



CITY OF PIEDMONT

Park Commission Agenda
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference

COVID 19 ADVISORY NOTICE

Consistent with Executive Orders No. N-25-20 and No. N-29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California and the Alameda County Health Official's August 20, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the Park Commission meeting will not be physically open to the public and committee members will be teleconferencing into the meeting via ZOOM Teleconference.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can participate in the meeting in several ways:

- Computer or smart phone: Click on <https://piedmont-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/83500296375>
- Computer or smart phone: Click on https://piedmont.ca.gov/government/meeting_videos and select the Park Commission meeting
- Telephone: Dial (669) 900-9128 and enter webinar/meeting number 835-0029-6375
- Television: Watch on KCOM, Comcast Channel 27 or AT&T UVerse Channel 99

To participate in the meeting by providing public comment, members of the public may use the ZOOM platform to make live, verbal public comments. To speak to the Commission, click the "Raise Your Hand" button when the item on which you would like to comment is called. If you are connected to the meeting by phone, please dial *9. When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will call your name and unmute your line, at which point you will have three minutes to address the Commission. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted. Instructions of how to "Raise Your Hand" is available at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/205566129%0D-Raise-Hand-In-Webinar>

Any member of the public who needs accommodations should email the City Clerk at cityclerk@piedmont.ca.gov or call (510) 420-3040 who will make their best efforts to provide reasonable accommodations to provide as much accessibility as possible while also maintaining public safety in accordance with the City procedure for resolving reasonable accommodation requests. Information about reasonable accommodations is available on the City website at <https://piedmont.ca.gov>.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum

This is an opportunity for members of the audience to speak on an item not on the agenda.

Regular Agenda

1. Approval of Park Commission Minutes for March 3, 2021

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Park Commission
3. Update on Piedmont Garden Club's Civic Projects Donation for Native Plantings at the Highland-Guilford Steps and Handrail Project
4. Update on Arbor Day April 30, 2021- A Virtual Celebration
5. Consideration of Heritage Tree Nominations for 2021
6. Update on Piedmont Garden Club Installations of Temporary Flash Flower Arrangements in Piedmont Parks and Civic Spaces
7. Update on Park Funding Opportunities through Proposition 68 Grants
8. Monthly Maintenance Report: Park, Open Space, and Street Tree Update for the Month of March 2021

Announcements, old business and consideration of future agenda items

Adjourn

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Park Commission are available for public inspection in the Public Works Department during normal business hours.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (510) 420-3040. Notification at least two business days preceding the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

In accordance with G.C. Sec. 54954.2(a) this notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board and also in the Piedmont Police Department on April 2, 2021.

PIEDMONT PARK COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 3, 2021

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Park Commission was held March 3, 2021, via teleconference, consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the Alameda County Health Official's Order #20-04. In accordance with Government Code Section 54957(b), the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on February 26, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dunlap called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Patty Dunlap; Commissioners Amber Brumfiel, Betsy Goodman, Jim Horner, Brian Mahany, Robin Wu

Absent: Eileen Ruby

Staff: Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent, Public Works Director Daniel Gonzales, Senior Engineer John Wanger, Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich, and Administrative Assistant Mark Enea

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for Public Forum.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Commission considered the following items of regular business:

Minutes

Approval of Park Commission Minutes for 02/03/2021

Resolved, that the Park Commission approves the Park Commission meeting minutes of February 3, 2021 as presented.

Moved by Goodman, Seconded by Wu

Ayes: Brumfiel, Dunlap, Goodman, Horner, Mahany, Wu

Noes:

Absent: Ruby

Manor Drive Tree Assessment Report

Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent reported East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) has proposed a project to replace a water main on Manor Drive between Arroyo Avenue and Cambridge Way, and staff anticipates at least half the street being repaved as part of the project. She indicated several sections of curb, gutter, drainage structure, and sidewalk could be replaced prior to repaving the street.

Ms. Kent noted 51 street trees were tagged and evaluated for the Arborist Report, prepared by consulting arborist Darya Barar from HortScience /Bartlett Consulting. She advised that staff and Steven Van Suan of Coastland Engineering and Arborist Darya Barar met on February 5th and determined sidewalk and curb work will damage five trees to the extent that they should be removed. She indicated the five trees are number 207 at 18 Manor Drive, number 216 at 21 Manor Drive, number 223 at 69 Manor Drive, and numbers 200 and 198 at 100 Manor Drive. She noted staff and the arborist will be onsite during construction and will update the Park Commission and discuss tree replacements in an upcoming meeting.

