# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION January 21, 2014



**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chuck Blair; Ray Gamma; George Guerra; Roseann Alderete

LaCoursiere: Kevan Michael Walke.

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:** Mike O'Halloran; Tino Silva.

STAFF: James Teixeira, Parks & Recreation Director; Dale Seale, Deputy Parks &

Recreation Director.

**PUBLIC:** James Rowen.

#### **MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**— The Commission recommended that:

- (a) Council accept the donation of the new park site improvements located at Worthington Circle (APN#303-17-051) from Summerhill Homes in the Midtown Village development.
- (b) Council dedicate the new City park located at Worthington Circle in the Midtown Village development on either May 10, 2014, or May 17, 2014; and,
- (c) Council consider a list of potential park names for the park including: Gary Gilmor (former Mayor); Patricia Mahan (former Mayor); Frank Soares (contributed to youth sports in Santa Clara); Tony Sanchez (contributed to youth sports in Santa Clara); Larry Wolfe (former Director of Parks & Recreation); Thomas Barrett (founder of the Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival); and the Wilson Family (well known City Santa Clara family).

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

The meeting was called to order by Roseann Alderete LaCoursiere at 7:00 p.m. On a motion by Commissioner Gamma and second by Commissioner Guerra, the Commission (5-0-2) excused Commissioner O'Halloran and Silva, and approved the meeting agenda.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Gamma and second by Commissioner Guerra, the Commission approved (5-0-2) the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2013 as amended.

#### III. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission reviewed recent Council actions and discussed the Silicon Valley BBQ Championship special events and clarified that Council had approved the separation of the All-City Picnic from the BBQ event and had returned the All City Picnic to July 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 p.m. Commissioner LaCoursiere read a thank you letter from Recreation Supervisor Orr to the Commission regarding the Art & Wine Festival grant for the Health & Wellness/Care Management Program at the Santa Clara Senior Center.

# IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. The Commission reviewed the November Commission discussion of the proposed park dedication event, program and names for the new City park located at Worthington Circle in the Midtown Village development. The Commission clarified that the ad Hoc sub-Committee had followed the established City park naming policy and that while any of the Commissioners could choose to help in the event, the Parks & Recreation Department would provide staff to set up and to support the event, including booths, food & beverages, invitations and publicity. On a Motion by Commissioner Walke and second by Commissioner Guerra, the Commission approved (5-0-2) a recommendation that: (a) Council accept the donation of the new park site improvements located at Worthington Circle (APN#303-17-051) from Summerhill Homes in the Midtown Village development; and, (b) Council select either one of two dates for the dedication of the new City park located at Worthington Circle in the Midtown Village development May 10<sup>th</sup> (the Saturday before Mother's Day), or May 17<sup>th</sup> 2014; and, (c) Council consider a list of potential park names for the park including: Gary Gilmor (former Mayor); Patricia Mahan (former Mayor); Frank Soares (contributed to youth sports in Santa Clara); Tony Sanchez (contributed to youth sports in Santa Clara); Larry Wolfe (former Director of Parks & Recreation); Thomas Barrett (founder of the Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival); and the Wilson Family (well known City Santa Clara family).

# V. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

- A. Youth Sports Complex & Feasibility Study: The Commission discussed the January 15, 2014 stakeholder meeting held at the Santa Clara Senior Center, including the Council goal/direction; the guiding principles in use for the project; the stakeholders invitation list; and the results of the needs assessment that had 23 youth sports groups participating. The meeting included input about what the stakeholders want to see in a sports complex and what, if any sports could be co-located or share facilities/field space. The Commission discussed the sites under consideration, land acquisition and construction cost estimates, and the difficulties in finding a suitable site. Commissioners shared their particular interest in meeting specific sport needs due to potential loss of current public facilities (BMX, tennis, golf), reductions of existing green space (installation of portable classrooms and photo voltaic (PV) panels), increased demand/expansion of existing user base, or limited existing facilities (only one 90 foot base path base ball field), use of existing facilities for sports even though not built for (inadequate space) and not intended for the new uses (cricket). The Commissioners were invited to the next meeting to be held on February 12, 2014.
- B. Development Impact Fee Nexus Study: The Parks & Recreation Department is working with a consultant, Willdan Financial Services, to study the relationship between the public need for new recreation facilities and park land, and new development impacts 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 commercial developments and their projected impacts on the existing park infrastructure and the need for additional land or recreation facilities. In addition, it will propose new draft language for an ordinance to establish definite standards for determining the proportion of impact and reasonable park fee exaction formulas. The Commission learned that while local governments have been authorized since the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) and its amendment in 1982 to pass ordinances requiring that 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 established such a fee, instead using developer agreements and a less than financially adequate ordinance dating from 1969. The Commission was notified that "draft" tables will be introduced at the February meeting for review and comment and draft

language for the ordinance is anticipated at the March Commission meeting. Meeting with the Planning Commission and separately with a developer focus group for input will also be scheduled for March.

