discuss any items listed on the agenda, but may take action only on items identified as Action.

Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order (Chair).
2. Roll Call (Secretary).
3. Announcements (Chair).
4. Approval of Agenda (Chair).
5. Approval Minutes for May 9, 2018 * (Chair).
6. Public Comment:
7. Director’s Report
   a) Director’s Office (Scott Ferris): Parks CIP Project List; Special Events.
   b) Parks Division (Sue Ferrera): Project Updates; Special Events.
   c) Waterfront Division (Ali Endress): Project Update; Special Events.

Presentation
8. Repaving Projects at the Berkeley Marina / Waterfront: University Ave; Marina Blvd; Spinnaker Way ** (Lam).

Action
9. Send a communication to Council supporting one-time funding and a new Waterfront Master Plan, per May 8 staff presentation at Council Special Meeting * (Lee).

Discussion
10. Update on the status of the Marina Fund ** (Erickson).
11. Update on Hs Lordships Restaurant – status and next steps (Ferris).
12. Update on proposed changes to the Berkeley Municipal Code to allow parking enforcement at the Berkeley Waterfront/Marina ** (Erickson).
13. Lower Codornices Creek future maintenance (Ferris).
14. Update on State Proposition 68 – parks bonds projects (Miller).
15. Update from subcommittee on fiscal issues at the marina (Lee).
16. Update from subcommittee on urban pollinator habitat (Diehm).

Information Items
17. Recent Council Reports. *
18. Upcoming Items: Tree Donation Policy.
   * document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.
   ** document will be provided at the meeting.
ADA Disclaimer: This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB343 Disclaimer: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA.

Communications Disclaimer: Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. All communications to the Commission should be received at least 10 days before the meeting date. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the commission or committee for further information.

Commission Information: The agenda packets for the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Waterfront Commission are available for review at www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions; the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3rd Floor, during their normal business hours. If you have questions, call Commission Secretary, Roger Miller at 981-6704 at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 or by email at rml@cityofberkeley.info.

MISSION STATEMENT – PARKS AND WATERFRONT: The Parks and Waterfront Commission shall be an advisory board and shall review the policies, projects, programs, planning efforts, activities, funding, and the physical condition of parks, pools, camps, recreation centers, the Marina, and public greenery, and shall advise the City Council on these matters.

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<tr>
<th>COMMISSION MEMBERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor -</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 1 - Cathy Fogel</td>
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<td>District 2 - Claudia Kawczynska</td>
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# 2018 Commission Meeting Dates

**Name of Commission:** Parks and Waterfront Commission  
**Commission Secretary:** Roger Miller  
**Location:** Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Meeting Day and Date (2nd Wednesday per month)</th>
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<td>January</td>
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Parks and Waterfront Commission Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 7:00pm, Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St., Berkeley

MINUTES – DRAFT

Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order (Chair).
2. Roll Call (Secretary). Present: Brostrom; Diehm; Fogel; Kamen; Kawczynska; Lee; McGrath; McKay; Absent: None.
3. Announcements (Chair). T1 Council worksession (Diehm); Parks CIP Council worksession (Diehm); Live Oak Mtg (Kawczynska); Bay Festival (Kamen); CPRS Award (McKay); Ferry grants for pier rebuild; Mayor’s Taskforce on 2050 (McGrath).
4. Approval of Agenda (Chair). (M/S/C: Kawczynska/McGrath/U): Ayes: Brostrom; Diehm; Fogel; Kamen; Kawczynska; Lee; McGrath; McKay; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.
5. Approval Minutes for April 11, 2018 * (Chair). (M/S/C: McGrath/Kamen/U): Ayes: Brostrom; Diehm; Fogel; Kamen; Kawczynska; Lee; McGrath; McKay; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.
6. Public Comment: Susan Schwartz, Lower Codornices Creek Agreement; Mary Beth Steinberg, Doubletree Inn; Tony Wright, Albany Berkeley Soccer Club.
7. Director’s Report
   d) Director’s Office (Scott Ferris): Parks CIP Project List; Special Events.
   e) Parks Division (Sue Ferrera): Project Updates; Special Events.
   f) Waterfront Division (Ali Endress): Project Update; Special Events.

