

Mike Langford

From: ABK <amybethkeller@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 10:31 PM
To: Mike Langford
Cc: Me
Subject: Park meeting

Hi Mike,

I am unable to make the public hearing in regards to the park at lycée. I hope you will note my concerns. My husband and I have been a resident of Sausalito for 10 years. And, now we have a 2 year old and a 1 year old. We have come to depend on parks throughout Marin county given that our own city hasn't upgraded any of the facilities for our children in some time. We were so delighted when the park at Lycée opened and have been more than happy to use the playground during after school hours and on the weekends.

However, having public use of the playground start [at 5:30](#) is virtually removing public use of the playground during the week given children's dinner/bedtime routine. What is concerning is that the extended weekday hours could transition to no public use during the summer, weekends, etc. Given the current lacking park facilities our city has, this would be a real disappointment for our family.

I am happy to discuss via phone if necessary.

Thank you,
Amy Frye
415-450-0202

Mike Langford

From: Ashley Brown <ashbrown1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 3:13 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Martin Luther King Park! Keep the park open.

Hello,

I would not like for the park hours to be extended at Martin Luther King park.

We are a family living in Sausalito and this is the only nearby park for us to walk to. The 3:30 – 5: 30 hours are a perfect time for the kids to be outside and active. If the hours are only open after 5:30 then there are times of the year when it is already dark and then we're unable to attend the park.

We visit the park often and its a great asset to the community.

Please vote against the time restrictions.

Ashley Castro

Mike Langford

From: Barbara Nelson <tendingrowth@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 9:34 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Playground

I wish to add my vote for keeping the Lycee Francois School playground open to the public during the hours it is presently open. There needs to be more places for young children in North Sausalito. Thank you.

Barbara Nelson
50 years a Sausalito resident

Mike Langford

From: Gina Cerre <gina.cerre@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 5:55 PM
To: Mike Langford
Cc: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com
Subject: Meeting: Please keep Lycée Francais open to all Sausalito Children after school hours

Dear Mike and Parks and Recreation Commission,

Our family would like to keep the Lycée Francais playground **OPEN TO RESIDENTS** after school and weekends for children and the community of Sausalito as part of the original agreement to build it on city property. In addition to being the only playground for the northern part of Sausalito, it is the most usable playground in town given the deterioration and renovation delays at Robin Sweeney Park.

The city has made great progress in it's efforts to become more children and family friendly which is why everyone consented to the use of public land to build it for all the children in Sausalito and not just those attending a the school.

As a grandparent who frequents the park with my grandson, I respect and appreciate any safety concerns Lycée Francais might have regarding the after school programs they use the park for and would be willing to consider any other proposal they might have short of closing it to the public.

Thank you for your attention.

Gina Cerre

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Gina Cerre
(415)332-6813
(415) 215-6813
gina.cerre@gmail.com

Mike Langford

From: Gina Risso <info@ginarisso.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 6:35 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Lycée Francais Park

Hi Mike,

Just wanted to add my 2 cents about the use of the park. If it was in the original agreement and is party of city property, then I see no reason to change things. So many kids in the neighborhood love playing there. It is actually one of 2 city playgrounds that are up to code, by the looks of it. I hope that the hours will stay the same and that the school can find solutions to their after school program.

I did talk to one parent there and she said that it is law that kids that are not students at the school, are not allowed on school grounds during school hours. I have two kids at Willow Creek and we have never had any issues playing there after school hours for the past 8 years. In fact, we lived a block away for over 6 years and played at Willow Creek all the time. If it is some sort of law or regulation, it is not enforced at the two public schools in town and frankly, it has never been an issue.

Finally, what do we need to do to get Sweeney built? ;)

Many thanks,
Gina

Gina Risso Photography
www.ginarissophoto.com
415-307-4641

Mike Langford

From: Heidi Wiltsee <heidiwiltsee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 10:29 PM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Subject: Please let Sausalito kids enjoy our town's park!

