

Mike Langford

From: Anna Louie <anna.louie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 1:07 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Propose changes to Lycee/MLK playground

Hi Mike,

I am writing to vehemently oppose the proposed changes to weekday after school access to this playground. Proposing access only after 5:30pm would mean virtually no access for 5 months of the year with Daylight Savings Time. This playground is the closest to my home and we frequent it regularly--it is a beautiful playground. If the proposal is accepted, it seems access to this playground during the week would be effectively by private school children *only* and is not consistent with the values of this community. In addition, my understanding is that the original agreement with the school was for access by the public after 3:30pm on weekdays since it is on public land. When the playground opened, my family was accosted by French school parents/teachers saying it was closed to the public until 6pm, despite the very public signage that stated otherwise. Please please keep this playground open to public access after 3:30pm as originally intended!

Kind regards,
Anna Louie
114 Lincoln Drive
Sausalito CA 94965

Mike Langford

From: Barbara Jaffe <basjaffe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Subject: MLK Playground Hours

I am a Sausalito resident and a mother of two small children. My daughters are a very active and we live in a very small space so you can imagine how important the public parks in Sausalito are to us as they give my children much needed room to play and explore in a safe, open and friendly environment.

This is the only playground on the north end of town. MLK Jr. Park is a five minute walk from my house, whereas the Robin Sweeney Park is 35 minutes walk away.

As Herb Weiner stated at a council meeting in August 2013 “**The proposal is a wonderful opportunity to have a first-class playground for the people of Sausalito**” The original agreement was 8:00 am – 3:30 pm M-F, Sept-June and the hours have already been changed. It is not open to the public before 8:00 am, it is open to the public before sunrise. MLK Jr. Playground being further closed to the public so that the Lycée Francais school has private use of the playground during the hours of 3:30-5:30pm incites anger and concern for the young children of Sausalito who need and deserve to have public playgrounds to play in after school hours. Currently, the Lycée Francais already uses the playground for their after school activities between 3:30-5:30pm and the parents and children of Sausalito already graciously share the space with the private school’s children who live mostly outside of Sausalito. Why are we now being asked to further give up the playground for the private school’s private use of a public playground? These particular hours of the day are the prime time for Sausalito children who need a place to play. Where will those Sausalito residents go play if the Lycée Francais has private use of the playground from sunrise to 5:30pm every weekday?

I appreciate that Sausalito has good public spaces for the families of this city and I appreciate that the Sausalito City government has typically been sensitive and responsive to the concerns of its residents. These are some of the great advantages of living in this small, charming city. Therefore, I urge you not to agree to the Lycée Francais de San Francisco’s request to further extend the private use of the Sausalito’s public playground at MLK Park—and to keep at a very minimum 3:30-5:30pm on weekdays open to the children and families who live here.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Jaffe

Mike Langford

From: benjaminsbox@gmail.com on behalf of Benjamin Farrell
<ben@farrellarchitecture.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 11:26 AM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Cc: Leslie Johnson; Teri Lang
Subject: MLK Playground extended private hours

I understand there is a request put forth by the schools located at the MLK Park to extend the private access hours of the playground from 3:30 to 5:30 on weekdays. This is unacceptable.

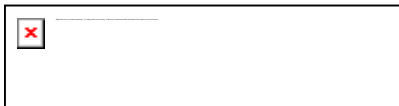
My office is directly across the basketball court from the playground. My day is filled with the sound of children playing. At 3:30, when my children get out of Willow Creek Academy, their voices add to that cacophony.

You will hear a lot of rhetoric and reasoning from the proponents of this request. Mostly you will hear arguments centered on "safety" "security" "liability", but there is only one core value at stake here: Fairness. It will be hard enough to explain to me why my children are excluded from this privileged group, it will be impossible to explain to them why they can no longer spend their afternoons at the same playground. Children have a binary sense of fairness. It's either fair, or as we've all heard many times "NO FAIR!"

The message this would send to all children is one of privilege, privatization, segregation and elitism. Those are not the values I want my children to be forced to deal with at this early age, but apparently it's a message that these private schools feel is important for their young students. Let's squash this now before it leads to an increased sense of entitlement, increased confrontation with parents and increased tensions in a community that doesn't need it.

MLK Playground is very high profile as the newest playground in Southern Marin. It's hard for little eyes to miss it, even when zooming down 101. It would be a shame to have to tell them "Sorry, that playground is for the other kids."

Ben Farrell



610 Coloma Street, #727
Sausalito, CA 94965
415.305.3850 m.
ben@farrellarchitecture.com
farrellarchitecture.com

Mike Langford

From: Eve Weinsheimer <eveweinsheimer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Subject: Lycée Francais playground

I recently heard that the Lycée Francais is asking to extend the private hours of the playground at MLK Field through 5:30pm, weekdays. As a resident and parent of Sausalito, I was dismayed to hear this news.

Not only is this the only updated, large-scale playground in town, but it exists on public land. We use the park on a regular basis and have seen absolutely no harm, overcrowding or problems resulting from the shared use. Instead, it's a wonderful opportunity for kids of different cultures to come together - a wonderful resource for the residents of Sausalito.

