

VanWormer, Cindy

From: silva <hiksilva@mcn.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Turner, Dave; Peters, Lindy; Cimolino, Michael; Deitz, Scott; Hammerstrom, Doug; Ruffing, Linda; Varga, Tom; VanWormer, Cindy
Subject: Mid-Year Budget Review
Attachments: Capital Improvments - Parks and Community Services.pdf

Dear Mayor Turner and Fort Bragg City Councilmembers,

I appreciate that you're notifying the community of upcoming agenda items. And an item on the list that I'd like to address is the Mid-Year Budget Review. Last July, I sent a letter requesting that money be allocated for capital improvements at Bainbridge Park. I've attached a copy for those who weren't members of the City Council at the time and for those who don't recall the letter. Park improvements were not included in the budget, but at the July 14, 2014 City Council meeting, the City Manager suggested that Bainbridge Park be brought up at the Mid-Year Budget Review for discussion of the larger projects. I understand that the review will happen soon.

As the park is still in need of improvements to bring it back from its stripped-down state, I do hope that you will include money to ameliorate conditions on the west side of the park. Would you like to host meetings at the park to determine the needs of the neighborhood and community? And perhaps create an online and water-bill insert survey? If you decide to hold planning meetings, please be sure to publicize them in both English and Spanish. I recall that it was mentioned at the July 14th meeting that there is a Police Sergeant who is interested in developing a plan for the park; perhaps members of the Police Department would like to be involved in the meetings to be sure that the design promotes safety and discourages undesirable behavior. Art Explorers or FLOCKworks might like to spearhead public art projects at the park.

I know that Bainbridge Park Rehabilitation was included as a Supplemental Activity to the 2014 CDBG Grant #14-CDBG-9881, but it will not necessarily be funded. Meanwhile, Bainbridge Park is greatly in need of amenities. I would imagine that picnic tables and a gazebo or covered picnic area with a small stage or a fence will meet the \$50,000 requirement to be included as Capital Improvements.

At the July 14 City Council meeting, the Public Works Director said that some of the items in my letter were needed repairs, rather than improvements. Thank you to the person(s) responsible for the new tennis court fencing and for the fence by the maintenance shed. John Smith stopped by one evening in January. He can attest to the light trespass going into our second story windows. He was facing one of the windows as we spoke about the problem and he asked if we could move to another part of the room because the light from the tennis court lights shining in his eyes was so bright. And that was after some of the lights were removed and others were adjusted. He said that he is researching new tennis court lighting (which will certainly save the City money in the long run) and the neighborhood is eager to see new lights (before daylight saving time ends?).

I hope that you recognize the present need of improvements at Bainbridge Park that will truly welcome the families in the community and I hope that you will commit to allocating funds to make that happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Silva

Kathy Silva
PO Box 1443
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

14 July, 2014

Dear Mayor Turner and Fort Bragg City Councilmembers,

The new Coastal Trail listed under the Parks and Community Services category of the proposed Capital Improvements Program will be amazing, with stunning views. I know that I'll use it and I'm eager to share it with visitors. The Chestnut Street Trail will likely also be a nice addition to the City.

We have an existing park that has fallen into some disrepair and is sorely in need of improvement. Bainbridge Park is a true community park, serving as a backyard for many Fort Bragg residents. It's used for family get-togethers and birthday parties, for annual school field trip picnics, as a community gathering space, and as a place to exercise and practice tai chi. The basketball court and tennis court are popular and the tennis court is used for school tournaments. Wiggly Giggly Playground is the place to go according to local children. The area has a rich history and the nearby Veterans Memorial Building and Mendocino County Library add to the community atmosphere.

There are facets of the park in need of not just repair, but improvement. I respectfully request that you add Bainbridge Park to your Capital Improvement Program. I was surprised to see that the program, which is projected through 2019, does not mention Bainbridge Park. In 2007, the Public Works and Community Development Departments were directed to develop a Bainbridge Park Improvements Master Plan. New restrooms were designed and built, but other improvements have yet to be made. It's time to review and update the Master Plan. Bainbridge Park has the potential to be a model of green engineering.

The park no longer has a horseshoe pit, a volleyball net, or picnic amenities and the sidewalk is uneven. I still frequently see families arrive ready for a birthday party only to find that there is nowhere to sit and eat. They then have to leave to gather tables and chairs to use if they are physically unable to or don't want to hold the party on the ground. Improvements need to be made to prevent the park from seeming to be unwelcoming to local families and to prevent it from becoming a blighted area.

Here are a few improvements (in no particular order) that I'd like to suggest:

Update with low-wattage lighting and install proper shades on the tennis court lights to eliminate the current light trespass into neighboring homes – it now shines brightly into second story windows.

Improve grading and drainage to remedy the flooded grassy areas in the winter.

In the former restroom location:

- Create a permeable surface pavilion or picnic area with a pergola roof and trees on the perimeter.

- Install picnic amenities: tables, benches, grills, and trash and recycling receptacles.

- Build a low stage or gazebo with a seating area for public events (theatre, acoustic concerts, puppet shows, speeches...).

Replace the pavement between the tennis court and the playground with a pervious or permeable material and install new sidewalks of the same material to reduce or eliminate storm water runoff.

Install a rainwater collection system on the restroom. It could be an inspiration for residents.

Move or remove the maintenance shed. Or create a barrier to make its south side inaccessible. It is a popular place for people to hide while drinking, taking drugs and selling drugs.

Reattach the volleyball net and adapt the poles so the height can be adjusted for playing either volleyball or badminton.

Add benches near the sidewalk along the west side of the park.

Repair the tennis court to correct the pooling of water that occurs in the west court, rendering it unplayable, after even a light mist or rain.

Replace the tennis court fence – with black cyclone fencing to complement the black Wiggly Giggly fence. Tennis court fencing has been discussed but not yet replaced. There is an uninviting, unsafe sharp rusted pole poking out at about head height near the tennis court entrance.

Install a black perimeter park fence to match or complement the Wiggly Giggly fence. It will serve as a visual frame for the park as well as make it easier to keep children from running into the street and make it more difficult for those who perform illegal activities there to make a quick escape.

Plant natural landscaping or xeriscaping.

Install public art: some permanent, some temporary and some interactive.

Give residents a chance to participate in planning their park by holding community meetings and conduct a survey to solicit more ideas and suggestions.

I hope that when you attend the City's 125th Anniversary community barbeque at Bainbridge Park on August 9th you will take a look around and envision just how lovely the park will be if you want to make it happen. And I hope you agree that the residents of Fort Bragg deserve a community park with park-like amenities.

Sincerely,

Kathy Silva