

Karen Clark

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 3:52 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: Brigitte Shearer; Karen Clark
Subject: Park& Rec Priorities 2021 - give Open Space it's fair share
Attachments: Park Expenditure History 2014-2021.pdf

Hello Commissioners,

Belmont officials frequently exclaim how much they love Belmont's Open Spaces. Master Plans cite how open spaces contribute to our quality of life, and how they distinguish us from surrounding communities. Reports verify that without our open spaces Belmont would be ranked deficient in park area per capita. But the shameful truth is that this glowing praise has never translated to funding – Belmont has woefully underfunded Open Spaces and has never put its money where its mouth is. Open Space is Belmont's neglected stepchild.

The attached table shows expenditures for the Parks and Open Space accounts over the past 8 years. The data says it all. Open Spaces receive less than 1% the amount we spend on the other city parks – less than \$17,000 yearly. We spend 5 times as much on just *athletic fields* as we do on our entire 300+ acres of open spaces. Is it any wonder that our trails are eroded and dangerous, our creeks and forest in decline, and we have resorted to volunteers for maintenance. For decades we have short-changed our open spaces and now this “pride of Belmont” is showing the neglect.

As commissioners your role – spelled out by City Code 2.166 - is to “Advise the parks and recreation department in the preparation of the annual budget and long-range recreation and park capital improvement program.” Commissioners, now is the time to step up. I urge you to fulfil your role, and advise our Director and City Council that our park budget is seriously out of balance. Your budget should reflect our City priorities, and for years this plain fact has been ignored.

Setting priorities, as you are tonight, cannot be done without first considering funding. A necessary part of home ownership is the cost of taxes and upkeep; you don't buy a home without budgeting for payments and maintenance. So, while I admire the new *“love Waterdog”* campaign, I remind you that no program comes without cost. As commissioners, you have *no business* recommending programs to *increase* park use without first funding the maintenance to *mitigate* that use.

Until the City is willing to put it's money where it's mouth is, our Open Spaces will continue in decline, and the blame for the shameful degradation of Belmont's *“jewel”* will lay with the Commission. It's your JOB - your leadership is needed. Your *assigned role* is to advise in the preparation of the annual budget and capital improvements, and to ensure that *budgets align with priorities*. Please learn about the budget that you oversee. Then I urge you to advise the Director and City Council to correct the longstanding imbalance and give Open Space it's fair share.

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer
Belmont resident



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Karen Clark

From: Chelsea Stewart <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 8:00 AM
To: P&R Comm; x-Parks/Recreation Office
Subject: Local Artist Mural Proposal
Attachments: ChelseaStewart_CV (1).pdf; ChelseaStewart_MuralProposal.pdf

Hello Belmont Parks and Recreation board,

My name is Chelsea Stewart, and I am a local emerging contemporary artist. I would like to pass this mural proposal onto the Parks and Rec team, as well as those in charge of the Belmont Public Art Master Plan. I have copied my cover letter below for easier viewing. Thank you in advance!

Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation Department & Public Art Master Plan team,

My name is Chelsea Stewart (she/her/hers), I am an emerging contemporary artist born and raised in Belmont. I am sending you this proposal in hopes of your consideration of seeing this public art project idea through. I would like to propose a mural design for a location in downtown Belmont. In this proposal, you will find 3 finalised possible mural designs, alongside research, inspiration, mockups and an estimated budget template. Below is a bit more information about myself as an artist and why I am sending this plan to you.

I am a Belmont local, and I graduated with a BFA in Studio Art from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. For those that don't already know, a few years ago I did the Utility Box on the corner of Alameda de las Pulgas and Ralston Ave. This project was definitely a highlight as an artist, and the positive feedback I received has been so gratifying. The inspiration for the box was "public places of Belmont", in which I made a wayfinder sign surrounding the box to highlight local parts of Belmont, or places of interest, such as the Belmont Historical Society, Waterdog Lake, local parks and the Community Center. I did this idea because I wanted to highlight and promote the features that make Belmont, Belmont. And that is exactly why I am sending this to you, to further propel these values forward.

When I was in 6th grade at Ralston Middle School, for three years straight I would walk down to the Barrett Community Center to take art lessons with local fine art artist, Kevyn Warnock in Studio 17. There, I was able to see just how vibrant the local art was, meeting other artists such as Kay Podolsky and Ruth Waters. Sadly, these studios are no longer, but these three women were few of the many that had studios in the center and they made me realise that becoming an artist as an adult was something I wanted to pursue. I then took teen classes in Burlingame at Art Attack 911, and after Carlmont High School, where I was President of the Studio Art Club and helped finalise the installation of the mural behind the Performing Arts Center, I went on to graduate from Cal Poly SLO where "Learn by Doing" is now something I can't go a day without thinking.

This mural proposal is for the wall space next to Lorenzo's and the Village Cobbler shop, two places that I have grown up driving past and frequented weekly to order sandwiches from, so much so that at one point during my AYSO career, they had my family's orders memorized down to the avocado.

I hope that you take serious consideration into this proposal, as Belmont as a whole is a town I hold near and dear to my heart. As an emerging contemporary artist, I want the opportunities that Belmont has provided to be the catalyst of my career as a working artist. Lastly, I want to give back to the town that I love so much. I look forward to your reply and welcome any feedback you have regarding this proposal.

Thank you in advance for any consideration, and I am attaching the full Mural Proposal, along with my CV to this email. I look forward to hearing from you!