I would be terribly disappointed if our community had it's access to this park limited even further than it already is. The Lycée agreed to an original plan (8:00am-3:30pm, M-F, Sept-June) and I would hope that they would honor that agreement and be willing to share this wonderful resource with the community that hosts them.

Sincerely,
Eve Weinsheimer

Mike Langford

From: Kerry Headington <kerryheadington@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Subject: Re: extended hours at the Lycee Playground?

Hello,

First of all, thank you for all you do related to Sausalito Parks and Recreation!

I am writing because I am concerned with the request that Lycée Francais has made to extend the private hours of the playground at MLK Field through 5:30pm, weekdays. Many in town believe that this playground should be made accessible to all children living in Sausalito. The private hours of this park are already very restricted. Restricting them further will make it impossible for non-Lycée Francais children to enjoy the playground. 3:30 is already late enough. 5:30 is when kids are home for dinner and then getting ready for bed.

Please consider the children that live in our city (the majority of students at the Lycée are not Sausalito residents). This is the only playground on the north end of Sausalito and it is widely enjoyed by our young Sausalito residents (as is likely the intent of City Ordinance No. 1128). Restricting its use would be a mistake.

It is also our hope that you will begin to update the other playgrounds in Sausalito, sooner than later. When we moved here 9+ years ago, our hope was that our children would benefit from the proposed park updates. Now our children are 6 and 8. Will they ever have a chance to benefit from these plans? We hope you can make parks and our growing child population a priority.

Best,

Kerry Headington

(Parent of two young Sausalito residents)

Mike Langford

From: Laura James <laurajames00@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 10:40 AM
To: Mike Langford
Cc: Matt McGivern
Subject: Play area at MLK Fields...

Hi Mike,

I want to express my concern that the French school at MLK fields would like to extend their exclusive use hours at the play area. This would exclude all other children from using the play area during the week, and said 'other children' would include my daughter.

My husband and I are currently overseas to attend the funeral of a family member, so frustratingly, cannot attend the Sausalito Parks and Recreation meeting scheduled to discuss this matter. Please note that my husband and I wholeheartedly oppose the plans proposed by the Lycée School.

Best regards,
Laura & Matthew McGivern
Buchanan Drive, Sausalito.

Sent from my iPhone

Mike Langford

From: Melissa Pundsack <melissa@pundsack.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 8:44 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: MLK Playground

Hello Mike,

I recently came across the public notice at MLK Playground explaining that the Lycee Francais School is interested in extending their hours of exclusive use. I find the prospect of decreasing the public use hours VERY upsetting. I live nearby with my family and have two young children (Zander - 4 & Tessa 16 months) that I take to the park after 3:30 pm on an almost daily basis. It is such a wonderful spot for my children to play safely and by limiting play after 5:30 will mean that I will not be able to use the park during the week. I plead with the city of Sausalito to NOT grant this extended exclusive use request. **Let's keep the playgrounds and parks available to ALL children of Sausalito.**

Warm regards,

Melissa Pundsack
Sausalito Resident and Mother

Mike Langford

From: Nicole Bellefeuille <nbellefeuille@econone.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 4:49 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: MLK/Lycee Park

Hi Mike,

I wanted to let you know that I plan to submit comments protesting the Lycee's request to change hours. I am writing them out now and will try to attend the meeting on Wednesday.

I do appreciate your putting this to the very important public comment. We live near the park and use it frequently between these hours and would certainly be impacted by their proposal.

Sincerely,
Nicole

Nicole Bellefeuille, JD - Director



Econ One Research
2040 Bancroft Ave, #200; Berkeley, CA 94704
(415) 521-0569

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Mike Langford

From: Pat Zuch <pat@pazllc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 7:22 AM
To: Mike Langford; Tom Theodores; Ray Withy; Jill Hoffman; Linda Pfeifer - Internet Mail Account; Herb Weiner; Adam Politzer; Mary Wagner
Subject: Lycee Francais playground

I just saw a comment from a north Sausalito resident about this notice in the Currents:

"Hearing on the Lycee Français School request to extend their hours of exclusive use of the playground from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m

The City of Sausalito has received a request from the Lycee Français School to extend their hours of exclusive use of the playground from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. to accommodate the implementation of the their Playworks program."

Unfortunately, I am out of town not returning in time to attend the P&R hearing. This playground, though paid for by the Lycee, was developed on public property with the specific understanding that it would be open to Sausalito kids during non-school hours. There was some comment during the Planning Commission hearings as to the impropriety of restricting it at all, but the Lycee prevailed.

I hope you will deny this request - Sausalito kids do apparently use the facility, and should continue to be allowed access as originally agreed.

Furthermore, I wonder at the jurisdiction of P&R over this issue. It would seem to me a contractual issue between the Lycee and the City - they were granted the opportunity to build a playground under certain conditions, and the City should ensure that its residents continue to receive the appropriate benefits of that contract.