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission,

Our family was dismayed and surprised to learn that the Lycée Francais is asking to extend the private hours of the playground at MLK Field through 5:30pm on weekdays. **We strongly ask for the Commission to NOT grant this request.**

As a family with 2 children, we live very close to this park and have been thrilled to have this resource on the north side of Sausalito. We have been to the playground many times during the weekday afternoon hours, surrounded by kids from either the Lycee, Willow Creek Academy or any other children who are just there to play and enjoy the park. It is unfair to restrict access to a playground on public land during after-school hours, and we are saddened by the unwelcoming message that this sends to the families of Sausalito who are not a part of the Lycee Francais.

Many homes in Sausalito do not have large yards for children to run freely and the kids of our town need safe places to play. Playground areas, such as the one at MLK field, add to the quality of life in Sausalito and foster an increased sense of community where parents, grandparents and children can meet one another and be engaged.

In the "spirit of sharing" that we all hope to be teaching our kids, please continue to protect open access to the playground at MLK field.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Wiltsee

110 Lincoln Dr. Sausalito
heidiwiltsee@gmail.com



May 19, 2015

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Doreen Gounard, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Sausalito
420 Litho Street
Sausalito, CA 94965
dorgou@gmail.com

Re: Request to Adjust Hours of Exclusive Use of the MLK Park Playground

Madam Chair and Commission Members:

This letter is on behalf of the Real Estate Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Lycée Français de San Francisco (the “Lycée”) in support of the Lycée’s request to adjust the exclusive use of the MLK Playground during Lycée school days from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The Lycée is a nonprofit French-immersion school with over 1,000 students and 300 families. The Sausalito campus of the Lycée hosts over 200 students and 40 teachers and staff members.

The Lycée currently leases buildings 3, 4 and 5 at the complex located at 100 Ebbtide Avenue in Sausalito (the “premises”) from the City of Sausalito. The lease, signed in 2013 for a 5-year term, may be renewed for 3 additional 5-year terms, totaling a 20-year lease. At considerable debt-financed expense, as well as tuition increases, the Lycée improved the City of Sausalito’s property and, over the course of the past 3 years, the Lycée opted to increase the square footage space. Consequently, the monthly rent increased from \$42,000 to over \$65,000 at present.

On Wednesday, May 20, 2015, the Commission will consider the Lycée’s request to adjust the exclusive use of MLK Playground by the Lycée for up to two additional hours. Unfortunately, the Director of the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended against approval of the Lycée’s request primarily because “[T]he Lycée Français programs are not part of the regular school day, and a playground structure is not needed for the Playworks program,” noting also that the Lycée pays only \$1 a year for the lease of the MLK Playground.



We respectfully **disagree** with the Parks and Recreation Director's reasoning because of some inaccuracies and a failure to acknowledge the heavy financial investment borne by the Lycée for the benefit of land ultimately owned by the City of Sausalito.

First, as a point of clarification, the Playworks program is part of the core curriculum of the school, and it is well integrated into the Lycée's regular school day.

While it is true that the Lycée pays nominal rent for the use of the Playground, the total investment made by the Lycée to the premises in general, and the MLK Playground in particular, **is in the millions**. The improvements and the overall financial investment were made for the benefit of not only the Lycée community but also the children utilizing the MLK Playground. Thus far, the Lycée's investment in the City of Sausalito's property is as follows:

- \$4.3M in improvements to the facilities;
- \$790,000 for the MLK Playground at issue;
- \$1.9M in rents, permits, traffic studies and utility payments to date

For a grand total of — \$7M

In addition to the significant investment and the monthly \$65,000 rent paid to the City of Sausalito, the Lycée is responsible for all maintenance and repair work to the MLK Playground, a responsibility that would otherwise fall to the Sausalito taxpayers.

Our investment is therefore substantial. And it is borne by the parents of the Lycée. We represent a diverse socioeconomic group — there are parents with means, but there are many parents who sacrifice for the sake of their children's education. And again, the group that would suffer the most by your rejection of the Lycée's request would be the children of working parents as a result of their reliance on the Lycée for aftercare.

A final compelling reason to allow the Lycée additional time for its exclusive use involves the safety of not only Lycée children, but also children from the general public. When local residents arrive after 3:30 pm, the quality of supervision by the Lycée aftercare staff for the Lycée children becomes compromised, especially as children from the Lycée aftercare mix with children (including infants and toddlers) from outside the Lycée. We are concerned that Sausalito is inviting members of the general public into the playground. Not just residents of Sausalito, but anyone. By extending this invitation, without limitation, Sausalito invites liability for any harm that may come to the children.



