



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

To: Public Works Commission

Date: April 8, 2015

Authorized By: Brad Underwood, Public Works Director

By: Sheila Canzian, Director of Parks and Recreation

Subject: Central Park Master Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION

Review the three conceptual options for Central Park, receive public comments and provide comments relative to the connections and interface between Central Park and the surrounding context.

BACKGROUND

Central Park was once one of the large estates which dominated the countryside around San Mateo. It passed through several hands until Captain William Kohl's purchase of the land in the early 1880s. Kohl's son, Frederick, occupied the estate for a number of years, but after he left in 1914, the family leased the property to the City of San Mateo for use as an experimental Junior College. After Frederick Kohl died in 1921, the City purchased the land with municipal bonds for use as a public park.

With the 1922 purchase of the 16.3-acre Kohl estate, the city's first municipal park, Central Park, was created. Although San Mateo is home to over 30 parks, Central park is known as its signature park due to its history, location, size, and variety of amenities. It contains a number of historic elements from the original Kohl estate, including a wrought iron fence, a pumphouse and an imported cast-iron dog statue. The alignment of the main pathway system throughout most of the park remains nearly intact from its estate days. Its location, adjacent to both downtown San Mateo and residential neighborhoods, creates a unique setting that makes it both a functional and symbolic link, ideal for use as both a special event venue as well as a place for family outings.

Today, the main features of the 16 acre community park include:

1. A baseball field (Fitzgerald Field) with grand stands and night lighting.
2. A 122 space, partially subterranean parking garage (which serves both park and downtown users) and is accessed from 5th Avenue. Six lighted tennis courts sit on the roof of the garage.
3. A one acre, fully fenced Japanese Garden built in 1966 as a token of friendship between San Mateo and its sister city of Toyonaka, Japan.
4. A 5700 sq ft recreation center originally built in 1967 and modified in 1981. It is currently leased to a private organization and used primarily as a senior center.
5. A children's playground that was partially renovated in 1994 and a children's miniature train that is operated by a private lessee.
6. A 42 table picnic grove with barbecues.
7. The Kohl Pumphouse, greenhouses and surrounding gardens which is leased to and maintained by the San Mateo Arboretum Society.
8. A Rose Garden maintained by the San Mateo Arboretum Society.
9. Passive landscaping and turfing areas, including the Great Lawn in the center of the park, with meandering pathways along with many large specimen trees.
10. A variety of support buildings including two restrooms and an office/ceramic studio.

The current adopted park master plan dates from 1982 and is no longer adequate to address the park's current and future needs. In 2004, teams of design professionals, including architects, landscape architects and planners joined together in a one-day design charrette to redefine the Fifth Avenue frontage of Central Park. The goal of the charrette was to create design concepts to improve the visual image and sense of the park. As a result some landscape and traffic flow improvements were made to the 5th Avenue entrance; however, no further improvements have taken place.

Central Park holds a special value to the community due to its unique mix of amenities and historic features that supports multiple recreational activities, community gatherings and provides linkage to downtown in support of downtown vitality and economic development. As such, the Central Park Master Plan update includes significant community outreach and a community visioning process.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In March, 2014, the Parks and Recreation Department began phase one of the Central Park Master Plan update. Working with a consultant team from RRM Design Group, staff facilitated one large community workshop, four focus groups, several stakeholder meetings and discussions on San Mateo Town Hall to gather feedback on the vision for Central Park. The team focused participants on developing Objectives and Planning Concepts for the update of the Master Plan. Staff and the consultants summarized all the public feedback and presented some initial Objectives and Planning Concepts for review by the City Council and Park and Recreation Commission at a joint study session in June, 2014. The City Council and Park and Recreation

Commission provided comments and agreed to the following 7 Objectives and 11 Planning Concepts:

Park Planning Objectives:

- Maintain and enhance open space
- Preserve and enhance the historic character of the Park
- Create a more open “park-like” feel along 5th Avenue
- Strengthen the physical and visual connection between the park and downtown
- Provide a variety of passive and active uses
- Enhance bike and pedestrian access
- Provide uses and space for multiple generations and demographics

Park Planning Concepts:

- Incorporate art and educational exhibits into spaces and facilities
- Create plaza/gathering space near 5th Avenue
- Increase/add performance areas (e.g., movies, dance performances)
- Enlarge and relocate Central Recreation Center within the park
- Make 5th Ave./S. San Mateo Drive area pedestrian friendly/more open
- Improve gateways to park
- Move bleachers (rotate field)
- Relocate Tennis Courts away from 5th Avenue (potentially to alternative site)
- Increase parking (below grade)
- Distribute parking (less central)
- Expand park (land acquisition)

The Department began phase two, the initial design phase of the Master Plan update, with these Objectives and Planning Concepts as a guide. The RRM Design Group used these Objectives and Concepts to develop their three initial, conceptual designs. The team has been gathering feedback on these three initial designs since January, 2015. This feedback, including comments from the Planning Commission and the Public Works Commission will be presented to the City Council and Park and Recreation Commission at an upcoming joint study session.

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT PLANS

General Description

The three conceptual plans prepared as alternative schemes, address and analyze the 7 Objectives and 11 Planning Concepts that were reviewed by the City Council and Park and Recreation Commission. The plans share common characteristics that are foundational to the Master Plan, as well as distinctions to be discussed by the community, commissions, and Council. There are several existing park features including the Japanese Garden, Kohl Pump House, Rose Garden and 9th Avenue entry corridor, Central Concert/Event, and the historic Kohl fence on El Camino that will remain in the park under all scenarios. Further, the majority of the urban forest within the park will be preserved (individual, or small groups of trees may be subject to impacts). The

balance of the park property is the subject of the Alternative Concept Plan design process. Park land expansion was studied, but determined to be infeasible for the scope of this master plan.

Common Features

The following features and concepts are common to each of the three alternatives.

- The number of parking spaces in the park will increase, and a new below-grade parking structure (multi-level) will be located near 5th Avenue
- Diagonal parking is shown on Laurel Avenue
- Plaza at the end of S. San Mateo Drive (size of space varies)
- A new children's play area will be constructed at the same location of the current playground
- A train-ride is included in all plans
- The tennis courts are relocated to other City parks
- New restrooms (2 or 3)
- Controlled vehicle access and concert lawn drop-off area (from Laurel)
- Undergrounding existing overhead utilities
- The streetscape on 5th Avenue is proposed to be enhanced with wider sidewalk and new trees
- Concept allows for continued use of temporary stage or permanent stage at event lawn
- Proposed public art and historical interpretation features and exhibits

Alternative Concept Plans

The following descriptions focus on the unique characteristics and features of the three alternative plans.

Option #1- Community Center focus

This plan features a new, larger community recreation center located at the edge of the park on 5th Ave. At a schematic level, the new 2-story building is shown at approximately 20,000 square feet to accommodate a range of uses and facilities. The space currently occupied by the Recreation Center would be converted to a new group picnic area and shade structures and community space that is closer to the parking structure. The current picnic ground site would accommodate much needed ADA parking for the playground area, and a vehicle access route to the back of the Kohl Pump House, removing the need for cars and service vehicles to access the park through the 5th Avenue entry, thereby reducing conflicts with pedestrians. The building containing the pottery studio, landscape architect's office and restrooms would be removed to make way for the new recreation center building.

Additional features, details and elements in this plan include:

- A fenced dog park on Laurel Ave
- Remove outfield fence- opening outfield grass to multi-use and easier community access
- Reduced and remodeled ball field bleachers (repurpose space for new uses)
- New park gateway signage
- New path (inside Kohl fence) starts at El Camino & 5th
- Picnic area added between concert lawn and play area

Option #2 – Enhanced Open Space

This plan focuses on several objectives including maintaining and enhancing open space, creating a more open, park-like feel along 5th Avenue, and strengthening the connection between the park and downtown. A large plaza is featured at the terminus of S. San Mateo Drive, at ground-level, above a new parking structure. The pottery studio building is proposed to be remodeled for community arts space. The old restroom is removed and replaced. The ball field bleachers are removed to open the view into the park, and replaced with smaller scale bleachers. The picnic area remains in the current location. This plan also addresses the concept of increasing the space available for community gathering and performance by expanding the event lawn into the area currently occupied by the Recreation Center. Those programs and facilities contained in the current Recreation Center are proposed to be relocated.

Additional features, details and elements in this plan include:

- Dog park remains in ball field
- Expanded train ride
- Picnic area added to playground zone
- Plaza accommodates tables and benches for everyday use as well as events

Option #3- Community Gathering

This plan is referred to as the Community Gathering option because it focuses on the creation of spaces that are intended to be flexible for many activities and events, to be enjoyed every day by the broader community. Existing facilities such as the Recreation Center, tennis courts, and the ball field are relocated to other City parks to facilitate the creation of a large civic plaza, Central picnic/event pavilion, and Community green or Great Lawn. These areas include open-use areas, tables, benches, shade structures and new paths to emphasize increased space for all types of groups and demographics, as well as year –round and non-programmed informal and pedestrian access. In this plan, the park edge along 5th Avenue is completely open and transparent, creating a stronger visual and physical connection to the downtown.

Additional features, details and elements in this plan include:

- Fenced dog park on Laurel Ave
- Community use room/building at edge of plaza
- New gateway plaza entry at 5th and El Camino
- ADA parking for the playground area, and a vehicle access route to the back of the Kohl Pump House
- New Picnic areas around Great Lawn
- Picnic area added to playground zone
- Plaza accommodates tables, benches and arbor for everyday use as well as events
- Expanded train ride

COMMISSION REVIEW AND INPUT

Staff and the design team will be at the Public Worsk Commission study session meeting to present the design options to the Commission and to answer questions. The review of the

Central Park Master Plan by the Public Works Commission is expected to be focused on the project relative to the connections and interfaces between Central Park and the surrounding context, as well as, any implementation items which may come before the Public Works Commission at a future date such as pedestrian and vehicular connections to the park. Public Works Commission comments will be forwarded for consideration by the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council at a future joint study session (see Next Steps section below).

The final preferred master plan will not likely be chosen from any of these three initial conceptual drawings; but rather include desirable features from each of these plans, as well as, reflect the continued public input.

At this time, staff is seeking Public Works Commission input on the following questions:

Physical and Visual Connections to/from Central Park. The changes in Central Park may alter physical and visual connections to/from the Park including the following connection points. Consider connections from:

- San Mateo Drive,
- 5th Avenue (at Laurel Ave),
- 6th Avenue (at Laurel Ave),
- Along El Camino Real (northbound and southbound), and
- At the 5th Avenue and El Camino Real (gateway to Downtown).

Given the three Options, what are the Public Works Commission's thoughts on the physical and visual connections to and from the Park?

Parking. The current partially subterranean garage serves both park visitors as well as downtown visitors. In 2014, the City Council reviewed and approved a Downtown Parking Management Plan that includes a recommendation to identify location(s) for additional parking in the downtown area. The update of the Central Park Master Plan presents an opportunity to consider providing replacement parking as well as parking in addition to the current inventory.

Given the three Options, what are the Public Works Commission's thoughts on the proposed parking opportunities?

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b) (3), this review and comment is not a project subject to CEQA in that it can be seen with certainty that the Public Works Commission is providing comments only. An environmental document, consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, shall be prepared and made available for public review at a future date as part of the Central Park Master Plan update process.

NOTICE PROVIDED AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Notices were published in the Examiner newspaper 10 days before the meeting and were sent to the following parties:

- Property owners, residential tenants and business tenants within 1,000 feet of the project site;
- The City's "900 List" which contains nearly 100 Homeowner Associations, Neighborhood Associations, local utilities, media, and other organizations interested in citywide planning projects.
- The Parks and Recreation Department email and mailing list for community members interested in the Central Park Master Plan updates.

In addition, an email message was sent on San Mateo Town Hall, the item was posted on the Central Park Master Plan Facebook page and posters were placed in Central Park.

Public comments received prior to printing of this staff report are included in Attachment 2. Comments received following printing will be provided to the Commission on the evening of the study session at their desk.

