



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:00 pm
City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES: September 13, 2017

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

For persons desiring to address the Commission/Committee/Board on an item that is not on the agenda please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Brown Act limits the Committee's ability to take and/or discuss items that are not on the agenda; therefore, such items are normally referred to staff for comment or to a future agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Welcome to Commissioner Harriet Patterson

5. PUBLIC HEARING/PRESENTATIONS:

5-1: Presentation of Conceptual Design for Pedestrian improvements along San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street: The City has initiated design development for the installation of bulb outs, medians, high visibility crosswalks, and audible pedestrian signals along San Pablo Avenue and for pedestrian improvements at three intersections on Buchanan street: The gateway plaza at the Buchanan/Pierce intersection, a Pedestrian Hybrid beacon at Buchanan and Taylor, and the realignment of the Marin/Buchanan merge, which provides an opportunity to create a pocket park. Staff is seeking input from the Parks and Recreation Commission in relation to the treatment of the medians, gateway plazas, and pocket park conceptual plans.

Recommended Action: That the Commission review plans and provide input.

Attachments: Map

5-2: Albany Hill Vegetation Management: Margot Cunningham will review a selection of oak trees to be removed as part of the Vegetation Management Plan on Albany Hill. She will also update the Commission on the Butterfly Study.

Information Only

Attachments: Thinning Oaks Memo

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

6-1: Soda Tax: The Commission will discuss and finalize ideas for how to spend the revenue generated by the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage tax.

Recommended Action: That the Commission finalize the recommendation to City Council for how to spend the revenue generated by the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage tax. City Council will consider all ideas at a special study session on October 30, 2017.

Attachments: Soda Tax Idea List

6-2: Park Rules & Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park Hours of Operation: The Commission will discuss the idea of prohibiting dogs on Ocean View Ball Field and inside Tennis Courts. Currently, dogs are not allowed on Memorial Park Ball Field and inside playground areas. The Commission will discuss establishing hours of operation for Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park.

Recommended Action:

1. That the Commission approve the recommendation to City Council to establish hours of operation for Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park.
2. Prohibiting dogs on Ocean View Field and in Tennis Courts is a discussion only.

Attachments: Hours of Operation Staff Report

6-3: Street Tree List Sub-Committee: The Tree Planting List Sub-committee will report back to the Commission on their progress of updating the approved street tree list.

6-4: Friends of Albany Parks Events: Past: Creekside Park Clean-Up (Saturday, September 23), Dartmouth Tot Lot Clean-Up (Saturday, October 7, 9 am) These are the final FOAP events this year-spring schedule will come out in the 2018 Winter/Spring Guide.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

(Commissioners announce of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 9, 2017 7:00 pm, City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave. Please Note: There are no public meetings in August.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

NOTE: *The Commission/Committee/Board packet is available for public inspection at the Albany Community Center, Senior Center, and City Hall. The agenda and supporting staff reports, if available, can be found on our web page at www.albanycga.org. If you provide your name and address when speaking before the Commission/Committee/Board it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet.*



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 14, 2017, 7:00 pm
City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 pm

- 2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES:** July 13, 2017: *Motion made by Vice Chair Esbin to approve the minutes; Seconded by Commissioner Abbott; All in favor; Motion carried*

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

5. PUBLIC HEARING/PRESENTATIONS:

- 5-1: Memorial Park Ball Field Fence:** The Commission reviewed the proposal to increase the height of the right field foul line and southeast corner of the tennis courts at Memorial Park ball field.

Motion made by Commissioner Pearson to approve the proposal to increase the height of the right field foul line and southeast corner of the tennis courts at Memorial Park ball field; Seconded by Commissioner Abbott; 5 in favor; Motion carried. Commissioner Mellers recused herself from this item.

- 5-2: Street Tree Removal Application 944 Stannage Avenue:** The Commission reviewed the street tree removal application for one (1) Camphor.