LYCÉE FRANÇAIS
DE SAN FRANCISCO

For these reasons set forth above, we ask that the Commission allow additional time for Lycée children to maintain safe access to the MLK Playground generously donated by the Lycée community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/_____

Stella Ulm, Esq.
Real Estate Committee Chair
Board of Trustees
Lycée Français de San Francisco

/s/_____

Ryan Cheung
Real Estate Committee
Board of Trustees
Lycée Français de San Francisco

/s/_____

Yosef Peretz, Esq.
Real Estate Committee
Board of Trustees
Lycée Français de San Francisco

Mike Langford

From: Nicole Forester <nicoleforester@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 5:48 PM
To: Mike Langford
Cc: Nicole Forester
Subject: A moment of your time,

Hi Mike Langford,

My name is Nicole Forester and my husband and son and I have lived in Sausalito for the last 3 years. We have really enjoyed the addition of the playground from the French school and appreciate that it is a private school and the playground is used for their schooling during school hours.

I also must say that my son and I are often there almost every day around 4:00 and have loved this option. I don't feel us being there hinders their after school programs at all, in fact there are often only 15 or so kids with 1 or 2 teachers inside the outdoor playground.

I just wanted to add my voice to the meeting being held this week since I cannot attend. I LOVE this playground and think the current hours are reasonable for the French school and as a Sausalito resident.

Please consider continuing to allow local Sausalito residents the option to go to the playground during the week between 3:30-5:30.

These are the other points we as a group of mom's have collectively agreed on.

- 1) **This is the only playground on the north end of town.**
- 2) **The original deal was 8:00am-3:30pm, M-F, Sept-June and the hours have ALREADY been changed. It isn't open to the public before 8am, it's open to the public before *SUNRISE*. Who's to say the hours won't be extended to "SUNSET"?**
- 3) **This is the only large scale, updated playground in all of Sausalito.**
- 4) **The majority of students at the Lycee are not Sausalito residents. It would be a terrible mistake to give away a public resource for the benefit of a small group.**
- 5) **Herb Weiner** at a council meeting in August 2013 said, "the proposal is a wonderful opportunity to have a first-class playground for the people of Sausalito."
- 6) The public should be aware of and be a part of any process that includes the privatization of public land or extension of private hours of public land.
- 7) CITY ORDINANCE No. 1128 • "No part of the Martin Luther King property shall be used for purposes other than park and recreation purposes without voter approval."

Thank you for your time,
Nicole Forester

Nicole Forester, LPCC, MT-BC
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
Board-Certified Music Therapist

Forester Counseling & Music Therapy, Owner
Forestermusictherapy.com

Mike Langford

From: Philip Woodrow <philular@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 3:50 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Sausalito Citizen in Opposition to Lycée Proposal to limit access to MLK Playground

Dear Mike,

I am writing as a Sausalito local resident and homeowner, Father to three children: ages one year and twins who are three and a half years old. My family and I strongly oppose the Lycée School request to extend their hours for exclusive use of the playground from 3:30pm to 5:30pm to accommodate the implementation of their play works program. This is unacceptable!

This would also not allow residents to visit the property during normal and reasonable afternoon play hours; at 5:30PM most families are getting ready for dinner and not making a trip to the playground. Additionally, local families would not be able to visit during daylight hours during late fall, winter, or early spring for five days out of the week. This is prohibitive! We are also very concerned that limiting afternoon weekday hours will open the door for limiting weekend and summer hours.

My family and I are pleading that you do not further limit our access to our local playground, in the city in which we reside. Please keep the hours as they currently are for Sausalito's local children. It has taken years to get Sausalito back to a desirable place for families to live with young children. Please do not let the Lycée School organization pressure our city to do something that is against the best interest of the local children and families of Sausalito.

The tax dollars that my family has paid, as Sausalito homeowners for the past 12.5 years (as well as other local homeowners and residents) should be strongly considered versus the French School students, with whom many do NOT reside in Sausalito and do NOT pay city taxes for our city property.