NEXT STEPS

Following this meeting, comments from the Planning Commission and Public Works Commission will be forwarded to the City Council and Park and Recreation Commission for their consideration at a future, as yet unscheduled, study session on the three Alternative Concept Plans.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Alternative Concept Plans

Attachment 2: Public Comments

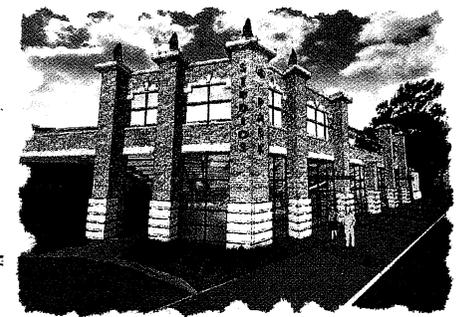
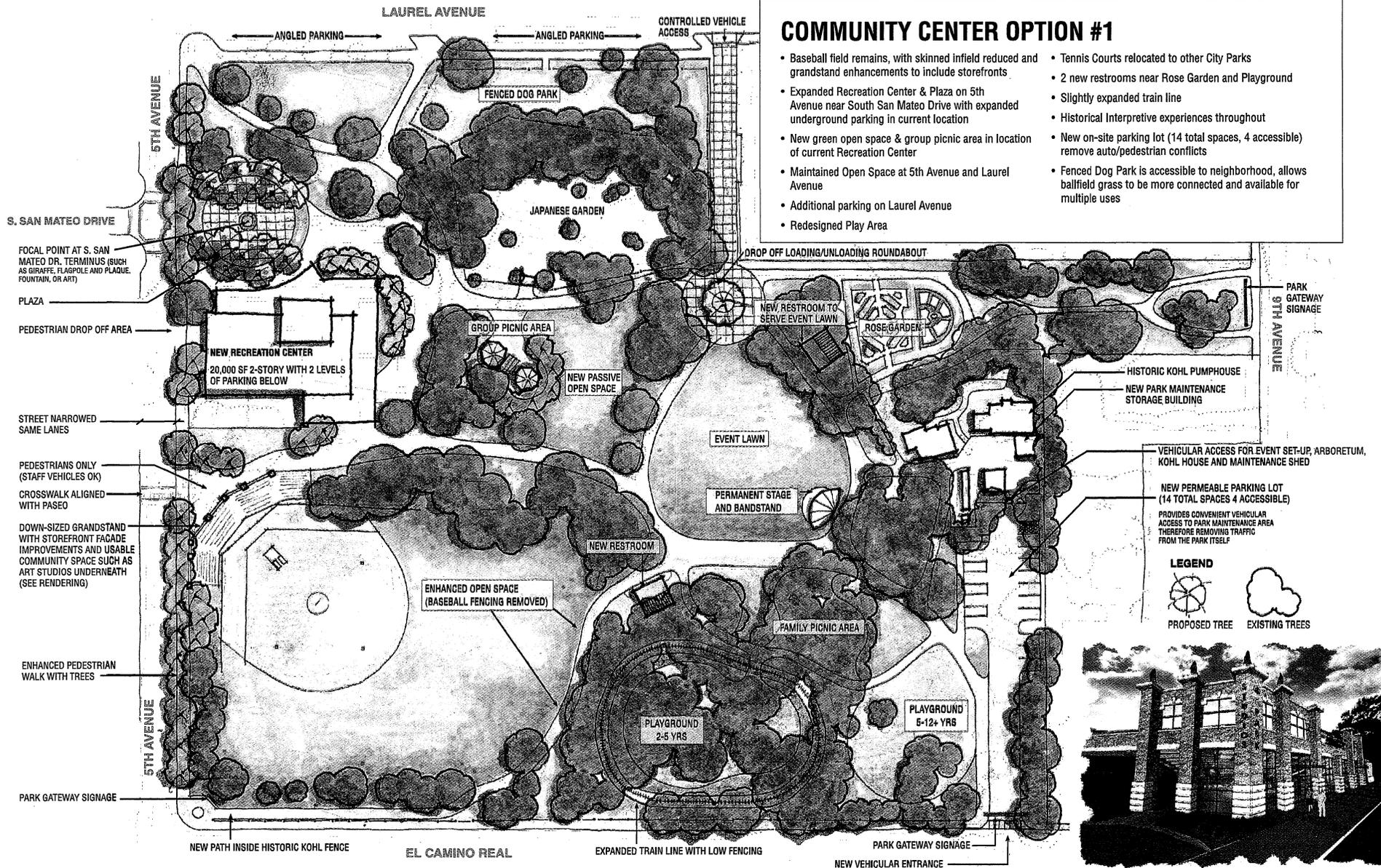
STAFF CONTACT	Sheila Canzian, Director of Parks and Recreation
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	Abby Veesser, Senior Management Analyst
	avesser@cityofsanmateo.org
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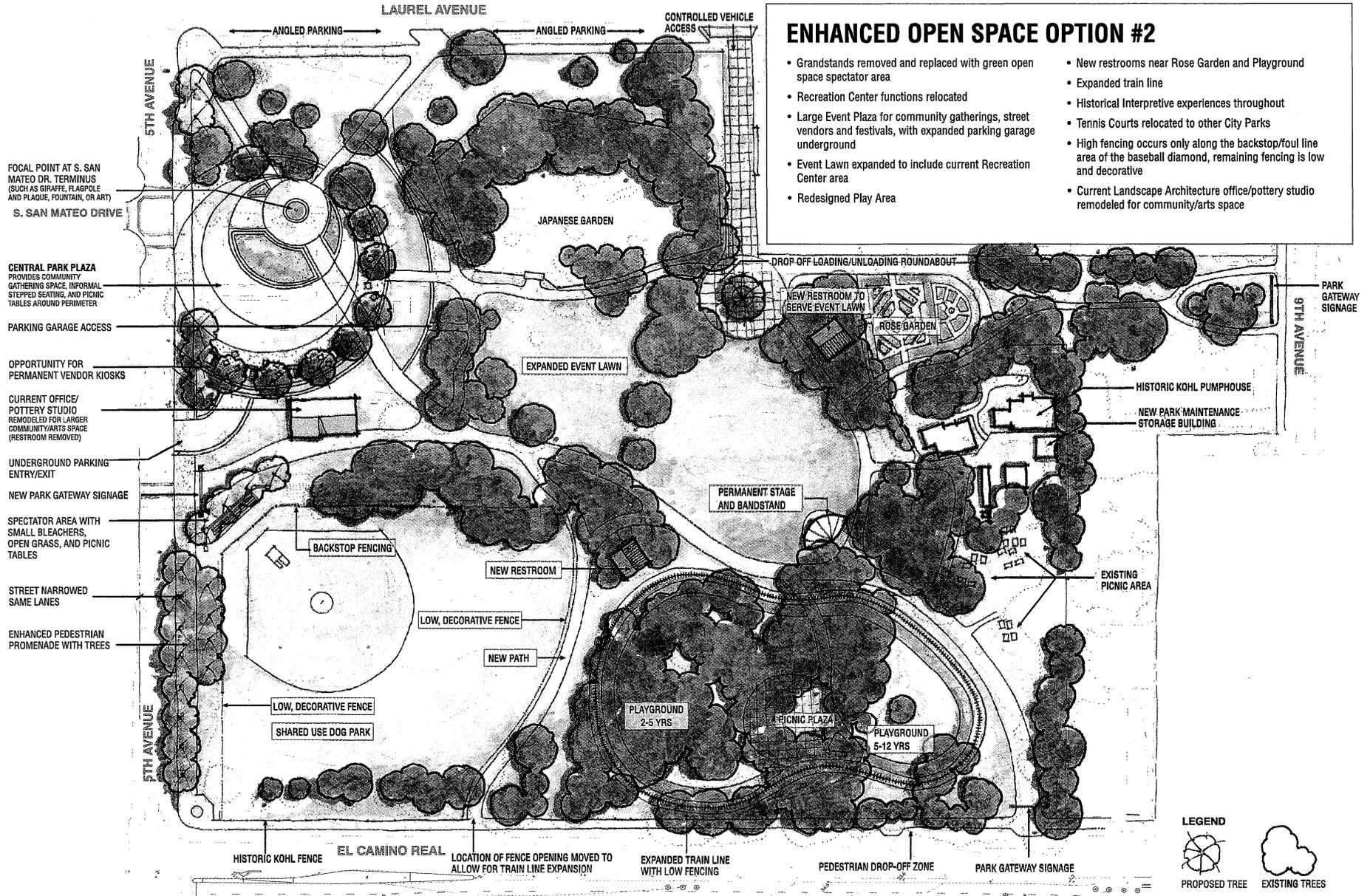
CC (AR and attachments (hardcopy) via USPS First Class Mail)

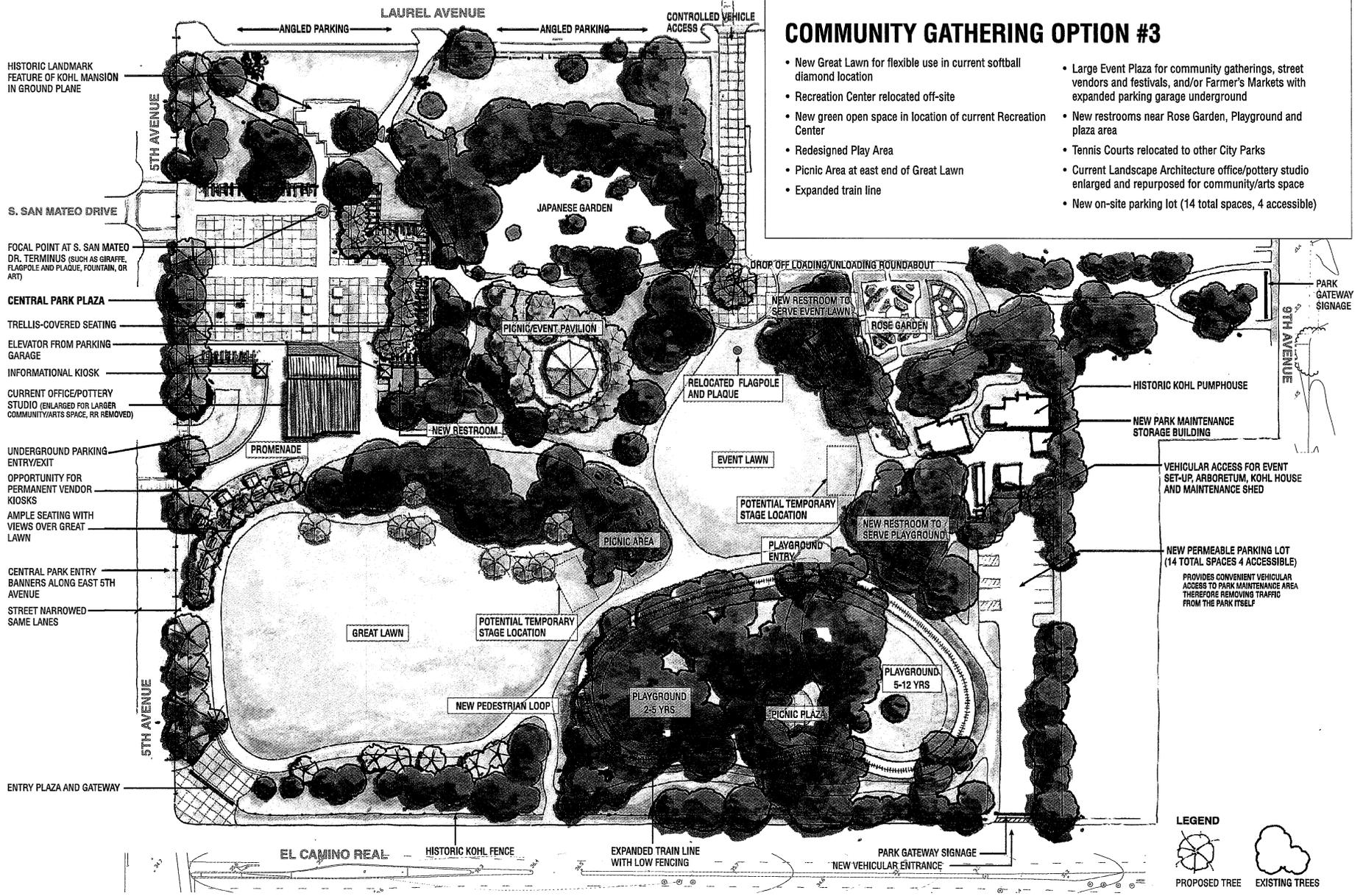
Division Managers

Sheila Canzian, Director of Parks and Recreation
Abby Veeseer, Senior Management Analyst
Gary Heap, Engineering Manager
Kenneth Chin, Project Manager II
Gabrielle Whelan, Assistant City Attorney

CC (Website link to AR and attachments via Email)
Interested Parties (if email address was provided)







Attachment 2

From: Anne Goulding
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Central Park
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 1:19:20 PM

What is wrong with Central Park? Why do we need to spend thousands of dollars on an upgrade??? I think it is a lovely spot as it is. The rose garden, Japanese garden and the beautiful oak trees. Maybe a few more picnic benches & small upgrade to the children's area and baseball area.

It seems to me the downtown is always trying to figure out ways of spending money. The empty lots at El Camino need something--maybe even more parking. It is not fun to go down town to shop or dine.--

Anne Goulding

From: CHRISTINE Y Stiles
To: Maureen Freschet; John "Jack" Matthews; David Lim; Joe Goethals; Rick Bonilla; Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Cc: City Mgr
Subject: Central Park Tennis Courts PETITION UPDATE
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 6:04:13 PM

Dear City Council and Parks & Rec Dept:

This is an update to my message of March 8. I am not sure if the individual(s) who posted the petition to Save the Central Park tennis courts plan to send you all of the comments and the online signatures.

As I noted a few days ago, the petition can be found online at:

<https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keep-our-tennis-courts-in-sanmateo-central-park>

On the evening of March 8 when I wrote to you re: the petition, there were 167 online signatures. **Just a few days later on March 11 as of approximately 5:30pm I see it says there are 300 signatures.**

Please read additional samples of comments below (you will find more comments at the above link). Each bullet point is from a different signer. At the link above, you can find names associated with each comment.

Currently the courts are in a relatively safe place for night time play, on the outside edge of the park and with lights make this very visible to the many people who visit Downtown San Mateo in the evening. **If the tennis courts were moved to the inside of the park it would not be as safe/visible to play in the evenings, a major concern. Also, the cost of moving the courts has to be significant, aren't there better uses for this money?**

Christine Stiles

Sample comments from the online petition:

Tennis builds community and promotes fitness! We already have a shortage of good tennis courts with lights in San Mateo - the courts at Beresford have huge cracks and half the lights don't work. Maintain our parks and keep tennis alive in San Mateo! It's a fantastic family and lifetime sport!

- As a tennis player and would love to see San Mateo revitalize the courts NOT take them away
-

• So many people use those courts. It is a great recreation. The city of San Mateo would be crazy to let go of those courts.

