



**Town of Atherton  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
July 3, 2024**

**Regular Meeting  
6:30 PM – Council Chambers  
Hybrid Meeting  
In Person/ Zoom**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Committee Members: Dorothy Hunter, Alex Keh (Chair), Frank Merrill, Julianna Robertson, Walter Robinson (Vice Chair), Bob Roeser

Councilmember Liaisons: Rick DeGolia,  
Staff: Robert Ovadia

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

**3. PRESENTATIONS – NONE**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **June 5, 2024 - Motion: Merrill, second: Robinson, Approved.**

**5. REGULAR AGENDA**

**5a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Robert Ovadia Presented the item of election of Chair and Vice Chair, Alex Keh was Elected Chair and Walter Robinson Elected to Vice Chair

**5b. Committee Calendar**

Chair Keh proposed the Committee calendar for 24-25 FY, Committee members discussed and made the appropriate updated the calendar.

**5c. Priority Setting**

**A.** Chair Keh raises the question about same priorities from the past fiscal year or should they be updated.

**B.** Priorities were set with the Committee, Main House and Jennings Pavilion upgrades, Pickleball and the playground

**C.** Sub Committee are as follows, **Facilities-** Hunter and Merrill. **Pickleball-** Roberston Robinson and Roeser. **Playground-** Keh, Robinson, Roeser

5d. **Playground Update**

Robert Ovadia gave an update of the feedback that was received and the possible changes to the concept. Scott Harrison gave a presentation and shared feedback as well. The Committee Discussed Cost, Materials and magical bridges involvement

Public comment: from Katie peck concerning accessibility for the park and any and all disabled children.

Public comment: Kim Nye spoke about her family and the evolution of the Holbrook Palmer Park playground plans. She encourages us to go to Magical Bridge for them to present a playground design

Public Comment: Mark Owen, an Atherton resident for over 30 years. Spoke about other parks in the area his grandson loves and has encouraged Atherton to take a look at Magical Bridge.

Public comment: Olenka Villarreal, the founder of Magical Bridge spoke about our current designs. Elena spoke about children with disabilities and what playground from magical bridges can do to make things accessible

Public Comment Online: Sarah Verity representing Ability path, they strongly recommend Magical Bridge, she gave insight in an All Inclusive playground, Touching on the importance of layout, colors, and cognitive variations.

Public Comment: Shannon Garrow, Gave her support of Magical Bridge. He spoke on how it has helped her own son.

Public Comment: Ken Fredrick spoke about the fiscal responsibility the town has with the cost of over a Million dollars for a playground. Ken stated we have no goals, data or standards for the playground. What are the ages ranges and who is it for. His recommendation is to slow down and do the right thing

5e. **Pickleball Trial Update**

Robert Ovadia updates the committee on pickleball usage numbers, we are seeing a steady rise in usage every month. We are starting to responses to the pickleball survey. Robert went over some of the responses to the questions on the survey. Committee members discussed the shared there input.

5f. **Brightview Quality Site Assessments**

- June 2024 Quality Site Assessment Report

Robert Ovadia presented the QSA for the park, Robert covered the paving projects and timing of completion. Robert answered questions about bright view staffing and scheduling, Robert covered who was responsible for playground and inspections and how we can work together to help point out issues.

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS - None**

**7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS**

- 7a. Park Foundation Report Merrill  
Frank Merrill stated he has arranged scouts to rehab it the old exit gate to the park.
- 7b. Park Division Monthly Report Staff  
Robert Presented
- 7c. Park Events Report Staff  
Robert Presented
- 7d. Individual Committee Member Comments All  
Chair Keh advised there will be survey going out to the town, The Town wanted to collect feedback from the P&R Committee, If there was anything of us to add to the survey about Parks and Recreation. Chair Keh will bring the survey as an agenda item for September meeting

**8. SET/CONFIRM NEXT MEETING AND TOPICS**

September 4, 2024, 6:30pm

**9. ADJOURN 8:58pm**

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