

## Kendall Sawyer

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**Attachments:** Item 2: Responses to Questions

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**From:** Cochran, Brian  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 1:46 PM  
**To:** -- City Council  
**Subject:** Questions on Tonight's Agenda

Hello Mayor and Councilmembers,

We received a few questions on agenda items for tonight. Please see the questions and staff's responses below.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Pavement Contract, Garfield Dr.**

**Could Council please see the designs for these pavement projects when we are being asked to award the bids? Otherwise, it is hard to know what questions to ask. For instance, on the quick build bulb outs, are we going to continue allowing cars to cut through the radius (like Caulfield and Ely) or does the design have pilons or rumble strips on the radius so that cars can't cut the corner? I wonder how are street trees ar being incorporated (saved, cut, added)?**

Please see the attached design element summary (and plans attached to the email) for this particular project. **For future pavement projects we will, at a minimum, include the design as an attachment to the bid award agenda item.** When possible, we can also bring agenda items at approximately the 30% design stage, to solicit feedback / ideas from Council and the public.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Danco Grant Application**

**Would the Danco application score higher if the SMART (\$7 million) and City (\$6 million) asks were deleted from the request?**

Actually, the partnership with the City and SMART makes the Danco funding request more competitive. The SMART and City components achieve GHG emissions reductions that are critical to the intent of the AHSC funding source.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Mid Year Budget Adjustments**

**Why is more money needed for Healthy Democracy? Wasn't there an agreed amount of \$450,000.00?**

The Healthy Democracy contract was initiated in FY 22 for \$425k. The cost of this contract spans over 2 years, with \$250k included in FY 22 budget and rolled forward to FY 23, and the remaining \$175k also occurring this fiscal year. A budget adjustment of \$175k is needed and brings the total budget to \$425k. The remaining \$10k of the budget adjustment is for costs related to fairgrounds public outreach and translation services.

**Why are we purchasing a gas Toro Grandmaster rotary mower instead of electric? Are they not available?**

The Toro Groundmaster 5910 mower represents a critical resource to aid in essential park maintenance. In short, there are no electric options in manufacturing for a large scale (16 feet mowing area) vehicle nor are there indications or confident timelines from industry representatives for when such equipment would be

available. For example, John Deere representatives indicated equivalent large scale equipment may first become available in 2026, however wouldn't become widely available for an additional 3-5 years.

Park staff have researched, demoed, and are pursuing incentive programs through agencies like the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to phase out the existing, smaller versions of gas mowers with all electric models with comparable mow decks. Currently, this includes those mowers with a 72' inch mow area. For comparison, the Toro's cutting capability allows for 17 acers of mowing per hour compared to 6.7 acres with the largest all electric units available. Or in practice, three staff versus one to complete the same area of mowing.

The Toro Groundsmaster 5910 will replace a similar sized 20 year old piece of equipment that is current inoperable, having reached the end of it's serviceable life. Parks and Recreation staff remain committed to leading the effort to ensure equipment purchases accomplish both our ability to be responsive to calls for service as well as ensure long term capital investments are aligned with the City's overarching climate action goals. The Toro 5910 was recommended in part for it's a 3.3L engine that runs on renewable diesel with a fuel-efficient EPA Tier 4 final rating, meeting the BAAQMD's strict standards for emissions. More specifications are available under the climate action/sustainability subsection of the staff report brought to the Council on the December 5, 2022 regular meeting <https://cityofpetaluma.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=4381>.

Thank you,

**Brian Cochran**

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Petaluma is in a drought. There are many programs and incentives to help you conserve water! Learn more [HERE](#).