



Meeting Date: April 15, 2014

**TOWN OF MORAGA**

**STAFF REPORT**

**To: Park and Recreation Commission**  
**From: Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director**  
**Subject: April Agenda Items**

**New Business**

**Item VIII. A. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair – (discussion/action)**

Commission needs to vote on a Chair and Vice-Chair for the balance of 2014 and the beginning of 2015. Nominations will be taken at the meeting, during this item.

**Item VIII. B. Commons Park Bandshell ADA Proposed Pathway - (discussion)**

Moraga resident Graig Crossley spoke during public comment at the March 18 Park and Recreation Commission meeting. His request was to have the Commission consider a new hard surface path be placed in the Commons Park along the sloping hill, adjacent to the Band Shell structure. Mr. Crossley has discussed this project with a number of Town staff as well as asking for Town Council support during public comment at the April 9 Town Council meeting. There is interest in completing this project before the 2014 Summer Concert season. While it is clear this is not a possibility, Town staff believes this project requires further discussion and consideration. The Town Manager and Parks and Recreation Director met with Mr. Crossley on Monday, April 7 to further discuss the conceptual project. During this meeting it was requested that Mr. Crossley prepare a one page request to be shared with the Park and Recreation Commission during the April Park and Recreation Commission meeting, see below.

*April 9, 2014*

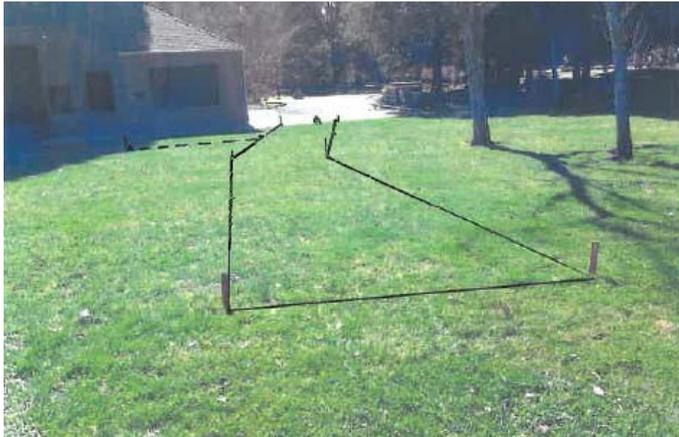
*To: Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission*

*From: Graig Crossley, Moraga*

*Subject: Citizen's Request for greater access to the Commons Band Shell viewing hill.*

*I appeared at the March Park and Recreation Commission meeting during Public Comment requesting a specific location for a park path up the Band Shell hill. This path is envisioned as a more accessible way for individuals with baby strollers, walkers, food carriers with wheels, and wheelchairs.*

*After further conversation with staff, I am making a citizen's request that the Park and Recreation Commission undertake the process of assessing possible locations for such a path, the costs for such a path, consider public input, and make a recommendation to the Town Council for its consideration.*



The path, as currently proposed is shown in the photo above and is 8' wide. Staff discussed a desire to look at alternative locations for the path as this may, or may not be the best location. The process forward will be for the Park and Recreation Commission to discuss this item, assess the process, costs and eventually make a recommendation to the Town Council. The original proposal was for the path to be privately funded and installed by volunteers. However, staff felt more of a public process needed to happen before a change of this nature took place in our award winning park.

Neither the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process nor the recent, 2013 Commons Park Needs Assessment Study, addressed the need for a pathway up the sloping hill adjacent to the Band Shell. The Commission can, and should, discuss this item as requested. Before a change of this nature is potentially installed, some issues should be addressed:

*Scope* – This project is in the initial stage and needs further definition. The scope can be developed based upon details such as location, type of surface, ADA accessibility, maintenance, public input and costs.

*Location* – Other locations, than currently proposed, have been discussed and should be further discussed with the Commission.

*Type of surface* – three, possibly more, options exist; 1) asphalt, 2) decomposed granite, 3) ADA walkway systems ([www.adawalk.com](http://www.adawalk.com)) or ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgooIMb\\_Dyc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgooIMb_Dyc)). Included below is an excerpt from the website with a little visual of the system.

