

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

March 20, 2012



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

EXCUSED: Ray Gamma, Steve Lee.

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

PUBLIC: Kathryn Paz, Gerald Paz.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION — None.

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 O’Halloran, the Commission approved an excused absence for Commissioners Gamma and Lee. Members of the public were recognized and welcomed to the meeting. The order of agenda was approved with one change: Public Presentations was taken out of order at the beginning of the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Blair and second by Commissioner Marsalli, the Commission approved (5-0-2) the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes with a correction noted for the vote on “approval of minutes.”

III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

A. The Commission reviewed a request from Rachel Santos, on behalf of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority seeking feedback on a survey of participating jurisdictions in the “20% Funding Program.” Commissioners requested more information about the program and agreed to provide any comments to the Director.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Art & Wine Festival Planning. The Commission discussed the beer glass and wine glass selection. The Commissioners were in favor of having both a traditional stemmed wine glass and non-stemmed wine glass as well as the same pour volume for beer and wine as last year. On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Silva, the Commission (5-0-2) recommended that the same Mission logo be used and that staff should choose the color. Commissioners suggested graphic signage at the glass booths to indicate the pour volume in each of the glasses and to have ¼ of the glasses be non-stemmed and ¾ of the glasses be stemmed. Commissioners reviewed and agreed to use the same wine and beer suppliers/sponsors as last year: Guglielmo Winery, Bargetto Winery, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, Wenté Vineyards, and Gordon Biersch Brewing Company. The Commission liaison and community groups staffing assignments were reviewed: Commissioner Owens (CRC Bridge Wine Booth #1—Santa Clara Schools Foundation (Wenté) & Glass/Token Booth #1—Santa Clara Friends of Parks & Recreation; Commissioner Gamma (ISC Beer Booth #2 & Glass/Token Booth #2), Commissioner O’Halloran (ISC Wine Booths #2—Santa Clara High School Grad Night (J.Lohr) & #4—Wilcox Grad Night (Bargetto); Commissioner Blair (Pavilion Wine #3—SCPAL (Guglielmo)

and Beer #2); Commissioner Silva (Pavilion Glass/Token Booth #3—Parks & Recreation “alumni volunteers”), and two new commissioners be assigned once appointed. The Director will provide and initial contact to the community groups and returning volunteers. Commissioner Blair agreed to contact the wineries and place the orders in similar quantities as last year, and the Department will follow up with formal letters. On a motion by Commissioner Silva and second by Commissioner Blair, the Commission (5-0-2) supported changing the color of the beer/wine tokens. 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. Santa Clara County Open Space Authority 20% Program Grant Update. The Commission was provided an update on the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority’s March 9, 2012 tour of various project sites throughout the County including Ulistac Natural Area. Commissioner Gamma participated in the Ulistac portion of the tour. The Commission reviewed the purpose of the 20% program where the Open Space Authority annually allocates 20% of the net proceeds of its capital funds to participating jurisdictions for acquisition and development of eligible open space projects, as provided in the Authority’s 5 Year Expenditure Plan. Projects may include enhancement of a site’s open space benefits, including rehabilitation, environmental restoration, public awareness and appreciation of open space, such as trails, overlooks, interpretive signage, conversion of surplus or abandoned lands. In the past, the City of Santa Clara has received funding from this source for improvements to Ulistac Natural Area and to San Tomas/Saratoga Creek Trail near the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club. Staff will be developing new potential eligible projects for consideration and recommendation for future funding.

B. Partnerships Sub Committee Update. The sub-committee did not have a meeting in the past month. The next meeting of the Sub Committee will be Tuesday April 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parks & Recreation Office at City Hall.

VI. STAFF REPORT

A. Director Teixeira invited the Commission to attend the following upcoming special events: the 4th annual Ulistac Wildflower Day Saturday April 7, 2012 from 10 am to 2 p.m. at the Ulistac South Entrance; the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 7, 2012 at 10 am at Central Park Softball Fields; and, the Roberta Jones Junior Theater production of Hello Dolly at Mission City Center for the Performing Arts.

B. Director Teixeira provided updates on the following park projects: the installation of Fairway Glen Park Playground replacement equipment has begun; the first phase of the tree pruning, removal and replacement project at City Plaza Park has been completed with additional work to be done in the fall; the Parkway Park Restroom is almost complete and will be open to the general public in early April; the Santa Clara Swim Club has made a donation for additional starting blocks at the International Swim Center and is considering a donation of facility improvements in anticipation of the International Meet; and, the Santa Clara Diving Club has donated improvements to the Dive Tower.

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Blair—Reported on and referred to staff a discussion with the Mission College Athletic Director regarding renovation of soft ball field #2 for fast pitch girls softball that meets NCAA requirements.

Commissioner Gamma—No Report.

Commissioner Lee—No Report.

Commissioner Marsalli—Mentioned the upcoming Kiwanis Fish Derby to be held Saturday, April 21, 2012 in Civic Center Plaza Reflection Pond; and, the annual Arbor Day celebration to be held on Friday April 27th.

Commissioner O'Halloran—Reported on progress with the restroom construction at Parkway Park; attendance at the Annual Camelia Show at the Community Recreation Center; and, referred to staff a Notice of Funding Availability from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for a housing related parks program that provides financial assistance to cities that provide new affordable housing to low income households.

Commissioner Owens—Reported on attending a swimming competitions in East Los Angeles and Mansfield Texas that have newer swim facilities and reportedly lower construction costs than those estimated for replacement of the International Swim Center.

Commissioner Silva—Reported on the allowance of dogs on leash on the grounds of the Mission City Memorial Park, witness of abuse of the policy, and suggested further discussion of this item at a future Commission meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS —Gerald and Kathryn Paz commented on the tree work at City Plaza Park, asked for information about the trees that were planted, and provided suggestions on how to improve the appearance of the park, including the installation of vintage looking light fixtures to replace the existing light standards and the installation of flowers and shrubs to replace the hard-scape in the Library patio entrance area.

IX. ADJOURNMENT—On a motion by Commissioner Marsalli and second by Commissioner Blair, the Commission voted to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for April 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by:

James Teixeira
Director of Parks and Recreation

Michael O'Halloran
Secretary