



APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**SPECIAL JOINT EL CERRITO PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION –
EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 – to 8:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Hall – City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Park and Recreation Commission	Environmental Quality Committee	
Manish Doshi, Chair	Mark Miner, Chair	Renee Solari
Gary Hill	Natasha Benjamin	Ellen Spitalnik
Seth Kaplan	Howdy Goudey	David Weinstein
Steve Lipson	Sam Krueger	Kevin Wildenberg
Glen Lubcke	Paloma Pavel	Anh-Vu Doan
Robin Mitchell	Robert Schaadt	

ROLL CALL

7:08 p.m. **Roll Call:** Present- Doshi, Kaplan, Lipson, Lubcke, Mitchell, Miner, Goudey, Schaadt, Weinstein, and Wildenberg. Hill arrived at 7:10PM. Absent- Benjamin, Krueger, Pavel, Solari, Spitalnik, and Doan.

Convene Special Joint El Cerrito Park and Recreation Commission – El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee Special Joint Meeting

1. Study Session of El Cerrito Urban Greening Plan:

Emily Alter, Community Development Analyst & Melanie Mintz, Interim Community Development Director

Commission and Committee members received a presentation on the City of El Cerrito Urban Greening Plan's progress to date and future steps.

Mintz's Presentation included:

- a. Introduction
- b. Welcome & Plan Purpose: defined Urban Greening; described the relationship to the Recreation Department, and integration within City-wide initiatives.

Alter & Mintz presented information on the Capital Improvement Program.

Alter's Presentation Included:

a. Process Overview

- Community Engagement Process
- Needs Assessment and Community Survey
- Active Analysis
- Connectivity Analysis
- STAR Communities Analysis
- Level of Service Standard
- Opportunity Inventory

b. Plan Structure

- Vision Framework
 - Goals: Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Stewardship, Community Identify, Active Living/Active Transportation, Economic Vitality, Urban Livability
 - Objectives: Improved Trails and Paths, Greener Gateways, Strengthen Ohlone Greenway, Enhanced/Expanded Existing Parks, Active Commercial Corridors, Support Higher Density Neighborhoods, Enriched Natural Areas, Enhanced Creeks, Green Streets, Green Schoolyards, and Urban Agriculture.
 - Urban Greening Vision Map
 - Supporting Policies and Programs
 - Requirements of Urban Greening Grant Focus Areas: Packet has the 14
 - Blue to Green Connections
 - Ohlone Greenway Portola to Schmidt
 - Ohlone Greenway Gladys to Blake
 - Fairmont Park and Adjacent Ohlone Greenway Segment
 - Central Park and adjacent Parcel at Central and Belmont
 - Creekside Park
 - Hillside Natural Area and Madera Property
 - El Cerrito Plaza
 - Conlon Avenue/Key Boulevard ROW and Lot
 - Cutting/ San Pablo Avenue Lot
 - Avila Street/ San Pablo Avenue Cul-de-sac
 - Ashbury Avenue- Brighton to Lynn
 - Lower Fairmont Corner
 - Former Portola Middle School

c. Next Steps:

- Implementation Strategy
- California Environmental Quality Act Analysis
- Public Comment Period on Draft

2. Oral Communications from the Public

- Nick Arizo: Declined opportunity to comment.
- Al Miller: Commented on diversity of community and including the possibility of constructing a Peace Pole and involving the different communities in strengthening the Urban Greening Plan. Miller commented on including the library in the plan. Miller recommended regular reporting to the community. Miller also suggested starting a Health and Exercise program with the use of Moeser Lane.
- Nick Arizo: Commented on the possibility of a half-marathon in El Cerrito and the possibility of including Moeser Lane.
- Discussion was had with members of the audience on the Hillside Natural Area development for bicycles.
- Discussion was had with members of the audience on outreach to residents of Richmond in regards to the San Pablo Specific Plan.

