

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
August 20, 2013**



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

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Tino Silva.

STAFF PRESENT: James Teixeira, Director of Parks & Recreation; Dale Seale, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director; Blossom Dulos, Public Works Department Civil Engineer.

OTHER: RBF Consulting, Verde Design, Inc.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION— Recommend that Council support replacement/replanting of the existing Civic Center tree used for Santa Clara's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony with a new live tree (as big as possible) with LED lights and Teddy placed at the top.

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 LaCoursiere and second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission (6-0-1) recommended an excused absence for Commissioner Silva and approved the agenda.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Coursiere, and second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission approved (6-0-1) the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 20, 2013 as corrected.

III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

A. The Commission reviewed recent Council actions of July 16, 2013 including a presentation to Council by the UNAREP volunteers. B. Commissioners reviewed the August 2013 e-Newsletter from the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members. C. Commissioners reviewed news articles printed in the San Jose Mercury News (SJMN) regarding the City of Santa Clara Northside Branch Library supporters and funding jeopardized by County and State actions; and, a SJMN article regarding the Vintage Baseball World Series held at Washington Ball Field.

IV. OLD BUSINESS—A. Commissioners reviewed plans for volunteer staffing of Commissioner booths at the Art & Wine Festival, including excused absences by Commissioners Blair and Silva. Glass, wine and beer orders have been confirmed. Parking passes and shirts would be made available the week prior. B. On a motion by Commissioner Blair and second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission voted (6-0-1) to set the price for each token or each glass be \$5.

V. NEW BUSINESS—A. The Commission listened to a concept presentation by the Department of Public Works of the Central Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Study. The Access Study provides an

assessment of Central Park for improvements for on-site and off-site multi-modal access for pedestrians and bicyclists. Recommendations include improved park circulation with sidewalk enhancements and bicycle lanes, wayfinding throughout the park to park amenities, ADA compliance, and the application of Universal Design Guidelines to park fixtures, furniture and other miscellaneous park accessories. It also included options for an overcrossing or undercrossing connection to the new residential development across Kiely Boulevard as part of the City's trail network expansion program and to connect to Homeridge Park. Commissioner comments included: request for additional study of the peak flow along Benton toward Santa Clara High School; and Benton/Kiely intersection capacity; interest in the official recommended width diagrams for trails; positive support for the wayfinding signage design, its link to Santa Clara history, image and sense of place, as well as the signature mission bell design for park lighting and standards; interest in receiving updates on the public outreach component to begin in September 2013. **B.** The Commission listened to a presentation regarding the City's Holiday Tree Lighting Event and need to replace the existing tree in the Civic Center. After discussion, on a motion by Commissioner LaCoursiere and Second by Commissioner Gamma, the Commission voted (6-0-1) to recommend that Council support replacement/replanting of the existing Civic Center tree used for Santa Clara's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony with a new live tree (as big as possible) with LED lights and Teddy placed at the top.

- VI. STAFF REPORT**—**A.** Recreation Program Report: Lifetime Tennis, Inc. started its operation of the Central Park Tennis Center. **B.** Special Event Update: Staff is working on the Art & Wine Festival and will be meeting with Rotary to discuss the SVBBQ in October, providing an update to Council in November. **C.** Parks and Cemetery Projects: the Central Park pond is in the process of being drained and "muck" will be pumped out; the design of the new natural filtration system will begin in the Fall; new Cemetery Cremain plots have been prepared and are now available for purchase. **D.** The Development Impact Fee Study is continuing. **E.** The International Swim Center Aquatic Program analysis proposals have been reviewed and contract will go to Council in early September for award.

VII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Blair—Requested follow up on Cricket playing at Henry Schmidt. Would like to see better park signage regarding jump/bounce houses at public parks.

Commissioner Gamma—Reported on visits to the Dog Park and attending the Mervyn's Plaza Car Show, Street Dance, Sister Cities event, Kid's Triathlon at Central Park, and the SC Pal Golf Tournament.

Commissioner LaCoursiere—Reported on work at the SCPAL Golf Tournament.

Commissioner Guerra—Reported on travel Baseball program.

Commissioner O'Halloran—Reported on the Mission City Community Fund Luau, Performing Arts Foundation, and interest in the status of 90 North Winchester Park site.

Commissioner Silva—No Report.

Commissioner Walke—Commented on Central Park, Montague Park and Steve Carli Park.

VIII. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REPORTS—None.

IX. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS—None.

X. ADJOURMENT—On a motion by Commissioner Blair and second by Commissioner LaCoursiere, the Commission adjourned at 9:05 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled on September 17, 2013, in the City Hall Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by: _____	Reviewed by: _____
James Teixeira	Roseanne LaCoursiere
Director of Parks & Recreation	Commission Secretary