Discussion

8. Update on May 8 Council Worksession - Measure T1 Bi-annual report (see Item 12 below for the link to the May 8, 2018 Council Worksession on this item) ** (Ferris).
9. Update on May 8 Council Worksession - PRW Capital Improvement Projects (see Item 12 below for the link to the May 8, 2018 Council Worksession on this item) ** (Ferris).
10. Update from subcommittee on fiscal issues at the marina (Lee).
11. Update from subcommittee on urban pollinator habitat (Diehm).

Information Items

12. Recent Council Reports. *
13. Upcoming Items: Tree Donation Policy.
16. Adjournment 10pm.

* document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.
** document will be provided at the meeting.

Note: For handouts distributed at the meeting, please see the agenda packet for June 13, 2018, Minutes, at the following link online:  
http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions__Parks_and_Waterfront_Commission.aspx
(Remember to scroll to the bottom of the online page and click on the regular meeting of 06-13-2018 to view the full agenda packet).
May 7, 2018

Berkeley Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront Director Scott Ferris
Members of the Parks & Waterfront Commission
Dear Director Ferris and Commission Members:

As explained in the attached handout, presented to the Public Works Commission May 3, Codornices Creek between San Pablo and the transcontinental railroad tracks, with almost a half mile of publicly owned frontage and flanked by three heavily used sports fields, is curtailed by invasive weeds, marred by litter and dumping, and a sink for public money spent to sporadically clean up illegal camps.

Albany, Berkeley, and UC Berkeley share responsibility for the creek, which is the border between Berkeley and Albany as well as the edge of the University’s student-family housing at University Village. The failure of the current arrangement is best shown by the fact that all three agencies forgot about $450,000 set aside for the creek as part of Berkeley’s purchase of what is now the Harrison fields, skate park, and homeless shelter. The 20-year reserve for these funds ends in 2020. Without a new agreement, UC then gets the money.

For 18 years, Berkeley has repeatedly rejected opportunities to create public park along lower Codornices Creek. Thus, the Parks Department is not directly responsible. However, the Parks Department is responsible for Catalfo Field, where hundreds of young people come to enjoy sports.

Neither Catalfo Field nor Fielding Field has any trash cans. The teams’ food wrappers and cups go to a single can between the fields, close to the weed-shrouded creek. A day’s play easily leaves it overflowing, wrappers and cups on the ground (see photos). This teaches our children that creeks are ugly, unsafe, dirty places to dump garbage. Since this is a Berkeley trash “hot spot,” state requirements also are being violated.

Remedies range from providing cans to requiring teams to bring a trash bag and take their litter with them. The Albany-Berkeley Soccer League is working on ideas. Whatever solution is chosen needs to be formal, written, and coordinated with Albany. Experience shows that promises are forgotten.

Codornices Creek is our area’s only trout stream, with a small population of threatened steelhead. Many commission members deeply appreciate the value of nature in our urban area. I urge you to walk the creek (we’re happy to give you a tour), become acquainted with the complex history (many relevant documents are at www.fivcreeks.org/background), and talk with Council members and others about the critical importance of Albany, Berkeley, and UC Berkeley reaching a new and realistic agreement on maintenance of what should be an treasured oasis of nature in the city.

Sincerely,

Susan Schwartz, President, Friends of Five Creeks

Friends of Five Creeks is a partner project of 501(c)3 Berkeley Partners for Parks
Left: Trash can between Catalfo and Fielding Fields, April 8
Below: Trash can between Catalfo and Fielding Fields, May 1

cc: Berkeley City Clerk, Public Works, Council, University Village, Albany-Berkeley Girls Softball, Albany-Berkeley Soccer League

Friends of Five Creeks operates under the fiscal sponsorship of 501(c)3 Berkeley Partners for Parks
Maintenance on lower Codornices Creek (presented at Public Works Commission May 3; also for City Council)

Codornices Creek is Berkeley’s and Albany’s only trout stream. Between San Pablo and the transcontinental railroad, almost a half mile of publicly owned creek bank could provide habitat for threatened steelhead and an urban oasis where people could enjoy and learn to value nature. In the early 2000s, millions of dollars of state taxpayers’ money were spent on this project.