3. Questions, comments, and feedback from the Commission and Committee Members

- Robert Schaadt: Commented on the connectivity between existing infrastructures in El Cerrito.
- Dave Weinstein: Discussed Trailtrekkers involvement and efforts; suggested that the East Shore Trail should be pursued by the City.
- There was discussion on Blue to Green Connectivity.
- Discussion on City staffing and volunteering needs to complete Urban Greening Plan.
- Doshi: Made a suggestion for future presentations regarding scale of maps, labeling etc.
- Howdy Goudy: Questioned how the Urban Greening Plan takes into account the development of El Cerrito- this is a future agenda item for the Park and Recreation Commission.

4. Adjourn Joint El Cerrito Park and Recreation Commission – El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee Special Joint Meeting: 9:09PM

9:11 PM Convene Park & Recreation Commission Meeting

1. **Roll Call:** 9:12PM Preset Chair - Manish Doshi, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, Gary Hill, Glen Lubke and Robin Mitchell.
2. **Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements** (*Informal reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff*)

Hill:

- a. 214 donations totaling \$61,800 in donations for Madera Hillside
- b. There is a matching grant done through the O'Conner Family until November 15, 2014- will match up to \$5,000.
- c. Music for Madera Concert fundraiser was a great success; raised \$3,800.
- d. Middle School Mountain Bike Team and independent race league updates.

Lubke & Other Commissioners: There was discussion about donations for the purchase of the Hillside Natural Area being tax deductible.

Doshi & Mitchell: Discussion about the El Cerrito Veggie Garden.

Jones: City has started to process for WW Funds for the balance that is owed to TPL.

Jones will update Madera Purchase Matrix and send it out to Commissioners.

Doshi: Commented that El Cerrito Futbol League supports the passing of Measure R.

3. Oral Communications From The Public

None.

4. Council/Staff Liaison Announcements and Reports

Jones reported to the Commission of the recent actions taken by the City Council at their meetings on September 22, October 7, and October 21, 2014

Doshi: Council extended the Park and Recreation Commission presentation to November 18th 2014.

5. Approval of Minutes: Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2014

It was moved and seconded that the August 27, 2014 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes be approved with staff correction. (Lipson/Lubke: Ayes- Commissioners Doshi, Kaplan, Hill & Mitchell)

6. Park and Recreation Commission 2014-15 Work Plan Amendments:

Discussion about amendments made at the August 27, 2014 Commission Meeting. New amendments to the Work Plan discussed. *See attached, amended plan.*

**7. Park and Recreation Commission 2014-15 Work Plan Presentation to City Council:
Chair Doshi & Chris Jones, Recreation Director**

Discussed Park and Recreation Commission Work Plan presentation by Chair Doshi to the City Council on Tuesday, November 18, 2014. Amendments were presented and discussed by Commissioners. Commissioners have until November 3, 2014 to email amendments to staff.

It was moved and seconded to approve, as amended, the Park and Recreation Commission 2014-2015 Work Plan Presentation (Lubke/Lipson: Ayes- Commissioners Doshi, Kaplan, Hill & Mitchell). *See attached amended plan.*

8. Recreation Department Update: Chris Jones, Recreation Director

- a. Emery Weed Celebration of Life will be November 15, 2014 from 1PM-6PM.
- b. New rECguide coming out soon for winter spring
- c. Winterizing small pool and splash park soon
- d. Staffing changes: Shielaugh moved to Senior Center; hiring new Administrative Clerk Specialist to work at the Community Center, and Jay Showalter resigned- he is moving to Sacramento.
- e. The October 18, 2014 FestiFall was cancelled. The Recreation Department hosted a small free carnival event. Halloween was cancelled this year.

9. Items For Next Agenda: December 10, 2014.

- a. Stephen Pree, Environmental Programs Manager & City Arborist (Possibly table until January)

10. Meeting Adjournment: 9:54PM

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