**ADAWALK** walkway systems are designed to be used for a variety of on ground applications. They are perfect for sand beaches or other soft soil conditions such as muddy areas, and work well on pea gravel or over wood chips. **ADAWALK** also works well and effectively on some hard ground applications, where access is needed. These walkways are modular so they can be taken up seasonally. **ADAWALK** can also be re-arranged to fit a new layout or a new location. These walkway systems work well on playgrounds to provide a hard surface allowing disabled persons to get over the soft surfaces required on playgrounds in order to access playground equipment. They can also provide for a walking track around a playground or outdoor exercise area. **ADAWALK** can be used as temporary walkways to access areas such as portable restrooms or other outdoor facilities and work well on snow applications. All **ADAWALK** walkway systems are ADA compliant and are user friendly for all.



*ADA Accessibility* – Certain requirements will necessitate engineering, such as the slope and if landings are needed. In order for the path to be ADA compliant, the slope must not exceed 5%.

*Maintenance* – Currently there are two parks crew members that are continually being asked to maintain more and more. As our facilities age, time is increasingly spent on a variety of maintenance issues such as library repairs, Hacienda (maintenance, both interior and exterior), 329 Rheem, 331 Rheem, springtime weeding increasing in our parks (mostly Rancho Laguna Park), just to name a few. If the proposed pathway were asphalt, the additional maintenance would require weekly edging, likely the use of a hand mower around the edges of the pathway similar to what we do now around the sand volleyball pits, and slurry seal the pathway every 5-7 years. If the proposed pathway were decomposed granite, the additional maintenance would require weekly edging, likely the use of a hand mower around the edges of the pathway similar to what we do now around the sand volleyball pits, drainage issues at the base of the path as it is a soggy turf area that already has a trench drain installed, potential for occasional weed removal in the decomposed granite surface and possible tree root removal like we have at our two group picnic areas at the Commons Park now. If the surface was the ADA Walkway Systems they would need to be purchased (costs not available as of publication deadline) stored at the Commons Park and assembled and disassembled before and after each event. The sections of surface would simply be put on top of the existing turf and removed after the desired use.

*Public Input* – A project of this nature, in our most visible park should require a good level of community input. How that community input is accomplished is up for discussion. The Park Foundation should know about this proposed project. The same would go for other users of the park like 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Pear and Wine Festival booth vendors, Moraga Junior Women's Club members (as they use the park for their annual Egg Hunt). Staff recommends the Commission consider a strong effort towards community outreach.

*Costs* – It is difficult to talk costs for the project unless the scope of the project is discussed first. If the project receives all the approvals to proceed on a volunteer basis the costs could be fairly minimal, if the decision is to engineer a path, the costs would be substantially increased. It is staff's suggestion that a project of this nature include; engineering and design costs, preparing a water pollution control plan, control the potential water pollution, clearing and grubbing,

earthwork, erosion control (hydro seeding), base improvements, irrigation repair/re-routing, potential minor concrete repair, boarder and surface installation and more.

#### Recommendation

Discuss scope, location, type of surface, ADA accessibility, maintenance, public input and costs and provide further direction to staff.

#### **Item VIII. C. Quarterly Financial Report - (discussion)**

During the March Commission meeting staff discussed Item IX.A. – Quarterly Financial Report. The report presented included a summary of revenues and expenses from July 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014. The Commission requested a quarterly report be presented during the April Commission meeting. The report, included as part of this agenda packet, has revenues and expenses from Quarter 3, January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014, and is provided for your information.

#### **Item VIII. D. Discussion Topics for May 19 Joint Meeting the Planning Commission - (discussion)**

In preparation for the Joint Park and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission meeting scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> the Park and Recreation Commission wanted to address trails in and around Moraga and their overall connectivity throughout Town. They also wanted an update on developments in Town. Both Parks and Recreation and Planning staff will be developing a joint staff report in preparation for the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Unless other issues arise, the focus for the joint meetings will be trails and residential developments.

#### **Item VIII. E. Commission Member “Reports” Assignments - (discussion/action)**

Agenda item IX – Reports, needs updating as some responsibilities are vacant and there are two new Commissioners. The Commission might want to add, remove or change other assignments as well. Commissioners may want to add an assignment under reports that includes the work being done on the Livable Moraga Road Project and/or the Hillsides and Ridgeline Committee.