



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 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:** Chair – Robin Mitchell (absent), Ben Chuaqui (absent), Manish Doshi, Gary Hill, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, Glen Lubcke.
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. Hill provided a recap of the Hillside Festival held on May 17, 2015
 - b. Doshi provided an update regarding the success of the Spur Soccer Season and the Semi-Pro Team. Would like to explore options to play within El Cerrito for next season. Commented on Spur Soccer banners being taken down around El Cerrito. Expressed appreciation for the way in which maintenance has kept up the City fields.
3. **Oral Communications From The Public**
None
4. **Council/Staff Liaison Announcements and Reports**
Staff and/or Councilmember Abelson may report on matters of general interest to the Park and Recreation Commission, Council policies, priorities and significant actions taken by the City Council.

Commissioners were updated on action taken at the June 2, 2015 and June 23, 2015 Council Meetings.

Discussion took place about funding possibilities for the maintenance and renovations of City Clubhouses and other facilities. The Castro Field restoration project and ECHS field construction meeting was also discussed.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2015
Approval of the April 22, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Approval moved by Lubcke, seconded by Lipson. Motion passed 4-0-1 with Hill, Kaplan, Lipson and Lubcke voting in the affirmative and Doshi abstaining.

6. **Presentation and Discussion of Urban Greening Plan Final Draft:** Emily Alter, Community Planning Analyst – Community Development Department
Receive an overview of the Final Draft of the Urban Greening Plan followed by a question and answer session and potential recommendations. Consider a motion to recommend the Urban Greening Plan to City Council.

Presentation Highlights:

- Purpose and scope
- Planning Process
 - Engagement
 - Task Force
 - Needs Assessment and Community Survey
 - Activity Analysis
 - Connectivity Analysis
 - Opportunity Inventory
 - Staff Engagement
- Vision Framework
 - Overarching goals
 - Objectives
 - i. Improved trails and paths
 - ii. Greener Gateways
 - iii. Strengthen the Ohlone Greenway
 - iv. Enhanced Existing Parks
 - v. Active Commercial Corridors
 - vi. Resilient Higher Density Neighborhoods
 - vii. Enriched Natural Areas
 - viii. Enhanced Creeks
 - ix. Green Streets
 - x. Vibrant Schoolyards
 - xi. Urban Agriculture
 - Policies
 - i. Sustainable Landscape and Maintenance
 - ii. Volunteerism
- Focus Area Projects
 - 14 Project Areas
 - i. Blue to Green Connections
 - ii. Ohlone Greenway- Portola to Schmidt
 - iii. Ohlone Greenway- Gladys to Blake

- iv. Fairmont Park
- v. Central Park
- vi. Creekside Park
- vii. Hillside Natural Area
- viii. El Cerrito Plaza Southern Gateway
- ix. Conlon Ave/Key Blvd- Baxter Creek
- x. San Pablo Ave and Cutting Blvd
- xi. Former Portola Middle School Site
- xii. Ashbury Ave
- xiii. Lower Fairmount Ave

- Early Wins
- Plant Palette
- Public Comment
- Additional Edits
- Next Steps
- Questions/ Discussion:
 - Comments of Friends of 5 Creeks were incorporated
 - Consideration with recent drought to use potable water
 - Creeks and removal of sediment- who is responsible. On public property Public Works removes the sediment
 - Proposition 84 deadline spending deadline for the Urban Greening Grant is in August 2015.
 - Hill comments focusing on active recreation

Motion to recommend the urban greening plan to city council Moved by Doshi, seconded by Lubcke. Approved unanimously (5-0).

7. Presentation and Discussion of the Measure A Tax Rate for the El Cerrito Swim Center:

Christopher Jones, Recreation Director

Receive an overview of the funding provided by Measure A for the Swim Center and the authorized uses of it. Consider a motion to recommend raising the tax rate to the City Council in order to fund a capital replacement plan for the next 10-20 years.

Consider whether or not it was appropriate or not to increase the tax rate from \$38.61/year which is the min amount required to collect to meet debt service obligations for the Swim Center.

- Voters authorized \$58.46 per single family residence in 2000
- Measure A sunsets in June of 2020
- Measure A Tax Revenue comparisons discussed: current rate versus, mean rate and maximum rate
- Measure A Capital Replacement Fund to Date: spent \$1,014,815.75 since 2008
- Slides demonstrating big ticket item areas that will need improvement/repair
- Estimates being done for all major equipment to determine the cost and timeline

Kaplan: sited potential concerns from public – hesitant to recommend due to possible backlash- but ultimately in favor

Lipson: making a recommendation is difficult without knowing the projected costs and needs
Doshi: discussion that it has already been approved by voters. Discussion about funding coming from Measure A or the General Fund

Lubke: supports the full maximum

Doshi: recommend to fund to the maximum amount and use judiciously as needed

Hill: question about notification, why original rate was chosen, expressed concerns about not knowing the language in the tax measure

Lubcke Motion: The Park and Recreation Commission recommends to the City Council that the Measure A Tax Rate be increased to be in line with what was passed in 2000.

Doshi seconded. Passed (4-0-1) with Doshi, Kaplan, Lipson and Lubcke voting in the affirmative and Hill abstaining

8. **Recreation Department Update:** Sarah DiBenedetto, Management Assistant
Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department

9. **Items For Next Agenda: July 22, 2015**

a. Huber Park

10. **Meeting Adjournment**

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