- I love these tennis courts!!!
- Really great parks need tennis courts. This park is large enough to

These courts are a great San Mateo resource!

- there are so few public courts in this town!
- San Mateo has relatively few courts outside of the high schools. Court time will be very hard to come by if the courts disappear.

- I play a lot of tennis and I am a San Mateo homeowner. We need first-class tennis courts in San Mateo!

- I am signing because it is very difficult to find courts in San Mateo. Having these courts downtown is a tremendous asset. have room for them. Please don't take the courts away!

I believe that tennis should be available for the general public.

- Please don't let the courts disappear from the park.

- The courts are an important part of the city's rec facilities and they should be refurbished, not removed.

- We need them, they are heritage courts, been there forever

- I play at these courts regularly and they are always well used! Parents can drop off kids to lessons and walk

to downtown errands; They are walkable and bikable from many neighborhoods and transit, and they are always well used. Do not remove them from Central Park!

- Please keep the SM Central Park tennis courts where they are!
- Can't afford to shut down SM courts, there are too few as it is.

Will help community, kids, family fitness.

- My children and I play tennis on these courts!
- I use the courts at Central Park

I play at these courts ALL the time. Would be sad to see them go. By far the most accessible courts.

- I love these courts.
- my kids use the courts
- The tennis courts are constantly in use and good for the community!
- I learned how to play tennis at Central Park as a kid. It is a sport that people can play their whole life. Please keep the tennis courts for those who cannot afford to join tennis clubs.

- The tennis courts are used and loved by the residents of San Mateo and should remain in Central Park.

- I use these courts, as do MANY others including children getting lessons, and exercise. The tennis courts are an invaluable part of Central Park. I find it ridiculous that taking the courts away is even being considered.

- I am employed in San Mateo and I use the Central Park tennis courts regularly after work! I have also played in USTA Leagues that held matches on these courts for many years...with over a thousand players participating in these leagues. I see how often they are used and what a tremendous asset they are to this neighborhood. The tennis courts continue to provide an active exercise option for community members of all ages. Please consider keeping this valuable, long-time asset within Central Park for families and neighbors to enjoy!

From: CHRISTINE Y Stiles

To: Maureen Freschet; John "Jack" Matthews; David Lim; Joe Goethals; Rick Bonilla; Parks and Recreation Mailbox

Cc: City Mgr

Subject: Save the tennis courts....over 500 have signed the online petition

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015 10:08:00 PM

Dear City Council and Park & Rec -

For the City files/record, I think it is important for you to have the update as to how many individuals "change.org" shows have signed the online petition to save the Central Park tennis courts as of Saturday, March 14 approximately 8:00pm. Also important to understand the rapid pace signatures have been added online. I did not start, nor am I maintaining this petition, but I have been observing it online.

The online petition shows 525 supporters as of 8:00pm March 14....tracking this:

March 8 evening, my email to you: 167 supporters per "change.org"

March 11 early evening: 300 supporters per "change.org"

March 14, approx. 8:00pm, 525 supporters who are pleading you KEEP THE

TENNIS COURTS per "change.org"

You understand so well that it is tough supporting a household in the Bay Area, and many people must work very long hours (some multiple jobs), have long commutes that can be stressful and complicated, are juggling many work related/personal and family/friend obligations, while many also volunteer (like each of you) in different and significant ways in their community. For most of us, attending City meetings is difficult to impossible. Signing an online petition (a few paragraphs to read on one screen, and then one quick small input, done in two minutes or less) is an easy and quick form of communication with the City; kudos to those citizens who made this petition available for us to sign online.

I hope you will choose to assure the public very soon that you hear their pleas and will keep the tennis courts where they are in Central Park. Whether your plan is implemented this month, next year, or 2-3 years from now, there are so many citizens who do not want the tennis courts moved out of Central Park. Also, based on all the input received, hoping you can take action to ensure both the Central Park and Beresford courts are maintained (need to be resurfaced and please ensure well lit at night).

Christine Stiles

SAMPLE of comments I see online at the change.org link (in addition to the comments I found online that I sent to you earlier). You can find names attached to the comments at this link: <https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keepour-tennis-courts-in-san-mateo-central-park> Again, each bullet point below has a different name associated to it. I suspect you too will recognize many of the names when you visit the link.

- San Mateo has precious little for our citizens to "DO". The tennis courts provide one of the few opportunities for people of all ages to participate in an activity in a centralized location. We need to keep this commodity within Central Park so that we are able to offer more than restaurants with the occasional shop thrown in. We need to consider that the loss of these tennis courts would deprive everyone of one of the few opportunities that can be enjoyed by young and old, skilled and beginner - not only separately but together. Don't force everyone away from a central location and in to their cars to enjoy something that should be right near home.

Our Central Park currently offers green open space, children's activities, picnic areas, the Japanese Tea Garden, houses the horticultural society and two opportunities of more organized sport - the baseball field and the tennis courts. The variety of these different offerings is what help to make the park so great for everyone. Losing any of these would be a detriment to the park. The argument to move the tennis courts to an undetermined alternate location is poor planning not forward thinking.

The community obviously wants to keep these tennis courts which have become important to many San Mateo residents. This is similar to our fight to keep the Ice Rink at Bridgepointe. At a time when land is scarce, the city should be fighting to keep every single recreational benefit for it's community.

- Tennis builds community and promotes fitness! We already have a shortage of good tennis courts with lights in San Mateo - the courts at Beresford have huge cracks and half the lights don't work. Maintain our parks and keep

- I love tennis, my kids love tennis, my dad loves tennis so please add some tennis courts on the new Central Park plan. A tennis wall will be good also, for

people wanted to just hit around all my themselves and its a good training system also. Thank you

- I love the park and I love the courts. They bring energy to downtown.
- I would like the tennis courts to remain open
- These courts are well used by our community! There is no reason to take them down.

• City of San Mateo doe not have enough tennis courts when school courts are not available. Foster City has many more courts per capita.

• With the big concerns about obesity in American children, WHY IN THE WORLD are you considering taking away a physical opportunity? Put the money into resurfacing the tennis courts not eliminating them!!!

- I play a lot of tennis along with my kid and friends at Central Park courts.
 - I think these courts are a community treasure and I have used them a lot.
- Would love others to have the same opportunity.

• We need those tennis courts. Please keep recreational choices for all of us!

• I want to keep or remodel Tennis Courts.

• I enjoy the sport

• Not only are these courts used by players of all ages throughout the day, swing by 7 days a week at 8 am and you'll find dozens of retirees playing. Why remove something that adds so much to the local community?

- The community needs Tennis courts
- We need more courts not less
- Whether it's recreational or team practice, both children and adults benefit from playing tennis. The purpose of a city central park should allow for this form of healthy activity within our community.

• Lots of use over the years. My father played there, I took lessons there, and I have played there with my children. Please don't take this away from the community!

• These tennis courts are always full! Unthinkable to remove tennis courts in an area that has so many players. Gets the kids off the couch and active.

• My children have grown up playing on these courts. Its conveniently located to many shops & restaurants too.

• The Central Park tennis courts is where I learned to play tennis.

Tennis is a great recreational activity and we need to keep these courts accessible to the community.

• It's the perfect place to have tennis courts. Why would anyone change that? We need more, not less tennis courts. Let's encourage people to go out and get exercise.

• I'm signing because I feel that a park should offer opportunities for sports and athletic activities. I have looked at the proposed plans for Central Park, and while they have some good elements, it seems like there is more of a concern to create open space than to promote healthy living and fitness. Parks and athletic opportunities go hand in hand.

• I'm signing because I spend half of my week in San Mateo, roughly one block from these courts. It is convenient for my boyfriend and I to practice here, as I have a busy schedule but I love the game of tennis. Please keep our park beautiful and allow San Mateo to keep some elements of its charm... the reason

we are there in the first place!

- We need MORE, not less, places for kids to play sports! Come on, San Mateo!
- I am signing because all my family and a lot of my friends play tennis at the courts in Central park. I think the courts are important for the community.
- Enough is enough... These courts are busy every day that I walk by with my dog, and I use them myself on Sundays... We DON'T need more condos or apartments for greedy developers!

my husband played tennis three or four times a week during his younger years. He often used the courts in Central Park. With all the new building going up near the park, the courts will be used by many more people. It's a relaxing and healthy activity. I urge you not to drop the courts. Many people will be negatively affected.

On another subject, the park is not broken. It doesn't need fixing.

- My friends and I have played here for years, and look forward to many more. This is a relatively small foot print of space that brings so much joy to the community!

- I'm signing because my husband and I are avid tennis players and use these courts 2 to 3 times a week.

- I live in San Mateo, and use the Central Park courts frequently. I think it is important to maintain the courts in Central Park.

- Th tennis courts are fantastic. They are one of the main reasons that we live in downtown San Mateo. Please please please do not remove them!!!!!!

- These tennis courts have served this community for generations & should continue to do so into the future. Do not sacrifice them for some developers wants, please.

- San Mateo needs tennis courts!

- We walk our dogs in the park every weekend and the courts are always in use. They should be kept.

- I'm a tennis player and there are very few public courts around. I hope you will reconsider the plan to eliminate them.

- we just rediscovered these courts! They are lovely, an oasis to play in. It really is hard to find a public place to play tennis with one's family.

- Tennis is a wonderful American Sport and there is nowhere else central that is easy to book.

- I like playing at the Central Park courts.

- I play tennis at Central Park 3 days a week.

- I occasionally play tennis at these courts with my partner. I love the location...within walking distance. These courts are a major draw. I walk in the park virtually every day, early morning and late at night, and every time I go by these tennis courts someone is playing.

The thought that these courts could be "moved" to another park without breaking the value of the courts to an established user base is an insult to logic.

The proposal fails in so many ways that I am shocked that this poorly research and poorly thought-through plan ever reached this stage.

Kill this now before wasting any additional funds.

- they should not take away public and community areas in order to build more commercial or retail properties in San Mateo!

- I use the courts frequently and there must still be tennis courts in Central Park.

- I use these courts and value them highly. Not everyone can drive elsewhere.
- keep our tennis courts!
- Tennis is a game one can play for a lifetime. These courts are used by people of all ages. Keep tennis alive in San Mateo!

Not be eliminated!

- The courts are integral to central park and we will have no tennis courts when they are removed.

- Keep some semblance of tennis courts! The current courts are in poor condition, so reduce the number and have quality like Burlingame City!

- Have played on several San Mateo teams, all of which practiced at the Central Park courts....

- I'm signing because I think the tennis courts are well utilized by the community and enhance the city and Central Park. Also, my children's school uses the courts for tennis practice and if the courts are eliminated, they would have no where to practice and would have to disband their team.

- We need to keep recreational activities at easily accessible places
- My friends and all of our kids learned to play tennis together on those courts.
- There are not enough tennis courts in the area.
- We've missed having our courts in San Mateo. It's hard to find alternative places to play.

- My wife and I use these courts almost every weekend. They're a great benefit of Central Park, and you can tell they get a lot of use by the community. Please continue to keep this great feature of the park!

- long time resident and supporter of central park
- Public tennis courts are important because it keeps the game accessible for most people who cannot afford a fancy & expensive tennis or country club. On the weekends, especially in the mornings when it's the best time of day to play, all the public courts are packed and it's difficult to get a court. Losing 6 courts from San Mateo would be a big loss to the tennis-playing community.

- I am a tennis player and see those courts always in use, They do need repair but are great to have available. Please keep

- We don't have enough courts in the San Mateo area. Please upkeep the courts but don't relocate them.

- I use these courts. It's critical to keep them for community and school usage
- These courts are an important community resource and need to remain in place!

- I strongly believe the Central Park tennis courts should remain on San Mateo!

Thanks!

- I think the courts at Central Park is a good thing. It diversities the usage of the park - especially young adults.

- I used to go to Central Park before or after work. My tennis partner lives at San Mateo. I played USTA matches on these courts for so many years. We obviously practice on those courts as well. We most of the time eat on the nearby restaurants after play or practice. The courts need to be fixed but not relocated. They are in a perfect location.

- I used to play tennis there when I was living in the bay area.

- I USE THOSE
- i took lesson there when I was younger
- i am signing this petition because our children use these courts every spring for school and competitive tennis. We also use these courts for adult USTA matches. Please don't take away a recreational opportunity for our city.

- I PLAY TENNIS!!

Tennis courts are well used and are a value to the community.

- I believe these court serve our community well.
- We need physical outlets as well as air and water and food. Maybe more. The idea of taking them away from us is:

- TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS!!!!!!
- I love tennis & we need more courts!!

• I'm singing, because we need to keep the recreational facilities open that we have locally.

-
- I love the tennis courts. They just need a little TLC or replaced in the new plans.

- My children learned to play tennis at this court
- I love playing in these courts. Would hate to see them leave!
- The tennis courts are an important part of the park. I cannot think of any worthwhile reason to remove them--they are so frequently used by so many, it would be harmful to the community to do so.

- the tennis courts are a widely used amenity in San Mateo and a great place for friends and family to gather and make memories as well as great exercise. Why would we want to take that away from a community. If it ain't broke, why fix it?!? !?

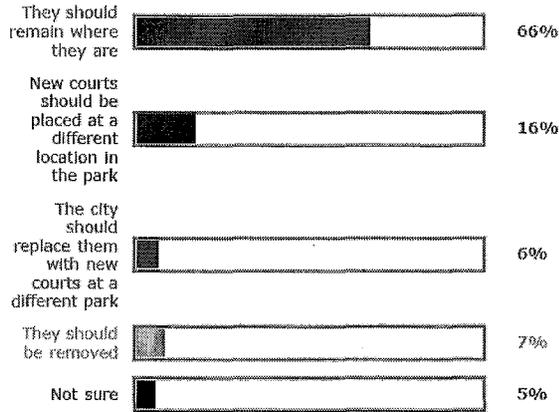
- i like tennis
- I want options to play tennis in San mateo Instead of driving to Foster City.
- terrible thing to get rid of the tennis courts!