Motion made by Commissioner Mellers to postpone the decision until the next meeting so the Urban Forester can gather more information about the this sidewalk getting placed on the sidewalk replacement list; Seconded by Commissioner Pearson; All in favor; Motion carried.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 6-1: Albany Hill Hazardous Tree Removals:** John Hawridge (City of Albany Urban Forester) and Margot Cunningham (City of Albany, Albany Hill Vegetation Management Coordinator) presented the vegetation maintenance plan for the upcoming removal of hazardous trees on Albany Hill.

Informational Only

- 6-2: Street Tree List Sub-Committee:** The Commission formed a sub-committee to review the approved Street Tree Planting list.

Commissioners Mellers, Abbott & Pearson volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

- 6-3: Soda Tax:** The Commission discussed ideas for how to spend the revenue generated by the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage tax and will finalized recommendation to Council at next meeting.

- 6-4: Friends of Albany Parks Events:** Past: Jewel's Terrace Park Gala (July 26), Clean-Up (August 5); Upcoming: Creekside Park Clean-Up (Saturday, September 23, 9 am)

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

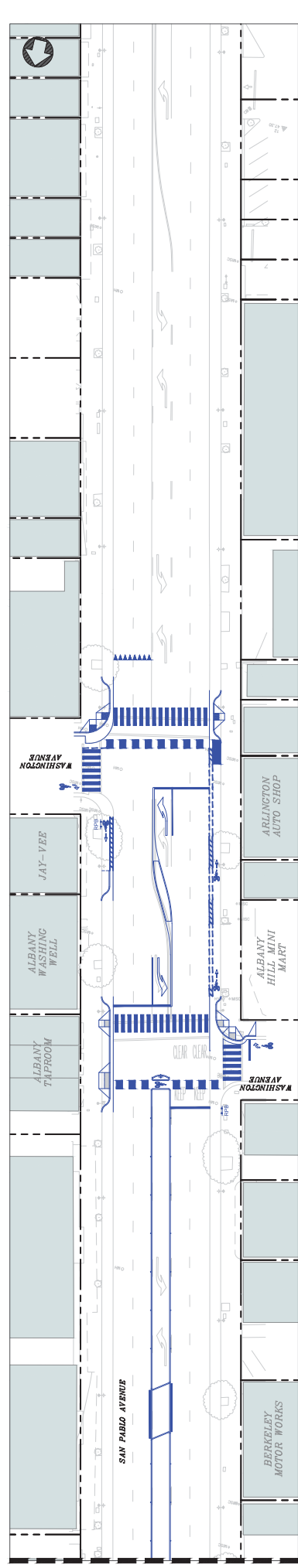
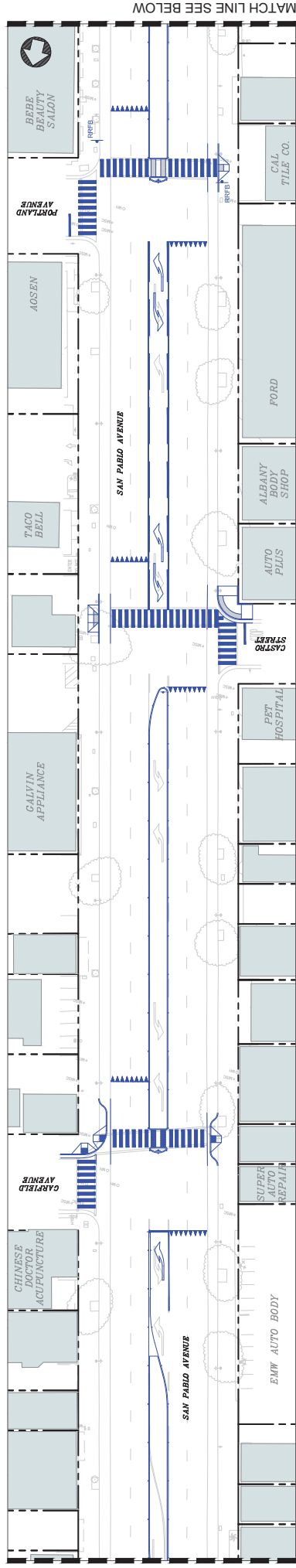
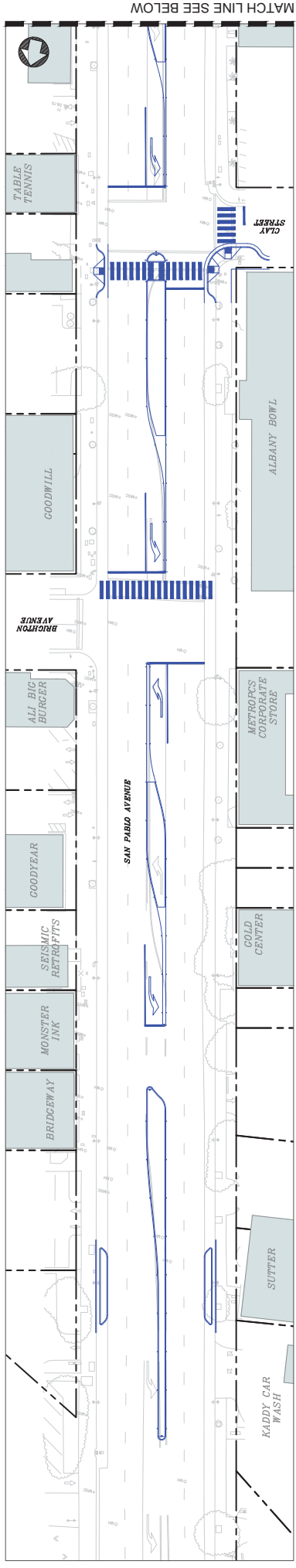
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Next Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2017 7:00 pm, City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave. Please
Note: There are no public meetings in August.