--

Pat Zuch
PAZ Management, LLC
415 464-4474 wk
415 265-6565 cell



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

Mike Langford

From: Shannon Groff <s_groff@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 10:28 AM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Lycee Francais Playground

Mike,

I will not be able to attend the city council meeting on the 20th as my husband is traveling and I have a three year old and one year old to care for during bedtime hours. However, I wanted to send you my comments on the proposed public use change at the Lycee playground as it is something that I feel very strongly about.

A change in the availability of the playground to the public to after 5:30pm on weekdays essentially removes weekday public use altogether as 5:30pm is quite late for young children. In addition, it is dark during the fall/winter and the playground is supposed to close at sunset.

I understand that over the past year many have received misinformation and/or hostility from some of the Lycee officials requiring intervention from Linda Pfeifer. In addition, my understanding is that the school's lease of city property was contingent upon public enhancements which they agreed to make. Again, they agreed to the playground and the public access hours and are now trying to rescind that agreement. If their concern is that they are having issues keeping track of their children, I am sympathetic but given their agreement they will need to address that some other way than excluding our children.

I ask that the city reject the Lycee's bid to limit public hours even further during the week.

Regards,

Shannon Groff
18 Ridgeview Court
Sausalito, CA 94965
(415) 722-5326

Mike Langford

From: SHARONCORREDOR <sharoncorredor@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 10:55 AM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Lycee extended playground hours

Hi, I will be unable to attend the 6:30 meeting tomorrow. Please record my vote as a resounding NO. The playground should be available for everyone any time other than regular school hours. Several parents were outraged last summer when the playground was complete but the kids were not allowed to use it. Thanks, Sharon

Mike Langford

From: Stacy Nimmo <stacy@findotherland.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 12:17 PM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Subject: Extended hours for Lycée Francais playground

I'm a long term resident and big fan of Sausalito and it's public parks.

As a father and neighbor to the playground

at MLK

however

, I

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am very concerned about Lycée Francais's previous change to extend

private use hours

from 8am to sunrise and current request to extend hours again from 3:30

to

5:30.

This effectively makes a playground on a city pa

rk

entirely

private, as kids

who might use the playground

are heading home for dinner at that time

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I hope you will uphold the public park's use as just that... a public park. You may also want to consider that there is a [supreme court pres](#)

[e](#)

[dent](#) against exclusive use of privately funded playgrounds in public

city

parks

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Please let me know if you are considering further extension of the private use hours.

Stacy Nimmo

Mike Langford

From: Susan Newmeyer <s_newmeyer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 11:35 AM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Subject: Extending Playground Hours for Lycee School

Hello,

Thank you for asking for input on our community playgrounds.

I heard that the Lycee is asking to extend the private hours on the playground to 5:30. I would prefer that the community continue to have access to the playground at 3:30. Many children use the playground after school and the students seem to mix well with the Lycee students. There are some days when the playground is empty and only community children are at the playground. The playground is on public land and locking out the public during key afternoon hours seems unfair.

Thank you.

Susan Newmeyer (parent of two children)
102 Central Ave
Sausalito, CA 94965

Mike Langford

From: Tanya Zilinskas Naouri <tanya.zina@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 8:23 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Lycee Francais Playground

Dear Mike,

I am hoping to make the city council meeting on the 20th, but with two little ones going to bed around that time I might not make it. However, I wanted to send you an email on the proposed public use change at the Lycee playground as it is something that I (and many other local parents) feel very strongly about.

Having public use of the MLK playground start after 5:30 PM on weekdays virtually removes weekday public use altogether. Not only do most of us not have our children at a playground long after 5:30 PM, but once fall/winter hits it effectively eliminates the possibility of visiting the playground at all (especially since the playground is supposed to close at sunset).

Unfortunately, the Lycee attempting to limit public hours does not come as much as a surprise given the persistently frosty reception that the public has received from school officials there. When my family first started visiting the playground last September we were told by a school representative who was trying to remove us that public hours were actually after 6 PM, and that this was an ongoing problem that they were having (i.e. members of the public coming to the playground). The posted hours on the sign were dismissed as "a misunderstanding from the city of Sausalito." The representative noted that it is difficult to keep track of Lycee kids with members of the public there. My observation is that their teachers are very lax with keeping track of the students and prefer to hang out on the fringes socializing with one another. It is unfair to punish the public for this style of childcare.

It feels like there has been a bait and switch with the playground, and that the Lycee has always held very little intention of honoring their end of the bargain they made to Sausalito. It is disrespectful and dishonest to the city that allowed them that land and to the many local residents and businesses who financially contributed to the building of that playground. Those of us living nearby in Nevada Valley have experienced increased traffic and more limited use of MLK (basketball courts, etc) in general due to the school, and the playground was a nice antidote to the drawbacks of the school.

I ask that the city rejects the Lycee's bid to limit public hours even further during the week. If this is allowed to go through, I have no doubt that public access on weekends and during the summer are next on the chopping block.

Yours,
Tanya Zilinskas Naouri