



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Approved Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 26, 2013
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 Management Assistant at 510-559-7001. 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:** 7:05pm Present: Manish Doshi, Gary Hill, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, and Robin Mitchell.
Absent: Leslie Goldstein Margo Takemiya.
2. **Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements** (*Informal reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff*)
 - a. Commissioner Lipson: Reported on a successful El Cerrito Youth Baseball season. Recognized Chair Doshi for his contributions to coaching area soccer teams.
 - b. Chair Doshi: Summer soccer season starting. Over 200 kids coming out to play pickup. Gratitude for the Recreation Department.
 - c. Commissioner Hill: Reported that the mountain bike season at El Cerrito High School came to a close.
3. **Oral Communications from the Public:** None.
4. **Announcement Urban Greening Plan:** Melanie Mintz reported on the Urban Greening Plan survey. There will be a public meeting July 23, 2013 at Harding Elementary School 6:30PM-8:30PM.
5. **Council Liaison Report:** Councilmember Jan Bridges (*Report on council meetings that have occurred since the last Park and Recreation Commission Meeting and other items of general interest.*)

May 17th 2013 City Council Meeting

- a. Passed "Measure A" Swim Center ordinance tax rates.
- b. Added an all-way stop Colusa & Eureka for safety.
- c. Passed resolution for improvements along Central Avenue.
- d. Adopted Master Fee Schedule.

- e. Reported on the Joint School Board/City Council Meeting: topics included writer coach connection, internship El Cerrito High School and the City of El Cerrito, breaking ground 2016 Fairmont, and Portola's new school plans.

May 21st 2013 City Council Meeting

- a. Adopted the El Cerrito Climate Action Plan

June 4th 2013 City Council Meeting

- a. Proposed FY 2013-14 Budget was presented.

June 18th 2013 City Council Meeting

- a. Presented proclamation for library system's 100th Birthday. Discussion about library needs assessment increasing library hours.
- b. The City Council passed the City FY 2013-14 Budget
- c. Approved co-sponsorship for El Cerrito's Relay for Life

Announcements:

- a. National Night Out Tuesday, August 6, 2013
- b. "Off the Grid" begins in July on Fairmount Ave. between Carlson Blvd. and San Pablo Ave.

- 6. **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2013 were approved. Motion to approve by Commissioner Libson. Second from Commissioner Hill. Approved unanimously.

- 7. **Consider a recommendation to the City Council to approve use of Measure WW funds for the purchase of property (APN 505-1420-148):** Melanie Mintz, Interim Community Development Director

Discussion and possible action to recommend approval by the City Council of utilizing Measure WW Funds towards to the purchase of a seven acre parcel (APN 505-1420-148).

Melanie Mintz Presentation:

- a. In July, the City Council will consider entering into an agreement to purchase the 7.5 acre parcel.
- b. Funding would hopefully include: WW Funds, grants, and private fundraising.
- c. Trail Trekkers, Friends of Five Creeks, and ECHS Mountain Bike Team would work to raise private funds.
- d. Trust for Public Land would purchase the land and hold for the City of El Cerrito until December 2014. They would also lead the grant writing and application process.
- e. Property negotiation is done behind closed doors and was not made public until the May 21, 2013 City Council meeting.
- f. Discussed purchase price scenarios with Commissioners.

Commissioner Discussion:

Commissioner Hill: believes that the purchase of this property is a once in a life time chance. Connection of two parts of Hillside Natural Area and potential for walking and

mountain bike trails make this property very attractive. Will be leading fundraising effort toward purchase of property.

Commissioner Kaplan: disappointed that there was not enough time to get information or visit property. Supports acquisition of open space. Feels there is a need to raise funds for better maintenance of City properties.

Commissioner Lipson: cannot support recommendation due to lack of information and time to make an informed decision.

Commissioner Mitchell: feels that there are more important needs that should be addressed by limited amount of Measure WW funds. Concerned about timing of agenda action item and that underrepresented populations and persons with disabilities of El Cerrito would not use the newly acquired open space.

Chair Doshi: did not like how the process was handled but supports the purchase of open space. Believes that the negotiated price for the property is a good deal.

Concerns raised by Commission in regards to the purchase and process were discussed in length.

Action: Chair Doshi called for a motion

Motion: Commissioner Hill: the Park and Recreation Commission recommends that the City Council use some portion of the remaining Measure WW funds that are not already allocated to be used for the purchase of this property.

Amendment Request: Commissioner Lipson- Amend "some portion" to "up to \$475,000" (accepted by Commissioner Hill)

Second: Commissioner Kaplan

Vote: Aye: 3 (Kaplan, Hill, Doshi) No: 2 (Mitchell, Lipson)

Motion Passed.

8. Presentation and update on recent and future improvements along the Ohlone Greenway: Melanie Mintz, Interim Community Development Director

Presentation and update on the various projects that have been occurring, are in progress, and will occur on the Ohlone Greenway. Mintz reported background information on recent grant submittal for additional improvements.

Project reports given on the following:

- a. Update on BART Earthquake Safety Retrofit
- b. Input given on construction throughout El Cerrito
- c. Unique areas of improvement: Manila play structure, widened multi-use path, Schmidt-Portola Creek Path

- d. Major street crossing improvements at 9 uncontrolled crosswalks
- e. Federal HSIP Grant
- f. Discussion of safety concerns about Portrero and Arlington Blvd
- g. Ohlone Greenway Natural Area bid opening is on July 2. Council will consider award on July 16 and construction will last through December 2013.
- h. \$3.6 million grant application for Ohlone Greenway station access, and safety improvements will be submitted.

9. Status Update on City of El Cerrito/West Contra Costa Joint Facilities Use Agreement: Christopher Jones, Recreation Director

- a. A progress report on the current status of negotiations for the City of El Cerrito/West Contra Costa Unified School Joint Facilities Use Agreement was provided.
- b. No draft agreement ready for viewing; amendments must be made due to legal considerations/definitions. Goal is to complete the joint use agreement before the beginning of the next school year.
- c. The ground where Portola Middle School once stood is currently being graded. A sub-committee of two City Councilmembers and Two School Board Members has met to discuss the future of that property. The School District should have a proposal soon.

10. Public Works Department Update: Bill Driscoll, Maintenance Superintendant (*Update on items of interest in the Public Works Department pertaining to Parks and Recreation*)
Not in attendance

11. Recreation Department Update: Christopher Jones, Recreation Director (*Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department pertaining to Parks and Recreation*)

- a. Solar Update: installed on east side of parking lot, half of parking lot available. Completion scheduled for next week. Power will have to be cut for 4-5 hours and PG&E will grant approval to operate.
- b. Street Construction Update: Moeser and Ashbury Type III bike lanes are being installed as well as a new sidewalk on the West side of Ashbury.
- c. 4th of July: Final preparations underway, set up/prep will begin on Saturday. Monday – Wednesday the Department will complete pre-set event up. There will be parking at CVS shopping center. Utilizing Measure J funds to shuttle from parking lot to the festival. Bike valet parking will be offered.
- d. Summer Began: June 10, 2013 very successful camp season start. Family Fun Night at Swim Center started this year 75 participants first week, 100 participant second week. It is held Friday from 5pm-8pm. Dedicated lap swim lanes are available during recreation swim this summer for the first time.

12. Items For Next Agenda
July, 24 2013

13. Meeting Adjournment 9:45pm

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