It is my understanding that the Lycee/MLK Playground is constructed on city property, not school land. The French school was given permission to build that playground and offered an extremely cheap lease of the land with the understanding that the public would have access during the agreed upon hours. Immediately upon opening the playground school representatives tried to limit public access from 3:30pm-6:00pm. They also misrepresented what the public access hours were, despite the fact that they are very publicly posted. It seems that they did not follow their agreement with the city.

It's also important to note that I was also approached on several occasions prior to the construction of the playground while my children were riding their scooters on the basketball court at MLK. The Lycée staff and asked me if my children were students at the school. I told them, no, this is a public park. While they did not request that I leave, I always received a very telling glare while they informed me that ALL these other children are students at the school.

Clearly the Lycée organization has a profound sense of entitlement. As a Sausalito resident and taxpayer, I don't think this is an appropriate attitude from a tenant of the City.

I understand that they express concern with keeping track of school children during aftercare hours. This could be amended by more proactive French school adult supervision. It is difficult to tell who is watching French school children at the playground after school because most adults are socializing with one another on the

fringes. Instead of changing their aftercare approach they are simply trying to remove public access to keep track of their kids.

I hope that we have an acceptable outcome and that the City of Sausalito grants rights for local residents and homeowners to continue to enjoy the MLK Playground during reasonable play hours at 3:30pm versus 5:30pm (dusk and dinner time). We have not had a playground for our children to play in that we deem safe, and we do not want our current MLK playground privileges to be limited.

Thank you for taking my family of five votes, to oppose the Lycée proposal to limit our playground access, into consideration.

Philip Woodrow
Nine Edwards Avenue
Sausalito, CA 94965
philipcwoodrow@gmail.com
415.317.0263
@philular

Mike Langford

From: Reynolds Woodrow <woodrowgal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 5:00 PM
To: Mike Langford
Cc: Philip Woodrow
Subject: Sausalito Homeowner and Parent in OPPOSITION to Lycée Proposal to Limit Access to MLK Playground

Dear Mike: I am writing as a Sausalito local resident and homeowner, Mother to three children: ages one year and twins who are three and a half years old. My family and I strongly oppose the Lycée School request to extend their hours for exclusive use of the playground from 3:30pm to 5:30pm to accommodate the implementation of their play works program. This is unacceptable!

This would also not allow residents to visit the property during normal and reasonable afternoon play hours; at 5:30PM most families are getting ready for dinner and not making a trip to the playground. Additionally, local families would not be able to visit during daylight hours during late fall, winter, or early spring for five days out of the week. This is prohibitive! We are also very concerned that limiting afternoon weekday hours will open the door for limiting weekend and summer hours.

My family and I are pleading that you do not further limit our access to our local playground, in the city in which we reside. Please keep the hours as they currently are for Sausalito's local children. It has taken years to get Sausalito back to a desirable place for families to live with young children. Please do not let the Lycée School organization pressure our city to do something that is against the best interest of the local children and families of Sausalito.

The tax dollars that my family has paid, as Sausalito homeowners for the past 12.5 years (as well as other local homeowners and residents) should be strongly considered versus the French School students, with whom many do NOT reside in Sausalito and do NOT pay city taxes for our city property.

It is my understanding that the Lycee/MLK Playground is constructed on city property, not school land. The French school was given permission to build that playground and offered an extremely cheap lease of the land with the understanding that the public would have access during the agreed upon hours. Immediately upon opening the playground school representatives tried to limit public access from 3:30pm-6:00pm. They also misrepresented what the public access hours were, despite the fact that they are very publicly posted. It seems that they did not follow their agreement with the city.

I understand that they express concern with keeping track of school children during aftercare hours. This could be amended by more proactive French school adult supervision. It is difficult to tell who is watching French school children at the playground after school because most adults are socializing with one another on the fringes. Instead of changing their aftercare approach they are simply trying to remove public access to keep track of their kids.

I hope that we have an acceptable outcome and that the City of Sausalito grants rights for local residents and homeowners to continue to enjoy the MLK Playground during reasonable play hours at 3:30pm versus 5:30pm (dusk and dinner time). We have not had a playground for our children to play in that we deem safe, and we do not want our current MLK playground privileges to be limited. I am traveling on business, thus my husband and I are unable to attend the live meeting on 5/20/2015. Otherwise, we would have a family member in attendance to voice our strong opposition.

