

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
February 21, 2012**



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

EXCUSED: Steve Lee.

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

PUBLIC: Adam Filipp, Erica Morimoto, Trey Vogel, Dennis Yu.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

- (1) The Commission recommended that the Council consider removing the facility use deposit from the City Fee Schedule for use of Parks and Recreation Department facilities by Priority Group # 4—Youth Organizations and Priority Group # 6—Non-Profit Organizations.
 - (2) The Commission recommended that the Council: (a) maintain the current practice of not permitting these types of special events in City parks (those that potentially impact the park and neighborhood, charge admission, or are not sponsored by a City Commission), and (b) encourage community groups to first seek event sponsorship by another City commission, such as the Cultural Advisory Commission.
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I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ ORDER OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chair Owens at 7:00 p.m. On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Gamma the Commission approved an excused absence for Commissioner Lee. Members of the public were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Silva, the Commission approved (6-0-1) the January 17, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes with correction noted under correspondence.

III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

A. The Commission reviewed an invitation to attend the California Parks & Recreation Society District IV *YAC-Attack* at the Santa Clara Teen Center and Cabrillo Middle School hosted by the Santa Clara Youth Commission and Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, March 3, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The *YAC-Attack* conference involves over 400 youth participants from 30 public agencies and features educational workshops, successful youth programs, youth leadership development, and interaction with peers, adult commissioners and staff.

B. The Commission reviewed an invitation from the California Association of Parks & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM) to attend an Education Tour of Anza Borrego Desert State Park April 21-22, 2012, the first in a series of three this year.

C. The Commission was briefed on the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority 20% Funding Program Project Tour scheduled for March 9, 2012 at Ulistac Natural Area from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., whose purpose is to view previously funded projects in San Jose, Milpitas, Campbell, Morgan Hill and Santa Clara County Martial Cottle Park.

D. The Commission was informed that construction had begun around the Youth Soccer Park in preparation for the stadium project and signs were posted and letter sent to youth soccer groups.

E. The Commission discussed a letter sent by the 49ers to youth soccer groups regarding a 49er proposal to renovate school athletic fields to minimize potential stadium game day impacts on Youth Soccer Park.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Park & Recreation Fee Study-In Lieu Fees; Facility Reservation Fees; Program Registration Fees. The Commission discussed the facility reservation guidelines and facility fees, including the policy and practice of charging and holding a security/damage deposit to Priority Group #4 Youth Organizations (non-profit, serving the City of Santa Clara, have an organizational structure, and do not charge an admission) including youth sports organizations and Priority Group #6 Non-profit Organizations (community service groups, civic associations, churches and charitable organizations). Given that the fee was a nominal fee and returned in most cases, the Commission was supportive of charging groups only for actual damage based on an after rental event review. On a motion by Commissioner Silva and second by Commissioner Gamma, the Commission recommended (6-0-1 absent) that the Council consider removing the facility use deposit from the City Fee Schedule for use of Parks and Recreation Department facilities by Priority Group # 4—Youth Organizations and Priority Group # 6—Non-Profit Organizations. The Commission was interested in the Parks & Recreation Commission ad-hoc sub-committee scheduling a meeting to discuss City-user group partnerships.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Art & Wine Festival Planning. The Commission discussed booth assignments and recommended that Commissioners be assigned as follows: Commissioner Owens (CRC Bridge Wine Booth #1 & Glass/Token Booth #1), Commissioner Gamma (ISC Beer Booth #2 & Glass/Token Booth #2), Commissioner O'Halloran (ISC Wine Booths #2 & #4), Commissioner Blair (Pavilion Wine #3 and Beer #2), Commissioner Silva (Pavilion Glass/Token Booth #3, and two new commissioners be assigned once appointed. Staff planning efforts will include formal contact with returning community organization booth chairs to confirm participation and identify new volunteers for “retiring” volunteers. The Commission reviewed various artwork samples and provided suggestions for the annual promotional poster. The Commission tabled the discussion of beer and wine sponsors, glass vendors and quantities until the March meeting.