But the creek is on the Berkeley-Albany border and at the edge of UC Berkeley student family housing -- peripheral to all of Albany, Berkeley, and UC Berkeley. All three forgot or ignored their agreement re maintenance, along with about $450,000 set aside for Codornices between San Pablo and the tracks. This was part of what Berkeley paid UC for what is now the Gabe Catalfo fields, Harrison skate park, and Ursula Sherman Village homeless shelter.

The result has been a vicious circle. Litter, dumping, and illegal camping are now endemic, edging Berkeley’s Gilman neighborhood now booming with new businesses. Several blocks of the creek are curtailed off by uncontrolled invasive hedge bindweed and evergreen thornless blackberry. Unmowed weeds show the rest isn’t cared for. This encourages more camping and treating the place like a dump.

Groups that once came for nature education shun the place. There is no effective communication conduit providing information or a voice for neighbors or nonprofits. Two groups of citizen volunteers were alienated years ago; it would be ludicrous now to ask volunteers to do work because agencies forgot $450,000 meant to do the job. For years now, when things get really bad or neighbors complain loudly enough, the agencies go through a flurry of expensive cleanup. Then they point fingers and complain about maintenance costs.

**Friends of Five Creeks is looking for low-cost, institutionalized, sustainable solutions.** We hope that the Public Works Commission will put onto your agenda discussion of the following ways that Berkeley could contribute, as well as ideas from the staff:

- Help work with Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency to create a "creek ambassador" program paying residents of the 4th & Harrison shelter to pick up litter and report problems.
- A clear single phone number so that citizens can report problems. Berkeley’s 311 system is a prime candidate. Staff mishandle calls now. Another agency can supply a single point of contact for people seeking information or wanting to volunteer. Friends of Five Creeks will pay for and install signage.
- Trash provisions for sports-field users. There are no cans on the fields north or south of the creek. Teams’ trash overflows the single can between them. This teaches kids that creeks are still dirty places to dump garbage. UC empties this can. UC’s mission is to educate California’s leaders of tomorrow – not pick up after the kids of Berkeley and Albany.
- A U-clean box where volunteers can get materials for trash pickup, probably near the field entrances. Friends of Five Creeks will pay for and install this, and supply materials during its pilot period.
- Most important: A new agreement among the three agencies with clear responsibilities adequate maintenance standards, *and openness to and involvement of neighbors and volunteers*. One start would be an open annual discussion on creek maintenance.
Details and documentation

Relevant documents: Many documents on lower Codornices Creek are on the Friends of Five Creeks web site at www.fivecreeks.org/background/. This includes the following:

- 2000 Purchase agreement in which Berkeley bought UC land S. of Codornices Creek and W. of Fifth Street from UC Berkeley, including escrow of funds for Codornices improvements and maintenance.
- 2001 Draft restoration plan for restoration of lower Codornices Creek. (No final plan seems to have been written.)
- 2004 memorandum of understanding between Albany, Berkeley, and UC Berkeley concerning maintenance and funding for Codornices Creek.
- 2004 Environmental Impact Study for restoration of lower Codornices Creek.
- Many other plans, monitoring reports, and UC grad student reports on the reach of Codornices between San Pablo and the railroad tracks.

Challenges and possible solutions

Left: The only trash can for Fielding and Catalfo Fields overflows with trash from sports teams.

Center and right: Berkeley’s 311 and customer-service staff misdirects reports of dumping like this, in Berkeley next to the creekside trail between Sixth and Eighth.

Litter and dumping: Trash has many origins: people dumping household garbage, contractors avoiding fees, kids using the ballfields, homeless campers, people who come to get drunk or high, recyclers who break into trash cans or drag trash to the creek for sorting, neighbors getting rid of garbage, contractors avoiding fees.
Possibilities:

- **Proper instructions for 311/customerservice email.** Berkeley staff says they are not responsible for trash on the south side of the creek between 6th and 8th – the creekside trail in Berkeley next to the post office. They give out Albany’s number.

- **More trash cans for sports-field users or a requirement that teams bring bags and take their trash.** There are no cans on Catalfo or Fielding Fields. Trash from kids and youth groups overflows the single can next to the creek between the fields. Along with camps and overgrown weeds along the creek, this teaches our kids that creeks are dangerous, dirty places to dump garbage. This can is emptied by UC – whose mission is to educate the state’s leaders of tomorrow, not pick up after kids in Berkeley and Albany.

