



# City of Santa Clara

## Meeting Minutes

### Parks & Recreation Commission

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06/15/2021

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

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Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City of Santa Clara has implemented methods for the public to participate remotely:

Via Zoom:

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/91316665755>

Meeting ID: 913 1666 5755 or

Phone: (669) 900-6833

The meeting set-up is in line with the recommendations of the COVID-19 White House Task Force, which notes no more than ten (10) people gathering. The Chair will be present for the meeting with the staff liaison and commissioners participating remotely.

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**Present** 6 - Commissioner Andrew Knaack, Chair Joe Martinez, Commissioner George Guerra, Commissioner Dana Caldwell, Vice Chair Eversley Forte, and Commissioner Kelly Gonzalez

**Absent** 1 - Commissioner Burt Field

**Commissioner Forte made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, to excuse Commissioner Field.**

**Aye:** 6 - Commissioner Knaack, Chair Martinez, Commissioner Guerra, Commissioner Caldwell, Vice Chair Forte, and Commissioner Gonzalez

**Excused:** 1 - Commissioner Field

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.A [21-808](#) Action on the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the May 18, 2021 Meeting

**Recommendation:** Approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the May 18, 2021 Meeting

**A motion was made by Commissioner Forte, seconded by Commissioner Guerra to recommend approval of the Parks & Recreation Commission minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting.**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Knaack, Chair Martinez, Commissioner Guerra, Vice Chair Forte, and Commissioner Gonzalez

**Excused:** 1 - Commissioner Field

**Abstained:** 1 - Commissioner Caldwell

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

2. [21-809](#) Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals for FY 2020/21 Final Update and Discussion of Work Plan Goals and Activities for FY2021/22

**Recommendation:** Discuss Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals for FY 2020/21 and develop Work Plan Goals for FY2021/22 and appoint subcommittee(s) as needed.

On June 15, Director Teixeira provided the final update for the Work Plan Goals A-D for FY2020/21.

Work Plan Goal A: Since the completion of the Kitchell Report (2018) the Department and the Commission have continued to inform the community about infrastructure conditions at facilities throughout the City. There are approximately 155 different facilities in the park system inventory with \$100M to \$150M worth of aged infrastructure deficiencies in the City's park system. The City has a major funding strategy to address such needs through the use of Quimby Act funds for the rehabilitation of existing park facilities contingent upon the expansion of capacity at the existing park with a nexus to the housing development paying those fees.

Work Plan Goal B: There is a rehabilitation project on the current agenda, which is the gazebo at City Plaza Park, and at upcoming meetings there should be two new parks for which the Commission and the public will be providing input.

Work Plan Goal C: The City of Santa Clara will be hosting a small one day family friendly event in mid August in Central Park. This event will not be the annual Art & Wine Festival which should return in 2022.

Work Plan Goal D: This is linked to the Related Project. Once the golf course closed in October of 2019, it was expected that the Related Project would move forward expeditiously. Improvements were made by adding the slip ramp adjacent to Santa Clara Youth Soccer Park, and extending Stars & Stripes Drive from the VTA station to Great America Parkway. Once the Related Project moves to the next application phase the \$500K for design and engineering outreach, the City would be able to utilize those funds and access \$4.5M for the initial phase construction.

The Commission may review this information and determine if it would like to proceed with the current goals or make changes to the goals.

3. [21-818](#) Action to Recommend Council Approval of a Preferred Schematic Design for the City Plaza Park Gazebo Enhancement Project

**Recommendation:** Recommend Council Approval of the preferred Schematic Design for the City Plaza Park Gazebo Enhancement Project.

**Commissioner Guerra made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knaack to recommend that Council approve Schematic Design B with the enhancement.**

**Aye:** 6 - Commissioner Knaack, Chair Martinez, Commissioner Guerra, Commissioner Caldwell, Vice Chair Forte, and Commissioner Gonzalez

