



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
7:00 pm

**El Cerrito City Hall
Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Management Assistant at 510-559-7001. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFT 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

1. **Roll Call:** Chair – Robin Mitchell, Ben Chuaqui, Manish Doshi, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, Glen Lubcke and Gary Hill all present.
2. **Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements** (*Informal reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff*)

Kaplan: Announced that he is pleased to see that work is being done at Huber Park.

Jones: Made an announcement regarding the waste receptacle budget estimates. The estimated cost for 20-30 cans throughout city parks (not including the Ohlone Green Way), at \$2,000-\$2,500 per pair including installation, would total approximately \$60,000-\$75,000. The pair would include landfill and recycle. Jones noted that it would cost more to have solar compacting.

Chuaqui: Raised questions regarding solar compacting and other waste receptacle options. It was agreed by the Commission to have this as a future agenda item. It was requested that it be an item in either January or February when Maria Sanders would attend and present the Commission with pictures, costs, pros and cons.

Mitchell: Announced that the Community Garden Network donated \$1,000 towards the new waste receptacle in the Community Garden Area.

Doshi: Commented on Rubicon and the storm season. He would like to see an increase in communication between public works and Rubicon about weather permitted issues.

3. **Oral Communications From The Public**

Dave Weinstein: Commented that a survey had been done regarding the need for garbage cans in on the Ohlone Greenway and San Pablo Avenue. Weinstein would be happy to communicate the findings to the Commission if they are interested. Weinstein also announced that

Trailtrekkers will be hosting the Hillside Festival on Sunday, May 16th 2016. He commented that the Boy Scouts are interested in taking part and that Camp Herms will be a part of the Festival locations. Weinstein suggested sponsorship for the Festival from the Park and Recreation Commission.

Doshi: Made a recommendation to Trailtrekkers to incorporate a 5K or 10K Run Event in conjunction with the Hillside Festival. This prompted further discussion that current design of the Hillside Festival is not a fundraiser. Hillside festival is not designed as a fundraiser.

Jones: City staff has been meeting with Brian Wyatt from Scena Performance. Wyatt would like to do a 5k vertical hillside run in the Hillside Natural Area of El Cerrito. Wyatt will be at the January Park and Recreation Commission meeting to present further details. The Trail Trekkers may be the local benefactor for the event. The desired date for the event is July 16th 2016.

4. **Council/Staff Liaison Announcements and Reports**

Commissioners were updated by Mayor Pro Tem Ableson on action taken at the November 3, November 17, and December 1, 2015 City Council Meetings.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2015
Approval of the October 28, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Moved, seconded (Doshi/Hill) and carried unanimously with abstentions from Lubke, Mitchell and Lipson.

6. **Hillside Natural Area and City Trail Signage Discussion:** Dave Weinstein, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers

The Commission received a presentation on current draft of Hillside Natural Area and City Trail way finding signs developed by the National Park Service in coordination with the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers.

Following the presentation the Commission provided feedback and also discussed synthesis with park signage planning. There was discussion on considerations for park signage designs, guidelines, and grant monies for this project. The Commission came to an agreement on contacting Patrick Fields at the National Parks and creates fluency with signage throughout the El Cerrito. There was discussion about what steps are needed to move forward- both design and implementation. The Commission addressed public input as it relates to signage, the process Trail Trekkers has already taken with the City's approval, and future processes. It was agreed that there should be a public presentation of the signage plan either at a Park and Recreation Commission meeting or another public forum. It was also agreed upon that it would be beneficial to have conversation about the signage plans between Recreation Staff, Fields, and Trail Trekkers. The timeline, process, sign content and sign design were further discussed. It was decided that once a packet of the complete signage plan is presented to the Commission it will be at that time that the Commission may take action to make recommendations.

The Commission requested for Staff to send the completed signage presentation in an email so that they could provide feedback and discuss synthesis with park signage planning. A discussion about general signage in parks followed. The Commission would like to see mock-ups at the January or February 2016 meeting. The Commission had a discussion about how to collect data about current signage. It was decided for Commissioners to visit specific parks and report their findings at a future meeting.