Also, the San Mateo Daily Journal Poll online at their website shows this as of March 14, 2015 approx. 9:00pm.....not a perfect process (no process is perfect) but certainly interesting and worth the look combined with other inputs and sources of info. City Council will be using :

We asked: *San Mateo city officials are in the process of determining the future of Central Park. How do the tennis courts fit into that future?*

Poll Results

Opinion Graph Votes



Total Votes: 387

From: George Lambro
To: Maureen Freschet; David Lim; matthews@cityofsanmateo.org; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; jcferber@rrmdesign.com
Subject: CP management
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015 4:19:52 PM

San Mateo Parks is going in the wrong direction with the intentional removal of the tennis courts (which are a perpetual embarrassment in their condition) at Central Park on all 3 project proposals.

This is not in touch with the community or with any concept of growth and the future.

I've talked to about 100 players over the last 3 months, actually on the courts, playing tennis...in Winter.....and everyone of them had a stark, shocked reaction that removing the courts was even a consideration in any way, leaving everyone with the exact same question?

Who in the is making those decisions? and why are they on the Ciy's payroll? How all 3 proposals could be drafted with the removal of the courts is a major red flag.

The fact that the courts have remained in decrepit conditions getting "patched" never actually resurfaced, tells me that least for the last 7 years, there has been a clear prejudice against Tennis from the SM management.

Its 2015...Northern California....Tennis hotbed, how can anyone recreation oriented not know that? Its the #1 recreation sport across age groups and San Mateo is the Tennis black eye of the Peninsula,

Just another confirmation of how backwards that is...Burlingame keeps kicking our rear

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2015-03-14/burlingame-tennis-center-nears-grand-opening-owner-looks-forward-to-sharing-enthusiasm-for-sport-with-community/1776425140009.html>

and this is feat is incredible

<http://www.worldtennismagazine.com/archives/9099>

SM needs to do a hard 180 on tennis now.

See you on the 24th. -George

From: darrell vannelli <ddvannelli@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:13 PM

To: Julia Klein

Subject: PA 15-019 Central Park Comments

I am sending these comments on behalf of my mother, Leah Cohen, who resides at 10 Ninth Avenue, #302, 94401, and has been a resident of San Mateo since 1947.

Her comments on the proposals to re-design Central Park are as follows:

1. Preferred re-design plan is Option #1 with some changes.

-Remove the Grandstand entirely. Do not allow commercial retail to reside inside the park boundaries.

- Remove on-site parking spaces planned for the south side of the park near the children's play area.

Cars and children do not mix and the plan does not allow for enough handicap parking to accommodate all the seniors in the area anyway.

- The fenced dog park area along Laurel is quite large. With that much space allowed for dogs, they should be limited to that area and banned from all other areas of the park. There are too many dogs peeing on the lawns as it is, making a simple picnic a hazardous choice.

-Make the baseball field a mixed use field to allow for soccer and other field sports.

2. Add a skate park for teens

Marsha Cohen

From: Gabi <sfgabi@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:09 PM

To: Julia Klein

Subject: Re: Central Park Revamp

Hi Julia,

My husband, Riaz Shivji & myself are in favor of keeping the Central Park Tennis Courts.

So many of us living in & around San Mateo would love to keep the Central Park tennis courts.

Residents, neighbors, including adults, athletes, USTA teams, families, children, those visiting San Mateo, etc., etc. utilize these courts & some of us see them as an asset to our community!

It would be wonderful if some of the city/municipal funds could be allocated towards resurfacing these courts. ...If there is money available.

It seems as if no one can stop residential housing/condos from being built all over San Mateo County in the very near future. We can at least try to keep our local park & tennis courts in tact.

Best regards,

Gabi Rondell

Concerned resident of San Mateo

(Sunnybrae/Hayward Park)

From: Carolyn Healy <ctah61@gmail.com>

Date: March 16, 2015 at 2:35:01 PM PDT

To: "scanzian@cityofsanmateo.org" <scanzian@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Tennis courts at Central Park

Hi Sheila,

I oppose greatly even the thought of eliminating the tennis courts at Central Park. I have been a home owner in San Mateo for 20 years and am dismayed by the rate of concrete development and ever diminishing open space. Is every available square foot in San Mateo up for developers making a profit and charging outrageous rents? Make San Mateo a place people want to live. Not a place they are forced to endure high rents, astronomical home prices and little community free space. What we should be doing is INCREASING Central Park space due to the huge population density increase downtown. How about using the lot you sold to Essex and make that another park? Carolyn Healy
Sent from my iPhone

From: collin lau <collinlau@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:04 AM

To: Julia Klein

Subject: Regarding PA 15-019

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Madam,

The purpose of this is to provide comments for consideration & subsequent plan revisions for the Central Park Master Plan Update. I am a resident at 222 6th Avenue and visit (use the park quite often). I have reviewed the three plans for consideration and am not truly happy with them. I believe that in general they try to cater principally to one strata of the local community, while ignoring another strata - essentially catering to very young children as opposed to young adults. It is quite apparent that the plans attempt to have a larger children play area while eliminating the tennis courts, though the children play area is not fully utilized commensurate to the area that is already available. I propose the following: Keep the children play area the same; while increasing the number play gym equipment Keep the tennis courts, but reduce the number to 4; perhaps move it to the south side of the current baseball area Keep the baseball area, but make it smaller; more attuned to softball and little league play (smaller footprint) Keep the bleachers with a smaller footprint and move it away from 5th Avenue Keep the double duty of the baseball area (share with dog run area - it works really well) Keep the rec center, include the size vertically; have more, diverse activities for young adults. Not focused mainly on seniors Have volley ball, tight rope, badminton and basketball area. Get rid of bocci ball, shuffleboard and horseshoe area
Thank you for allowing me to provide this input.

Collin Lau

From: Tom <tom@multisource.cc>

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 1:11 PM

To: Sheila Canzian; Julia Klein

Subject: Central Park Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sheila and Julia,

I have lived in San Mateo for over 40 years and in the Bay area my entire 65 years. I have frequented the park hundreds of times over the years. In fact I played baseball on Fitzgerald

Field since I was 9 years old! I have studied the three proposals and have numerous questions as do all of my friends and acquaintances in San Mateo.

First and foremost: The idea of losing the baseball field is terrible. That field is used constantly by everyone from T-Ball to Adult Softball. We have plenty of 'grassy fields' already in the park. And, of course, the outfield

can certainly be considered a 'grassy field' when it's not being used as a baseball field. The idea of remodeling the stands and changing the exterior is fine. The idea of removing the outfield fence is crazy and dangerous. It would allow small children to run onto the field while I game was in progress putting them in harm's way.

Also while we were promised a baseball field at Bay Meadows as of today that is simply a 'grassy field' with a portable backstop. Not what anyone would call a baseball field.

Next, The tennis court removal. Are there plans to build new courts nearby? I realize the need for additional parking as we will be losing the 'public' parking on 5th Avenue to a new high rise but it should not come at the expense of the tennis courts. Also the cost of a two story parking structure is high to say the least! If there are no other plans for tennis courts why not put them atop the new parking structure? I see no reason to have a so called 'plaza' instead.

I do like the idea of extending the train as it really is a big part of the park. I'm sure we all have memories of riding that train in our youth.

The bathrooms definitely need to be upgraded so that is a good idea.

The pavilion is not a bad idea although I think it should be located where the summer music series stage is set up.

I believe there are some good ideas in each of the three proposals so I just hope we can all come up with a combination thereof to make the park a better place for the next 25 years.

I have a large contingency planning on attending the March 25th meeting and it would be nice if we had some feedback from both of you as to our concerns beforehand.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Thomas Sanfilippo

50 – 16th Ave.

San Mateo

650-342-9906

From: sue van sweden <svansweden@comcast.net>

Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 9:11:54 AM

To: Planning Commission

Subject: Tennis courts

Dear Mayor, Parks and Recreation Department and Planning Commission,

Our family would like you to know that we would like the tennis courts at Central Park to remain intact. We spent many years playing there and using the baseball field as well, (Sat night little league under the lights), which was a big deal at that time!

The majority of the time spent now by children and adults is on a screen, so please don't take away these healthy options.

Sincerley,

The Van Sweden Family

From: Sydney Nunnemaker <sydneynunnemaker@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 5:17 PM

To: Victor Nunnemaker

Cc: Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Planning Commission; Maureen Freschet; Artie Ward (Neighbor); Larry Patterson

Subject: Re: Please consider carefully the retention of the Central Park Tennis Courts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I am Sydney Nunnemaker, I am currently eleven years old and attend Bayside S.T.E.M. Middle School. I take tennis lessons with my brother at the San Mateo Central Park tennis courts. If these courts are removed I don't know where I would practice and play with my coach and family. I hope to get a full-ride scholarship through tennis and do not know how I would follow through with this

dream without the local tennis courts to play on. I hope that you will reconsider your plans for the sake of our San Mateo tennis players.

Many Thanks,

Sydney Nunnemaker

On Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 7:04 PM, Victor Nunnemaker <vnunnemaker@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear San Mateo Parks and Recreation, planning commission and City Manager:

San Mateo has made incredible strides over the past decade toward improving its downtown reputation and becoming a city on par with its neighbor, Burlingame. The tentative plan to remove the public tennis courts in Central Park, however, would be tragic and devastating to so many San Mateo residents.

Growing up in near poverty, the only opportunity I ever had to play tennis was on a public court. To my knowledge, there are only a handful of public tennis courts remaining in all of San Mateo and even though I am now able to afford private courts, it would be a horrible tragedy to remove 8 of the few remaining courts available in the entire city. They are used by young and old, rich and poor. My children are currently taking lessons at those very courts and the courts are 3 blocks from the business that I have owned and run in San Mateo for over a decade. I can't imagine why anyone would lobby to remove those tennis courts, located above a much needed parking garage in downtown San Mateo where parking has become scarce, but I am strongly opposed to any decision to remove them; and I beseech and urge you to reconsider any proposal that does not include them for the public use.

I am aware that a petition of at nearly 1000 local San Mateo residents has been signed and I ask...if not at central park, where will children and students of the game of tennis go to learn this sport, enjoy a healthy leisure activity and

get much needed exercise? Please don't contribute to making the game of tennis a rich person's sport that can only be afforded through private lessons in exclusive clubs like the Peninsula Golf and Country Club that so few have access on which to play. San Mateo has so few public courts already. I humbly urge you to consider the devastating impact of removing these 8 courts and look for a compromise to save them.

With sincere regards for the challenges that you face.

Victor Nunnemaker

Business owner and home owner in the wonderful City of San Mateo

Victor S. Nunnemaker

"When I grow up, I want to be sorry for the things I have done, not for the things I have not done." – Lyas

From: Danyel Garzona <dgarzona@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 11:44 PM

To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet

Subject: Save Central Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Please do not take away the 8 lit tennis courts in Central Park. Additionally, the community enjoys and needs the baseball field. The children of our community need more healthy and central recreation options, not less.

What better place than our Central Park for these activities that have been enjoyed for so many decades by so many. Please use the money to take care of what we have (including the resurfacing of the existing tennis courts). My 16 year old son took tennis lessons at Central park and now my 6 year old is taking tennis lesson.

San Mateo needs to keep these!

Best regards,

Danyel Garzona

San Mateo Home Owner

From: Kara Cox <kara.a.cox@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:36:52 PM

To: Planning Commission

Subject: Followup Letter on New Central Park Master Plan

Tuesday, March 25, 2015

Dear Planning Commission,

Yesterday evening I attended your meeting on the proposed new Central Park Master Plan. While I made comments then, I wanted to write a brief letter to follow up, taking in consideration the final comments of the Commission, which I watched from home online.

Baseball Diamond and Tennis Courts

Organized sports are an important way for our citizens to get outside and stay healthy. We need more of these features not less.

The substitutions proposed at other parks are further away from Central and North Central neighborhoods. Given complaints in San Mateo about traffic, the need for more people to drive within town should be discouraged. Also, generic athletic fields are not the same as an actual ballpark. Scale down the bleachers, but please keep the organized sports where they are currently situated.

Train

It is wonderful to have a little train for the younger children, however making it a more dominant feature seems overly ambitious.

I am concerned about how this will impact access to the children's playground, as well as safety, particularly in the Community Center Option. Under this scenario a child playing in the 2-5 year zone would be in an entirely different, fenced off area from a second child playing in the 5-12 year zone. As people often have children of varying ages, this distinct a separation between playgrounds is totally impractical and unsafe for many families.

Parking

Please do not decrease the existing parking, but spare our park the impact of any more. The cost for additional parking seems way too expensive and invasive for the return on investment. Despite the gripes heard regularly about lack of parking, open space is more scarce in our City than spots to park a car.

Plaza

A large, cement feature does not enhance the character of the park as a retreat from the urban space of downtown.

Comparisons to Redwood City do not persuade me. The Plaza in Redwood City is often rented to private events and corporate parties. Should this come to pass in San Mateo, it would be a horrible set back to the general public who would actually regularly lose park space despite a initial stated objective of gaining more.

Self Help for the Elderly

There is a demonstrated benefit to this organization. Should they be displaced from Central Park, it would be to the benefit of the City to find suitable accommodation for them in the downtown area.