There was no **Public Testimony** on this matter.

**Piedmont Garden
Club Request to
Install Temporary
Flower Arrangements**

Ms. Kent shared photos of flash flower arrangements in New York. She advised that the Recreation Department will issue use permits that specify conditions for the installation of arrangements.

Chairperson Dunlap read the Piedmont Garden Club's proposal and recused herself from further discussion of this item as she is a member of the Piedmont Garden Club.

There was no **Public Testimony** on this matter.

Commissioners indicated the proposal is a great concept and thanked the Piedmont Garden Club for their generosity.

Resolved, that the Park Commission approves the Piedmont Garden Club's request to install temporary flower arrangements in Piedmont parks and civic spaces.

Moved by Goodman, Seconded by Horner

Ayes: Brumfiel, Goodman, Horner, Mahany, Wu

Noes:

Abstain: Dunlap

Absent: Ruby

**2021 Heritage Tree
Nominations and
Arbor Day Updates**

Ms. Kent indicated a few people have contacted her about nominations. She noted staff is preparing an interactive map of Heritage Trees to place on the City website.

Chairperson Dunlap stated Heritage Tree nominations are due March 19th, and winners will be announced during the April 7th Park Commission meeting. She appreciated Commissioner Brumfiel's articles about Heritage Trees that have appeared in local media over the past few weeks.

Commissioner Horner encouraged Commissioners and the public to explore trees in Piedmont and nominate those that have a special form, flower, location, age, or history or those that are unusual. He summarized the process for reviewing and selecting nominations and shared plans for a virtual Arbor Day program.

Chairperson Dunlap advised that Zack Parisa will be the guest speaker and the jazz band will provide music for the Arbor Day program on April 30th.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

**Park Funding
Opportunities – Prop.
68 Grant Update**

Ms. Kent reported staff will submit a grant application to fund Phase 1 of the Linda Beach Master Plan. She stated to comply with grant requirements staff has planned a virtual neighborhood meeting for March 6, 2021 with goals of updating the community about Phase 1 improvements and obtaining feedback about the volunteer/neighborhood component of the project.

Ms. Kent recommended Commissioners not participate in the neighborhood meeting so that they comply strictly with the Brown Act. She noted a video recording of the neighborhood meeting will be available for Commissioners to view.

There was no **Public Testimony** on this matter.

**Highland-Guilford
Steps, Handrail &
Lighting Project
Update**

Ms. Kent advised that staff is working with consultants to finalize a cost estimate for the project and will provide the estimate to the Piedmont Beautification Foundation (PBF). She described materials selected thus far for the project.

There was no **Public Testimony** on this matter.

**Monthly Maintenance
Report – February**

Ms. Kent noted heavy usage of parks during the COVID-19 pandemic, but parks are holding up well to the increased usage. She indicated users in general are wearing masks while in parks.

Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich reported staff has concentrated on removing weeds and emptying trash bins. He indicated staff has replaced a liquidambar tree on Boulevard Way with two Chinese pistache trees, reseeded the oval lawn at Linda Park across from Beach School, removed moss from pavement at City Hall, trimmed approximately 25 juvenile trees, maintained street trees and hedges on sidewalks near school campuses as students return to schools, and irrigated the sunny areas of park lawns. He noted the street tree pruning contractor has trimmed more than 250 trees and encouraged the public to begin using gaiter bags for trees.

There was no **Public Testimony** on this matter.