- **Frequent litter pickup.** Lowest-cost, and a clear win-win, would be trained “creek ambassadors” from Ursula Sherman Village at 4th and Harrison. BOSS is enthusiastic. Friends of Five Creeks will front initial costs. Berkeley should help arrange this.

- **Trimming vegetation for neatness and visibility.** Dumping shrinks when places look cared for. Needed: Two annual mowings, timed to eliminate tall weeds and curtains of bindweed. Berkeley should cooperate in finding the lowest cost, which may be the worked-owned company that cares for the fields or a company hired by Albany for work in natural areas. Curb dumping in the neighborhood. “Keep our neighborhood clean” signs? Working with businesses in this up-and-coming area to report for quick pickup and prosecution?

*Bindweed curtaining Codornices below Sixth, between sports fields, 2016, left, and 2018, right. This invasive vine chokes out other vegetation and hides trash and camps.*

**Vegetation maintenance:** Under current documents, UC is responsible for trimming vegetation for flood control. Responsibility for ordinary mowing and curbing invasives is unclear, missing, or divided. For years, agencies have not held the annual maintenance meetings, made annual reports, or re-supplied the creek fund required in their MOU. Experience has shown the MOU is inadequate and unworkable. The area appears uncared for; much of the creek – particularly from San Pablo to 10th and below Sixth -- is curtained by harmful invasives that smother desirable biodiversity.
Possibilities:

• For 2018, cooperate to promptly hire a licensed contractor to mow
• Clarify agency responsibilities, in writing and publicly.
• Agree on a new MOU, covering problems that experience has revealed and incorporating open records and participation and buy-in from neighboring businesses, sports field users, and nonprofits who might help with stewardship.
• Agree on maintenance standards that include ongoing review to meet new challenges.
• Provide a single point of contact for individuals and organizations seeking information or interested in nature walks or helping with stewardship. Consider how to bring back volunteers and who might lead them long term. Volunteers cannot be relied on, but they can make tremendous contributions.

Left: Camps near tracks 2007, soon after the new channel was installed. Right: Camps in the same area, 2015. Agencies repeatedly let multiple campers settle in, requiring costly evictions and cleanups later.

Camps: Because this area is next to the transcontinental railroad tracks and near the transfer station, with water available on the sports fields, would-be campers will always be a challenge. The most recent major removal was this winter, with crime-scene cleaners called in to do the work. These wasteful expenses can be avoided with consistent maintenance, patrol, and enforcement.

Possibilities:

• Trim vegetation for clear visibility, especially invasive, non-native hedge bindweed that curtains off the lower creek spring through fall.
• Frequent checking for and reporting of new camps, followed by prompt posting. The lowest-cost “eyes” would be trained “creek ambassadors” from Ursula Sherman Village (to report camps or disabled drunks, not deal with them).
• Clear, written, public agreements on responsibilities among the agencies. This has hampered action from time to time over the years. This area is a Berkeley trash “hotspot” under NPDES.
• A heavy-duty fence, such as was recently installed west of the tracks. This may not be feasible because of the RR right of way and parallel jet-fuel line.
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MEMORANDUM

Date:       June 13, 2018
To:         Mayor and Members of the Berkeley City Council
From:       Parks & Waterfront Commission
Subject:    Draft – Communication to Council regarding Staff Request for One-Time Funding

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The Parks and Waterfront Commission is writing in support of Staff’s recent request for immediate one-time funding for the Berkeley Marina, as presented at the Special Council Meeting on May 8, 2018. As you may recall, Item 3, “Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update” detailed current financial challenges (including a $500-800K structural deficit, lack of a sinking fund, and a $100M unfunded capital need), steps that have been taken so far, and recommendations for further action by Council. The Parks & Waterfront Commission supports Staff’s requests because they address urgent infrastructure needs (which will promote retaining current and attracting new tenants) and support a broader planning effort to ensure the future financial stability of the Marina.

Based on current projections, the Marina Enterprise Fund will be insolvent by 2022. The period between now and then provides a window during which the Council, Commission, and City Staff can engage with all Marina stakeholders to envision a path that is both financially and environmentally sustainable. Creating a new Master Plan will be critical in that process, and the one-time investments we are asking you to support are important steps on the path to fiscal sustainability.