Bathrooms

The one point of the new plans I have only praise for it is improving the existing restroom as well as providing another option or two.

Finally, I very much agree with comments from Commissioner Massey urging we respect the existing uses of the park. Please help it maintain its historic character as well as its current user base. Do not alienate the existing daily users by moving forward with unproven proposals which may not in fact enhance the user experience for our citizens in the long run. As many said last night, let's not expend a great deal of City revenue 'fixing' a park which is beloved as it is now.

Kind regards,
Kara Cox

From: George Lambro <lambro@astound.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:56 AM
To: Planning Commission; Maureen Freschet
Subject: CP management TENNIS

San Mateo Parks is going in the wrong direction with the intentional removal of the tennis courts (which are a perpetual embarrassment in their condition) at Central Park on all 3 project proposals.

This is not in touch with the community or with any concept of growth and the future.

I've talked to about 100 players over the last 3 months, actually on the courts, playing tennis...**in Winter.....**and everyone of them had a stark, shocked reaction that removing the courts was even a consideration in any way, leaving everyone **with the exact same question?**

Who in the is making those decisions? and why are they on the City's payroll?

How all 3 proposals could be drafted with the removal of the courts is a **major red flag**.

The fact that the courts have remained in decrepit conditions getting "patched" never actually resurfaced, tells me that least for the last 7 years, there has been a **clear prejudice against Tennis** from the SM management.

Its 2015...Northern California....Tennis hotbed, how can anyone recreation oriented not know that? Its the #1 recreation sport across age groups, and San Mateo is the Tennis black eye of the Peninsula, Just another confirmation of how backwards that is...Burlingame keeps kicking our rear

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2015-03-14/burlingame-tennis-center-nears-grand-opening-owner-looksforward-to-sharing-enthusiasm-for-sport-withcommunity/1776425140009.html>
and this is feat is incredible

<http://www.worldtennismagazine.com/archives/9099>

Indian Wells...a Masters Tournament is now equalling the attendance seen at Grand Slam events....thats how much interest there is in tennis

On a recreational square footage basis, nothing comes close to the use and efficiency seen on the Tennis courts.

That metric alone should have at least all 6 courts remain if not MORE.

The fact that we can have petitions and outrage ramp up so quickly again shows how backwards the proposals are,

the burden should be on the antiquated one dimensional thinkers to come up with petitions to remove the courts, not the other way around.

Snap out of it. Get the right people working for the city, fire these incompetent planners now, these 3 proposals should be exit papers for them.

From: Greg Komo <gkomo@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:52 AM
To: Abby Veeseer
Subject: PICKLEBALL courts -fastest growing sport in America
Hi Abbey ,

My name is Greg "Komo" Komisarek and I am one of the ambassadors here in Northern California representing the USAPA (USA PICKLEBALL Association) I ,along with several other PICKLEBALL devotees would like to attend the upcoming meeting on the reconstruct of tennis courts at Central Park . 8 years ago the San Mateo Times did a feature on our organization using the Central Park location . Shortly after ,the San Francisco Chronicle took up the story and featured PICKLEBALL not only on the front page of the Sunday Magazine but had a full page picture on the front of the paper itself ! ABC news shortly after contacted me and sent Mike Schumann down for a segment on Channel 7 Sports. It was filmed at the Highlands Rec Center where at that time we had 4 outdoor courts ,with lights ,and one indoor court. The outdoor courts have since been raised for a multi purpose room and offices. Mr. Schumann by the way has become a PICKLEBALL deciple. We were filling all four outdoor courts 3 times a week with up to 25 players and the indoor court was in constant use.

PICKLEBALL is an easy game to learn for ages 6-100+ yrs old.

I have played all over the U.S. and have had great games with every age group . My crowning moment was getting waxed by an 80 year old nun wearing her habit !!

4 PICKLEBALL courts fit on 1 tennis court ! " If you build it they come " .

It is my belief that if Central Park allows 4-8 PICKLEBALL courts it would be a magnate for not only San Mateo residents but would attract the " Snow Birds " and adventurous players that traverse the U.S. looking for new places to play.

4-8 courts equals the same area as 2 tennis courts yet will allow 32 players space all at once . The numbers do work .

Palo Alto at Mitchell Park has a tremendous following and is now outgrown the two paddle tennis courts (similar dimensions) the numbers have climbed from 8-10 players a weekend to 30 plus in the last month, by just word of mouth

Looking forward to meeting you.

Aloha , Komo .

From: Chuck Lebo [mailto:cplebo@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:17 PM
To: Sheila Canzian
Subject: I was told

Hi Sheila,

I frequent Central Park on almost a daily basis. I am one of the people who goes to Fitzgerald Field in the morning so my dog can socialize with other dogs off-leash. I recently heard there was a plan to underway to move the off-leash area to another smaller area of the park. Can you tell where I can read more about this proposal and why this much beloved destination for San Mateo dogs and their two-legged companions is potentially in jeopardy?

Below are two of the happy dogs (Lucy and Bronx) that would be impacted by this change of venue. The dogs do not get a chance to vote but if they could, they'd definitely raise their paws to defend their right to continue to socialize with other dogs and run off-leash at Fitzgerald Field between 6 and 8 am, Monday thru Sunday.

If you can direct me to a place online where I can download a pdf or view the proposal online, I'd greatly appreciate it.

Respectfully yours,
Chuck Lebo

From: Bianka McGuigan <bianka@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 11:55 AM

To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet

Subject: San Mateo Central Park

Dear Sir,

Please do not take away the tennis courts or the baseball field in the Central Court. We have 2 boys that are constantly playing in that park along with many other neighbors. I grew up in the neighborhood and can't see those valuable and healthy sources of exercise going away.

We have plenty of shopping stores and places for people to meet. The parking and driving in the area is already a headache. We DO NOT need any more buildings going up. So please don't take away our tennis courts and Fitzgerald Baseball Field.

Please, please don't take away the only free space we have left.

Sincerely,

Bianka McGuigan

650-483-4676

From: Subra <subraweb@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 8:51 AM

To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet

Subject: Recreation facilities in San Mateo

Hello,

I am writing this email in support of both the San Mateo Ice Rink at Bridgepointe and in support of the tennis courts in Central Park.

It is really disappointing that the Ice Rink has been closed for nearly two years, causing a loss of a great facility used extensively by the children, adults and families of not just San Mateo, but the entire Peninsula. It also brought in teams from as far away as Lake Tahoe which generated tax revenue and sales in San Mateo. There is none of that right now. People are not going to come from Lake Tahoe to shop at a Nordstrom Rack at Bridgepointe.

If we also lose the tennis courts it will be a crying shame as there will be one less destination for physical exercise, family gathering and increasing the health and wellness of those in San Mateo and on the Peninsula.

Please consider carefully the choices at hand. I believe San Mateo does not need more retail development but rather more outlets for exercise, community gathering, family activities, and for children to stay out of trouble.

Please do not vote to eliminate the tennis courts at Central Park and Please do not vote to replace the Ice Rink with retail. If possible, please reopen the Ice Rink.

Thank you for your consideration.

Subra

+1 650 350-4077

P.S. I realize that Malibu Grand Prix, wasn't in San Mateo but that was another destination for families that has disappeared and has left less things for us to do, not more.

From: Mia Maddalena <mia@aliosgarage.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 11:34 PM

To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox

Subject: Central Park

In regards to the tennis courts, Please keep them!

My kids and I are learning to play and would love to have them around for a long time.

They are within waking distance from our house

Thanks

Mia Alioto

Sent from my iPad

PRIVILEGE AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:

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People taking certain prescription medications may experience nausea, dizziness, hysteria, vomiting, and temporary loss of short term memory while reading this e-mail. Please consult your physician before reading this e-mail.

All vehicle models depicted in this email are 18 years old or older...or not. If you have received this e-mail in error, it's probably because I am so consumed by self-importance that I wasn't paying any attention to whom I addressed it.

From: Mary Ryan [mailto:mary@meier-ryan.org]

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:33 AM

To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet

Subject: Tennis Courts and Ice Rink

I will make this very short and clear.

It is just wrong to take away the tennis courts and the ice rink. We need more activity places for people to go. Why are you all so against exercise, activity. We do not need anymore soccer fields. We want our ice rink and tennis courts. San Mateo Council etc, How many of you played or know people that went to the ice rink and can no longer skate or soon no more tennis if you continue your path of destruction.

mary ryan

From: mbadgettexas@gmail.com on behalf of Marty Badgett <mbadgett@austinpacs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 3:28 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Keep Central Park Tennis Courts

Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my disbelief in the current plans for removing the tennis courts from the Central Park and moving to another.

While the idea of more open space is interesting, I personally disagree that tennis serves a special interest group activity or that the community will be served by simply moving it away from downtown. The ball park could be argued in the same manner and you could move it. During the summer months, the courts are always active, which is wonderful. It brings life to the park and adds a great way to obtain fun exercise. I see many families out with your children enjoying them as well as many others. I question whether you have.

I see your thoughts of more open space for concerts etc, great but realistically will there be one every night? I doubt it, so isn't that special interest as well? I play tennis however I don't routinely go to music or other community gatherings. And there are many open spaces in the park already that can be used in this same vein but on the whole are not. So until the park is overbooked with such activities and running out of space this seems like a few of the city want force their views on the community as a whole.

Thank you for your time,

Marty Badgett
1121 Palm Ave
San Mateo CA 94401

From: Linda Aguirre <ldaguirre@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 6:18 PM
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet
Subject: central park tennis courts

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand the City is considering eliminating the 5th Avenue tennis courts as part of a master plan for Central Park. As a long time resident of San Mateo, I vehemently object to this element of the plan. I don't personally use the courts. I am a member of the PGCC and have access to tennis courts there. However, I believe the tennis courts are a benefit to the community, at large, and there are many people who cannot afford private club membership to play tennis. The City should encourage its residents to be active and should not take actions which eliminate options for physical activity. I love seeing people of all ages taking advantage of the facilities whenever I drive on 5th Avenue. Please do not eliminate the city tennis courts.

Thank you.

Linda Aguirre

From: Jateen Parekh <jateen@jelli.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:28 PM
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet
Subject: Please keep the tennis courts in Central Park

My family and I decided to move 3 years ago from San Francisco to the Peninsula and immediately fell in love with Downtown San Mateo, and Central Park. I already had known Central Park was a gem because 7 years ago I also founded a company in downtown San Mateo to be near the amazing park, shops and culture of downtown. I find it very disturbing that the city is considering reducing services and removing facilities that in fact, we should be expanding upon. The tennis courts are in high demand, and currently many players are forced to leave San Mateo to find open courts in cities like Foster City, San Carlos, Burlingame, etc.

In addition to me playing at the courts several times per week, 25% of my company also uses the courts, as do our children who live on Capistrano Way, it would be terrible to have to drive to

courts east of 101, or south of 92, only to find out that courts are full. Even in Central Park, there are many evenings where there is a 30 – 45 minute wait with the six courts (one of which is always taken by an instructor).

I attended the city council meeting on 3/24, and was happy to hear about the support not only for the tennis courts, but also for not spending all of the additional funds to put into place many new features that the public has not even asked for. I was also happy to see that there is another proposal that at least has a couple of courts, but still not enough.

As an avid player using the courts in Central Park, I have found that crime is reduced when players are there with lights. I have seen 3 occurrences where police were called by tennis players, and the police caught people who were misbehaving (drunk and stoned) in the park. I learned that the concept of the park is partially based on Central Park in NY, which has 26 tennis courts! I truly believe that tennis courts in Central Park can add to the atmosphere, but also be a shining draw for the local neighborhood residents. I have met many amazing neighbors on the courts, that I would never have done without the courts there.

I think the park is amazing and just needs to be upgraded and maintained, rather than completely changed. Hopefully the planning commission and parks and recs will realize the magic of the current park and decide to give it a well deserved facelift.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jateen Parekh
Founder | CTO | Jelli
www.jelli.com
@jateen

From: garycching@yahoo.com [mailto:garycching@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 5:48 AM

To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox

Subject: Central Park Tennis Courts

The Central Park tennis courts are a valuable community recreational facility. Eliminating them would be a drastic move, since they represent a high percentage of the city's tennis courts. School courts are not available when classes are in session, so closing six courts would be especially detrimental to the large number of tennis players who are retired and enjoy playing on weekdays.

Six courts at one location are especially valuable, since this provides the best opportunity for tournament and team tennis events. The courts would be very difficult to replace given the shortage of open space in San Mateo, unless adding three courts at Beresford on the south side of the existing courts is a good option.

Gathering places and open space in parks are nice too, but I feel there are more viable nearby alternatives for this type of space, than there are for tennis courts in San Mateo.

Gary Ching

From: Christine Zanello [mailto:sczz@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:01 PM

To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox

Subject:

To whom it may concern:

I have been a resident of San Mateo County for over 40 years. I live here with my husband and 3 children. I understand the City is considering the option to remove the tennis courts. First of all I am opposed to this idea for the following reasons:

1. Public Courts give children and adults access to a sport that only requires 1 other person or 3 other people to play. You don't need to assemble a whole team of people to play the sport
2. Many people cannot afford private club initiation fees and dues so it is important that public courts are available to play tennis.
3. Without them many underserved youth will never have the opportunity to learn to play tennis
4. Public court lessons, tournaments and events promote community engagement.
5. The tennis program could thrive if it were managed by a proactive professional with clinics and lessons. This is really important!
6. It is a healthy sport that can be played throughout ones lifetime. Please read the attachment above and you will see why.
7. I use the tennis courts at San Mateo Park. I wish they were in better condition.
8. The only other public courts per say are at local schools and you cannot play on them all the time because of student priority.

