

## Kappel, Shelly

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**From:** Susan Kirks <susankirks@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:27 PM  
**To:** Kappel, Shelly  
**Subject:** General Public Comment for Climate Action Commission Meeting - Agenda Item #4

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Dear Members of the Climate Action Commission,

I noticed an agenda item to discuss Artificial Turf this evening at your April 13th meeting, but I did not see a staff report. Are you just beginning a discussion and plan to agendize this topic?

**I read the submitted public comment by Taryn Obaid and want to lend my support to her comment.**

Change is a challenge for bureaucracies and certainly for our Petaluma City Government.

However, like many cities and communities, we now have more than sufficient information about disadvantages of and health concerns related to artificial turf fields, and undoubtedly our City should not be installing any turf fields in any location - any longer.

Change in this area includes how the City staff would maintain natural grass fields, and that change is possible with appropriate budgeting and staffing.

A broader, visionary discussion by your Commission could include how your responsibilities interface with modernizing and expanding the City's Parks and Recreation function/department.

This was one of my priorities in the November 2022 Mayoral campaign, including establishing open space policy, protocols and priorities, which the City of Petaluma has never had. In addition, integrating and staffing for a City arborist, staff with environmental and conservation experience, and balancing these additions with existing active recreational components would be beneficial for the greater community of Petaluma.

Please - Discuss and contribute to the enlightenment of our City government regarding no further artificial turf fields in this community.

And couple that with a visionary contribution you could make to the relationship of your work to our Parks and Recreation function here in Petaluma.

No turf fields, yes to implementing and maintaining natural grass fields, yes to a staff arborist, recruiting and retaining staff with more environmental experience, and welcoming input from persons like myself with open space policy and environmental expertise, much appreciated.

Thank you,

Susan Kirks