- C. Art & Wine Festival Poster Conceptual designs: Commission discussed three conceptual designs for the annual art and wine poster. Feedback was given to staff to incorporate into the revised design.
- D. Commission Meeting Calendar and Current & Future Schedule: Commissioners discussed the potential to change the dates of the Commission meetings from Tuesday night to Thursday night for the 2015 calendar year. Dates for the current calendar year meetings are set in October-November for the next year and then published in the official City calendar. Commissioners were concerned that the City Council meetings are also held on Tuesdays precluding participation or attendance at both meetings. Some Commissioners also had other conflicting commitments on Tuesdays. Commissioners agreed that they would individually decide which meeting to attend. No action taken.
- E. Upcoming Projects at the Santa Clara Golf & Tennis Club (SCG&TC) and BMX Bike Park: The Commission was apprised of an Agreement approved by City Council with Stadco on January 14, 2014 for additional parking rights and construction of improvements at SCG&TC to allow for up to 5,000 cars on game or other stadium event days. The 49ers are paying for the capital improvements necessary such as gates, grading, access roadways, widening of golf cart paths, etc. There is discussion about whether the improvements can/will be undertaken in an expedited manner to increase safety and to reduce the length of impacts on SCG&TC patrons. The driving range, practice putting green, tennis courts, and David's will remain open. Alternatives will be explored to reduce impacts to existing Santa Clara groups during the construction period from February 3 to March 25. The Related of Santa Clara project continues to develop with an expected term sheet to be proposed in the near future. Impacts from this project on SCG&TC or BMX park are not expected to occur for some time. A question about the impact from the overall reduction in City parkland was raised.
- F. International Swim Center and International Swim Hall of Fame Program Study: The Commission received an update on the progress of the aquatic program study. The next meeting of the stakeholders and consultants will be on February 6, 2014. The study includes benchmarking to other facilities, a thorough analysis of operating/maintenance and capital costs, and business plan for the proposed new facility. The study is part of a Council goal.
- G. Parks & Recreation Department Capital and Operating Budget Update: Staff explained that the Capital Budget was to be reviewed and included request for funding of playground improvements for safety, ADA and Federal guidelines. The Operating Budget is due in February and the general direction would be consistent with the current expenditure limits and ongoing constraints, with exceptions for mandated cost increases (i.e. utilities, laws). The Department anticipates the addition of a budget page showing the citywide Special Events.

## VI. STAFF REPORT

- A. Recreation Program Updates: Director Teixeira reported on upcoming recreation programs, including a Roberta Jones Junior Theater production of Peter Pan that will include flying effects.
- B. Special Event Updates: Director Teixeira reported SVBBQ Championships planning is underway, as well as the potential for July  $4^{th}$  Fireworks.
- C. Parks & Cemetery Projects: Deputy Director Seale provided updates on several Parks Division efforts including the Youth Activity Center Roof preconstruction meeting; tree removal at Montague Park and project to address the deterioration of the building roof; the planting of close to 80 trees at five park sites and new potential partnership with Our City Forest non-profit organization; progress on the

annual baseball field renovations; Mission College (MC) softball games to be held at Marsalli Park during MC Ball field #2 improvements; ordering of supplies for the construction of bull pens at Fatjo Field in Central Park; Youth Soccer Park seeding and supplemental conduit placement along Field 3; and, irrigation connection in front of the Live Oak Park & Northside Branch Library. The Central Park Pond Filtration Project will be out to bid soon and completed by the end of June.

# VII. <u>COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS</u>

**Commissioner Gamma**—Reported on his visit to various dog parks.

**Commissioner Guerra**—Visited Earl Carmichael Park and anticipates collaboration with the Parks Division to complete sod improvements with volunteers and a donation from Homestead Little League.

Commissioner Walke—Reported on attending the Annual December Tree Lighting special event, coaching football, good condition of Carmichael Park and attending the Youth Sports Complex Meeting.

**Commissioner Blair**—Reported public safety concerns about cricket playing at Henry Schmidt Park and response. Director Teixeira to follow up with SCPD.

**LaCoursiere**—No report.

- VIII. <u>CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REPORTS</u>—None.
- IX. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS—None.
- X. <u>ADJOURMENT</u>—On a motion by Commissioner Gamma, and a second by Commissioner Walke, the Commission adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting February 18, 2014, in the City Hall Staff Conference Room.

Prepared by:		Reviewed by:		
	James Teixeira	_	Roseanne LaCoursiere	
	Director of Parks & Recreation		Commission Secretary	