

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
January 17, 2012**



**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chuck Blair, Ray Gamma, Jerry Marsalli, Mike O’Halloran, Cynthia Owens, Steve Lee, Tino Silva.

**STAFF PRESENT:** James Teixeira, Director of Parks and Recreation.

**PUBLIC:** James Rowen.

---

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

- (1) The Commission recommended that Council (a) keep the same term of agreement with the West Valley-Mission College District for use of the softball fields at Mission College through 2076, if legally possible, and (b) maintain the City’s access to all three softball fields for use as slow-pitch fields.

---

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ ORDER OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Owens at 7:00 p.m. with all Commissioners present. Commissioner Lee noted that he would leave early due to business. A member of the public was recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Silva, the Commission approved (7-0-0) the November 15, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Commission reviewed the National Parks Service (NPS) invitation to subscribe to an NPS on-line newsletter and resource titled *Conservation+Recreation*, regarding local river, trail, and conservation technical assistance programs (RTCA). The Commission reviewed an invitation to the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce & Convention-Visitors Bureau event “Focus on Santa Clara-Outlook 2012” featuring a State of the City update by Mayor Jamie Matthews and a 49ers Stadium Financial Update by Paraag Marathe, COO of the San Francisco 49ers.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**Park & Recreation Fee Study-In Lieu Fees; Facility Reservation Fees; Program Registration Fees.** The Commission discussed the facility reservation guidelines, facility fees, the Santa Clara residency requirement (51% City of Santa Clara residents required for use of parks & recreation facilities), and the application of the requirement to the users of facilities. The Commission discussed the existing practice of allotting space and time to specific user groups through long-term agreements with the City for some facilities, such as the International Swim Center, in addition to seasonal facility use permits. The Commission expressed an interest in forming an *ad hoc* sub-committee to continue the discussion and to explore a “partnership model” for use of City facilities by local recreation, sports, youth groups and user groups. The sub-committee members selected were Commissioners Silva, Blair and Owens. The Commission discussed the existing policy/practice of charging a

refundable security/cleaning deposit to facility users, with the exception of resident youth groups, for park facilities such as park buildings, Community Recreation Center, reserved picnic areas, Oracle's Agnew Historic Park buildings, and joint use/School District facilities such as Mission City Center for Performing Arts. The Commission was interested in further reviewing whether or not deposits should also apply to athletic facilities, and on a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Blair, the Commission requested that staff provide additional information and a recommendation at the next meeting.

A member of the public spoke in support of the need for additional City park land dedication and charging in-lieu fees from residential development projects.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Review West Valley-Mission College District (District) Request for Softball Field New Lease Terms Of Agreement.** The Commission reviewed a staff report regarding a District request to the City to consider new lease terms for use of the Mission College softball fields. The proposed terms included: (a) a lease term of 5 years with 5 options to extend for five additional years (the District maintains that the existing 99-year lease is not in conformance with the current California Education Code limit on the length of agreements to five-year terms); (b) a reduction of the number of softball fields under lease from 3 to 2 (the District's women's softball program is seeking to convert one of the three slow pitch softball fields to a dedicated fast-pitch softball field); and, (c) miscellaneous changes to clarify areas of responsibility (include updates to language regarding maintenance, user group responsibilities, insurance, etc.). The Commission was concerned that the proposed changes (a) would reduce the length of the term of agreement, and (b) a change in configuration of Field #2, particularly the permanent placement of an outfield fence at a shorter distance from home plate, would reduce the number of slow pitch fields available for community recreational use and tournament play, and (c) that the proposal did not adequately recognize the value of the City's initial financial contribution of \$750,000 to the original construction of the fields. The Commissioners discussed their openness to consider changes, provided the District proposal balanced the needs of the District with those of the City and community at large, such as a potential to configure the field in such a way as to accommodate both slow pitch and fast pitch and continue availability for City and community use out-of-season for tournaments, or to consider expanding the agreement to include community access to the District baseball field out-of-season or during periods of non-college use. On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and Second by Commissioner Blair, the Commission recommended (6-0-0, Commissioner Lee excused) that Council (a) keep the same term of agreement with the West Valley-Mission College District for use of the softball fields at Mission College through 2076, if legally possible, and (b) maintain the City's access to all three softball fields for use as slow-pitch fields.

## **VI. STAFF REPORT**

Director Teixeira highlighted work on the Ulistac Natural Area Santa Clara Valley Water District grant project completed on Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day January 16, 2012, repair of a pump at the International Swim Center in December, and the progress on the Fairway Glen Park Playground replacement.

**VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

**Commissioner Blair**—Reported on attending a retirement event for Recreation Supervisor Jeff Driggs, and commended the organization of the City’s annual Holiday Tree Lighting Event.

**Commissioner Gamma**—Reported on the City’s Holiday Tree Lighting special event attendance, special tree lighters (Dixon-Hillis Family) and organization, the Sister Cities’ annual potluck event, and Reed Street Dog Park.

**Commissioner Lee**—No Report.

**Commissioner Marsalli**—Reported on attending a retirement event for Recreation Supervisor Jeff Driggs, the Holiday Tree Lighting Event at the Civic Center Plaza, a Christmas in the Park event in San Jose, and visit to Vasona Lake County Park.

**Commissioner O’Halloran**—Reported on progress with the restroom construction at Parkway Park, and work at the Ulistac Natural Area on Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day.

**Commissioner Owens**—Reported on the Zone Swim Meet hosted at the International Swim Center with over 3,000 attendees and commented on the potential for college swim meets.

**Commissioner Silva**—Commented on the end of redevelopment agencies in California.

**VIII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS — None.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**—On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Silva, the Commission voted to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for February 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Teixeira  
Director of Parks and Recreation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael O’Halloran  
Secretary