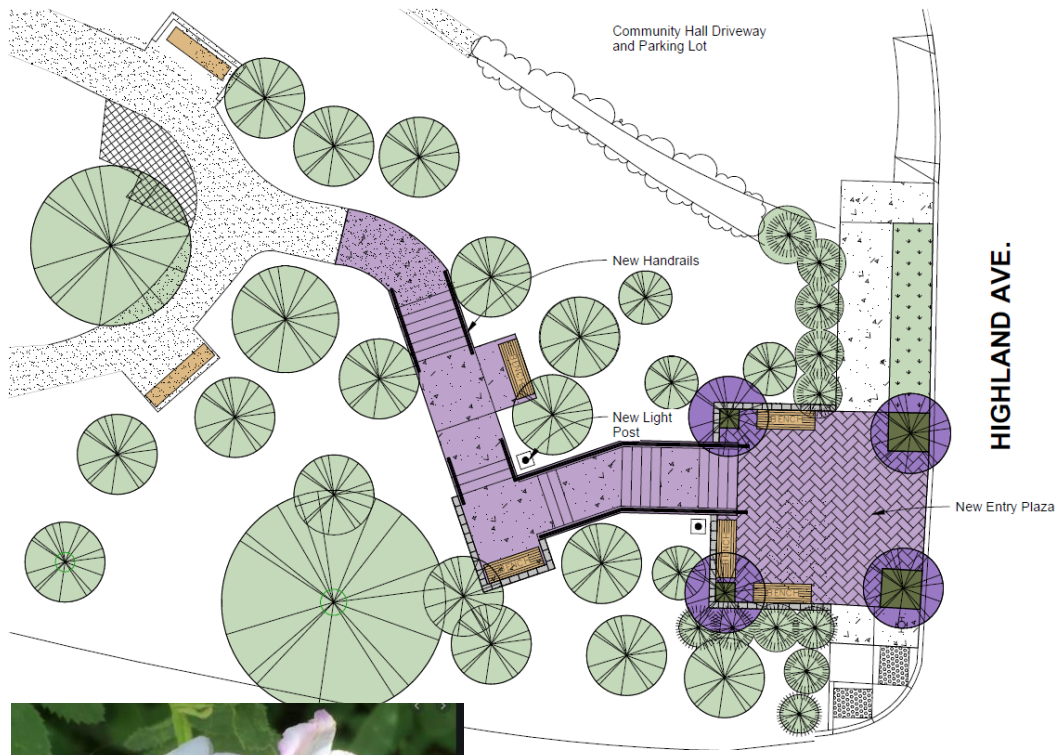
**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no reports or announcements.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Dunlap adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.



California Wild Rose

Piedmont Garden Club Civic Donation 2021

New native and pollinator shrubs and groundcover around the Highland Guilford Steps and Handrail Project



Coffeeberry



Ceanothus



Ribes



Manzanita

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 7, 2021
TO: Park Commissioners
FROM: Nancy B. Kent, Parks and Project Manager
SUBJECT: Consideration of Heritage Tree Designations for 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the designation of _____ as Heritage Trees in the City of Piedmont for 2021

BACKGROUND

The Heritage Tree Policy was initiated by the Park Commission in 2017 and approved by the City Council at their January 16, 2018 meeting. The Policy and Q and A Fact Sheet are attached. EXHIBIT A and B.

This year the Heritage Tree Subcommittee reviewed 15 submissions for the 2021 nominations.

DISCUSSION

The Subcommittee will present their deliberations and announce the tree selections for this year. The 2021 winners will be asked to be a part of the City's virtual Arbor Day video which will be posted on the City's website on April 30, 2021.

By: Nancy B. Kent, Parks & Projects Manager

CITY OF PIEDMONT
Policy & Procedure

Policy No. 7
Section: Parks

SUBJECT: Designation of Heritage Trees on City Property

Policy

It is the policy of the City of Piedmont to recognize and celebrate noteworthy and distinctive trees on City owned property. This Heritage Tree Policy underscores the important benefits that trees, and the greater urban forest, make to our community such as clean air, carbon sequestration, their ecological role, wildlife benefits, and improved storm water control.

Procedure

1. Each year, the Park Commission may solicit nominations for trees on City owned property to be designated as Heritage Trees. The Commission and Department of Public Works staff will solicit nominations from individuals and community groups including, but not limited to, the Piedmont Beautification Foundation, Garden Clubs, Scouting Organizations, and Piedmont High School AP Environmental Science students.
2. Nominations for designation may be for an individual tree or a group of trees of the same species in a small, defined area on City owned property where an individual tree alone may not merit such status, but the collective import of a group or association is greater than the individual tree. Nominations for a group of trees shall be considered a single nomination.
3. Trees nominated for designation as Heritage Trees shall be on City property, should be in good health, not pose a hazard to pedestrians, automobiles, buildings, or utilities and shall have one or more of the following qualities:
 - a) **Aesthetics:** The tree is an integral part of an architectural theme, or plays an important role in framing or screening a building or other civic feature.
 - b) **Historical:** The tree is recognized as part of a memorial or is an outstanding remnant of early civic plantings. The tree may already have landmark status, named with a plaque, or identified as a contributing or character-defining feature in a historic structures or landscape report.

