EMAILS RECEIVED REGARDING COUNCIL PACKET ITEM

CITY OF ALBANY, CALIFORNIA



ALBANY CITY HALL 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE ALBANY, CALIFORNIA 94706

Item No. 12-1: Work Plan Amendment Request To Explore Options to Install a Basketball Court at Memorial Park

> CITY COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2020

From: To:

citycouncil

Cc:

Subject: Date: Attachments: Restoring Basketball at Memorial Park Monday, January 27, 2020 9:59:28 PM Petititions for Basketball at Memorial Park.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL.]

Dear City Council members,

My neighbors and I are asking for your help restoring basketball at Memorial Park.

We live on Carmel, Ramona, and Portland Avenue, at homes bordering Memorial Park. We were all shocked back in December when the basketball courts adjacent to the high school were suddenly taken down. We heard that it may be 4 years or longer before the basketball courts will be put back up, if at all.

We understand that it was the School District that removed the courts, not the City. However, we're hoping that the City can help restore basketball at Memorial Park. (We are also writing a letter to the School District to raise our concerns about this loss.)

In our neighborhood, many of us have young children who regularly played basketball at Memorial Park, who enjoyed the freedom of walking on their own to join a pickup basketball game with their friends. The basketball courts were a great amenity, since our small lots and narrow streets make it challenging to accommodate private basketball hoops. We don't feel comfortable allowing our children to walk farther than a few blocks alone, especially in the evening. So alternative basketball locations will not be used by our families.

The Memorial Park basketball courts were a central meeting point for the community. We often saw our neighbors spontaneously at the basketball courts, and pickup games offered a great way to connect with others in the community of all ages. Memorial Park is a central, widely used park by many. So the removal of the basketball courts is a loss for many in Albany and the surrounding areas.

We recognize that the City Council did not make the decision to remove the basketball courts at Memorial Park. However, we hope that you can assist in restoring this incredibly valuable recreation amenity at Memorial Park, the community hub of Albany.

For your reference, at the December Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, several of us made public comments, hoping the City could help find a way to restore basketball at Memorial Park.

Also, we've attached a petition signed by over 100 community members in support of restoring basketball at Memorial Park.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Becca Black, Albany Poet Laureate 2016-2020

Rebecca Black, Carmel Avenue Francis Kelly, Carmel Avenue

Sarah _____, _____, Dan _____,

Aaron Frank, Carmel Avenue
Michele Ling, Carmel Avenue
Keske Toyofuku, Carmel Avenue
Monica Norton, Carmel Avenue
Mike Norton, Carmel Avenue
Amy Baer, Carmel Avenue
Dan Baer, Carmel Avenue
Siu Yung Wong, Ramona Avenue
Alma Wong, Ramona Avenue
Christina Chang, Ramona Avenue
Max Wei, Ramona Avenue
Jerome Wei, Ramona Avenue
Jackie Bittner, Portland Avenue

All four (4) basketball hoops were removed and there are currently no public basketball courts at the park.

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Josh Rotenberg	1341 Washington Air	joshvaterbugegmyi l.com		
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From: To:

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE; citycouncil

Subject:

Letter of support.

Date:

Monday, January 13, 2020 4:53:56 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL.]

Dear City Council and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission,

My name is Terry Georgeson, and as the Principal of Oceanview Elementary School, I strongly support increasing the recreation options at Memorial Park by converting one of the four (4) tennis courts into a basketball court.

As you may know, Oceanview Elementary students will soon be relocated and attend school at Albany High School including the portables recently located near the Aquatic Center at Memorial Park starting February 24, 2020.

At the Oceanview campus, we currently have 2 full basketball courts and ample blacktop space. We plan on having a few options for recreation such as the play structure on Memorial park and the small space we have along the side of the portables. However, once at Albany High, we will be unable to offer basketball as an option. Basketball is a very popular activity and part of our PE program.

In addition, students regularly use the basketball courts during recess and lunch. So, it would greatly benefit our student community if they could continue to have a space made available for basketball and do not lose this opportunity with our relocation. Our students would be thrilled if more recreation options were offered to them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Terry
Home of the Otters!

Terry Georgeson, Principal

Ocean View Annex Grades 1st & 2nd
601 San Gabriel Ave, Albany, CA.
(510) 558-4803

Ocean View Jackson Grades 3rd, 4th & 5th

1000 Jackson Street, Albany, CA.
(510) 558-4800

Ocean View Attendance (510) 558-4801 ovattendance@ausdk12.org



Celebrate Community Honor Diversity

Please visit the AUSD website at:

Website



From: To: Cc: citycouncil

Subject: Date: Re: Restoring Basketball at Memorial Park Monday, January 27, 2020 10:51:58 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL.]