The Parks & Waterfront Commission has formed a Subcommittee to further review the fiscal issues at the Marina. The larger Commission is also prepared to work closely with staff to initiate a Marina Master Plan process and ensure it is robust and visionary. The planning process should include a variety of possible scenarios and give the public a chance to weigh in and express their preferences.

We were pleased to hear at the May 8 meeting that Council is very concerned about the situation at the Marina and is considering the formation of a Task Force or Subcommittee. We hope that in the coming months and years all Councilmembers will continue to be engaged with this subject as we seek to steer the Marina toward financial stability.
PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

RECENT COUNCIL REPORTS

The following council reports are available for review at the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department administrative desk, 2180 Milvia Street, 3rd floor, or can be accessed from the City Council Website by using the following URL's:

June 12, 2018 – Regular Meeting
5. FY 2019 Tax Rate: Fund the Maintenance of Parks, City Trees and Landscaping

May 29, 2018 – Regular Meeting
   URL: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/05_May/Documents/2018-05-29_Item_09_Contract_No__10638_Amendment.aspx

10. Donation: Memorial Bench in Cesar Chavez Park in Memory of Marty Benson Downey

11. Donation: Memorial Bench in Cesar Chavez Park in Memory of Monica Selter

May 15, 2018 – Regular Meeting
3. Lease Agreement: Berkeley Art Center Association at 1275 Walnut Street
   URL: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/05_May/Documents/2018-05-15_Item_03_Lease_Agreement_Berkeley_Art.aspx

20. Contract No. 9765 Amendment: United Site Services of California, Inc. for Portable Toilet Rental and Service


34. Selected Recreation Program & Facility Rental Fee Increases for FY 2019

35. Selected Marina Fee Increases FY2019
    URL: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/05_May/Documents/2018-05-15_Item_35_Selected_Marina_Fee_Increases.aspx
A communication to the Parks and Waterfront Commissioners:

Please send this e-mail to members of the Public Works and Parks Commissions.

Jim McGrath

-------- Original Message --------
From: Phil Catalfo <philcat@well.com>
To: Jim McGrath <macmcgrath@comcast.net>
Date: June 5, 2018 at 10:51 PM
Subject: Re: Emailing - 2018PWCAgendaPacket6-7-18.pdf

Hi Jim,

Thanks for sending that to me. I apologize for taking so long to reply—we were busy with Grandparent Duty and other things. I’m sorry to say that I won’t be able to attend Thursday’s meeting of the Public Works Commission, but here’s what I have to say:

—I agree with much of what the Friends of Five Creeks (F5C) says in their memo(es) about the importance of Lower Codornices Creek and the urgent need to re-restore that portion of the creek and maintain it going forward. As I mentioned to you over the phone, I was the Manager of the Albany-Berkeley Soccer Club (ABSC) in 1993-1998, during which time we first opened Fielding Field—and during which time we also saw the El Niño-caused flooding along the creek (during the winter of 1996-97, if I recall correctly) that closed that field. I also was among those in the youth-sports community who lobbied the Berkeley City Council to create what became Gabe Catalfo Fields (although Gabe was still alive during those lobbying efforts, and I had no idea the fields would be named after him). And when F5C led the restoration work along the lower creek, it gave new life to that underappreciated stream and greatly enhanced the whole experience of anyone visiting the area, including the thousands who each year used the Fielding/Gabe’s field complex. When my wife, Michelle, and I visited the area last week (after you first called me), I was shocked at how much the creek and banks had become choked with overgrowth. Clearly the local authorities responsible for maintaining the creek need to be cajoled into living up to their responsibilities.
—For what it’s worth, I did not see much trash in the creek itself or immediately along its banks. There was some trash a little farther away from the water—closer to the trails that parallel the creek—and there was evidence of camping at various points along the creek (mostly in spots where overgrown foliage offered some concealment), although we didn’t see anyone actually camping (or leaving or entering a campsite) while we were there. The greatest collection of trash we saw was at and near the trash can at the top of the steps leading down to Fielding Field, i.e., at the north end of Fifth Street, just across the bridge that crosses the creek. (The F5C memo cites this trash can as the only one on the playing fields.)