- c) **Educational:** The tree represents an outstanding example of the species, in its age, size and form, is unique to the City, or is an outstanding example of California flora.
- 4. Upon receiving the nominations, Department of Public Works staff shall evaluate nominated tree(s) to determine whether the nominated tree(s) meet the criteria for the designation as a Heritage Tree. Staff will present their report on the nominated trees to the Park Commission.
- 5. The Park Commission will consider staff's report on the nominated trees and may designate a maximum of five trees as Heritage Trees per year. The designations will be formally announced at the City's annual Arbor Day celebration.
- 6. The Department of Public Works will develop signage to be placed on or near each designated Heritage Tree. In addition, staff shall create a map of designated Heritage Trees which will be made available to the public at City Hall and on the City's web site.
- 7. The Park Commission and Department of Public Works will work with interested community groups to obtain possible funding for the operation and maintenance of the Heritage Tree program.
- 8. Designation as a Heritage Tree is intended to celebrate noteworthy and distinctive trees in the community. However, designation as a Heritage Tree does not provide any special protection to trees so designated.
- 9. Should a designated Heritage Tree become diseased, malformed, or otherwise no longer meet the designating criteria, it may be removed from the program by vote of the Park Commission. Should a designated Heritage Tree pose an imminent hazard to persons or property, the Director of Public Works may immediately take action to remove the designated tree, upon written determination of the hazard.

Initiated by: Park Commission

Approved by: City Council

Date: 01/16/2018 (Resolution 3-18)

Q and A Regarding Heritage Tree Policy

What is a Heritage Tree Policy?

It is a city program or procedure that celebrates noteworthy and distinctive trees in the community and promotes understanding of their benefits to our urban forest.

Why is it good for Piedmont?

It will be another expression of what the community values. It celebrates the best of our public urban forest. It will identify special, distinctive trees, noteworthy by their large size, unique species, prominent location or historical context.

Why is that important?

The Heritage Tree Policy will promote the study of nature through the use and enjoyment of our public parks, streets and medians. It will underscore the important benefits that trees, and the greater urban forest, make to our community such as clean air, carbon sequestration, their ecological role, wildlife benefits and improved storm water control. The intent is that people of all ages will be encouraged to visit our parks and find each Heritage Tree.

What criteria are used to determine whether a tree qualifies for the program?

To be considered a heritage tree, it should be in good health, not pose a hazard to pedestrians, automobiles, buildings or utilities. The designation may include a group of trees of the same species where an individual tree alone may not merit such status, but the collective import of a group or association is greater than the individual tree.

The tree, or group of trees, should have one or more of the following qualities:

1. **Aesthetics:** The tree is an integral part of an architectural theme, or plays an important role in framing or screening a building or other civic feature.
2. **Historical:** The tree is recognized as part of a memorial or is an outstanding remnant of early civic plantings. The tree may already have landmark status, named with a plaque, or identified as a contributing or character-defining feature in a historic structures or landscape report.
3. **Educational:** The tree represents an outstanding example of the species, in its age, size and form, is unique to the City, or is an outstanding example of California flora.

Should a Heritage Tree become diseased, malformed or otherwise no longer meet the designating criteria, it may be removed from the program by vote of the Park Commission.

How will trees be designated?

Any resident or staff member may nominate a tree. New trees will be nominated each calendar year by December 31, and then vetted through the Public Works department arborists. They will test whether the nominees meet the criteria for the Heritage Tree designation. City staff will bring candidate trees to the Park Commission, who then will discuss and vote on which trees to include. Up to five new trees will be announced and added to the program the following Arbor Day.

Who maintains the policy?

The program will be managed by the Public Works department staff and the Park Commission. Ultimately symbols on an interactive map on or linked to the City's web page could show the tree locations. Clicking on the symbols would bring up information about the trees such as: location, common and botanical names, size, origin of the species, qualities that make it distinctive and when it was added to the program. In the near term photos and a map of the trees may be added to the PBF display now running in City Hall.

What are the costs?

The probable costs outlined here are limited to City expenses in terms of time. Community partners may adopt some aspects of the policy that could offset some City costs.

- 1) staff time to evaluate and present the nominations.
- 2) staff time to layout, fabricate, install (and repair) the tree plaques.
- 3) extra consideration may be devoted to these trees. Proposed projects will recognize and protect Heritage trees by using best practices in design and construction. Project reviews by the Public Works or the Park and Planning Commissions should support the protection of the Heritage Trees.