Please add my name to this letter.

My older daughter is a middle school student and the only thing on her Christmas list she was a basketball so she could meet with friends at the park and shoot baskets. Having a safe place for my middle school daughter (and one in a few years for my younger daughter) to hang out with friends is important to me as a solo mom to two girls. I need to balance the need for my older daughter to spread her wings with the need to keep my second grader close. The loss of this meeting point has made it much more difficult to find the necessary balance. We appreciate anything the city can do to respond to this loss; while we recognize it was not your doing, we understand you have options to respond to this loss and to me and my daughters as your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Chatman

On Jan 27, 2020, at 9:58 PM, Rebecca Black <rebeccalouiseblack@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Council members,

My neighbors and I are asking for your help restoring basketball at Memorial Park.

We live on Carmel, Ramona, and Portland Avenue, at homes bordering Memorial Park. We were all shocked back in December when the basketball courts adjacent to the high school were suddenly taken down. We heard that it may be 4 years or longer before the basketball courts will be put back up, if at all.

We understand that it was the School District that removed the courts, not the City. However, we're hoping that the City can help restore basketball at Memorial Park. (We are also writing a letter to the School District to raise our concerns about this loss.)

In our neighborhood, many of us have young children who regularly played basketball at Memorial Park, who enjoyed the freedom of walking on their own to join a pickup basketball game with their friends. The basketball courts were a great amenity, since our small lots and narrow streets make it challenging to accommodate private basketball hoops. We don't feel comfortable allowing our children to walk farther than a few blocks alone, especially in the evening. So alternative basketball locations will not be used by our families.

The Memorial Park basketball courts were a central meeting point for the community. We often saw our neighbors spontaneously at the basketball courts, and pickup games offered a great way to connect with others in the community of all ages. Memorial Park is a central, widely used park by many. So the removal of the basketball courts is a loss for many in Albany and the surrounding areas.

We recognize that the City Council did not make the decision to remove the basketball courts at Memorial Park. However, we hope that you can assist in restoring this incredibly valuable recreation amenity at Memorial Park, the community hub of Albany.

For your reference, at the December Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, several of us made public comments, hoping the City could help find a way to restore basketball at Memorial Park.

Also, we've attached a petition signed by over 100 community members in support of restoring basketball at Memorial Park.

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Best, Becca Black, Albany Poet Laureate 2016-2020

Francis Kelly, Carmel Avenue Sarah Dan Aaron Frank, Carmel Avenue Michele Ling, Carmel Avenue Keske Toyofuku, Carmel Avenue Monica Norton, Carmel Avenue Mike Norton, Carmel Avenue Amy Baer, Carmel Avenue Dan Baer, Carmel Avenue Siu Yung Wong, Ramona Avenue Alma Wong, Ramona Avenue Christina Chang, Ramona Avenue Max Wei, Ramona Avenue Jerome Wei, Ramona Avenue Jackie Bittner, Portland Avenue

Rebecca Black, Carmel Avenue

<Petititions for Basketball at Memorial Park.pdf>

From: To:

citycouncil

Subject:

Re: Restoring Basketball at Memorial Part Monday, February 3, 2020 11:47 54 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL.]

Dear City Council members,

Please see the attached picture for the multi-use courts that are an option, which allows for both tennis and basketball recreation uses.



On Jan 27, 2020, at 9:58 PM, Rebecca Black < rebeccalouiseblack@gmail.com > wrote:

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Rebecca Black, Carmel Avenue Francis Kelly, Carmel Avenue Sarah Dan Aaron Frank, Carmel Avenue Michele Ling, Carmel Avenue Keske Toyofuku, Carmel Avenue Monica Norton, Carmel Avenue Mike Norton, Carmel Avenue Amy Baer, Carmel Avenue Dan Baer, Carmel Avenue Siu Yung Wong, Ramona Avenue Alma Wong, Ramona Avenue Christina Chang, Ramona Avenue Max Wei, Ramona Avenue Jerome Wei, Ramona Avenue Jackie Bittner, Portland Avenue

<Petititions for Basketball at Memorial Park.pdf>

From: <u>Isabelle Leduc</u>
To: <u>Eileen Harrington</u>

Subject: FW: Basketball Courts at HS

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 2:02:02 PM

From:

Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 4:46 PM

To: PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE < PROSC@albanyca.org>

Cc:

Subject: Basketball Courts at HS

[EXTERNAL EMAIL.] Hello Commission,

My 3rd grader is going to move to the HS after winter break. I was concerned about his recess play area and my principal responded to my concerns. In her response, she told me the district is working to get basketball hoops by the new HS Annex.

Who knows if its real but I thought you would like to know the latest on the basketball issue at Memorial.

Warm regards,

Sara