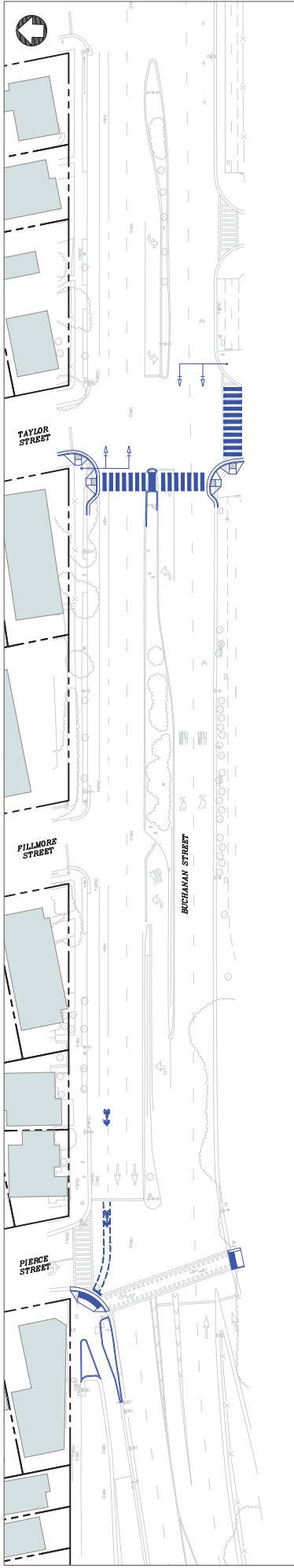
8. ADJOURNMENT: 9:01 pm

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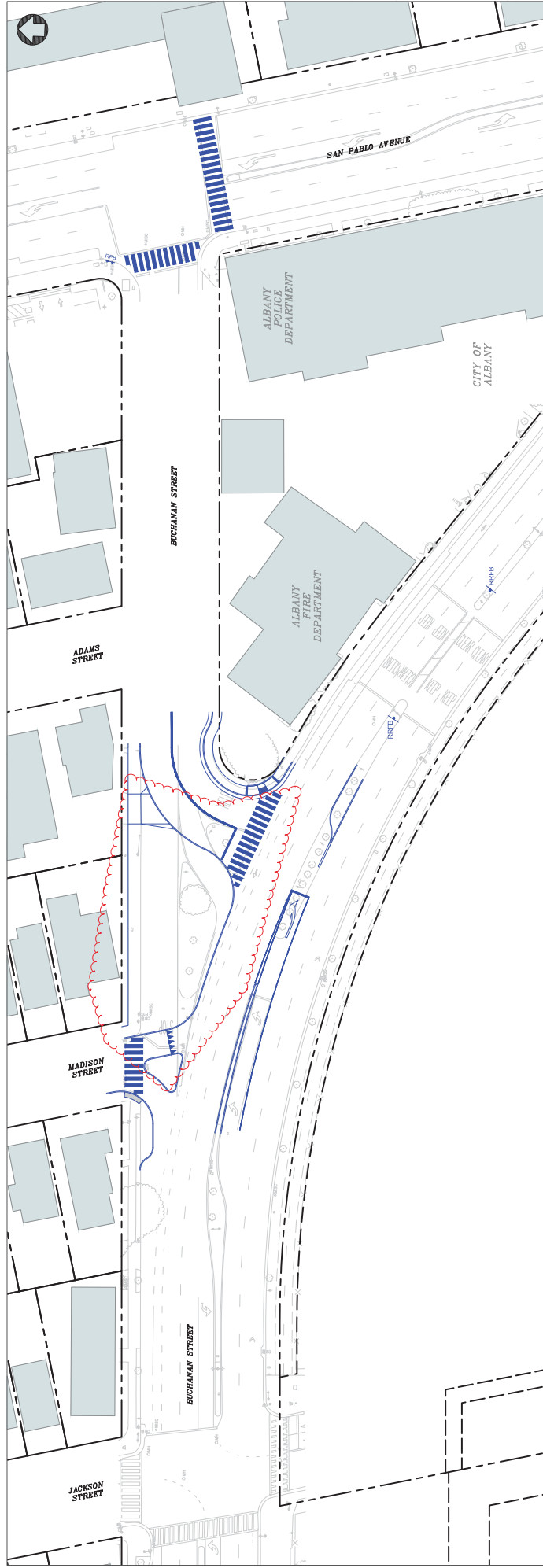
SAN PABLO AVENUE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS (10.03.17)



BUCHANAN STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS (10.03.17)



PIERCE STREET AND TAYLOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS (SCALE: 1" = 30')



BUCHANAN STREET AT MADISON STREET IMPROVEMENTS (SCALE: 1" = 30')

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margot Cunningham, Albany Hill Vegetation Management Coordinator
Subject: Thinning oaks in Creekside Park, Albany Hill
Date: October 4, 2017

The meadows on the east side of Albany Hill have been shrinking over the last several decades as coast live oaks encroach on them. The top photo from the early 1990's shows how large the meadows were at that time, and the bottom photo taken this summer shows the same area.



Thinning some of the oaks would increase the extent of the grasslands, which support their own suite of animals and plants, including native bunch grasses, wildflowers, bees, butterflies, and birds.¹

Grasslands need disturbance in order to survive. Historically, animals such as pronghorn antelope and elk grazed these grasslands, eating and trampling seedling shrubs and trees. In addition, California Indians burned grasslands to keep them open so they could easily hunt game and also to encourage the growth of the forbs and grasses that they harvested for food.²

Both of these disturbances have disappeared from our landscape. Mule deer do graze some on shrubs and trees in the grasslands, but not enough to kill them.

Thinning some oaks would also provide more visibility in the meadows, where people frequently hang out at the benches and along the area illegally dug and scraped away for dirt bike activities.