If one were to argue that tennis is not that popular right now compared to other sports, I would counter that argument by the fact that sports tend to revolve in a cycle. Some sports are popular for a while and fall out of favor and then re-emerge again. Reiterating the fact that if you had a good tennis coach with a program to encourage participation, you would see a buzz of enthusiasm.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will keep the courts in the park. It would be so sad if they were gone.

Respectfully submitted,
S. Christine Zanello
2050 Forest View Avenue
Hillsborough, CA 94010

From: Julia Pitcher <jpitcher@pacbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:47 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Central Park Tennis Courts

Please retain the Central Park tennis courts. With the courts heavily used and no need to spend money to take away a useful facility, it does not seem well advised to eliminate the tennis courts. Clearly many of us interested in using Central Park have dismayed by the plans that have become clear only after decisions appear to have been made.

Respectfully,
Wayne H. Pitcher, Jr.
319 Castilian Way

From: Rena Korb <rena@renakorb.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 1:55 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: tennis courts at Central Park

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my strong support of keeping tennis courts at Central Park. Removing the courts makes no sense.

Recreational facilities are part of what every good park offers; this means providing free opportunities for play and exercise. (I also oppose removing the baseball diamond.)

I have studied the proposed plans and don't understand the need for increased open space— Central Park currently provides sufficient amount, much of which seems far less utilized than the tennis courts. I also cannot understand taking out tennis courts to replace them with plazas that will provide

opportunities for commercial activity in the park. The emphasis in two out of three of the proposed plans seems to be on increasing the commercial space, but that is what the downtown is for. With the recent rise in obesity and costs associated with poor health habits, San Mateo should make it a goal to provide even more free or low-cost opportunities for our citizens to be active and stay healthy, not remove ones we already have.

With regard to relocating the tennis courts, the ones at Central Park are a great location for many people in the northern end of the city. Additionally, we would have to know where the courts would be relocated. I know that Beresford Park was mentioned in the survey as an option, but doing so would only take away Beresford's more limited open space in favor of providing more than is needed in Central Park.

I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to rethink this move forward and put the people of San Mateo first, not the needs of commerce.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rena Korb

701 28th Ave.

San Mateo CA 94403

650-393-5171

From: Beki Thomson <beki.thomson@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:08 PM

To: Planning Commission; Public Works Commission

Subject: Re: Please keep our tennis courts in Central Park: PS: Link to petition entitled "Petitioning San Mateo City Council Keep Our Tennis Courts in San Mateo Central Park!"

Here is a link to the aforementioned petition: 775 signatures so far:

[https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keep-our-tennis-courts-in-san-mateo-centralpark?](https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keep-our-tennis-courts-in-san-mateo-centralpark?source_location=petition_footer&algorithm=promoted)

[source_location=petition_footer&algorithm=promoted](https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keep-our-tennis-courts-in-san-mateo-centralpark?source_location=petition_footer&algorithm=promoted)

Thank you,

Rebecca Thomson

On Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 12:01 PM, Beki Thomson <beki.thomson@gmail.com> wrote:

To the San Mateo Planning Commission, Public Works Commission and City Council:

My husband has owned a house in the Aragon neighborhood since 1983, and I have lived there since 1990.

We are both very opposed to relocating the tennis courts away from Central Park. We believe that the courts are an essential part of our park and moving them away would only make them less accessible to many people in the local area.

I made written comments about the 3 proposals made at the last community meeting at the park but I do not see them (or any other hand-written comments) in the public comments posted with the agenda for tonight's meeting of the Planning Commission.

I would like to know if you have those comments? They should be a part of your record.

As of right now, there are almost 770 signatories to the petition to save the tennis courts:

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2015-03-14/burlingame-tennis-center-nears-grand-openingowner-looks-forward-to-sharing-enthusiasm-for-sport-with-community/1776425140009.html>

Thank you,

Rebecca Thomson

From: Paulette Savage <popsavage@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:01 PM

To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet

Subject: please keep the tennis courts in Central Park

I live close to Central Park and have attended all the planning meetings that were open to the public. I am greatly disturbed that the three proposed plans have eliminated the tennis courts. Months ago when these plans were brought to the meeting, we were told they were not necessarily the plans that would be considered. Now, I have noticed they are the plans that will be considered.

I can't imagine why anyone would consider moving the courts. They are used every day all year and also in the evenings. Many of us play tennis and then go to one of the wonderful restaurants for lunch or dinner after. They are used by all age groups and I have noticed that in the city of San Mateo there are clinics given this spring and summer to kids and adults. These courts are a vital part of our community in downtown San Mateo.

I am told by USTA that USTA will even help maintain the courts. I remember many USTA teams using the courts over the years when they were in better condition. And speaking of the condition of the courts, I think it is a shame the city can't repair and resurface them so they are safer and easier to play on. The condition at this time is embarrassing, to say the least.

It seems that most people really like the wonderful things the park has to offer our community. So, I believe, the park should be upgraded and renovated but with the idea of keeping what we have, not taking away.

In closing, I hope that you will consider what is best for the community and leave the tennis courts in the park.

Thank you.

Paulette Savage

925 Laurel Ave

From: Nina Labatt <nlabatt@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:38 PM

To: Planning Commission

Subject: Tennis courts in Central Park

I understand that there are plans to revamp Central Park, and the new plans under consideration have all of the tennis courts removed. THIS IS A HUGE MISTAKE:

Tennis is one of the few sports that kids (and yes, adults too) can take up and easily continue with throughout their entire lives. Not soccer or basketball or volleyball or lacrosse or softball - those all require organized, concerted effort to find and get on an adult league team if you want to play later in life. TENNIS IS A LIFETIME SPORT. Anyone can play, any time, all it takes is one other person and a court. You can learn at any age, and play until you hit the grave.

Please do not take this away from the people of San Mateo, or turn it into an elitist sport that only those who can afford to join a private club can play.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nina Labatt

From: Michael Dubrovsky <dubrov2002@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:17 PM

To: Planning Commission

Cc: arncern@gmail.com

Subject: Tennis courts

I want tennis courts in the Central Park to stay. I like the park as it is now: green and tranquil . Don't make it look like a county fair grounds.

Michael Dubrovsky

555 Laurel Avenue #126

San Mateo

Sent from my iPhone

From: Megan Gosch <megan@geografika.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:46 PM

To: Planning Commission

Subject: Keep our tennis courts in San Mateo's Central Park

Hello,

I am writing in support of keeping the tennis courts at Central Park and not removing or replacing them elsewhere. My family uses the courts about once a week, and we love their existing location.

We live just down on Palm Avenue and 11th, so we can all ride out bikes there now.

Thank you for your consideration,

Megan and Dave Gosch

Megan Gosch

Geografika Consulting

1108 Palm Avenue

San Mateo, CA 94401

650-759-4482

megan@geografika.com

www.geografika.com

From: Linda Lara [mailto:l.lara228@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:06 PM

To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet

Subject: Central Park Tennis Courts

I respectfully request that your departments do all that is possible to retain the tennis courts as part of Central Parks re-design and maintain this recreational benefit to our citizens.

Too many simple pleasures are being taken away form our citizenship in the name of progress and development.

Removing a recreation/sports venue at our most centrally located park in the core of downtown and well within walking distance from all of the TOD developments that our city has engaged in its proximity makes no sense.

Making folks drive from where they live in the rail corridor to play tennis at other locations throughout our city, when they could, walk, bike or take the train to downtown and Central Park, defeats the whole purpose that has been promoted about TOD's.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Slocum Lara

650 400 4642

From: snake head [<mailto:snakeheadkiller2005@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:12 PM

To: Webmaster

Subject: Re: City of San Mateo: Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission Study Session, Zoning Administrator Decisions

i would like to read minutes for the meeting last night and also for information about public input sessions. This plan is miserable and totally unacceptable for the following reasons. Please pass my comments forward

- 1) a large amount of taxpayers money is to be spent
- 2) To remove the tennis courts from central park and send them to other locations is DISENFRANCHISEMENT of tennis players. If you need to retrofit the parking garage , you do not have to tear it down
- 3) Many of us want a return of hard ball baseball to Fitzgerald Field at Central Park. San Mateo has a long history of baseball
- 4) To build a large new tall structure inside Central Park is not possible as there is not enough land . This kind of project would reduce the Central Park square footage by at least 5 %.
- 5) The seniors center provides a location for many people. If you want to add a room or remodel it partially, that would be okay.
- 6) The information about these changes needs to be done in several languages including Chinese, Japanese, Spanish.

Rick Karr
1524 Maple Street
San Mateo, Calif

On Friday, March 13, 2015 2:28 PM, snake head <snakeheadkiller2005@yahoo.com> wrote:

please provide a direct email to the head of the central park Master Plan committee and the name,,,

rick karr
1524 maple street
san mateo, calif
94402

On Friday, March 13, 2015 2:27 PM, snake head <snakeheadkiller2005@yahoo.com> wrote:

TO WEBMASTER:

would you please pass this on the BRAIN TRUST planners of Central Park

I realize articles are surfacing about Central Park and the future.

The fastest growing game in the USA is Pickleball. I assume you have never heard of it and probably have no interest, however I suggest you do a search for Pickleball. Many cities are dedicating courts to this fast interesting game. It is not just a game for seniors . I do not think any of you would be able to handle it without a few lessons anyway. The dimensions are the same as Paddle Tennis except the net is about 3 inches higher. Some people use paddle tennis courts and bring a portable net that is placed in the middle. Some have devised a device that enables individuals to adjust the height and select either Paddle tennis height or pickleball height.

I would like to communicate with someone who is on the committee about Pickleball and Central Park. I do care as i was born and raised and still live in San Mateo

Rick KARR
1524 Maple Street
San Mateo 94402

From: Kathy Barker Hayes [<mailto:kathybhayes@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:48 PM
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet
Subject: Please Save Central Park Tennis Courts!

Dear Members of City Council and Parks and Rec Department,

Please do not remove the Central Park tennis courts without replacing them elsewhere. These courts are a much needed recreational resource for public of all ages. As the number of courts shrink, the whole tennis population suffers. **This will put pressure on all the other courts in the area.** Courts---especially courts **with lights**----are in short supply and **many of the courts need resurfacing.** Beresford is in bad condition. Courts in local colleges charge much higher reservation fees to play organized matches. Younger players are attracted to this non-impact individual sport. Soccer, basketball, and football are not for everyone. Families play tennis together. It is one of the rare opportunities for teens to play with parents. Where will the children, teens, community adults, low income seniors, and others go?

As an older adult USTA player, I use the courts in the area 5-6 times per week for 2 hours or more at a time. There need to be places where residents can go to play tennis.

I appreciate that this is a hard decision. Why destroy something that would take more money to replace. To simply resurface the courts would be simple. People should not be forced to join clubs. There might be ways the tennis community could band together to help resurface these courts.

I urge you to consider the vitality and healthy life style that these courts bring to the community! Please do not whittle down this priceless resource!

Sincerely,
Kathy Barker Hayes

From: K Heap [<mailto:kpingheap@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 9:34 PM
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet

Subject: Protect the San Mateo City Tennis Courts

Please stay strong in supporting the people and sporting venues. It's far too easy to give up space for office, retail, housing just because they are willing to earn big bucks for the city. In the long run, it overtakes what makes San Mateo special. The San Mateo tennis courts are the only community spot where people can play tennis at night. The parking underneath is tremendous as well for the community.

If you want to attract more usage of the tennis courts, begin hosting community building events and tennis games. Also, please connect with the local schools so they can offer more after school sports programs and tennis teams.

It's already been difficult over the years as many sport programs have been stripped from schools. I have been a resident in San Mateo County for 52 years and as a child fondly remember learning on these courts. I still get to play on them on occasion.

If you need more support for them, let me know and I'll rally more citizens.

Best regards,
Kathleen Heap

From: Kate Grout Heap [<mailto:kate.grout@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:36 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Keep Tennis Courts

Hi!

I live in San Mateo and have been taking tennis lessons at Central Park and would be really disappointed if the courts went away! It's hard to get court time at Beresford and I'm not even sure where the other courts are in the city?! They are always being used and clearly there is a need for them.

Thanks,
Kate Ostheimer
[1501 Edinburgh St](#)
[San Mateo](#)

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Savage [<mailto:kksavage@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Tennis Courts at Central Park

I am a senior citizen (class of San Mateo High School of 1957) who cannot understand the objections to the very necessary refurbishing of the tennis courts in Central Park.

There used to be a large number of us old fogeys out there in the early morning pretending we were still young. Now there are fewer, but those who stay, use and appreciate the location of the courts so very near a cup of coffee when we limp through a couple of sets. Please keep us happy.

John Savage
925 Laurel Avenue
San Mateo

From: Jeff Tsu [<mailto:jeffsu@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:29 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Tennis Courts

We want our tennis courts. Jeff Tsu
Sent from my iPhone

From: Janine Gerzanics [<mailto:j9ger@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:43 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Tennis Courts

To whom it may concern,

The San Mateo tennis courts in question have provided substantial recreational opportunities to numerous people in San Mateo over the years. Yes they need repairing, no they do not need removing. With constant infill going on in the bay area, and the increased population, the recreational facilities that exist are absolutely needed and should be allowed to remain. We pay the extortionate house prices of the bay area because of the quality of life it affords us. If you constantly erode that quality of life you defeat the whole purpose of us paying such prices. There is no reason to remove them, there is a need and desire for them. They are constantly in use and provide untold hours of pleasure and recreation. On no account remove them. Why go against the wises of the community you serve.

