

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
March 18, 2014**



**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chuck Blair; George Guerra; Mike O’Halloran; Roseann LaCoursiere; Tino Silva; and, Kevan Michael Walke.

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:** Ray Gamma

**STAFF:** James Teixeira, Parks & Recreation Director; Dale Seale, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director; and, Patricia Lord, Recreation Manager.

**PUBLIC:** Chan Hendermeister.

**CONSULTANTS:** Gary Hover, Verde Design, Inc.; and, Carlos Villareal, Willdan Financial Services.

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**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**— That Council make the completion of three (3) additional soccer fields an immediate priority in addition to developing the other sports facilities identified in the Santa Clara Youth Sports Complex needs assessment.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL/ ORDER OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order by Mike O’Halloran at 7:00 p.m. The Commission approved the order of the agenda and requested updates on the status of the Youth Soccer Park and the BMX site.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Commissioner LaCoursiere and second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission approved (6-0) the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2014 as amended.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

Director Teixeira referred to information included in the Commission binders related to Santa Clara Sister Cities and an invitation by the Youth Commission to participate in the Intergenerational Dance. presented by Youth Commission.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**—None.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Staff Presentation—Youth Sports Complex Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study: Director Teixeira introduced Gary Hover of Verde Design, Inc. who gave a presentation on the Youth Sports Complex Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study. The study identified several sports that have a growing need for facilities, including soccer. Mr. Hover provided a recap of the public input process and a visual representation of the youth sports needs; the conceptual design included components that could be co-located at one larger site (28.6 acres) or potentially dispersed among several smaller sites. The Commission discussed the challenges in identifying a single site adequate in size to accommodate

all the sports facilities needed in Santa Clara. The Commission expressed its concerns related to access to Youth Soccer Park and immediate need for fields as well as the desire to see all of the needed facilities built. On a motion by Commissioner Silva and seconded by Commissioner Guerra, the Commission (6-0) voted to recommend that Council make completion of three (3) additional soccer fields an immediate priority in addition to developing the other sports facilities identified in the Santa Clara Youth Sports Complex needs assessment.

B. Staff Presentation—New Housing Development Impact Fee Nexus Study: Director Teixeira gave a presentation on the required Nexus Study in support of the Council Goal to develop a New Housing Development Impact Fee Ordinance. Carlos Villareal, Willdan Financial Services consultant provided information on the findings of the nexus study and the basis for development of an impact ordinance. The City of Santa Clara's level of service is 4.65 acres of park and open space per 1000 residents. Due to the projected population impacts of new housing development (over 37,000 new residents) anticipated in the General Plan 2010, new parks and recreation facilities will be needed to meet their needs. All of the comparable cities in the County have development impact ordinances and require a dedication of a set number of park acres per 1000 residents; municipalities often allow for payment of a fee in lieu of parkland dedication and provide a percentage credit for permanent on-site parkland and/or private amenities (such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fitness areas and clubhouse). The Commission was advised that the item and a draft ordinance would be proposed for Commission comment and recommendation to Council. The Commission noted a concern for amounts of credit above 50% for on-site amenities, since it serves and is accessible by tenants only, not the general public; whereas public parks serve all City residents without distinction and City parks will be impacted by the new developments. The Commission shared its view that new development should pay its fair share for new parks and recreation facilities and not degrade existing facilities. The potential development of the Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club site was noted and the Commission expressed interest in discussion of the community benefits and park & recreation facilities planned in the new proposed development as the projects move forward.

C. Update—International Swim Center and Swimming Hall of Fame Program Study: A focus group meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 from 10:30 am to noon, at the Bergman Building in Santa Clara. The meeting will review information from the clubs, consultant studies and staff.

D. Review—Reed Street Dog Park Rules: On a motion by Commissioner Walke and seconded by Commissioner Silva, the Commission voted (6-0) to table this discussion to the next meeting when Commissioner Gamma is present.

E. Update—Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club (SCG&TC) Event Parking Project: The completion of the parking improvements at SCG&TC will be completed shortly. Alternate sites were provided for the Santa Clara Clubs, including high school golfers during the temporary closure. The City continues its collaboration with American Golf to operate the facility; parking on the course for Stadium games and events will be operated by another vendor.

## VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Park & Cemetery Divisions Project Updates: Deputy Director Seale reported that the bull pen pitching areas on Fatjo Field were completed; the Montague Park restroom vandalism was being repaired; and, over 80 trees were planted at parks. The parks irrigation schedules have been reduced as part of the departmental water conservation effort. The Central Park Pond Natural Wetlands Water Filtration project will begin in April with draining, cleaning and set up of a fenced project set up area.

B. Recreation Facility & Program Updates: Deputy Director Seale reported that the park dedication will take place on May 17; with a tentative time starting at noon.

C. Special Event Updates: The next city-wide event will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Central Park on April 19 at 10 a.m. “sharp.”

**VII. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

**Commissioner LaCoursiere**—Santa Clara Police Activities League has met with Related of Santa Clara to discuss the PAL BMX track and parcel leased from the City. Discussions are ongoing.

**Commissioner Walke**—Visited Washington Park and reported that the scoreboard is working. At Earl Carmichael Park, the new trees look good.

**Commissioner Guerra**—Reported that Homestead Little League ball field looked great for opening day. Thanks to Director Teixeira and Deputy Director Seale.

**Commissioner Blair**—Met with City Parks staff and offered to assist with training and care of the fields. Director Teixeira stated that staff would look into scheduling a training that could potentially be an annual event.

**Commissioner Silva**—Reported that he enjoys Reed Street Dog Park with his family. Thanks to Director Teixeira for providing assistance for high school golfers during closure of SCG&TC.

**Commissioner O’Halloran**—Reported that most of the parks are in good shape. He visited Agnew Historic Landmark, Parkway Park and the par course. The South of Forest Neighborhood Association is raising funds to support Parkway Park improvements.

**VIII. CONFERENCE & ATTENDANCE REPORTS—None.**

**IX. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & COMMENTS—Resident commented that they support the continued restoration of Ulistac.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT—On a motion by Commissioner Silva, and a second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission adjourned at 9:33 pm.to the next regularly scheduled meeting in the City Hall Staff Conference Room.**

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Lord  
Recreation Manager

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roseanne LaCoursiere  
Commission Secretary