MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:
https://zoom.us/j/98350373762?pwd=bIVCbnQrQ1JQWjQ0W9ZUXBzZTRZUT09
Event ID: 983 5037 3762 Password: 451351
or Dial in: 1-408-638 0968

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, teleconference restrictions of the Brown Act have been suspended, as well as the requirement to provide a physical location for members of the public to participate in the meeting.

Members of the public can watch or listen to Park and Recreation meeting via Zoom using the meeting information listed above.

Public comments may be submitted one of two ways:

1. Via Zoom using the "Raise Hand" icon to request to speak. If joining by phone, dial *9 to "raise your hand", and when prompted *6 to unmute/mute.
2. Via email to cjones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Email must contain in the subject line Public Comments – Not on the Agenda or Public Comments – Agenda Item #.

To ensure that the Park and Recreation Commission receives your written comments prior to taking action, they must be received by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. All written comments received by this deadline will be provided to the Park and Recreation Commission and posted online in advance of the meeting.

Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the Park and Recreation Commission and included with supplemental materials after the meeting. No written comments will be read into the record.

7:00 P.M. CONVENE REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Chair Chuaqui called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1. ROLL CALL – Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron; Members, Kathy Fleming, Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado
Absent: Shawn Purcell

2. COMMISSION/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Informal reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff.

Commissioner Fleming introduced herself to the Commission.

Commissioner Kaczor announced that she has been appointed to the El Cerrito Urban Forest Committee and looks forwarding to sharing information between the two advisory bodies.
Director Jones provided an update and answered questions on the June 15th Beyond the Blueprint California guidance for the COVID-19 pandemic and how it might affect programs. He stated that more and clarifications are needed which should be available as June 15th gets closer.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first, remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.

Robert Hink – made comments in opposition to the conversion of the Castro Tennis Courts to pickleball courts.

Marilyn Ashin – played a YouTube video (audio only) of noise from pickleball courts, made comments in opposition to the conversion of the Castro Tennis Courts to pickleball courts.

Roy Harkow - made comments in opposition to the conversion of the Castro Tennis Courts to pickleball courts.

4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS
Staff and/or Mayor Paul Fadelli may report on matters of general interest to the Park and Recreation Commission, Council policies, priorities and significant actions taken by the City Council.

Director Jones reported on the budget process that has been taking place at the City Council meetings between the prior Park and Recreation Commission meeting in April and the current meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on April 28, 2021.

Moved/Seconded: Member La Force/Vice-Chair Codron. Pass a motion to approve the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on April 28, 2021.

Ayes: Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron, Members, Kathy Fleming, Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado.
Noes: None
Abstain: None

6. PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS
Receive a presentation from Indy Rishi Singh regarding possible programming and events. Discussion and possible action for a recommendation regarding proposal(s).
Indy Rishi Singh presented variety of activities that could take place for a community event, possibly on Loving Day or June 19th, at Cerrito Vista Park. He described how important it is for people to get together, especially during the pandemic.

Director Jones discussed COVID-19 guidance for events prior to June 15th and expressed concerns about there not being enough time to organize an event within the next two or three weeks. He stated that guidance for events after June 15th is not yet available.

Discussion and questions followed about the logistics of planning for an event in a short amount of time and about the potential for a smaller event(s) that people register for. No action was taken.

7. PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUNDS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) PROJECTS

Review, discussion and possible action to recommend the proposed CIP projects for parks and recreation facilities and Measure H allocations for the City’s 2021-22 Fiscal Budget.

Recreation Director Jones presented the spending plan for Measure H funds including landscape management, park and facility maintenance, swim center utilities, chemicals and maintenance, Immediate Work Priorities as identified in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, and design work for Arlington Park Clubhouse and picnic sites. Questions and discussion followed.

Public Works Director Ortiz provided an overview of the Public Works Department’s roles and responsibilities and presented the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) parks and recreation projects. She described recently completed projects and future projects for Fiscal Year 2021-22. The FY22 projects include: Hillside Natural Area Wayfinding Signs, Immediate Work Priorities at Fairmont and Castro Clubhouses, Swim Center Capital Enhancements (ADA Parking Lot Improvements and Small Pool Resurfacing), Arlington Park Improvements, Del Norte Bart Station TOD Improvements and the Ohlone Greenway – Hill Street/Safeway Side Path. Questions, comments and discussion was held.

Commissioner Fleming expressed concern about the timeliness of receiving materials in terms of giving adequate time for the Commissioners and the public to review before the meeting. Director Jones stated that the materials were provided as soon as they were ready and that it is always the goal to get them to the Commission as soon as possible.

Moved/Seconded: Member Machado/Vice-Chair Codron. Pass a motion to recommend this to Council as presented.

Ayes: Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron, Members, Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado.

Noes: Member Kathy Fleming
8. RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22
Review, discussion and possible action for recommendations regarding the proposed Recreation Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Director Jones gave an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Recreation Department Budget. The presentation included staffing levels and layoffs and impacts of layoffs and reduced resources on programs and services including senior services, administrative support and special events. He described that the Midtown Activity Center would need to be closed due to not having enough staff to operate two facilities and that senior services would be consolidated at the Community Center. Core services will remain and other programs will be added back based on staff capacity, financial sustainability and available program space.

An overview of the Recreation Department's expense and revenue categories followed. Revenue estimates are very conservative in light of the ongoing unknown of how the pandemic will affect programs and services. Major expenditures and revenues over $50,000 were also discussed. Questions, discussion and comments followed. No action was taken.

9. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE
Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department.

Recreation Analyst DiBenedetto provided an update on recent activities in the Recreation Department including swim center activities, childcare and summer camp, lunch program and paratransit and future reopening of programs.

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
- Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7 p.m.
- Brown Act Overview and City Commission Policies Review – June
- Parks and Recreation Facilities Projects Update – June
- Park and Recreation Commission Work Plan – TBD Summer
- Permanent Pickleball Courts Considerations – TBD Summer

11. ADJOURN REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING - 9:50pm

Ben Chuaqui, 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 on May 26, 2021 as approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.

Christopher Jones, Staff Liaison