



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Staff Liaison

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JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82924362302?pwd=YW85U0U2c0FvSUpm dXNXNmZl bWd3dz09>

Event ID: 829 2436 2302 **Password:** 728601
or Dial in: 1-408-638 0968

7:00 P.M. CONVENE REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – Chair Chuaqui called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

- 2. COMMISSION/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUCEMENTS**

Informal reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff.

None

- 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first, remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.

Public Comment:

Dave Weinstein, President of the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, spoke about the program for the upcoming Hillside Festival on May 14 and 15, 2022.

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

Staff and/or Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama may report on matters of general interest to the Park and Recreation Commission, Council policies, priorities and significant actions taken by the City Council. Staff will ask if any members of the public who intend to apply to the Park and Recreation Commission are present at the meeting and wish to be recognized.

Recreation Director Jones announced that the City Council would be considering mid-year budget adjustments and discussing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) at their upcoming March 1, 2022 meeting.

(Heard out of order)

Mayor Pro-Tem Motoyama spoke of the hiring of the City's new Finance Director, upcoming budget related items at the next City Council meeting, audit findings, stronger City reserves, and the need to fund improvements or replacements of City facilities and address deferred maintenance.

Recreation Director Jones asked if there was anyone in attendance who was interested in applying for the Park and Recreation Commission.

Aaron Mandel responded that he was present and has now attended the second meeting which is required prior to applying to serve on the Park and Recreation Commission.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on **January 26, 2022**.

Moved/Seconded: Members Machado/La Force.

Action: Passed a motion to approve the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on January 26, 2022.

Ayes: Chair Chuaqui; Members Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Megain Wier.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

6. ARLINGTON PARK TENNIS GARDEN DISCUSSION AND PROPOSAL

Presentation from the El Cerrito Tennis Club on their conceptual plans to create a tennis garden on the west side of the Arlington Park Tennis Courts. Possible action to recommend Phase I which includes removing hedges and installing bleachers utilizing donated funds.

Presentation and Discussion: Bob Guletz from the El Cerrito Tennis Club (ECTC) and staff responded to questions and comments from members of the Commission regarding their tennis garden proposal, purpose, design, Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan goals and recommendations, fundraising goals and budget, phasing of the project, amenities, usage, landscaping and public accessibility.

Moved/Seconded: Member La Force/Chair Chuaqui.

Action: Passed a motion to recommend that Phase I of the project move forward and to conceptually recommend approval of the entire project.

Ayes: Chair Chuaqui; Members Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Megain Wier.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

7. RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PRESENTATION AND OVERVIEW

The Recreation Department's Supervisors will present to the Commission an overview of their areas of responsibility and the programs and services offered by the Department.

Presentation and Discussion: Staff responded to questions and comments from members of the Commission regarding programs offered during the pandemic, staff recruitment, financial aid, access to programs and affordability, senior program reductions, the Swim Center and usage of the Hana Gardens Senior Center.

Action: Received and filed

8. PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN TOPICS DISCUSSION AND UPDATES

Commission discussion and updates on work plan goals and progress and possible action to appoint work plan group members.

- Open space and urban trails update
- Community engagement and outreach
- Work plan progress

Presentation and Discussion: Staff responded to questions and comments by members of the Commission regarding topics from the Commission's Work Plan and Work Plan Groups.

Commissioner Kaczor reported on the work of the Open Space and Urban Trails Work Plan Group including consultations with members of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, developing procedures and guidelines to clear public right of ways and other trails, City involvement and working with the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers.

Dave Weinstein of the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers spoke of near-term project goals, the citywide trails wayfinding signage program that the Trail Trekkers want to raise money to implement, naming trails and next steps.

Chair Chuaqui reported that he is working on a questionnaire that Commissioners can use to engage community members when they visit various parks.

Action: Received and filed

9. 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.

Presentation and Discussion: Staff presented updates for Capital Improvement Program projects at Arlington Park, the Swim Center, the Hillside Natural Area Wayfinding Signage project and Immediate Work Priority projects.

Action: Received and filed

10. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department.

Action: No discussion, topics covered in agenda item #7.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 7 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Facilities Projects Update – Ongoing
- Work Plan Item Discussion/Updates – Ongoing
 - City/WCCUSD Joint Use Facilities Partnership – March
 - Open Space and Urban Trails Update – March
 - Community Engagement and Outreach – March
- Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule and FY2023 Budget– TBD Spring
- Parks and Recreation Facilities FY2023 Capital Improvement Program and Measure H Review – TBD Spring

12. ADJOURN PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING Chair Chuaqui adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.



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 February 23, 2022 as approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.



Christopher Jones, Staff Liaison