Who are Community Partners?

The Park Commission and Public Works Department welcome organizations in the community to assist the implementation of the policy. Possible participants include:

- Piedmont Beautification Foundation
- Piedmont Garden Clubs
- Local Scouting Organizations
- Piedmont High School AP Environmental Science students

Possible activities may include: underwriting the cost of the plaques and their upkeep, leading walking tours of the trees, encouraging nominations, developing and maintaining an interactive map for community use, and arranging Arbor Day publicity and announcements.

Why only public trees?

There are many superlative trees throughout Piedmont. To include trees on private property would greatly increase the pool of candidates. Many communities have heritage tree ordinances that identify and celebrate special trees, but also protect

selected species, such as oaks and redwoods, or in some cases, all trees over certain size without regard to land ownership. These ordinances can be punitive requiring property owners to obtain permits and pay fees when having tree work done, requiring more City staffing to process applications, regulate care and enforce penalties. This truncates the sense of the tree as a community asset. The intent is to have a policy and procedure that celebrates community trees, not an ordinance that regulates the use and enjoyment of private property.

Suggested sign examples

Durable, weatherproof sign material can range from multi-colored layers of plastic laminate, baked enamel, or engraved metal and would typically be about 3 1/2" x 5". Signs should be attached to the trees at eye level (60") with non-corrosive screws. For example the message might read:

City of Piedmont

Heritage Tree #6

Italian Stone Pine

Pinus pinea

Southern Europe

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 7, 2021

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: Nancy B. Kent, Parks and Project Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Piedmont Garden Club's Installation of Temporary Flash Flower Arrangements in Piedmont Parks and Civic Spaces

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item. No action is required.

BACKGROUND

The Park Commission at their March 3, 2021 meeting approved the request by Piedmont Garden Club (PGC) to place temporary flower arrangements throughout the City, including in Piedmont parks and civic spaces as a celebration of spring.

PGC members applied for a use permit through the Recreation Dept. The permit specified the date of the installations and removal conditions as well as additional requirements for flower placement.

PGC members placed flower arrangements in eleven different locations ranging from Linda Kingston Triangle, City Center, Crocker and Dracena Parks and Estates Triangle. PGC photographer, Sharon Hom photographed the displays. Attached exhibit illustrates the arrangements and their locations. **EXHIBIT A.**

