



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2015
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:** 7:04pm Present: Chair - Manish Doshi, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, and Glen Lubcke.
 - a. Absent: Hill
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. Lipson: Provided an El Cerrito Youth Baseball tryout update.
 - b. Lipson: Discussed issues regarding rule signage and enforcement at El Cerrito parks.
 - c. Chris Jones: Commented that the City is replacing all rule signs and adding the *City of El Cerrito No Smoking Ordinance*. All signs will be standardized with current information. It was clarified that enforcement at parks is mostly on complaint basis to dispatch. Police are the only ones who are able to enforce the rules to the public. Staff can strongly suggest.
 - d. Doshi: Lead a discussion about El Cerrito Soccer Club's new partnership with the Tottenham Hotspurs. This partnership brought the Club to a worldly audience. Tryout update. It was reported that the Club for the first time ever, now has over 1,000 participants.
3. **Oral Communications From The Public**

Dave Weinstein, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers:

 - a. Spoke about the May 17th Hillside Festival:
Suggested the potential for Co-Sponsorship
Suggested extended hours of 10am-5pm
Suggested Agenda Item for future Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
Made suggestions about "Thank You" for donors
Suggested the potential to raise money for maintenance and other improvements
4. **Council/Staff Liaison Announcements and Reports**

Councilmember Ableson was not present to report on matters of general interest to the Park and Recreation Commission, Council policies, priorities and significant actions taken by the City Council.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from October 22, 2014
Moved, seconded (Lubke/Lipson; Ayes- Chair Doshi and Commissioners Kaplan, Lipson and Lubke) and carried to approve the October 22, 2014 Joint Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission and Environmental Quality Committee and Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes.
6. **Presentation on Technical Assistance Grant Awarded to the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and City of El Cerrito for public trail and stairway signage:** David Weinstein, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers
The Commission received a presentation on the technical assistance grant awarded by the National Park Service and the process moving forward for developing an overall look for public trails, pathways, and stairway signage throughout town.

Key Points of the Presentation included:

- a. El Cerrito Trails Way Finding signage will be developed
- b. 160 hours of National Park Service staff time will be devoted to this project
- c. Site visit scheduled for February 18, 2015
- d. The Target Area for signage is the Northern part of the Hillside Natural Area, Madera hillside, stairways, and the Southern hillside area.
- e. The conclusion of the plan for signage is scheduled for September 2015
- f. Suggested a Public Hearing- possibly at Park and Recreation Commission once the draft is completed.

There was further discussion about the plan and how the Commission can contribute.

7. **Presentation of the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Tree Maintenance Programs:** Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager/ City Arborist
There was a brief overview and discussion of the City's IPM and tree maintenance programs with time for question and answer session with the commissioners.

Key Topics of IPM addressed by Prée:

- a. Background
- b. Definition
- c. Goals
- d. Implementation
- e. IPM Decision Making Steps
- f. IPM Program Components

Items of further discussion by the Commission:

- a. Doshi: Public documentation of IPM and pesticides used.
- b. Doshi: How the City works with BART and other agencies when notifying the public of pesticide applications.
- c. Prée: Responded and discussed topics brought up by Chair Doshi including the omission by BART and City for lack of public notice for a recent spraying. Prée reported that there was an announcement but it did not reach the amount of people it had intended to. There was an inadequate parameter of notification.
- d. Lubke: Commented that there is no public notification requirement in IPM- Unless the City or other agency follows IPM for Schools Act.

Key Topics of the El Cerrito Tree Program addressed by Prée:

- a. Description of Tree Program
- b. Description of Tree Committee accomplishments and goals
- c. Lubke: Brought up a discussion of nesting season impacts.
- d. Doshi: Asked about the tree policy in which when one tree is removed, two are planted.
 - i. Prée: Responded to Doshi's inquiry. Prée reported that it is not a policy of the Tree Program. Prée will provide an update on policy/ plan, and its possible reintegration.
- e. Lipson: Questioned the count of trees removed at Canyon Trail Park.
 - i. Prée: Responded that six trees (one alive) were removed and the work is complete.
- f. Kaplan: Brought up the goal to touch every tree on the streets and asked what the goal in terms of the parks is?
 - i. Prée: responded that priority trees are "high target rating" indirect proximity to public usage and risk/value assessment
- g. Tree Assessment Discussion

8. Public Works Department Update: Maria Sanders, Environmental + Operations Manager – Public Works Department

Key Topics of the Public Works Update by Sanders:

- a. New Rain Garden Park on Fairmount at BART
- b. Designer for Castro Park renovation play structures and field area being selected; working with athletic clubs and Park and Recreation Commission. The budget is limited.
- c. Discussion on timeline for Castro ball field. Concerns voiced by - Doshi/Lipson. Soccer Club concerns voiced.
 - i. Construction mid-May 2015
 - ii. Establishment Period early September 2015
- d. Tassajara Park's infield renovation:
 - i. Renovation has been delayed due to winter rain.
 - ii. Looking to close field after baseball season.
 - iii. Re-grading and renovation, new features: backstop, benches.
- e. Field Work
- f. Field Priorities:
 - i. Infield Area at Central park
 - ii. Harding netting
 - iii. Commission Feedback:
 1. Kaplan: voiced concerns about Cerrito Vista
 2. Next fiscal year the Commission will develop a more comprehensive facilities improvement plan and send to Sanders.
 3. The current Commission Park Presentation and reports will be sent to Sanders.
 4. Doshi: Requested that grass length be appropriate/to regulation.
- g. Kaplan question regarding alternate irrigation plans

9. Park Funding Update and Discussion: Chris Jones, Recreation Director

Jones reviewed funding scenarios that are likely to happen involving the Madera Hillside Property purchase and Measure WW funds. Jones also discussed new funding opportunity from the California State Department of Housing and Community Development.

Jones Key Discussion Points:

- a. The El Cerrito Open Space Committee met their \$100,000 fundraising goal, and possibly exceeded the goal by a few thousand dollars.
- b. Trust for Public Land may waive their fee if they are able to sell a parcel of land adjacent to the Hillside Natural Area. Property transfer will be made to the City once this deal goes through.
- c. City will qualify for \$150,000 for park improvements for the affordable housing project at Ohlone Gardens.
- d. Potential for more funding at the Central Park location due to the census tract that the park is in.
- e. Lead the preliminary discussion of using funds along with the Urban Greening Plan to start initial phase of Fairmont Park, Central Park and possible acquisition of land to make "sport court". Priority recommendation must be made to the City Council. Commissioners asked for more details of these projects at their next meeting.
- f. WW Funds must be fully spent by 12/2017.

10. Recreation Department Update: Sarah DiBenedetto, Recreation Department, Management Assistant

Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department

- a. Spring Swim Lesson Registration Opened
- b. Overnight Summer Residential Camp Ravenscliff update: Boys full with waitlist, girls has 5 spots remaining
- c. Family Sweetheart Dance: Sunday, February 8, 2015 3-5pm
- d. Presidents' Week Camp: Tuesday, February 17th-20th 2015
- e. California Park and Recreation Society Conference: March 2015

11. Items For Next Agenda:

- a. WW Project Priority Recommendation: Funding Updates/ Locations
 - i. Jones to provide picture of 3 park projects mentioned in tonight's meeting
- b. Huber Park Update
- c. Discussion about Park Rules

12. Meeting Adjournment: 8:56PM

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