



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 4, 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 (7:06pm):** Present: Substitute Chair Robin Mitchell, Ben Chuaqui, Gary Hill, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, Glen Lubcke, and Chair Manish Doshi (7:14pm).
2. **Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements** (*Informal reports on matters of general interest which were announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff*)
 - a. Hill: Presented on the City Council Presentation on February 17, 2015 about the Hillside acquisition; Mountain Bike Team update.
 - b. Jones: Announced that City Council reappointed Mitchell and appointed Commissioner Chuaqui to the Park and Recreation Commission.
3. **Oral Communications From The Public**
 - a. Howdy Goudy, El Cerrito Resident: Commented on projects and plans emerging in El Cerrito. Presented the idea of discussing what playing fields integrated with San Pablo Specific Plan might look like. Examples given were: indoor facilities/ mixed use facilities.
 - b. Mitchell: Expressed being in favor of having this idea brought in as an agenda item in future Commission meetings.
 - c. Commission had discussion around the subject of mix use development, developers contributing to sports complexes, and the effects of these two concepts in El Cerrito.
 - d. San Pablo Specific Plan goals for urban space in regard to parks, and development of parks were discussed.
 - e. A public letter was read by Chair Doshi from Charles Barnes, El Cerrito Resident. The letter addressed concerns about the limits of permits that are given to individuals and contractors at El Cerrito parks and the use of El Cerrito parks by independent instructors.
 - f. The topic of signs at El Cerrito Tennis Court fences for classes and clubs was discussed.
4. **Council/Staff Liaison Announcements and Reports**

Director Jones reported on matters of general interest to the Park and Recreation Commission, Council policies, priorities and significant actions taken by the City Council at City Council meetings on February 3, 14, & 17, 2015.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2015

Lipson: Recommendation to amend the minutes by removing the word “addressed” in Item 8.

Moved/ seconded (Lipson/Kaplan; Ayes – Commissioners Doshi & Lubke; Abstentions- Commissioners Hill Mitchell Chuaqui) and carried to approve the motion to approve the January 28, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as amended.

Jones: Updated that the construction at Castro slated to begin after baseball season ends and will be completed within an acceptable range for the soccer season.

6. **Park Funding Priorities Discussion and Possible Recommendation:** Chris Jones, Recreation Director

Reviewed available funding scenarios and discuss park funding prioritization. Projects requested by Commissioners to review were: Fairmont Park – Community Garden, Central Park, and the purchase of property adjacent to Baxter Creek Gateway Park.

Discussion on Madera Hillside Scenarios:

- a. There was discussion about the Madera Hillside Property acquisition and the additional lot that was donated to Trust for Public Land (TPL).
- b. Discussion surrounded if TPL sells the land, the \$100,000 TPL fee for the Hillside Property acquisition would be waived.

Discussion on the State Affordable Housing funding:

- a. Constraints within the use of funds
- b. Non-Competitive funding
- c. Clarification that the additional amount for Central Park Census Tract is \$15,000-
 - i. Note: Clarification needed if \$165,000 should all be spent at Central Park
- d. Notice of funding is usually within a few months of application

Discussion on potential Statewide Parks Bond Measure for November 2016.

Presentation and Discussion on Fairmont Park

Presentation and Discussion on Baxter Creek Gateway Park

- a. Sport Court Option
 - Low Estimate-High Estimate Costs
 - Discussion regarding elements of design for multiple sport use
 - Deadline for an application into Measure WW is March 2015; Mitchell expressed concern of close deadline
 - Discussion that Commission does not have to commit to funding complete projects, only phases with Measure WW Funds.
 - Idea for Community Garden in Area “2” of the Baxter Creek Park.

- Discussion on what state Baxter Creek Gateway Park is compared to Fairmont Park.
- Hill concern regarding prioritizing projects, particularly the Hillside Natural Area.

Presentation and Discussion on Central Park

Discussion on Measure WW Funding and what future action should be from the Commission.

Discussion on the Korematsu (formally, Portola Middle) School site and future ideas for that parcel.

Discussion on land usage of open lots- including Moeser Ave & San Pablo Ave.

Discussion on relocation of the Senior Center.

Discussion on the El Cerrito Water Tank site including:

- Hill in favor of examining this City owned area.
- Mitchell proposed considering the site later when the Commission has more information about the site.

7. **Park Rules Discussion and Possible Recommendation:** Chris Jones, Recreation Director
With the passage of the smoking ordinance in El Cerrito, park rules signs will need to be updated. Commissioners took the opportunity to discuss current rules and whether or not to make a recommendation to the City Manager about rule changes and additions.

Discussion about current rules posted including but not limited to:

- Bicycle Riding
- Model Airplanes
- Dogs/Leash Ordinance
- The differences between parks and what the rules should be at each park
- What role the Commission should have in regards to park rules
- Suggestion for Working Group to be created for rules
- Suggestion for the signage to be presented to the Commission for suggestion
- Branding opportunity of signs
- Recommendation for staff to bring back list or proposed idea of signage

8. **Recreation Department Update:** Sarah DiBenedetto, Management Assistant
Updated the Commission on items of interest in the Recreation Department:
- Youth Swim Lessons starting this month
 - Spring Break Camp April 6- April 10, 2015
 - Annual El Cerrito Recreation Dynamo Golf Scramble Monday, April 13, 2015
 - Summer Camp enrollment higher than last year at this time

9. **Items For Future Agendas**
- Huber Park Update – March 25, 2015

- b. Recreation Department Division Overviews – March 25, 2015
- c. Reorganization of the Park and Recreation Commission – April 22, 2015
- d. Organizing groups to assist with Park Maintenance and upkeep similar to or in partnership with the EC Green Teams.
- e. Presentation on Specific Plan components that address open space and park requirements of developers.

Doshi: Announced that a Tottenham Hotspur East Bay Women's Premier Soccer League team is going to be based in El Cerrito. Visit www.WPSL.info for more information.

10. Meeting Adjournment 9:31pm

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