By: Nancy B. Kent, Parks & Projects Manager



EXHIBIT A

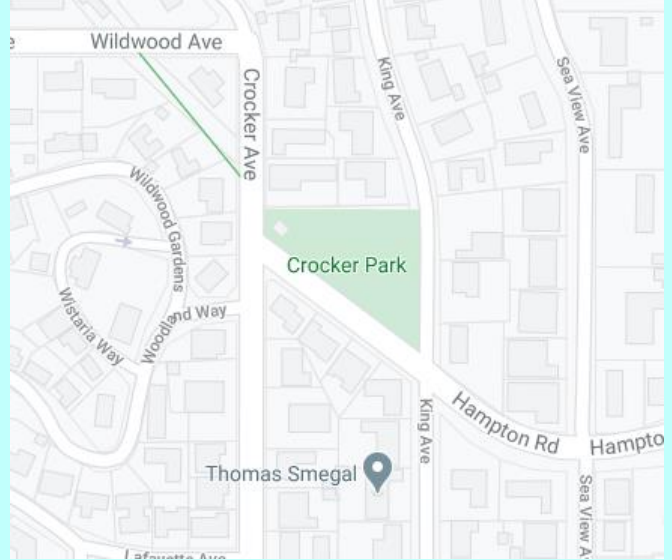
Matt Hearey, Kea

Photography by: Sharon Hom



Flash Floral in Piedmont 2021

At City Hall Fountain



Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 : Crocker Park



Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 : Lower Dracena Park

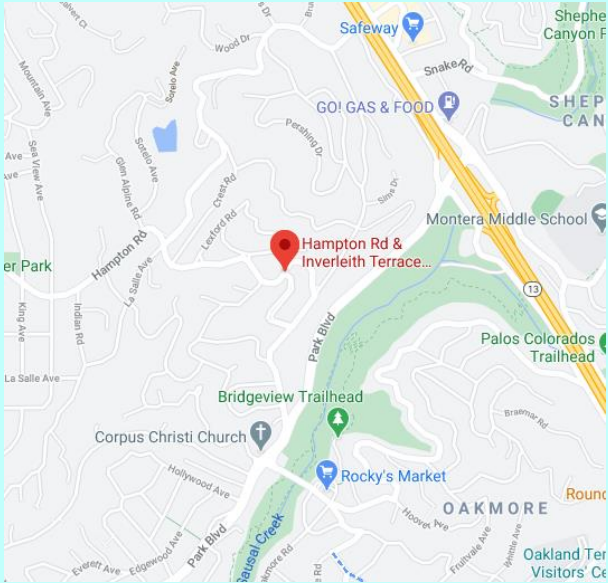


Photography by: Sharon Hom

Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 : At Estates Triangle

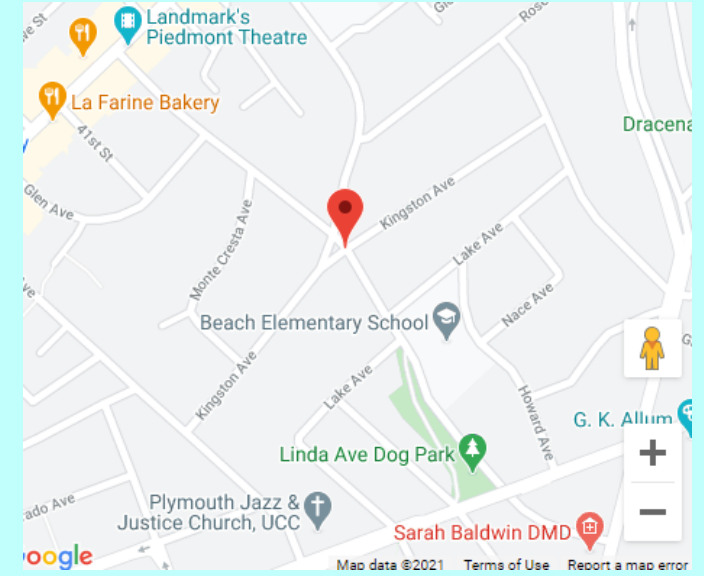


Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 Piedmont Park Exedra Plaza



Photography by: Sharon Hom

Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 : Hampton and Inverleith Terrace



Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 : Linda Kingston Triangle

Photography by: Sharon Hom

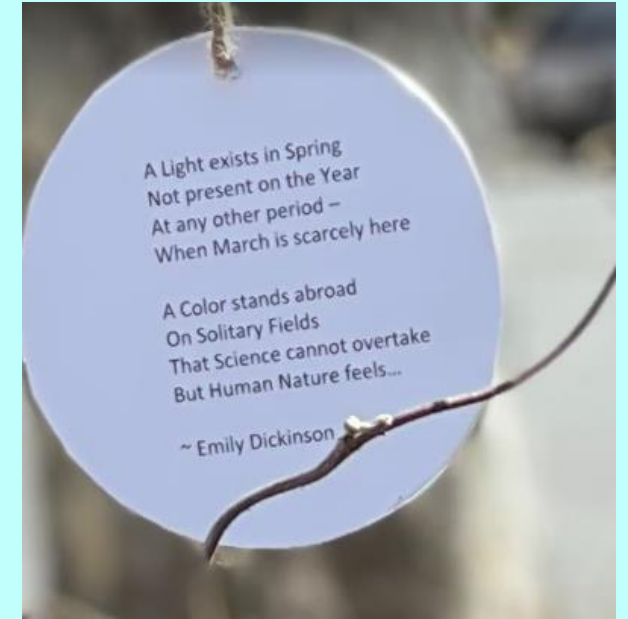


Flash Floral in Piedmont 2021 : At a Mail box



Photography by: Sharon Hom

Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 : At a London Plane Street Tree



Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021 At a London Plane Street Tree



Flash Floral in Piedmont Parks 2021

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 7, 2021

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: Nancy B. Kent, Parks and Project Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Park Funding Opportunities through Proposition 68 Grants

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item. No action is required.

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Parks and Recreation's Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) has allocated funding for the Statewide Park Program (SPP), which is funded through the Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018, also known as Proposition 68. Proposition 68 was approved by the voters on June 5, 2018. This is the fourth round for the competitive grant program funding.

The Statewide Park Program (SPP) supports funding vibrant parks that will create humane and healthier communities. SPP embraces meaningful engagement with local residents where park designs represent each community's unique recreation needs and creativity. SPP is the largest park related grant program in California's history. Funds are available for projects that create a new park, expand or renovate an existing park.