—Where I disagree with the F5C memo is where it repeatedly makes the point that more trash cans are needed at various points around the playing fields. I disagree with that proposition because, as luck would have it, when Michelle and I were there we ran into Toney Wright, the current Executive Director of ABSC, and had a pretty extensive conversation with him about the situation, including ABSC’s efforts to deal with it and perspective on it. (As ABSC’s E.D., Toney is apparently my successor. We had not met before, and I did not know his name prior to our chance encounter, although he knew mine.) In the course of our conversation, Toney explained that ABSC used to have trash cans located around the fields, but that the trash problem was actually worse when that was the case, because people scavenged through the trash cans looking for edible items—and left trash strewn all around the area after they had found something to eat, consumed it, then ingested drugs that left them more or less incapacitated. So he had those trash cans removed. Since then, he said, he has made sure that teams and spectators remove their trash whenever they come to the field—and has hired people to visit the fields on a regular basis (at the end of every in-season weekend, if I understood him correctly) to pick up and remove any trash that was left behind, blown across the field, etc.

—After talking with Toney, I also disagree with the memo’s language that “kids using the ballfields” are among the “many origins” of the trash. ABSC is perfectly capable of requiring coaches, players, parents, and other spectators to pack their trash out, and seems to be doing a good job of making sure they do that. (Of course, there are other sports communities that use the pitches on Gabe's Fields, including adult leagues, but I have to think they’re equally capable of requiring their members to clean up after themselves.)

—ABSC has also spent a considerable amount of money to clear vegetation in a patch of land on the north bank of the creek (between the creek and the fence separating the west pitch of Fielding Field from the creek), just east of the railroad tracks. From what I can tell (including information in the F5C memo), this is not ABSC’s responsibility, but the club undertook this on its own as a first step toward possibly creating an inviting space where people could relax and enjoy the creek. Given the state of the creek overall, this is a mere drop in the bucket, but it does, to my mind, demonstrate that the local youth-soccer community does value the creek and the area around it and wants to see it cleaned up and maintained for the many benefits it could provide.

--Toney Wright said several times that he (that is, ABSC) wants to partner with F5C and other constituent groups/agencies to solve the problems surrounding the
creek. I know from my own experience that ABSC is a large, energetic, community-minded organization, and can bring volunteer and other resources to bear, so I would hope that such a partnership is in the offing.

—As the F5C memoes indicate, homeless encampments along the creek and other unwelcome activity in the area seem to be a primary driver in the trash problem. And the homelessness crisis is obviously a larger problem than the sports-field users can solve (in their capacities as sports-field users, that is). I don’t know what the short-term answer is there; but I recall that during my time on the Parks & Waterfront Commission we heard a fair bit of public comment and staff reporting on encampments at various city parks, and how when an encampment would be ousted from one location, it would relocate to another park. This is a situation whose solution has to come from higher up in the city’s organizational chart.

—However, I do think that the F5C memo is spot-on in calling for the parties to the original MOU regarding the creek to a) revisit their standing agreements, and b) live up to their responsibilities regarding the creek. Perhaps the most productive thing that the PWC can do is to make a recommendation to Council to revisit the MOU and communicate with the University (and the City of Albany) to relaunch the cooperative relationship regarding the creek and the surrounding sports fields, and explore other implications and possibilities of the unique physical conditions and inter-community relationships.

I’m still available to go walk the creek with you (and Toney, and Susan Schwartz, and any other interested parties), if you think my presence will be of use. However, even if I’m not involved, I would hope that representatives of the different constituencies and relevant agencies can get together at the creek soon to achieve a consensus about its current condition and begin the process of improving what is a rare and priceless natural resource in our back yard.

Kind regards,

Phil

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On Jun 1, 2018, at 5:41 PM, James McGrath <macmegrath@comcast.net> wrote:

Public Works Commission meeting is on the 7th. Let me know your thoughts.

------- Original Message -------
From: "Lopes, Bernadette" <
Dear Public Works Commissioners:

Please see attached Public Works Commission Agenda Packet for June 7, 2018.

Thank you!

Note: In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act's Open Meetings for Local Legislative Bodies, this email is not to be employed to "develop a collective concurrence by a majority of the members of the legislative body as to action to be taken on an item", or to enter into "substantive discussions which advance or clarify a member's understanding of an issue, or facilitate an agreement or compromise amongst members, or advance the ultimate resolution of an issue" regarding any agenda item.

<2018PWCAgendaPacket6-7-18.pdf>