- (3) **B. Review Requests for Use of Central Park for Special Events.** The Commission reviewed a staff report regarding requests for use of Central Park for two proposed special events: (a) a one day “Color Festival” previously held in Sunnyvale and Fremont, during daylight hours, involving no admission charge, 10 to 12 commercial food vendors, estimated attendance of 2,000 to 3,000 people, amplified music, a Santa Clara based private promoter, promotion through social media, print, radio, and required County Health Department permits, portable toilets, barricades, set up and event staff provided by the promoter; and, (b) a two-day event, “Singing for a Greener Tomorrow” coinciding with Earth Day to promote environmental messages and Santa Clara as a “green city,” during daylight hours, involving an admission charge with sales proceeds donated to non-profit organizations, food served by commercial food vendors, and unknown attendance, amplified music, and required County Health Department permits, portable toilets, barricades, set up and event staff provided by the promoter or applicant. The Commission discussed the City's existing facility use guidelines, examples of past permitted uses and examples of previously declined requests. The Commission raised the following concerns and discussed: 1) event oversight; 2) potential size and scope of the proposed events; 3) potential impacts on the park and surrounding neighborhood; 4) potential impacts on the regular intended uses/activities in the programmed areas of the park, such as the International Swim Center, softball fields, Arbor and Pavilion picnic areas; 5) impacts to casual park users; and, 6) allowing non-City or Commission sponsored events that charge admission or raise funds in Central Park. The Commission was interested in supporting events co-sponsored by the City or other Commissions. On a motion by Commissioner Blair, seconded by Commissioner Gamma, the Commission recommended (5-0-2 absent) that the Council: (a) maintain the current practice of not permitting these types of special events

in City parks (those that potentially impact the park and neighborhood, charge admission, or are not sponsored by a City Commission), and (b) encourage community groups to first seek event sponsorship by another City commission, such as the Cultural Advisory Commission.

VI. STAFF REPORT

A. Director Teixeira informed the Commission that two tree failures had occurred in City Plaza Park over the summer that prompted an independent arborist evaluation. The report found that the condition of the elm trees will require a future pruning and removal/replacement project to be implemented in phases over the coming years to reduce the hazard and soften the visual impacts. The report had the concurrence of the City Arborist (now retired).

B. The Fairway Glen Park Playground replacement project is moving forward with a concrete accessible ramp to be completed next month prior to placement of the new equipment.

C. On March 2, 3, and 4, 2012, the Santa Clara Women's League will present Showtime 2012, the 30th anniversary production, at the Community Recreation Center. The funds raised support the Health and Wellness Program at the Santa Clara Senior Center.

D. Milee Beaulieu is acting on a temporary basis to fill the Sport Supervisor vacancy due to the retirement of Jeff Driggs. Parks Foremen Dean Nissen and Mike Gilpatrick are temporarily filling on a rotational basis the Park Supervisor vacancy due to the retirement of Jay Selig.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Blair—Reported on a light pole at Washington Ball Field in the field of play that could be improved with a painted “home run” band; and asked about staff assignments; and asked about the Chamber of Commerce formation of the Santa Clara Sports Group.

Commissioner Gamma—Reported on an incident at the Reed Street Dog Park involving a small dog in the large dog area. He also reported on various cities' efforts to control geese problems in their local parks including at the Cupertino Veteran's Memorial and distributed an informational article by the United States Department of Agriculture (2007).

Commissioner Lee—No Report.

Commissioner Marsalli—Mentioned that his Commission term would be ending in June and that he would be running for City Council.

Commissioner O'Halloran—Reported on progress with the restroom construction at Parkway Park, and availability of grants. He also commented about City of Campbell working in collaboration with the community to improve parks.

Commissioner Owens—Reported on attending a swimming competition in La Mirada that has a design similar to the City's plan for the ISC, a user friendly swim facility including a 50 meter pool, 25 yard pool, community water play area, and a 50 person hot tub.

Commissioner Silva—No report.

VIII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS — None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT—On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Blair, the Commission voted to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for March 20, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by:

James Teixeira
Director of Parks and Recreation

Michael O'Halloran
Secretary