



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 25, 2012
7:00p.m.

**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 Management Assistant at 510-559-7000. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the city to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFT 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

1. Roll Call

- a. Chair - Manish Doshi, Leslie Goldstein, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, Robin Mitchell, Margo Takemiya, Manish Doshi (late)
Commissioners absent: Leslie Goldstein
- b. Staff Present: Christopher Jones, Recreation Director; Lori Teachout, Management Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Lipson at 7:13 pm.

2. Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements:

Jones announced that the chainlink fence at Canyon Trail has been removed and re-installed in Casa Cerrito's backyard.

3. Oral Communications From The Public: None

4. Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Rebecca Benassini

- a. Councilmember Benassini reported that at the July 17, 2012 Council meeting, the City Council decided to challenge the State's demand that the City turn over \$1.7 million in what was redevelopment funds. The City Council decided to challenge this based on its belief that it is unconstitutional.
- b. There was a discussion about the City's fire abatement. Properties with overgrown vegetation and rubbish may be noticed and billed for clearing the property if they do not take care of it themselves. The City Council passed the budget July 1, 2012. The fire and police departments gave up their 2% pay increase. Management agreed to pay more into PERS.
- c. Council is nearing an agreement with the West Contra Costa School District to fund officers on campus.

Chair Doshi arrived at 7:20 pm.

5. Approval of Minutes: (Action: Approve) Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2012
Commissioner Lipson moved that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Takemiya seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

6. Discussion and Presentation of the *National Citizen Survey*: Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist

Iarla gave background on the *National Citizen Survey* Conducted for the City this spring. Chair Doshi asked how the City will use this information. Iarla explained this information will be used for future planning. She explained that the demographic information from those who participated in the survey matched El Cerrito's demographic. Researchers randomly selected 1200 households. There were 362 responses.

7. Discussion and Presentation of City's *Strategic Plan*: Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist

Iarla explained that the Strategic Plan will be community focus groups and on-line surveys. Discussion followed about short and long term goals and the General Plan. Councilmember Benassini announced that the City is close to completing a San Pablo Avenue plan, which has been coordinated with adjacent cities, Richmond and Albany to give the avenue a cohesive look. Specifics are available on-line.

8. Update on West Contra Costa Unified School District Facilities Agreement: Christopher Jones, Recreation Director

Jones explained that he had a positive meeting with Keith Holstander from the West Contra Costa Unified School district. There had been concern of neighbors at El Cerrito High School that when Bill Savidge left, communication would stop. Ballfield and field plans are expected to be approved by the State architect soon. Some of the highlights of the discussion were:

- a. The School District authorized the school architect to work with Melanie Mintz, Environmental Manager.
- b. The high school field and tennis courts can be used by outside groups, similar to the previous arrangement before the renovation. School activities would have priority.
- c. There is a proposal of a joint use committee. The normal process will still be in place. The principal will approve permits before they are issued. Chair Doshi reported having requested permits four months ago, and he has not yet received approval.
- d. The District will do their best to keep their playgrounds open for the weekends.

Chair Doshi asked for a meeting with user groups to meet about the graded Portola site

9. Public Works Update: Bill Driscoll, Maintenance Superintendent

Chair Doshi asked to meet with Bill Driscoll, Maintenance Superintendent about the Fairmont and Castro fields.

10. Staff Update: Christopher Jones, Recreation Director

- a. Jones announced that *Parents Press* named El Cerrito's Fourth of July Fair the best festival. Other "bests" were the City's swim lessons and Spring Break Camp. The sales were up from last year. Next year there will be an attempt to quantify attendance at the Fourth of July to attract more sponsors.
- b. Councilmember Benassini asked for a cost break-down. Jones stated that the entertainment was about \$20,000 and the staffing, \$5,000.

11. Items For Next Agenda

- a. Re-scheduling for September meeting, which falls on Yom Kippur. August meeting cancelled.
- b. Huber Park update.
- c. Update on Ohlone Greenway
- d. Update on WCCUSD Facility Use Agreement and Permitting process

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