All the best,
Chelsea Stewart

█

she/her/hers

chelseaannestewart.com | @chelsea_anne_stewart

Karen Clark

From: Karen Clark
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:18 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Public Comment Follow-Up

Good Morning Commissioners,

Please find the follow up on a public comment from last night immediately below.

Thank you,

Karen Clark, CPRP

Administrative Assistant
Belmont Parks & Recreation

Pronouns: she/her/hers ([why use personal pronouns](#))
Main Office: (650) 595-7441 | Direct Line: (650) 595-7470

[“Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community”](#)
[Department Home Page](#) | [City Email Notifications](#) | [Online Service Requests](#)



From: Karen M <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:59 AM
To: Karen Clark <KClark@belmont.gov>
Subject: Re: P&R Meeting information

Hi Karen,

Here is the [Mountain biking Impact review](#) study I referenced in my comments last night. It was done by a group of scientists from UCSC. I have found the FAQs to be really helpful.

On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 11:45 AM Karen Clark <KClark@belmont.gov> wrote:

Hello Karen,

Of course, you are always welcome to do so! Please refer to the top of the [agenda](#) for directions on how to speak through Zoom.

Thank you,

Karen Clark, CPRP

Administrative Assistant
Belmont Parks & Recreation

Pronouns: [she/her/hers \(why use personal pronouns\)](#)
Main Office: (650) 595-7441 | Direct Line: (650) 595-7470

[“Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community”](#)
[Department Home Page](#) | [City Email Notifications](#) | [Online Service Requests](#)

From: Karen M [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:35 AM
To: P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>
Subject: P&R Meeting Item 6 D Master plan update

Hi,

I will be attending tonight's P&R meeting and I would like to address the Commission on Item 6-D Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan Update.

Thank You
Karen Moody
moodykmz3@gmail.com

Karen Clark

From: Paul Sheng <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:59 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: public comment on item 6(D) (Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan Update)

Hello, I would like to make public comment on item 6(D) at tonight's meeting via Zoom.

Thank you,

Paul Sheng

Karen Clark

From: Deniz Bolbol <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:43 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: public comment for Nov 4th Agenda #6D

Good evening,

I would appreciate if you would share this email with all commissioners & the director. Since public comments is limited, would you please read the **bold text** below on the record? I hope it's not too long. Thank you!
Deniz

Hello Commissioners and Director:

In an effort to ensure the Master Plan process is a highly responsive process, I urge you to consider and incorporate the following ideas when working with the consultant.

- Hold separate public engagement meetings to solely address the Open Space component:

The Master Plan covers a wide variety of activities -- from summer camp activities to construction of play parks. Open space management is a highly specialized area that includes various expert practices from protecting endangered and threatened species to ensuring uses are designed and regulated to protect the natural environment, wildlife and aesthetic beauty. To adequately address this unique feature, it would be helpful to provide a separate forum for this public engagement.

- Provide platform for different user groups to address their concerns & preferences:

Because Belmont's open space allows multiple uses, it is important that the MP process provide residents with a variety of perspectives and information. **It would be helpful if the MP process provides opportunities at Master Plan meetings for different user groups to present information/data and answer questions. Allowing user groups to present at the meetings will ensure that Belmont residents are aware of varying options and make informed decisions.**

- Ensure open process and engagement:

When soliciting input from residents, it's important to present open-ended questions in order that residents' true preferences are captured. Consultants often want to create close-ended questions often forcing residents to pick from a poor set of options. Consultants often seek to create a process by which a desired outcome can be achieved, rather than an open process that allows the public engagement to lead the decision-making process.

- Belmont Master Plan process should prioritize Belmont resident input:

While Belmont welcomes all to enjoy our open space and amenities, it is important that the P&R Department prioritize the Belmont's taxpaying residents. While asking for a street address is a violation of privacy, the Department should have a policy that Belmont residents should identify themselves so the Department knows when Belmont residents are providing input. Since Belmont residents are paying for this - their opinions should be prioritized.

Lastly, if this has not already been provided -- would the director please tell us if the City plans to engage an open space consultant -- if so, who is that?

Thank you very much.

■

Deniz Bolbol

Belmont resident

Karen Clark

From: Karen M <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:36 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: P&R Meeting Item 6 D Master plan update

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi,

I will be attending tonight's P&R meeting and I would like to address the Commission on Item 6-D Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan Update.

Thank You
Karen Moody
moodykmz3@gmail.com

Karen Clark

From: Bill Kurtz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 10:27 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Trailkeepers

Commissioners

In looking at a document prepared by Jonathan Carter on the "Waterdog Trailkeepers" site on Face Book. It showed proposals to be made throughout the open space preserve. I have a few questions.

1. Why does this document have the City of Belmont logo at the top of it? Is this organization now a certified part of the P & R, or is this a blatant misrepresentation? I would certainly like a vivid clarification of this.
2. Who reviews and certifies approval of these requests as I feel most are designed to improve biking? Is there anyone reviewing the environmental impact of these projects?
3. Does anyone from the City oversee the work being done from a structural viewpoint? I have notified you of one dangerous bridge that has resulted in my being hurt on it as well as other hiker/runners being hurt as it's very slippery when wet, not to mention a couple bikers my wife and I have had to assist who slid off of it. It has never been changed, repaired or addresses.
4. I feel if there was a committee that reviewed and asses trail proposals, that was made up of entities other than just the biking community it would be more beneficial to all, as it seem that P&R let's this group do as they please.

Regards,

Bill Kurtz

Sent from my iPhone