The Albany Hill Creekside Park Master Plan has recommendations for thinning oaks and keeping the meadows open. Page 56 lists these actions:

*OW 3 Selective removal in young oak thickets to remove dead wood, select for best oak trees.
G 3 Remove encroaching shrubs. Maintain 2011 boundaries as approx. 70% open grassland.*³

My recommendations are to take out the smaller oaks in these meadows and at the entrance to the oak woodland trail while keeping the larger and more healthy oaks. Thinning allows the oaks that are left more room to grow unimpeded by surrounding

small oaks. The kept oaks will have more light and water and will be healthier in the long run.

The thinning at and near the entrance to the oak woodland trail can possibly be done in association with the improvement project on that trail.

1. "The loss of grasslands to encroaching shrubs and trees, even if they are native woody plants, reduces habitat for grassland dependent plant and animal species "

source: <http://web.sonoma.edu/cei/prairie/management/restoration.shtml>

2. Anderson, M. Kat. 2005. *Tending the Wild, Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*

3. *Albany Hill Creekside Park Master Plan. 2012. Vegetation Management, Detailed Implementation Plan.*

PRC Soda Tax Ideas:

- Provide nutrition, exercise classes free of charge
- Free Street Tree Planting
- Fund more Bike Racks
- Add Big Bellies
- Support for Bike About Town, Marin Monster
- Ohlone Fitness EQ-enhance equipment or additional equipment
- Bring Bike Share to Albany
- Outsource to other agency to bring programs to Albany
- Sidewalk repair -- to encourage walking and rolling around town. Lighting as well to encourage walking in the winter months
- Expand exercise equipment on the greenway -- especially targeted to kids (ideally interactive with kids and adults)
- A fund for grants to residents and organizations for health-encouraging programs or improvements
- Ball / sports equipment library (especially for the parks with fields/courts). There may be vending-machine like solutions for this.
- Funds for bikeshare in coordination with nearby cities
- Free street trees (Health benefits of street trees!)
- Additional Recreation classes. I would like to reduce the price of classes for adults, and maybe for children, rather than offering free classes because in my experience people do not take seriously classes that are free.
- Adding potable water bottle refill stations to parks or at key points along recreation paths/routes (i.e. Ohlone Greenway, at parks, etc) esp in partnership with goals about walking

**CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: October 12, 2017

SUBJECT: Hours of Operation for Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park

REPORTED BY: Chelle Putzer, Recreation and Community Services Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission discuss hours of operation for Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park and make a recommendation the City Council to establish the same hours of operation for this new neighborhood park as other neighborhood parks in Albany; 7 am-9 pm April 1-October 31; 7 am-8 pm November 1-March 31.

BACKGROUND

In February of 2011, the Parks and Recreation Commission made a recommendation to the City Council to establish hours of operation for parks not included in the Albany Municipal Code at that time (Ocean View Park, Dartmouth Tot Lot & Jewel's Terrace Park). The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the hours of operation for Ocean View Park coincide with the hours at Memorial Park (5 am-11 pm) given that both parks are considered community parks. The Commission also proposed hours of operation at Jewel's Terrace Park and the Dartmouth Tot Lot coincide as both parks are considered neighborhood parks (7 am-9 pm April 1-October 31; 7 am-8 pm November 1-March 31). City Council approved Resolution No. 2011-8, establishing the hours of operation for these parks in the Albany Municipal Code section 8-4.3.

DISCUSSION

Albany's newest park, Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park, will open this fall. Hours of operation need to be established and included in the Albany Municipal Code for them to be enforced.

In the 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Pierce Street Park is categorized as a Neighborhood Park. Neighborhood Parks are defined as a combination playground and park, designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size (about 5 acres) and serve an area of approximately one-half mile radius. Typically,

facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts and multi-use sport fields. The City of Albany's two other neighborhood parks are Dartmouth Tot Lot and Jewel's Terrace Park.

It is recommended that Peggy Thomsen Pierce Street Park have hours of operation that coincide with the City's other two neighborhood parks; keeping park hours as similar as possible will assist the Albany Police Department with enforcement.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact for the additional language to the Municipal Code.