

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Public Comment Emails for
September 17, 2020

ITEM 7A

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners-

I would like to comment on the staff report dated 9/17/20 from Samantha Holland on park use. First, I wish that each park's use were separated out so that we could see increase of use for each individual facility. And it is not clear whether the park under construction was Veteran's Park or Yountville Community Park—both were “renovated” not that long ago.

But generally, both non-resident and Town-sponsored events have increased by 50% over the last 4 years. Reservations and Attendee numbers have gone up 20% and 25% respectively. (these attendee numbers are an estimate and let's be honest—most people will underestimate in order to fit criteria or pay for the lesser reservation fee) If the trend continues, we are likely to see a close to 50% increase in those numbers as well, between 2015 and 2023.

It seems necessary to differentiate between parks in town.

1. Yountville Community Park is located right across the street from many residents: single family homes and multi unit apartments. It is a local park that has been used more like a municipal park because it was our only park for many years.
2. Veteran's Park is bordered by the highway, the main entrance street in town and is across from a business. It is more of a municipal park location with opportunities for use not suitable for a park like Yountville Community Park in such proximity to residences. Here, residences, including the mobile home parks are set back and away from impacts and are behind the business along Washington Street.
3. Vineyard Park is tucked back in a residential area and it's use by non-residents mostly comes from word of mouth and invitation by surrounding residents. It is more of a neighborhood park.

These parks, and the activities afforded by each, have completely different impacts on residents.

What is an acceptable amount of noise and inconvenience to the residents who live around the Yountville Community Park? As we have seen, use numbers have increased and residents there are expressing concern over the quality of their environment over these increases. As use increases in any park where residents are impacted (the most

recent example is in Vineyard Park and the Pickle Ball soundproofing)—accommodations should be made to mitigate those impacts as best we can.

While I have no problem with Town-sponsored events in the parks, I do question the need to have non-Town sponsored events in the park that has so many residences right across the street. It might be possible to transfer non-Town-sponsored events to the Veteran's Park where there is less direct impact on residents. Having no non-Town sponsored events at Community Park would go a long way toward bringing the number of events in the park back to 2015 levels.

It makes sense to continue to reserve the picnic spaces for residents to have parties and events—but that does not mean that all the areas need to be booked with non-residents as well. Let the non-residents use the areas on a first come, first served basis—this would eliminate many of the large catered events that dominate the park for everyone. Let the park go back to its original purpose—a community park. This doesn't mean that visitors cannot use the park—but it does mean that that use will be more spontaneous and casual.

Before someone accuses NIMBY for differentiating parks and activity levels—please remember that there was no resistance to spending \$30k to mitigate noise issues at Vineyard Park. It makes sense that we all support making sure our experience living here is the best it can be. And to that end, I would suggest looking at eliminating non-resident booking of Community Park and transferring non-Town sponsored events to Veteran's Park if the town feels it desirable to support those events.

Though I am less familiar with the booking of sport courts in town, I feel that residents should always have preference and fees should be nominal, if any, for that advantage. Residents can post their own reserved signs and staff need only provide the official sign or listing sheets. All of this can be more casual than it is now—only the parameters of park etiquette need be posted and enforcement provided if necessary.

In closing, it is part of a health community life to have resident-focused events in community parks, just as it makes sense not to exploit neighborhood parks with over-use, and as it makes sense for the town to designate Veterans Park as it's municipal park for uses that do not fit in the other categories. We must be mindful of all residents' experiences and protect their right to a pleasant Yountville life.

Sincerely

Pam Reeves

XXXX Jefferson Street

Name: Lloyd Penrod

Comment-09/17/2020 10:07AM

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

Re: Agenda item 7A

In the Community Park we feel that more of the tables should not be reserved and rented but should be kept available for locals on a first come basis—to keep it more of a ‘community’ park.

And perhaps more of the larger events could be held at the Veterans Memorial Park which is surrounded by commercial buildings as opposed to the Community Park which abuts 15 residents and a neighborhood.

Thank you for considering these suggestions,

Lloyd Penrod and Debbie Welborn XXXX Lincoln Avenue