**Excused:** 1 - Commissioner Field

**STAFF REPORT**

**Director Teixeira** provided an update regarding Raymond G. Gamma Dog Park which is almost complete and ready for use along with the ribbon cutting on Thursday, June 24 at 10:00 AM. Former Commissioner Raymond G. Gamma will be in attendance. Parks Division staff are making progress on completing the renovation of the Central Park Arbor Center Picnic Area which was included in the Central Park Master Plan. This will be followed by the renovation of the restroom and the replacement of the arbor center playground area with the All-inclusive Magical Bridge playground funded through a combination of a Santa Clara County grant, City capital improvement funds, developer contributions, Quimby Act and Mitigation Fee Act funds, community donations and corporate donations. The Department will continue to gather public input on the new entry into Central Park from Kiely Blvd also identified in the Central Park Master Plan that will provide clear access to the All-inclusive Magical Bridge playground and the Community Recreation Center. There are many other small projects, including bench replacements at Machado Park, all-weather ping pong table at Homeridge Park, etc. Mini Park E in the Lawrence Station Park area which has a small open grass area, picnic areas with pergolas and playground was recently opened with a small ribbon cutting ceremony. The community garden, community building, off-leash dog area and outdoor amphitheater will be coming onboard later at Lawrence Station. At the July meeting the Commission will have a second opportunity to review the schematic design for the new proposed park at 1205 Coleman (Gateway Crossings), as Council has asked staff to gather expanded community outreach. Tasman East Specific Plan and other specific plans (a total of five) are moving forward, consequently the parkland dedication components and community outreach will be forthcoming as we get closer to project development. The parkland dedication fee resolution was approved by City Council. Mitigation Fee Act fees will be updated in 60 days from Thursday, June 10 2021, and Quimby Act fees went into effect on Friday, June 11, 2021.

**Recreation Manager Castro** provided an update on recreation programs. On June 10, 2021 Recreation facilities opened for programming including the Skate Park, Community Recreation Center, Youth Activity Center (YAC), Teen Center, Reed & Grant Street Sports Park, and the Senior Center started appointment based programming from 2-5 PM. The Senior Center congregate meal program will be moving indoors starting on July 1, 2021. Commodity Point of Distribution (CPOD) food services at the Salvation Army site have come to a close after 33 weeks of continuous service. Adult Lap Swim has been very popular and will transition to no reservations required, starting on June 28, 2021. Buchser Tennis Courts opened to the public on June 5, 2021. There is now an Adult Activity Pass

for Reed & Grant Sports Park for drop in adult activities, and at the International Swim Center. The Youth Activity Pass can be used at the YAC, Teen Center, and Skate Park. The City will open a cooling center on June 16, 2021. Sunset Cinema will be starting next month.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

**Chair Martinez:** Visited Bowers Park and met a family that is new to Santa Clara from San Diego and love the City for it's parks. They found park hopping as a unique benefit of living in Santa Clara. Visited Reed & Grant Sports Park and hopes to use Raymond G. Gamma Dog Park soon. Thanked Commissioner Guerra for his service to the community over the past years.

**Commissioner Caldwell:** Has been a Santa Clara resident since 1980 and lives close to Maywood Park. He has been the Assistant Boys Varsity basketball coach for Cupertino HS for 24 years. He is very excited about being a part of the Commission and upcoming activities. He visited Maywood Park and noticed recent utility tree work along the frontage of the park on Pruneridge Ave.

**Commissioner Forte:** Attended Nuevo Playground ribbon cutting event at Lawrence Station. He also worked out at Bowers Park.

**Commissioner Gonzalez:** Director Teixeira described the facilities and operations for the Buchser MS site facilities that are part of the current joint use agreement, which include Buchser tennis courts, Townsend Field, Washington Park ball field, and Elmer Johnson softball field based on inquiries from members of the public who contacted her about access to those facilities. Director Teixeira will also raise this point at the upcoming City School District Liaison Meeting.

**Commissioner Guerra:** Described his service and accomplishments over the past eight years and participated in the opening of several new parks and many rehabilitation projects. He also expressed his appreciation to his fellow commissioners and City staff, including Director Teixeira, Recreation Manager Castro, and Deputy Director Seale.

**Commissioner Knaack:** Thanked Commissioner Guerra for his service to the community as they served seven years together on the Commission. Visited War Memorial Park, Civic Center Park, Rotary Park and Fremont Park. He inquired about drinking fountains at City parks, which are all open for use.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Gonzalez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Guerra to adjourn the meeting until the next regularly held Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 7:00 PM on July 20, 2021.**

**Aye:** 6 - Commissioner Knaack, Chair Martinez, Commissioner Guerra, Commissioner Caldwell, Vice Chair Forte, and Commissioner Gonzalez

**Excused:** 1 - Commissioner Field



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If a member of the public submits a speaker card for any agenda items, their name will appear in the Minutes. If no speaker card is submitted, the Minutes will reflect "Public Speaker."

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