



## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Canyon Trail Clubhouse  
6757 Gatto Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530

**This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible**

**Staff Liaison**

Christopher Jones | (510) 559-7005  
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**6:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Zuckermann called the meeting to order at **6:04pm**.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair David Zuckermann; Vice-Chair Tara McIntire; Members Ben Chuaqui, Avis Codron, Norman La Force, Art Machado, **Absent:** Jun Sunseri
- 2. COMMISSION/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, AND ANNOUCEMENTS**  
Informal reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff.

Chair Zuckermann welcomed to new Commission member Avis Codron.

Recreation Director, Christopher Jones reported that the City has received favorable preliminary results for Measure A. Results of the poll will be presented at the City Council meeting on July 16, 2019.

Member Chuaqui commented on interactions with solicitors regarding the new El Cerrito Renters Ordinance.

- 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Judy Katz reported issues she has had with dog walkers on the Canyon Trail tennis courts. She requested signage for “No Animals on Court” signage to be installed at Canyon Trail, reported that she has been contacting the City of El Cerrito Public Works Department and that there have been altercations between tennis players and dog owners.

The Commission briefly discussed park signage and suggested that this should be a future agenda item. Staff communicated that there is an overarching need for all signs, at all parks, to be replaced. This overarching need is addressed in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, but an issue, such as the one presented by Katz, may be able to be addressed by the City sooner.

Dave Weinstein updated the Commission on recent activities of Trail Trekkers including the success of the Hillside Festival. A lot of kids and families attended the event, and Trail Trekkers plans to keep the event the first weekend in May. Weinstein reported on progress with the El Cerrito trail map (including an updated map with new names) and interpretive signs.

**4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS - None**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved/Seconded: Member (La Force/Mc Intire) Action: Passed a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 22, 2019. Ayes: Members (Zuckermann, Machado, Codron and Chuaqui).

**6. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRE PROTECTION IN THE HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA**

El Cerrito Fire Chief Michael Pigoni provided an overview of the City's activities and strategies in the Hillside Natural Area. There was further discussion about fuel reduction, the danger and management of eucalyptus trees, prescribed burns, public education, and a hazard reduction plan. Chief Pigoni responded to questions and received feedback.

Member La Force shared the Sierra Club publication "Vegetation Management for Fire Safety in the East Bay Hills" with the Commission and Staff.

**8. HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA TRAIL NAMES (heard out of order)**

Received reports and recommendations from the Trail Naming Sub-Committee for the Hillside Natural Area.

Member La Force of the Trail Naming Sub-Committee shared his ideas of trail names and their historical origin. La Force also suggested that with the extended deadline, to make this a future agenda item when Sub-Committee member Sunseri is present. There as Commission discussion as to the process and what to consider. David Weinstein of Trail Trekkers clarified "unidentified" trails on the map.

Moved/Seconded: Member (La Force/McIntire) Action: Passed a motion to have Chair Zuckermann join the sub-committee. Ayes: Members (Chuaqui, Codron, La Force, Machado, McIntire, and Zuckermann).

**7. CANYON TRAIL PARK AND CLUBHOUSE TOUR**

Commissioners toured Canyon Trail Park paying special attention to project areas identified in the El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

**9. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Recreation Management Analyst, Sarah DiBenedetto provided a Recreation Department Update to the Commission. DiBenedetto reported that the Department was a top winner of Contra Costa Parents' Press Awards, receiving a total of 19 awards for 2019. DiBenedetto reported on the upcoming special events- the July



3<sup>rd</sup> kick-off event 4-7pm, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival 10am-6pm and the Summer Splash Pool Anniversary Party, July 21st, 11am-4pm.

**10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 6pm, Castro Park Clubhouse
- "Measure A" Update – July
- Other-Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD) Policy – October
- Land Acknowledgement – TBD
- Drone Policy – TBD
- Trail Naming- July

**11. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PARKS RELATED PROJECTS**

This item was continued to the next meeting.

**12. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



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David Zuckermann Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Park and Recreation Commission meeting of May 22, 2019 as approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.



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Christopher Jones, Staff Liaison