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Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 11:12 AM
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Subject: [External] Council Requested Addendum to my Parks/Rec Application

Addendum to my application to the Parks/Rec Committee

To the City Council-

I am an applicant to an open seat on the Parks/Rec Committee and I received the an email from the City Clerk's Office with the following sentences:

We encourage you to attend the City Council meeting if possible, as the City Council provides a few minutes for each applicant to make brief comments about themselves and respond to Council Member questions. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to reply with your comments and they will be forwarded to the City Council in addition to your application.

Because I won't be available Tuesday night while you consider selection for the Parks/Rec Committee, I now take this option provided by the City Clerk.

In addition to my application, I can offer the following-
If selected, I plan to serve out my entire term. I'm a big believer in democracy so if I'm on the losing side of an argument, a vote of my colleagues will cause me to abandon my position. Also, because I believe minority positions should be allowed the same airing as majoritarian positions, I'm a big fan of using stop watches, thereby guaranteeing equality for all for use of their persuasive powers on committees. There should be no shutting down of any

committee members. I'm willing to abide by any reasonable decorum voted on by the committee as long as it's applied equally.

IDEAS-

I'm in favor of a community library, presuming that would fall under the aegis of the Rec Department. I think we should devote more ECCL athletic field time for free and open community use. I've talked with neighbors about this and a common complaint I hear is too often the field is being used by private paid users. We the residents/citizens already paid for the field and so we should have use of them. I'm not against some renting out of the field, just not nearly as much as is currently being done.

I would advocate for defending the General Plan with regard to parks/open space. I would try to use the committee to encourage the Council to put a parks bond on the ballot. I would call developers who seek large projects to the committee to answer questions. I'm in favor of a large 'central park' for Emeryville. I'm in favor of naming new parks and rec facilities as well as renaming existing ones after local and national labor leaders, civil rights leaders and environmental leaders from the past and near present. No bronze plaques with the names of City Council members on them should be allowed in any parks or rec facilities.

I'm a fan of empowering the committee, of encouraging the committee to not simply accept the 'work load' assignments from the City Council as the full scope of work. The committee should devote no more than half its time to Council mandated work assignments. The other half should be driven by the committee itself. As it stands now, the committee falls too much under the control of the City Council (who already has the final say). Ever since the work load assignment program took over a few years ago, our committees have lost a great deal of valuable independence. The City should be exposed to more democracy, more ideas, not less.

Thanks for your consideration.
-Brian Donahue