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## Bandshell rental fees adjusted to encourage more socially distanced activities

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Moraga Commons Park bandshell Photo Vera

Currently the rental rate for the Moraga Commons Park bandshell is \$555 for a 4-hour time block as adopted in the 2020-21 Master Fee Schedule. Staff has recommended that the town council adopt an hourly rental fee to accommodate users who wish to book the facility for a shorter period of time.

Due to coronavirus restrictions regarding social distancing many organizations and businesses are finding innovative ways to conduct business as usual, albeit with a slightly fractured model.

The Hacienda de las Flores has begun to fill its booking capacities thanks to the gradual reopening and easing of some health department restrictions. To meet the demand for more open space activities, town staff feels that a reduction in mandatory booking hours would increase usage of a large venue, such as the bandshell, which can accommodate up to 12 socially distanced

people.

According to a presentation by Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt during the Aug. 26 town council meeting, "Gym and fitness activities are now sanctioned for outdoor use, so we expect to get more requests in the coming weeks. We've had a handful of conceptual conversations with private members who are looking to host some outdoor P.E. for their pandemic pods; fitness groups who are looking to do outdoor yoga or Pilates." Brandt added, "We recommend that the bandshell space would be a suitable location and just let the community know that the town is responsive and flexible in meeting their changing needs."

The town council unanimously approved the new hourly rental fees: nonprofit \$40/hour; private resident \$50/hour; and commercial (reservations required) \$70/hour. Staff estimates that the Moraga Commons Park would see an increase of approximately \$5,670 for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year based upon an average of three one-hour rentals each week (November through June with a December closure).

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