

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
October 15, 2013**



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chuck Blair; Ray Gamma; George Guerra; Roseann Alderete LaCoursiere; Mike O'Halloran; Tino Silva; Kevan Michael Walke.

STAFF: James Teixeira, Director of Parks & Recreation; Dale Seale, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director.

OTHER: Tom Freitas.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION—

- (1) Recommend that Council approve an Ordinance amending Section 9.05.130 (“Unsafe Or Disruptive Conduct”) of the Santa Clara City Code to Prohibit Unsafe Conduct In Public Places including skateboarding on park walkways.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair O'Halloran at 7:00 p.m. On a motion by Commissioner Gamma and second by Commissioner LaCoursiere, the Commission (6-0-1) approved the agenda.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Walke, and second by Commissioner LaCoursiere, the Commission approved (5-0-2) the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 20, 2013. (Commissioner Silva entered meeting.)

III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission reviewed recent Council actions of September 24, 2013 and October 8, 2013.

IV. OLD BUSINESS—None.

- V. NEW BUSINESS**—A. Commissioners discussed distribution of the Art & Wine Festival net proceeds in the amount of \$60,000. On a motion by Commissioner Guerra and second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission approved (7-0-0) recommending to Council that funding for non-profit organizations from 2013 Art & Wine Festival net proceeds be distributed as follows: Santa Clara Police Activities League \$14,000; Santa Clara Friends of Parks & Recreation \$14,000; Santa Clara Schools Foundation \$13,000; Wilcox High School Grad Night Committee \$4,500; Santa Clara High School Grad Night Committee \$4,500; and, Santa Clara Senior Center Health & Wellness/Care Management Program \$10,000. (*Council action related to Art & Wine Festival proceeds was included on Council agenda of November 12, 2013.*)

B. The Commission discussed a proposal to extend the Art & Wine Festival 2014 Saturday ending time by 1 hour. On a motion by Commissioner Gamma and second by Commissioner Blair, the Commission

recommended that the Art & Wine Festival be extended by 1 hour, to end at 6 pm on Saturday (5 pm on Sunday—no change).

C. The Commission listened to a presentation by Deputy Director Seale regarding Central Park Pond Filtration Project concepts and discussed the two options developed by the consultant for location of the natural wetland filtration. On a motion by Commissioner Blair and second by Commissioner LaCoursiere, the Commission recommended (7-0-0) Option 1 to locate the natural wetlands filtration area on the peninsula and to include a combination of semi-aquatic plants and flowers, incorporating various heights and colors.

D. The Commission listened to a presentation by Director Teixeira related to unsafe bicycle and skateboard use of park walkways and public reports concerned with potential and near collisions with seniors, dog walkers and parents with small children. After discussion of the potential dangers posed to pedestrians in parks, the need for tools to curb unsafe activity while allowing for safe recreation, and the enforcement and compliance issues, on a motion by Commissioner Silva and second by Commissioner LaCoursiere, the Commission recommended (7-0-0) that Council approve an Ordinance amending Section 9.05.130 (“Unsafe Or Disruptive Conduct”) of the Santa Clara City Code to Prohibit Unsafe Conduct In Public Places including skateboarding on park walkways.

E. The Commission discussed direction from Council goal setting to recommend names and host a dedication of the new park located in the Midtown Village development. On a motion by Commissioner Silva and second by Commissioner Gamma, the Commission appointed an ad hoc committee (Commissioners Gamma, LaCoursiere, Blair) to discuss and return with a report and recommendation to the full Commission regarding park naming guidelines and suggestions for a dedication event.

F. The Commission had photos taken for the annual City calendar.

VI. STAFF REPORT— **A.** Recreation Program Report: The Director provided the Commission with an overview of the Council Goals Committee discussion on October 9, 2013 related to developing draft guiding principles, the identification of potential stakeholders, and possible Council consideration of the item on October 29, 2013. **B.** Special Event Updates: Commissioners were invited to the Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2013 at Central Park at 3:00 p.m. Commissioners were invited to attend the Youth Activity Center Halloween Party on October 31 in the afternoon. **C.** Parks & Cemetery Projects: The Deputy Director provided an update on the tree conditions at Montague Park, Homeridge Park and Carmichael Park that will require removal and re-plantings. Overall, the Department will be removing approximately 30 park trees citywide and replanting with 80 new trees of various species usually 24” box size. Central Park Tennis Center is expected to be resurfaced. **D.** The Development Impact Fee Study work is continuing. **E.** The International Swim Center Aquatic Program analysis is progressing.

VII. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Commissioner Gamma—Reported on visits to the Dog Park and Ulistac Natural Area.

Commissioner LaCoursiere—Reported on attending a meeting to discuss the future of PAL BMX.

Commissioner Guerra—Reported on the negative impact of geese on the condition of the Central Park ball fields for sports groups and visits to the Central Park Tennis Center.

Commissioner Blair—Reported on volunteer activities with Bikers Against Child Abuse, the “Wall of Tears Tour,” and hope that it could be brought to the City in the future, perhaps at a City Park site.

Commissioner Silva—Provided a report on his excused absence and travels out of the City.

Commissioner Walke—Reported on soccer and visits to Central, Carmichael, and Henry Schmidt Parks.

Commissioner O’Halloran—Reported on attending the Council meeting related to Youth Soccer Park and visit to Ulistac Natural Area; attending a “Pumpkin in the Park” event and San Jose’s “Adopt a Park” program.

VIII. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REPORTS—None.

IX. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS—None.

X. ADJOURNMENT—On a motion by Commissioner Walke and second by Commissioner Blair, the Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled on November 19, 2013, in the City Hall Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by: _____
James Teixeira
Director of Parks & Recreation

Reviewed by: _____
Roseanne LaCoursiere
Commission Secretary