

PALO ALTO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

DRAFT LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: May 28, 2019

TO: City Council

FROM: Parks and Recreation Commission

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CUBBERLEY MASTER PLAN TO MAXIMIZE RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS AND NOT INCLUDE HOUSING ON CITY PROPERTY

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Cubberley Master Plan not include housing on City property as part of the Cubberley Community Center redevelopment.

Palo Alto Recreation Programs and Services are highly prized, as reflected in the recent citizen survey where "recreation and wellness" polled as "very high". The same survey indicated community concern about "recreation opportunities".

As Palo Alto grows, our community recreation assets will increase in importance as scarce and valuable resources. Over the lifetime of the new Cubberley Community Center, continuing to meet our community's increasing recreation needs will be challenging. We must remain committed to providing the diversity of recreation opportunities demanded by our populace.

We recommend that all City land at Cubberley be designated as a public recreation resource to meet our evolving program and services needs over the lifetime of the new Cubberley Community Center. Any City land dedicated to housing at Cubberley will directly limit future recreation growth and become a critical lost recreation resource for many generations.

The Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the need for increased housing in our community, consistent with the Housing Work Plan. We do not oppose adding housing on PAUSD property at the 525 San Antonio site.

As stewards of our recreation and open space resources, the Parks and Recreation Commission strongly advocates maximizing recreation facilities and programs at Cubberley and not including any housing on City property at Cubberley.