The City of Piedmont will be seeking funds for phase one of the Linda Beach Master Plan which was approved by the City Council on January 22, 2019. The focus of the grant proposal will be the creation of the California Playscape at the southern end of the park. The playscape will offer informal nature play for toddlers and their families. Other improvements in this first phase of renovation include handicap accessible ADA entrance and pathways, a new and expanded restroom, picnic areas and gathering spaces for family activities.

DISCUSSION

The grant process emphasized the goal of incorporating community based planning into the development of park programs. As part of the application, the City had to document efforts to engage residents in the design of the park. The City selected the Linda Beach Master Plan because it met this goal with a robust community outreach process that incorporated residents' ideas, concerns and aspiration through a series of 11 public meetings. The planning process

involved presentations at five Neighborhood Workshops, four Park and Recreation Commissions and two City Council meetings. The last Neighborhood Meeting was held virtually via zoom on Saturday March 6, 2021. Flyers for the meeting were posted in the parks, on social media and in Rec. Dept. newsletters.

The meeting included Recreation Director, Chelle Putzer, Sustainability Program Coordinator Alyssa Dykman, Nancy Kent, Parks and Project Manager and Sara Peschel, Project Landscape Architect at GroundsWork Office. There were over 30 virtual attendees and after a brief presentation summarizing Phase One of the Master Plan, participants were asked for their ideas on how they would like to participate in the development of the park. Slides were presented on a number of options and an on-line poll allowed participants to vote on their favorite option-developing a butterfly garden in the park. EXHIBIT A

The State will be making their decision on grant distribution in late summer of 2021.

By: Nancy B. Kent, Parks & Projects Manager

All graphics and photos are available as JPEG files upon request



LINDA BEACH MASTER PLAN

VIRTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021
10-11 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89959577946>
Call-In: +1 (669) 900 9128; Meeting ID: 89959577946

Learn about the Linda Beach Park Master Plan and Proposition 68 grant opportunities. We need your ideas for potential California Playscape volunteer projects!

BRING YOUR KIDS & LETS BRAINSTORM TOGETHER!

Presented by: City of Piedmont & Groundworks Landscape Architects

For more information contact: Nancy Kent at nkent@piedmont.ca.gov

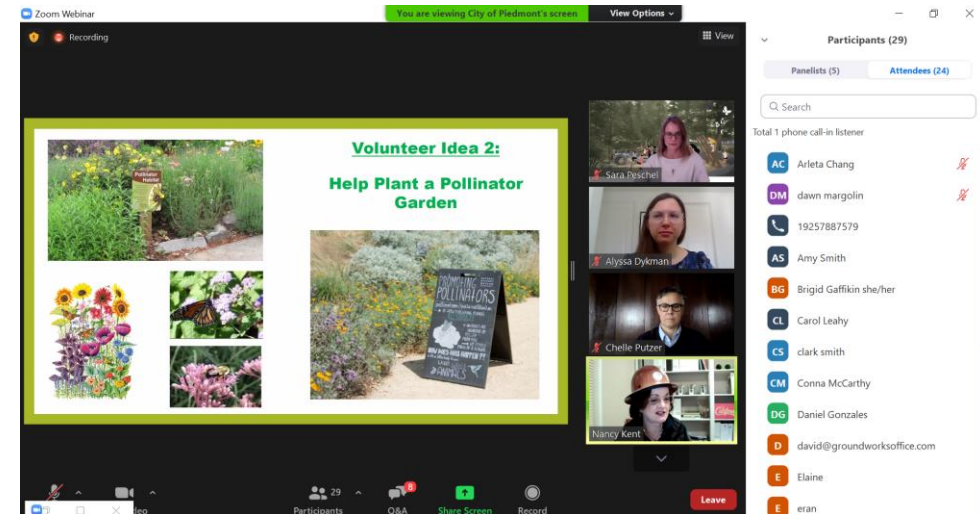
Flyer for Virtual Meeting posted on site, on social media and mailed to neighbors



Virtual Meeting Participants were asked for their volunteer ideas and with an on-line poll voted for the Butterfly garden as their favorite choice.



Examples of slides for discussion



Link for virtual meeting: <https://youtu.be/v6vHfosOMCA>

EXHIBIT A

City of Piedmont

Prop. 68 SSP:

Linda Beach Park: Phase One: Meeting #11: Virtual Neighborhood Meeting