

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 18, 2014**



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chuck Blair; Ray Gamma; Mike O’Halloran; Tino Silva, Kevan Michael Walke.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Roseann Alderete LaCoursiere, George Guerra.

STAFF: James Teixeira, Parks & Recreation Director; Dale Seale, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director; Patricia Lord, Recreation Manager.

PUBLIC: Two students from Santa Clara University, and one student from San José State University.

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION— The Commission recommended that:

(a) Council dedicate the new City park located at Worthington Circle in the Midtown Village development on May 10, 2014; the South of Forest Neighborhood Association is planning an event at Parkway Park on May 17, 2014; and,

(b) Council consider a list of potential park names for the new park including: Gary Gillmor (former Mayor); Patricia Mahan (former Mayor); Frank Soares (contributed to youth sports in Santa Clara); Thomas Barrett (founder of the Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival); and the Wilson Family (well-known Santa Clara family).

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

The meeting was called to order by Mike O’Halloran at 7:00 p.m. The Commission approved (5-0-2) the meeting agenda and excused Commissioners LaCoursiere and Guerra.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Blair and second by Commissioner O’Halloran, the Commission approved (5-0-2) the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 21, 2014, as amended.

III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission reviewed recent Council actions with the summaries from the Council meetings held on January 14 and 28, 2014. Director Teixeira noted the new ordinance regarding unsafe conduct related to skateboards and bicycles and discussed acceptance of a donation to the Senior Nutrition Program. He also announced the upcoming California Parks and Recreation Society Conference, March 4-7, 2014 in Ontario, California.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. The Commission discussed the meeting calendar current and future schedule. Chair O’Halloran noted that in 2014, six out of twelve Commission meetings are scheduled on the same night as a Council meeting; potentially a conflict for Commissioners interested in attending both meetings. Commissioners

discussed the importance of consistency for the public with the schedule already posted on the 2014 City calendar. The Commission recommended revisiting this topic in July or August for input into the 2015 Calendar.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Youth Sports Complex & Feasibility Study: The Commission discussed the third public stakeholder meeting on the Youth Sports Complex Feasibility Study held on February 12, 2014 at the Santa Clara Senior Center. The meeting included a presentation by Verde Design of a conceptual plan that illustrated how the total sports' needs could be included in a single Youth Sports Complex, or whose components could be accommodated on multiple appropriately sized sites. Based on previous stakeholders input, the conceptual design included: soccer, BMX, tennis, indoor sports center/gymnasium, and a multi-sport field. A 38-acre site could accommodate a Youth Sports Complex: BMX, 8-10 tennis courts, four soccer fields, a gym, and a multi-use field (baseball, lacrosse, cricket), and sufficient to meet the General Plan 2010-2035 population projections. The Commission discussed concerns about potential loss of current open space, limited existing facilities for sports, and potential sites for adding soccer fields due to issues of Stadium game day access to Youth Soccer Park. The March 18, 2014 Commission meeting will include an update on the Youth Sports Complex Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study by Verde Design.

B. New Housing Development Impact Fee Nexus Study: The Parks & Recreation Department is continuing work with Willdan Financial Services, to study the relationship between the public need for new recreation facilities and park land, and the impacts of new development projected in the General Plan. The study is a Council goal and will provide a view of the direct relationship or "nexus" between new residential population and housing developments, and their projected impacts on the existing park system and the need for additional park land or recreation facilities to meet the demand/mitigate the impact. The study will propose new draft language for an ordinance to establish standards for determining the proportion of impact and reasonable park fee formulas. Local governments have been authorized since the Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) and its amendment in 1982, as well as other California Government Codes (66000 and following) to pass ordinances that may require developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees (in-lieu fees) for park improvements to help mitigate the impacts of the projects communitywide. The City of Santa Clara has not yet established such a fee. Outreach meetings will be scheduled in early March with developers. Staff will then present to the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission for community input prior to developing the draft ordinance language. The results of the study will be presented to Council in early April. The next Council Goal review session will be April 11, 2014.

C. International Swim Center and Swimming Hall of Fame Program Study Update: The project is moving forward. Conceptual options are being explored with a stakeholders group. A community survey will be conducted in March by Strategic Research Associates in collaboration with The Sports Management Group to gather feedback from residents regarding their interests in parks and recreation facilities, including aquatic facilities and the ISC & ISHOF. The Aquatic Program Study will incorporate a business plan and to address cost-recovery, operations, capital improvements and program management. It is anticipated to be completed for Council review in April.

D. Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget Update: Funds have been requested for various capital maintenance projects and additional funds to address playground improvements.

E. Upcoming Projects at the Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club (SCG&TC) and BMX Bike Park: The Commission discussed the parking improvement project, a seven week construction process during which the driving range, putting green, and tennis courts will be open along with David's Restaurant; the

golf course will be closed. By agreement with the City, the 49ers are paying for improvements to the golf course for parking on the course. During construction, the golf clubs and the Juniors Program were given the option to play at Summitpointe Golf Club for free. Commissioners discussed the impact on Wilcox High school students with transportation limitations. The City has been subsidizing golf play at SCG&TC. Director Teixeira will pursue funding for high school students to play golf at another location during the temporary closure SCG&TC. As other development projects move forward, the Commission was interested in the relative size of SCG&TC and BMX track as a percentage of the City's total park and open space; the parcels total 230 acres or about 40% of the City's open space inventory.

VI. STAFF REPORT

A. Recreation Program Updates: Recreation Manager Lord reported on upcoming recreation programs and events, including the annual Camellia Show at the Community Recreation Center on February 22-23, and Showtime on March 7-9, 2014 .

B. Special Event Updates: Director Teixeira reported Silicon Valley BBQ Championships planning is underway for June 26 and 27, 2014, as well as the Fourth of July All-City Picnic at Central Park and the potential for an evening program with fireworks.

C. Parks & Cemetery Projects: Deputy Director Seale reported on: the Youth Activity Center roof repair project in the bid process; the bull pen warm-up area being prepared for Central Park Fatjo Field; the Youth Soccer Park sod replacement; the Central Park Pond natural filtration project moving ahead; and, the Park tree replanting project (50 out of 80 complete). The new park dedication date is tentatively set for May 10; the Parkway Park Pathway & Plants community project is set for May 17 starting at 9 a.m.

VII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Gamma—Reported on his visits to various City parks.

Commissioner Guerra—Visited Washington Park and Central Park.

Commissioner Silva—Reported on his visit to the Santa Clara Dog Park.

Commissioner Blair—Attended the stakeholder meeting on February 12 at the Senior Center.

Commissioner O'Halloran—Impressed with the PAL BMX Park, ranked #2 in Northern California.

VIII. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REPORTS—None.

IX. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS—None.

X. ADJOURNMENT—On a motion by Commissioner Gamma, and a second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting March 18, 2014, in the City Hall Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by: _____
Patricia Lord
Recreation Manager

Reviewed by: _____
Roseanne LaCoursiere
Commission Secretary

Reviewed by: _____
James Teixeira
Parks & Recreation Director

