

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
April 21, 2015**



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chuck Blair, George Guerra, Andrew Knaack, Roseann Alderete LaCoursiere, Mike O’Halloran, Tino Silva, Kevan Michael Walke.

STAFF: Dale Seale, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director; Gayle Ichiho, Recreation Supervisor.

PUBLIC: Julie Rose.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION— None.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Silva at 7:00 p.m. The Commission approved (7-0) the meeting agenda.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission discussed the minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Blair and a second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission approved (7-0) the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 17, 2015. On a motion by Commissioner O’Halloran and a second by Chair Silva, the Commission requested (7-0) that staff liaison distribute the agenda and minutes on the Thursday (earlier than the required minimum posting period) prior to each Commission meeting.

III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission reviewed recent actions taken by Council on April 7, 2015, including Council Goals for Fiscal Year 2015-2017. The Commission requested and was provided an update regarding the Montague Park Input Meeting held on March 25, 2015 and facilitated by LPA, Inc. Deputy Director Seale reported that three conceptual designs were presented and that the City website provides Park Project updates, including Montague Park. The Commission discussed a community petition requesting no change to the park, and an invitation to a community-initiated meeting at Montague Park building on Sunday, April 26, 2015. The Commission discussed what types of communication received by the Commission are appropriate for circulation and discussion outside of a Commission meeting under the Brown Act.

IV. OLD BUSINESS—None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Park Hours. Deputy Director Seale presented the staff report (handout) for a proposed Amendment to City Code Section 12.05.060 for Commission consideration and discussion. The Code section currently states that public parks are open from 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. and allows the Director of Parks & Recreation the administrative ability to close parks or areas

of parks temporarily for various purposes. There have been instances when the public is in a park after hours creating a safety concern or other issues. The Department worked with the City Attorney Office and Santa Clara Police Department to develop appropriate language to achieve a balance between public access and safety, as well as to acknowledge the seasonal variance in daylight hours and availability of lit facilities. The amendment would allow the public to be in a park as long as there is daylight or if the facility is lit (athletic fields, buildings, sport courts) until 10 pm. The Parks & Recreation Department will update park signage if the amendment is adopted. The Commission was concerned that they had not heard about the issue earlier and expressed concern about the role of the Commission in providing recommendations to City Council. No action was taken.

- B. Art & Wine Festival Glasses. Beer and wine glass options for the 2015 festival were presented. The Commission recommended ordering: 1) a beer glass (mason jar style) with handle, 2) stem-less wine glass similar in size/style to 2013. The recommended percentage is 80 percent with stem and 20 percent stem-less. Commissioners requested a sample of the “Libby” beer mug (jar style) for review at the next meeting.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Park Projects and Cemetery Updates: 1) Bracher Park Rehabilitation Project—Deputy Director Seale presented conceptual playground designs from Ross Recreation Equipment to the Commission for review and comment. On a motion by Chair Silva and second by Commissioner LaCoursiere, the Commission recommended approval of the (6-1) the flower theme design. 2) International Swim Center & Community Recreation Center Project—The schematic design and financial program plan are progressing; the consultant brought the project to the City Project Clearance Committee for an initial internal staff review and comment; the geotechnical engineering survey work and environmental study are taking place on the west side of Central Park.
- B. Recreation Program & Special Event Updates: 1) Additional Programs and Services at Senior Center and Youth Activity & Teen Centers—Recreation Supervisor Ichiho provided an update on the new funding source from Levi’s Stadium 49er Ticket surcharge dedicated to supporting additional programs and facility hours at the Santa Clara Senior Center and Teen Center Programs. The Senior Center is now open until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with additional hours scheduled to start in July. 2) Volunteer Program Development—The City has launched a new online volunteer management program named “Volgistics” that will be used to register applicants and track volunteers. 3) Aquatics Programs—The International Swimming Hall of Fame Honoree Enshrinement weekend is scheduled for June 19-21, 2015. 4) The Fourth Annual Silicon Valley Barbeque Championships are scheduled for June 26 and 27, 2015 at Central Park; Rotary of Santa Clara and the Department are finalizing the event plans, staffing and support. 5) July 4th—The annual Fourth of July All-City Picnic will include an evening Fireworks extravaganza and plans are well developed.

VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

General Comments. Commissioners discussed park signage and the need to include Thomas Barrett Park on the Parks & Recreation website.

Commissioner Blair—Attended games at Washington Park and other baseball leagues. Visited Henry Schmidt Park.

Commissioner LaCoursiere—Reported on Bracher Park and attended a Santa Clara Westside Little League game, and inquired about the Fish Derby. Due to the ongoing drought conditions, the Fish Derby will not be held this year.

Commissioner Guerra—Visited Earl Carmichael Park, Mary Gomez Park, and attended a Santa Clara Westside Little League game.

Commissioner Knaack—Attended the annual Easter Egg Hunt held in Central Park, followed by a new event, “Easter Pool-ooza”, at the International Swim Center. He commented on the excellent job done by staff.

Commissioner O’Halloran—Attended “Wildflower Day” at Ulistac Natural Area in March. He met with Deputy Director Seale regarding pathway improvements at Parkway Park. He also attended a Santa Clara Unified School District and City of Santa Clara liaison meeting in early April. He also attended the Wrestlemania event at Levi’s Stadium.

Commissioner Silva—Reported that the Commission should continue to be informed about items going to City Council related to Parks & Recreation.

Commissioner Walke—Attended games at Washington Park and a Santa Clara Westside Little League game.

VIII. CONFERENCE & ATTENDANCE REPORTS – None.

IX. PUBLIC PRESENTATION(S) & COMMENTS

A member of the public commented on “Wildflower Day” held at Ulistac Natural Area; the event was well-attended.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Patricia Lord
Recreation Manager

Reviewed by: _____
Kevan Michael Walke
Commission Secretary

Submitted by: _____
James Teixeira
Director of Parks & Recreation
Commission Liaison