Sincerely,

Janine Gerzanics
San Mateo resident

From: Janet Periat [<mailto:giantmutantbrain@comcast.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:11 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Please Keep the Tennis Courts in Central Park

As a longtime San Mateo resident, I urge you to NOT REMOVE THE TENNIS COURTS. And I put my request in capital letters so you know I'm serious.

Seriously, the courts are in full-time use. I would hate to see that area empty like so many other areas during the week. You may plan some civic center thing for there, but it will be empty most days, not like the tennis courts. We need the diversity for our area.

Please. KEEP THEM.

Thanks,
Janet Periat
29 Madison

From: Janet Adams [<mailto:janada9@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 7:55 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: 3rd ave tennis courts

i am writing to plead to not take the courts away, not only do the adults in the community use them young & old,, but the up & coming youth use them also. the courts at high schools are always being used and have difficult hours.

we do not have enough here in san mateo. we have a huge tennis community & we need all the courts we have now, we are growing & cannot do without these downtown courts. please keep them!

sincerely, janet adams
1602 york ave. san mateo
94401

Sent from my iPad

From: Helen O'Day [<mailto:hoday@msn.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:25 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Tennis courts

Hello Parks and Recreation,

Just a little note to tell you that the tennis courts are WANTED. Please don't tear them down. Lighted tennis courts are an asset to San Mateo not a detriment.

Sincerely,
Helen O'Day
San Mateo born and raised.

From: David Dolnick [<mailto:ddolnick@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:12 PM
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet
Subject: San Mateo – Keep the Tennis Courts Please!

Dear City of San Mateo,

Please keep the tennis courts downtown.

My wife and I really enjoy walking to the park and playing tennis with each other and friends. The tennis courts always bring a smile to our faces and we've met so many great people through the sport and downtown courts.

There are few things in life that keep me healthier and happier than exercise. And in turn that makes me a better member of the community of the city of San Mateo.

I truly hope you can find a way to keep the downtown courts and I would gladly do my part to help keep them around for a long time.

Thank you!

David Dolnick
415.370.5945

From: Christina Huth <christinalhuth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet; John "Jack" Matthews; Rick Bonilla; Joe Goethals; David Lim; Planning
Subject: Central Park Plan - Tennis Courts Should Remain

Members of the San Mateo Planning Commission,

According to the Downtown San Mateo website our downtown offers the following business establishments: dining - 160, salons - 75, services - 371, shopping - 101, activities - 17. Of the 17 "activities" listed, one of these is the CalTrain station. Of the 16 remaining "activities" San Mateo currently claims we have the following: 4 Pilates studios, 2 Yoga studios, 1 Boxing school, 1 Karate school, 1 dance studio, 1 Taekwondo school, and 1 24 Hour Fitness gym. These opportunities are not free nor particularly diverse in the community they serve.

The final "activity" San Mateo boasts on its website is Central Park. Our Central Park offers a variety of green space, playgrounds, and two opportunities for more organized sport. The tennis courts provide one of the few opportunities that can be enjoyed by young and old, skilled and beginner - not only separately but together. We need to consider that the loss of these tennis courts would deprive people of all ages the opportunity to participate in an activity in a centralized location. Losing this valuable commodity would be a detriment to the park and depletes the value on a far larger scale simply because the opportunities are so few. We should also note use of the tennis courts is free and therefore affords a much broader scale of benefit.

We need to keep the tennis courts within Central Park so that our downtown continues to offer variety and options to a wider section of our community. Please, don't force everyone away from a central location and in to their cars to enjoy something that should remain right near home. An argument to move the tennis courts to an undetermined alternate location is poor planning not forward thinking.

Thank you very much for your time. I look forward to a thoughtful consideration of the needs of all members of the community.

Sincerely,

Christina Huth

San Mateo resident

From: Bruce Klafter
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Cc: Maureen Freschet
Subject: Central Park Tennis Courts
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:09:05 PM

Please do your best to arrive at a solution that keeps tennis courts available in Central Park. San

Mateo is deficient in courts outside of our high schools (where court time is hard to come by).

Recreational facilities help make this a vibrant community. Thanks for your consideration.

Regards, Bruce Klafter

San Mateo

Phone: 650-345-2787

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delete or destroy any copy of this message!

From: Bronwyn
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet
Subject: Please keep the tennis courts in Central Park
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:41:56 PM

Hello,

I'm a homeowner near downtown and I was stunned to learn that none of the 3 options for the new plan have the tennis courts included.

Please keep the tennis courts in Central Park!

We frequently use them and they seem to always be occupied. They are a huge asset to downtown and the park, and taking them away would be going backwards. They should be improved and enhanced if needed to fit in with the master plan. Playing tennis is a wonderful form of vigorous exercise, so badly needed these days, and it would be a terrible shame to take away this wonderful feature from downtown.

Thanks,

Bronwyn Barnett

From: Brian Ebert
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Central Park Tennis Courts
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:26:26 PM
Please keep and maintain the tennis courts in Central Park.
Brian Ebert

212 W. Bellevue Ave.

From: Angie Ni
To: Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Maureen Freschet
Subject: Please keep the San Mateo Tennis Courts
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:36:18 PM

Dear City Council and Parks & Rec Department,
I am writing about the tennis courts in San Mateo Central Park.
My friends and I play tennis in the San Mateo central park tennis courts every week and the courts are quite full on weekend. We all love the tennis courts in the central park.

Please keep the tennis courts!

Thanks,

Angie

From: Adrien Lanusse [<mailto:adrienlanusse@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:47 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Central Park proposed changes and the tennis courts

Dear City of San Mateo Parks & Recreation Department-

I am sending this letter in regards to the proposed changes at Central Park in San Mateo affecting the tennis courts. As a resident living near downtown, I utilize the park regularly and truly benefit from the tennis courts. Having diverse physical recreation facilities including the tennis courts adds incredible value to living in San Mateo. I bring my eldest son to play there and am always challenged to find ways to get him away from computer screens to get physical activity that he enjoys. Tennis is one of the few physical activities that he enjoys and motivates him. While I know there are other tennis facilities in the City, there are often long waits for a court and spending part of the day waiting for a court defeats trying to engage in physical recreation. Having fewer facilities will only exacerbate the problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Adrien Lanusse
127 N. Ellsworth Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94401

From: CHRISTINE Y Stiles [mailto:cpstiles@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2015 6:45 PM

To: Maureen Freschet; David Lim; John "Jack" Matthews; Joe Goethals; Rick Bonilla; Parks and Recreation Mailbox; Planning Commission

Cc: Larry Patterson

Subject: Update: Over 750 have signed Petition to Save the Tennis Courts in Central Park
Dear City Council, Planning Commission, Park & Recreation:

I would like to update you on the petition to save the tennis courts in San Mateo Central Park. I did not create the petition, nor am I maintaining it, but I have been observing its progress online. **Over 750 community members have signed the petition pleading with the City to keep the tennis courts in Central Park.** Many are also asking that the City better maintain (including resurface) the courts in both Central Park and Beresford Park.

I hope you will take the time to review the Petition and the many comments added by community members.

The link to the petition:

<https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-city-council-keep-our-tennis-courts-in-sanmateo-central-park>

The Tennis Courts at Central Park are historically one of the favorite and important elements of the Park. Examples of this fact:

(a) Article from SF Chronicle May 5, 2000 "Central Park has its roots in San Mateo History":

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Central-Park-has-its-roots-in-San-Mateo-history-3062568.php>

Quote from this article:

"The first superintendent of San Mateo Park, Stanley Pitcher, added a baseball field, playground, picnic area, recreation building, tennis courts and a Japanese Tea Garden, which are still enjoyed today".

Also, reference the same account as above in the Daily Journal with quote from San Mateo County historian Darold Fredricks April 26, 2010.

(b) **Trip Advisor: 16 reviews of San Mateo Central Park in the past approximately 2 years. The four things mentioned most often (and equally) in the reviews: (1) Tennis courts, (2) Children's Playground, (3) Proximity to food establishments and (4) Open Space/walk/play Frisbee.** Followed closely by high mentions of the cherished Japanese Tea Garden and historic baseball field.

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g33031-d3665249-Reviews-Central_Park-San_Mateo_California.html#REVIEWS

(c) **From San Mateo City's own website, the tennis courts listed as a key draw/feature of the Park:**

Central Park

<http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?nid=2444>

Central Park is one of the City's most unique parks. Enjoy the Japanese Garden, ranked 14th in North America for public gardens, and mini Train, which has been a delight for children for generations. The park also offers a playground, tennis courts, baseball field, and horseshoes.

Questions that should be answered for San Mateo residents and taxpayers before further consideration of any plan that excludes tennis courts from Central Park:

(1) How could so many citizens and visitors of San Mateo recognize the courts as a significant/important component of the Park, but not our City Administrators?

Reference page 2 of the "Administrative Report" that lists 10 "main features" of the Park but fails to mention the tennis courts, but does mention bathrooms, pumphouse, etc...

(2) Why did **all three proposals** presented for public review and comment EXCLUDE the tennis courts? Not even one plan with tennis courts in Central Park?

(3) How can the City say that they want to open the area between the Park and Downtown while at the same time a large apartment building between Downtown and the Park has been proposed? The tennis courts are disrupting the flow but the large multi-story apartment building is not? How could that be?

(4) Retrofit for the garage/courts discussed and monies available in 2009.....at that time it was noted another 25 years life left if retrofitted and courts/garage maintained. Was this work done? Why not? If not, with San Mateo budget surplus this year and next, why not get it done now?

From Daily Journal April 20, 2009: Downtown Tennis Courts to be Updated

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2009-04-20/downtown-tennis-courts-to-be-updated/109031.html>

(5) How can the City ignore over 750 community members who want tennis courts in Central Park? Surely that is magnitudes more than attended community meetings on the Park and that regularly attend any City Council or Planning Meetings. People are passionate and care about having the tennis courts Downtown in Central Park.

(6) The City has surplus funds this year and next. Can we use some of those funds to resurface tennis courts at both Central Park and Beresford? Both in major need of repair.

Best regards,
Christine Stiles

Addendum: Sample comments from the petition, in addition to ones I have sent to you previously. At the petition link noted above you will find names associated with each comment. Each bullet point below represents a different individual's comment. Our city needs to retain recreational facilities distributed throughout the city. It allows a variety for residents throughout the city. It serves the ever growing population, and minimizing intra-city auto usage.

*The courts are a very significant part of the downtown San Mateo community. Every major city has courts in main park facilities. Be mindful of the social, health and community benefits that will be destroyed!
I enjoy tennis and playing tennis in Central Park.*

REPORT THIS COMMENT:

This comment is inappropriate

[Report] Cancel

please keep tennis courts in Central Park San Mateo

REPORT THIS COMMENT:

This comment is inappropriate

[Report] Cancel

San Mateo High Schools are already limiting hours that recreational facilities outdoors are open. We need to keep this resource open for tennis players.

REPORT THIS COMMENT:

This comment is inappropriate

[Report] Cancel

Central Park can be re-designed and vitalized without losing the tennis courts, they should stay.

The downtown tennis courts are a real asset to recreational activities in San Mateo. They provide a healthy and convenient place for adults and children to learn, practice and play the noble game of tennis. Relocating the courts to a distant, inconvenient location is not desirable.

The city is not only removing the courts; they are not offering concrete proposals for replacement courts. The former Bay Meadows site is being bandied about as a possible site for lighted, replacement courts, but to date this is lip service. A plan for replacement and additional lighted courts must be part of the Central Park redevelopment plan.

The tennis courts are a great asset to our community and should remain. Such facilities allows for and encourages exercise for all ages as well as for our future generations. The courts are in an ideal location as they are walking distance from many of our homes as well as to downtown allowing for a refreshment or meal following a game.

I want tennis courts in the Central Park to stay and resurfaced nicely. as a senior tennis player, I need to exercise daily and playing tennis will reduce health problem.

While I'm a horrific tennis player, it is silly idea to remove and not rebuild. It's important to keep tennis an option for the people of San mateo and this centrally located park is a place where tennis players need to be able to enjoy our sport.

athletics are important - base ball is not the only game people should be offered to paly

I'm signing because of the historical significance of those long-time courts and the importance of encouraging tennis and outdoor physical exercise.

I enjoy the courts. My whole family play.

The tennis courts are an integral part of Central Park, add to its character, and keep to its mandate as a place of outdoor recreational activities. It was not intended to have an "event" center and particularly not at the expense of one of its recreation areas. The City should not be commercializing the few green spaces we have. Physical fitness in beautiful surroundings should be the goal. Please do not remove the tennis courts from Central Park.

We need more public tennis courts and areas to exercise, NOT less of them. My children take lessons at these courts and I have played there for years. It would be a shame to lose these few remaining courts in SM.

> I am signing because recreational spaces in the heart of San Mateo are important. These courts are available to young and old, across any ethnicity. It makes us unique and a place to want to come live!

