



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018
7:00 pm

**El Cerrito City Hall
Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Recreation Department at (510) 559-7000. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. (28 CFT 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

1. **Roll Call Present:** Chair – David Zuckermann, Ben Chuaqui, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Tara McIntire, and Robin Mitchell

Absent: Jun Sunseri

2. **Oral Communications from The Public**

All persons wishing to speak should sign up with City Staff. Remarks are generally limited to 3 minutes per person. Please state your name and city of residence for the record. Comments related to non-agenda items will be heard first. Comments related to items appearing on the agenda are taken up at the time the Park and Recreation Commission deliberates each item.

Action: None

3. **Council/Staff Liaison Announcements and Reports**

Chris Jones, Recreation Director and Councilmember Abelson reported on matters of general interest to the Park and Recreation Commission, Council policies, priorities and significant actions taken by the City Council on July 17, 2018.

Action: Received announcements and reports.

4. **Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements**

Robin Mitchell: NPR article, access to small green spaces, to decrease depression.

Action: Received announcement.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from April 25, 2018

Exhibit 2: Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2018

Approval of the April 25, 2018 Regular Meeting and May 23, 2018 Special Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Moved, seconded (La Force/Chuaqui) and carried unanimously.

6. **Study Session: El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan**

Staff and the City's consultant, RHAA, will present an update to the Master Plan process, including recommendations and priorities, project phasing categories, and seek direction regarding implementation strategies. Background documents are available online at www.el-cerrito.org/ParksMP.

Presenters

Chris Jones, Recreation Director

Lauren Ivy, RHAA Project Manager

Comments and questions from the Commissioners were received, discussed and answered.

Speakers:

Pam Austin, El Cerrito, asked for clarification, listened carefully and was not sure if she had materials to be prepared for this meeting. Austin wanted to verify that costs provided in the Master Plan are today's costs and not projections with inflation factored in. If this is the case, Austin recommends doing projected costs with inflation and not just to date. Austin expressed concern about Fairmont Park. The park is being improved, but as Austin understood the improvements being made are a subset, and asked if implementing Phase 2 is a part of the Master Plan?

Chris Jones, Recreation Director, responded to Austin's questions. Master Plan materials were posted online, the costs listed in the Master Plan are current 2018 costs and Phase 2 of Centennial Park (previously known as Fairmont Park) is a recommendation in the Master Plan.

Howdey Goudey, El Cerrito, in the Master Plan, the Ohlone Greenway, should be listed as to the Richmond border, not Baxter Creek. Goudey believes that taking the San Pablo Specific Plan into account is important to the Master Plan recommendation process. The San Pablo Specific Plan provides a better context for the Master Plan than the current snapshot. The Master Plan should make it clear that as more people live on San Pablo, there will be an increased need for recreation programs and spaces in that area and it is important for this need to be met. Goudey also addressed concerns regarding the recommendations for the Hillside Natural Area. The Master Plan seems to identify the need for a Hillside Natural Area Master Plan but also includes estimated costs. Goudey requested more clarity on how the budget and recommendations breakdown for the Hillside Natural Area. The Dorothy Rosenberg Park was not addressed in tonight's meeting but is an unused area that should be addressed within the Master Plan. Recommendations Goudey has heard throughout the process, seemed to have highlighted rental opportunities and Goudey would deemphasize the use as a rental facility as this recommendation has not been supported by the public input.

Commissioner Mitchell read a letter (see attachment) on behalf of community member Mike Cunningham, which identified the draft master plan as having a critical omission, namely that it doesn't recognize or plan for the tremendous surge of new residents that will come with new development along San Pablo Avenue.

Action: Received presentation, public comment and discussion held.

7. **Consideration of Special Meeting on August 29, 2018 and Cancellation of Regular Meeting on August 22, 2018**

In preparation for final meeting and possible recommendation of the Draft El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan to the City Council, consider cancelling Regular Park and Recreation Commission Meeting on August 22, 2018 and holding a Special Meeting in its place on August 29, 2018 at 6:30pm to ensure adequate review time of Draft for the public and Commission.

Action: Moved, seconded (La Force/McIntire) and carried unanimously.

8. **Recreation Department Update**

Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department including the 4th of July Festival, Youth Programs updates (FASEP, new middle school age classes, increased summer camp enrollment (up 8% from 2017), and changes to preschool program times), Adult Programs & Services update (ECMAC the new adult programs and services location is now open), the Department now has social media accounts for both Facebook and

Instagram, upcoming events (National Night Out on August 7, 2018 and American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, and August 22, 2018).

Presenter

Sarah DiBenedetto, Recreation Analyst

Action: Received update.

9. **Items for Future Agendas**

- a. Parks & Facilities Master Plan

10. **Meeting Adjournment**