Park Signage Assignments (Commissioner responsible for taking pictures or signage and emailing to Jones):

- Mitchell: Fairmont and Ohlone Greenway
- Chuaqui: Castro and Creekside
- Lubke: Canyon Trail and Baxter
- Hill: Arlington
- Lipson: Tassajara and Harding
- Doshi: Central, Bruce King, and Poinsett
- Kaplan: Huber

7. **Measure WW Funding Priorities:** Christopher Jones, Recreation Director
Reviewed Park and Recreation Commission funding priorities for the remainder of Measure WW Funds.

Cost estimates were distributed to the Commission of the prioritized items of WW Funding. There was discussion about Fairmont Park including possible changes in the future due to the approved plans for the reconstruction of Fairmont School. There was further discussion about the Fairmont Park and Community Garden in relation to the Urban Greening plan and appropriating funds from WW to Fairmont Park. It was suggested to focus on other elements/aspects of the park rather than the just the garden. Commissioners discussed the design and budget assigned with engineering estimates. It was reiterated that the application deadline is the end of March, 2016. Other projects were discussed as having potential for receiving WW Funds however; the three projects identified in Jones' presentation had previously been identified and recommended by the Commission as priority for WW Funds. Mitchell made the recommendation to remove the Community Garden as a priority WW Fund project.

There was discussion about the level of detail of what needs to submit to get approval for WW approval. It was determined that environmental factors must be included with detail about the plan itself. There was and also discussion about how to allocate between the three sites. Chuaqui suggested allocating all WW funds to Fairmont Park. Lubke agreed with this idea. There was discussion about the Baxter Creek Gateway Park and the potential for purchasing the property. Commissioners agreed that it was difficult to make a well informed decision without knowing more information including the amount land will cost. The Commission requested for Staff to contact the owner for more information about possibilities. There was discussion about immediate benefits of prioritizing Fairmont and Huber Parks. Hill and other Commissioners expressed their concerns and interests in regards to WW funds and its distribution. There was discussion about Huber Park plans and concerns around the estimates and options. Three potential options were drafted for the allocation of WW Funds:

1. All of Fairmont Park
2. Fairmont Park and Baxter Creek
3. Fairmont Park without Community Garden & Huber

It was decided that the Deadline for the Commission to take action and vote would be the January 2016 meeting. Chuaqui made a motion to “vote on these being the three options: 1. 2. 3.” Hill followed by presented his objections to the process and the earmarking of the WW funds. Doshi seconded Chuaqui’s motion but discussion then continued.

Discussion continued concerning prioritizing, plans, what should be considered, the introduction of a bike park to WW Funds, urban greening plan, and the prior recommendations made by the commission. The Commission agreed that they needed further information on Baxter Creek before making an informed vote. There was further discussion about the Fairmont plans and how to make the decisions regarding how to select funding sites and allocate the funds appropriately. There was a discussion about how to be strategic in prioritizing. It was decided that the Commission would need to decide what was most important: enhancements, repairs, or safety. Chuaqui’s motion was withdrawn.

It was also decided that for the next meeting the Commission would need to determine ball park figures of how much spend on each project. It was recommended for commissioners to read the urban greening plan to help in this decision making process. Concerns were addressed about the current WW projects. It was agreed that the commission will be vote on potential WW priorities at the January 2016 meeting.

8. Recreation Department Update: Sarah DiBenedetto, Management Assistant

Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department

- El Cerrito Senior Center: well attended Holiday Party, today, Wednesday, December 9, 2015, with a performance by the El Cerrito Ballet Company with refreshments followed.
- Pancake Breakfast and visit with Santa: Saturday, December 12, 9am-11am proceeds go to the David Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund. Toy donations will be accepted and are encouraged.
- Winter Break Schedule: Community Center Office will be open Monday December 21st and 28th; Senior Center will be open Monday 21, & Tuesday 22; Holiday Camp will be running Monday – Wednesday; Swim Center will have modified hours.
- 3rd Annual Zumbathon: Saturday, January 16th 9am-11am.

9. Items For Next Agenda

- Hillside 5k Run
- WW Funds

10. Meeting Adjournment: 9:50pm

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