Thank you for taking my family of five votes, to oppose the Lycée proposal to limit our playground access, into consideration.

Best regards,

Reynolds Woodrow
9 Edwards Avenue
Sausalito, CA 94965
Phone: 415.828.7700

Mike Langford

From: Sandy Yahoo <estremerazink@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 5:12 PM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Cc: Justin Zink
Subject: Sausalito Playground at MLK

Dear Parks and Rec Commission members,

My husband and I just learned that the Parks and Rec Commission will soon be discussing the Lycée Francais' request to extend the private hours of the Sausalito playground at MLK Field through 5:30pm, weekdays.

We are hereby writing in opposition to this request. We are residents of Sausalito for over 8 years and parents of three kids under the age of eleven who reap the benefits of this park. This is the only large scale updated playground and one of our kids favorite parks in town. We believe it will be a terrible mistake to give away our kids' public resources for the benefit of a small group of non Sausalito residents.

Thanks for your time and consideration to this matter.

Truly yours,

Sandy Estremera-Zink and Justin Zink.

Mike Langford

From: Sue Krenek <suekrenek@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 5:06 PM
To: Doreen Gounard; Joe Burns; Sela Seleska; lpowerswow@gmail.com; Mike Langford
Subject: MLK Field playground hours

To the Parks & Recreation commission and city staff:

I'm writing to ask that you reject Lycee Francais' proposal to further extend the private hours at the new MLK Field playground. I supported — and continue to support — the original deal with Lycee Francais, which I think struck a thoughtful balance between Lycee's needs and the public's right to access and use a facility that is located on public property. The park has provided my kids with hours of fun, and because it's within easy walking distance of our house, we're able to make frequent use of it.

If Lycee's proposed extension is granted, Sausalito residents on the north end of town will lose after-school access to the **only** park in our neighborhood, and all residents will lose meaningful weekday access to the only large-scale and fully updated park in the city. If the newly proposed hours had been part of Lycee's original proposal, the community would quite rightly have called on you to reject the plan and develop a truly public playground instead. If you let Lycee renegotiate the deal to the detriment of Sausalito residents this late in the game, you'll be setting a terrible precedent — one that people will remember, and talk about, and bring up anytime you want to pursue other public-private opportunities. For all these reasons, I ask you to vote no.

Thanks very much for your consideration, and for all the hard work you do on behalf of our town.

best,
Sue Krenek

Mike Langford

From: TYMBA Now (Tim Brown) <tymbanow@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Mike Langford
Cc: 'Ashley Brown'
Subject: Martin Luther King Park! Keep the park open.

Sirs,
I would not like for the park hours to be extended at Martin Luther King park. Mr. King would not like a public park, in his name, to be exclusive for the few. I am sure he would like the public park to be for all families in the 3:30 – 5:30 hour. I have seen many happy faces on children with their guardians at the park.

Please vote against the time restrictions.

Grandfather of Bronson, (a park fan)
Tim Brown
615-834-8348
52 Issaquah Dock
Sausalito, CA 94965

Mike Langford

From: Tyler Manson <tyler.manson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 9:07 PM
To: Mike Langford
Subject: Lycee / MLK playground hours

Dear Mr. Langford,

I'm writing as a concerned parent, homeowner, and active Sausalito community member, to express my concern for giving up public access to the playground at MLK park during the 3:30-5:30pm, weekday window of time. I am afraid giving in to their request would only lead to eventually taking away weekend, or summer privileges, as designated by the city and the original lease agreement. We are already enduring more traffic, limited use of fields, and have invested into the neighborhood because of the wonderful public access to all of the facilities nearby. Sausalito has become a very family friendly town over the last several years, and I don't want to lose this spirit based on elitism and catering to only outside families using facilities on city property. It wasn't part of the original deal and it certainly is NOT fair to change that now. Please vote NO on the Lycee's request to extend their private hours on the public playground.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tyler Manson
(415) 680 0832
508 Olima St
Sausalito, CA