



## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Staff Liaison

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#### JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/94266126668?pwd=Y0k5QUNWVmJJKenNIdy9YVmFHWUxWQT09>

**Event ID:** 942 6612 6668 **Password:** 552174  
**or Dial in:** 1-408-638 0968

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### 7:00 P.M. CONVENE REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron; Members, Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Megan Wier  
**Absent:** Kathy Fleming

2. **COMMISSION/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUCEMENTS**

Commissioner Codron spoke with a Park and Recreation Commissioner from Santa Monica who said Santa Monica did not have to do a sound study for their new pickleball courts because they are located in an industrial area. Santa Monica is planning to convert four more tennis courts into pickleball courts despite some public pushback.

Director Jones announced that more than likely September's meeting will take place one Zoom. He said that the suspension of the Brown Act Provisions to allow virtual meetings is set to expire by September 30, 2021 and as of now there are no indications that the deadline will be extended but it is still a possibility.

3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Dave Weinstein – Reported on vandalism and theft in the Hillside Natural Area of some interpretive signs the were installed by the Trail Trekkers in partnership with the El Cerrito Rotary Club.

4. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Fadelli, spoke about the recent City Council meeting that was a virtual and in-person hybrid meeting. He said there were some technical issues to still work out. He also stated that there seemed to be a lot of support amongst the various City Commissions and Committees to continue with the virtual meeting format due

to the COVID-19 Delta Variant. In regard to the City's budget, Mayor Fadelli stated that El Cerrito ended the year in a better position than anticipated with around a \$2.4 million surplus at the end of Fiscal Year 2021. He spoke about how changes are still needed to keep El Cerrito's budget sustainable, but he felt we are on the right track. He noted that the City's Real Property Transfer Tax brought in more revenue than anticipated due to home sales. He also announced a City Council Budget Workshop for Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 4pm.

Commissioner La Force commented about the delay of building permits being processed by the City and a concern about raising prices too high for Recreation programs.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved/Seconded:** Members Machado/La Force. Pass a motion to approve the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on July 28, 2021.

**Ayes:** Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron, Members Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Megan Wier.

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

## **6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: URBAN TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE**

David Weinstein of the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers will provide a presentation, followed by discussion, about Trail Trekker activities, accomplishments, and recommendations relating to El Cerrito trails and open space.

Presentation received followed by Commissioner questions and discussion. Commissioners agreed that they would like to form a recommendation on this topic at a future meeting.

Melissa Hobbs spoke in support of the presentation. She says that opening up inaccessible trails should be a priority to give people more access to their homes, especially during emergencies.

Barbara Lass spoke in support of the presentation and said that even though the City may not have the budget to clear inaccessible trails and easements, just getting the support to do so would enable volunteers to do some of the work. She said that trails add to the progressive quality of El Cerrito.

## **7. 2021-22 PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORKPLAN**

Discussion, brainstorming and possible action to adopt the Park and Recreation Commission's 2021-22 Work Plan.

Director Jones gave an overview of the Park and Recreation Commission Draft Work Plan and pointed out areas that had been changed due to the previous month's discussion and direction.



Commission discussion focused on the Hillside Natural Area, developing urban trails and trail maintenance. Additional details were added to the Work Plan for budget review and monitoring for the Recreation Department and Measure H, recreational program evaluations, facility usage by City and WCCUSD of each other's facilities, and which meeting topics will be discussed at particular future meetings.

David Weinstein expressed his appreciation for the Commission's interest in urban trails and open space and said the support will make a difference.

**Moved/Seconded:** Vice-Chair Codron/Member Wier. Pass a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Park and Recreation Commission Work Plan.

**Ayes:** Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron, Members Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Megan Wier.

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

## **8. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PARKS AND RECREATION RELATED PROJECTS**

Review Parks Projects Status Sheet of funded and unfunded capital improvement program projects related to Parks and Recreation.

Director Jones presented the parks status sheet and noted that the only change from the previous month was that finalized design for bidding the Hillside Natural Area Signage Improvements project was anticipated to occur in September 2021.

Discussion was also had about the Immediate Work Priority projects from the Master Plan that are to be funded by Measure H including electrical work.

## **9. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Director Jones spoke about the first week of childcare with the new school year, senior programs moving from the Midtown Activity Center to the Community Center, and the upcoming Fall Programs Guide for Recreation Department programs that will be mailed to all El Cerrito households in the September East Bay Sanitary bill.

## **10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Facilities Projects Update – Ongoing
- Permanent Pickleball Courts Considerations – September
- WCCUSD Facility Use Discussion – TBD

## **11. ADJOURN PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – 9:23 p.m.**



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Ben Chuaqui, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Park and Recreation Commission meeting on August 25, 2021 as approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.



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Christopher Jones, Staff Liaison