*I'm a tennis player and the more courts we have the better. Maybe the City of San Mateo should look to monetize through tournaments and USTA team.
> I'm signing because I have been using the Central Park tennis courts for 15 years now and it's a great place to play; safe, well lit at night and close to various neighborhoods. Moving it by Joinville will only make it harder to play there because the Foster City players will come and it will be more congested! Don't take our courts away at Central Park!!!!*

- *to save the downtown tennis courts*
- *I feel it's an important activity and a long part of the community I support all efforts to keep tennis courts in Central Park. They are an invaluable resource for multiple communities in our city.*
- *My kids take lessons at the park, my husband and I play and many neighbors use those tennis courts regularly. It would be a shame not to have an option to play tennis in San Mateo...*
- *My school uses these courts for our team practice and home games. We do not want to lose them. I also love to have them there for the public.*
- *The courts are needed as they are free and available to all.*
- *Tennis is a sport for all ages..and good exercise. We all should be*

Playing

From: Steve Klein [mailto:steve.klein@fortisureconsulting.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 11:11 AM
To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox
Subject: Central Park Tennis Courts
Importance: High

Dear Sheila Canzian, Director

I AM AGAINST REMOVING THE TENNIS COURTS FROM CENTRAL PARK. The downtown area is greatly enhanced culturally and recreationally by these courts. It is an important amenity to the San Mateo area because it gives our residents a quality venue for physical recreation. It is used by lots of different types of our citizens from all ages and cultural backgrounds.

There are numerous options in San Mateo to accommodate the other proposals. I have decided to work and live in San Mateo because of the overall quality of life. Removing these courts from Central Park is a bad idea and detrimental to our youth and our families.

Respectfully,

Steve Klein
Vice President Client Relations

Fortisure Consulting L.P.

Office: 650-393-4232 x104 | Mobile: 818-730-0651
E-mail: steve.klein@fortisureconsulting.com
Address: 1900 S. Norfolk St. Suite 270 San Mateo, CA 94403

www.fortisureconsulting.com

From: Cynthia Newton
To: Abby Veeser
Subject: RE: Central Park Master Plan Question
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 11:13:36 AM

Thank you Abby, I will fill out the questionnaire.

I play a lot of tennis: I have played on USTA leagues out of both Central Park and Beresford Park and have

taken classes at Central Park as well. I want to make sure that we don't leave our tennis players without a

place to play! As long as this project would be concurrent with the rebuilding of Central Park, I think it would be great. Are you planning to add additional courts or just relocate the 6 courts? I think Bay Meadows would be a great option. Bayside is ok too but quite honestly the smell from the sewage treatment plant would make it less than ideal. We already have the courts at Beresford and I think additional courts are needed and it would be good to have courts in a few locations throughout the city. I

must say that Central Park is a great place to go, I love playing tennis and then going downtown for some

lunch or dinner!

Foster City has so many public courts, I also play on leagues there, it would be nice for a city of our size to

have a equally respectable number of public courts! Foster City as well as San Carlos and other cities in the

area also have very active tennis clubs which offer reduced membership to city residents and are great for

the tennis playing community! I currently belong to both the Foster City and the San Carlos tennis clubs. I

would love to see something similar in San Mateo and could even work with you to make this happen! I

know many tennis players on the Peninsula, many of whom are San Mateo residents, who would love to

see this happen!

Thanks!

Cynthia

Cynthia Newton

650-548-4387

cnewton@acswasc.org

www.acswasc.org

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

From: Abby Veeser [<mailto:aveeser@cityofsanmateo.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 10:16 AM

To: Cynthia Newton

Subject: Central Park Master Plan Question

To Cynthia Newton:

Thank you for your question on the Central Park Master Plan update. The

three designs on the website are the current proposed alternatives. As you noticed, there are no proposed tennis courts in any of the designs. The City has not decided yet where the tennis courts would be relocated, but we did identify a few options. There is a survey on San Mateo Town Hall (www.sanmateotownhall.org) to gather feedback on the design options and one of the questions asks participants where they would like to see the tennis courts. Some options include: Bay Meadows Park, Beresford Park and Bayside Joinville park. We are still in the information gathering phase and want feedback on folks about where they would like to see the tennis courts. I hope this answers your question. Thank you. -Abby Veesper

S. Abby Veesper

Sr. Management Analyst

Parks and Recreation

City of San Mateo

aveesper@cityofsanmateo.org

650.522.7408

650.522.7401

Parks Make Life Better

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

From: noreply@civicplus.com [<mailto:noreply@civicplus.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 11:10 AM

To: Parks and Recreation Mailbox

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Customer Service Feedback Form

The following form was submitted via your website: Customer Service Feedback Form

My feedback is related to: Other

First Name:: Cynthia

Last Name:: Newton

Street Address:: 224 Huron Avenue

City:: San Mateo

State:: CA

Zip:: 94401

Work Phone:: 650-548-4387

Cell Phone::

Email Address:: cnewton@acswasc.org

Comments:: In your proposed redesign of Central Park there are no tennis courts and I saw that they would be moved to another park. I would like to know the details of this.

Additional Information:

Form submitted on: 2/10/2015 11:10:27 AM

Submitted from IP Address: 64.71.20.150

Referrer Page: <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?NID=582>

Form Address: <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/Forms.aspx?FID=45>

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computer. Thank you.

March 30, 2015

Regarding:

TO: The Mayor and City Council of San Mateo The Master Plan for San Mateo Central Park

From: Jan Barker, 35 years as San Mateo Resident

It has come to my attention that the master plans for reconfiguring Central Park include the removal of the tennis courts. The following comments reflect my strong feelings that the courts should not be removed and that instead the city should be more actively looking at how best to utilize them.

Due to my work travel I was unable to attend the public meeting. If there are extenuating issues such as deterioration in the structure that will cause an undo financial burden to the city to fix them then I believe that we must reexamine the funding and the space to reconstruct them somewhere else in the park but complete removal is unhealthy.

With the rise in obesity nationwide San Mateo would be unwise to remove the Central Park tennis courts because they are a place where people can:

- 'Play' for free
- Reach an aerobic heart rate
- Have fun while exercising

Additionally there are seniors in the downtown area that walk to the courts and play regularly. This is an important factor in keeping our senior population on the move, socially connected and healthier overall.

Child Obesity Rate

California is the 26th most obese state in the U.S. for children.

30.4%

*Child Health Data

Although San Mateo County has better rankings on the county level compared to other counties in the State of California we must work to keep it that way. Having more places to be sedentary is not advisable.

Adult Obesity Rate

California is the 46th most obese state in U.S. for adults.

24.1%

*2014 F as in Fat Report (p. 10)

Instead of taking out the courts why not increase their utilization by instituting programs like

- After Work Tennis Group**

Program information can be accessed at the SF Recreation Department

- Beginner Tennis Courses for Free**

Get coaches in the area to donate a couple of hours/month to run introduction to tennis classes

- Cardio Tennis Classes for all age groups

Cardio Tennis is a high energy fitness activity that combines the best features of the sport of tennis with cardiovascular exercise, delivering the ultimate, full body, calorie burning aerobic workout

- Organizing a Central Park USTA and a BALL team**

USTA - US Tennis Association and BALL - Bay Area Ladies League

- Encouraging Youth and Junior Tennis**

Especially to the underserved youth in the city

Adding Pickle Ball Courts

<http://pickleball.com> This is very popular, takes less space & easier to play

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached for questions or feedback at:
Jan P. Barker
26 Wildwood Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402
Home - 650.342.7362 / Cell - 415.710.0288 / e-mail - janpbarker@gmail.com

Wayne R. Brown
601 Laurel Avenue #405
San Mateo, CA 94401
wrbmv@aol.com

April 30, 2014

Dear Mayor Ross,

As a relative newcomer to San Mateo I wanted to offer my congratulations on the way the City is and has been managed, as well as a suggestion on an issue that is currently under discussion -- "improving" Central Park.

My business partner and I founded a largely residential construction company (Brown & Kauffmann) in Palo Alto in 1952, and subsequently developed some six-thousand residential units in the greater Bay Area. Development of several hundred units each entailed our being involved in extensive land planning, as well as housing construction. In the course of all of the land planning required, I gained great respect for the professional skill of "land planners". Given a raw piece of land they can create a vastly superior subdivision or residential community, particularly on rolling or hillside property, than the simple grid pattern often proposed by civil engineers. However, given an opportunity to "improve" an existing and well-balanced part of a community like Central Park, they will seldom find it in their interest to say "it's great as it is -- leave it alone".

Having lived in various communities on the Peninsula -- Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Woodside, Atherton and for the recent eight years in San Mateo -- I can say with no reservation that your Central Park is superior to any other city park that I have had the pleasure of enjoying.

My wife and I live at "The Stratford" on Laurel Avenue, directly across from Central Park and enjoy it every day, as do all of our fellow residents. Central Park is used by a wide spectrum of San Mateo residents, and where it excels is the many areas of open space -- dads playing catch with their kids, Frisbee, family picnics, and a minimum of carved-out special interest uses.

The public has recently been invited to contribute suggestions regarding Central Park. Judging from my experience, some small group will suggest installing a putting green. Sounds reasonable, and it's green -- why not! The same with lawn bowling (see Palo Alto). These special interest projects are under-utilized and can be surprisingly expensive to install and to maintain (we built the Robert Trent Jones eighteen-hole golf course in Bodega Bay as part of our 750 unit "Bodega Harbour" community). And they must be fenced off causing a further reduction in the open space that can be used by all.

The fortunate factor about Central Park is that it has grown and developed organically, with contributions from broad segments of the San Mateo population and with appeal to broad constituencies, not narrow interest groups: the Rotary Club, the Japanese community, the Arboretum Society, the San Mateo Gardeners Association, the Garden Study Club of the

Peninsula, the numerous benches donated by individuals (often dedicated in memory of a deceased loved one) for all to enjoy, and the marvelous collection of swings and other playground equipment, plus the toy railroad. All of these are of broad interest while still preserving sufficient wide-open useable space.

You, your associates, and your predecessors (e.g. Mayor Garvey) are to be congratulated for preserving this jewel of a city park, maintaining it beautifully, and resisting on-going and recurring attempts to "improve" it. You can save the Park from this fate and save a great deal of taxpayer money in the process. If one person or a group is hell-bent on making changes, rest assured they can and will find seemingly persuasive reasons, laws or Federal statutes to back up their wish-list. Continue to preserve the Park as it is -- mow the lawn, trim the hedges, keep it neat and clean, and let it continue to thrive for the benefit of all of the City of San Mateo.

Regards,

Wayne R. Brown

City of San Mateo
300 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

ATTN: Parks and Recreation

RE: CENTRAL PARK PLANS

3/17/2015

We reside at 601 Laurel Avenue Apt #805 and overlook Central Park from our 8th floor condominium apartment. The following items are of particular interest to us in the ongoing study.

Dog Run: the concept of a dog run on Laurel Avenue is particularly unacceptable. Presently many dogs use the extensive lawn for urinating and defecating. Their owners arrive by car and on foot, frequently accompanied by barking and yelping dogs. That area is also a multi-use location for families and groups of varying ages to picnic and enjoy volleyball and touch football, and other activities.

Tennis Courts: are under-utilized. However the glaring lights that are on till 10 PM, and sometimes later are an eyesore from our location. Relocation or an adjustment of some sort would be welcome.

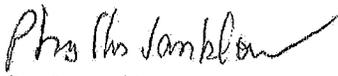
Ceramic Studios: are a welcome bonus. We would be happy to see a larger facility that would comfortably accommodate more students. HI fire kiln would be very desirable.

Recreation Building: would be sorely missed if eliminated, would rather see it expanded to include other activities.

Baseball field bleachers: shrinking or eliminating them would be a good idea.

The Japanese Garden: is a gem, highly visited, and we should consider longer hours than the current 4PM closing, especially during the longer daylight season.

Restrooms: present a problem, should be accessible, but are noticeably attractive to vagrants.


Phyllis Janklow


Alvin Janklow

March 24, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: S.M. Park Reconstruction Plans

1. Please, no dog park on Laurel Avenue between 6th + 7th Ave.
2. With no dog park, no additional parking spaces would be required. (No to diagonal parking)
3. O.K. to (~~reduction~~) reductions of baseball field.
4. No to additional performance space. It's plenty loud enough now when musical events take place in the park.

Respectively submitted

Noel Bayley

The Stratford

@ 01 Laurel #404

S.M., CA 94401



DANIEL C. GILBRECH

222 Seventh Avenue, San Mateo, California 94401-4294

Phone: (650) 348-2042 - Fax: (650) 347--6028

E-mail: dcgilbrech@gmail.COM

March 24, 2015

Planning Commission
City of San Mateo
330 W. 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

Re: PA 15-019 CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Dear Commissioners,

My family, friends and I feel blessed to have lived over 42 years within 1/2 block from one of the most harmonious parks of its size in the Bay Area.

Please Keep it , improve it, but don't waste tax payer money changing something that doesn't need to be changed.

The flow of our park invites young and old to a peaceful experience. So I feel we should:

- Maintain our current Historical feeling through the old growth and pathways.
- Improve the underground infrastructure where needed.
- Keep the current location for the recreation/Senior Center near the Tea Garden and if needed, update and enlarge it with the same architectural design. Do Not move it to a street location
- Enlarge the secured & raised underground parking under current tennis courts and recreation center, etc.
- Keep the current number of tennis courts for young and old. The raised courts keep better security for the underground parking. With the planned Essex Development, it will probably be used even more by residents who won't have to drive.
- The Baseball area could be made a little smaller and set up for multi uses and utilized better by the Park & Recreation Department. (Baseball, Dog Walk & Bocci Ball & music events, etc.)
- Improve the Bocci Ball courts so people know they exist with rental equipment...
- Update The Arts and Ceramics Crafts area.
- Update if needed the Picnic area, Play Ground and the Train.

Remember there are many older residents in our neighborhood, who use our park.

Please, all I am trying to say is try to preserve what works. The new designs are nice, but do you feel they will enhance the residents of San Mateo.

We need to keep a little history around all the proposed TOD's. The contractor hired for this job, only listened to what they wanted to hear. This is our park.

Sincerely,


Daniel C. Gilbrech