



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
PROPOSED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 26, 2016
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 Recreation Analyst 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:**

Commission Member Present: Chair – Glen Lubcke, Ben Chuaqui, Manish Doshi, Norman La Force, Steve Lipson, and Robin Mitchell.

Absent: Gary Hill

2. **Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements**

La Force asked staff a question regarding the swim center shower faucets. Staff responded that the shower parts have been ordered but the swim center has not been notified of the arrival date for repair.

3. **Oral Communications From The Public**

None

4. **Council/Staff Liaison Announcements and Reports**

Christopher 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 the October 18, 2016 City Council Meeting.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2016

Approval of the September 28, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Moved, Seconded (La Force / Doshi) and carried unanimously.

6. **Swim Center Parking Lot Landscaping Plan:** Christopher Jones, Recreation Director

Jones presented the Swim Center parking lot landscaping plan. There was discussion about the possibility of the area serving as a rain garden. Jones researched this option and it is too expensive and would require complete excavation of the dirt. This type of rain garden is not

safe for the location with the use by pedestrians, and customers including elderly and children. The plan now includes introducing a native plant, the Alum Root (Heuchera Maxima) to replace the flax plants. Mitchell made the recommendation to use bark and not ground cover plants. There was discussion about the possibility of erosion. There is going to be a deep channel of gravel to absorb the energy of the water from the solar panels but would then dissipate the water and prevent erosion. Sanders provided more information and feedback to answer concerns from the Commission.

The Commission moved discussion to focus on the outside patio area of the Community Center. The suggestion was made to plan California fusion and silver carpet due to their indestructibility.

A motion was made to make the recommendation to approve the parking lot and landscaping and irrigation plan.

Action: Moved, Seconded (La Force / Mitchell) and carried unanimously.

7. Review and Discussion of Parks Related Projects

The Commission reviewed the Parks Projects Status Sheet of funded and unfunded capital improvement program projects related to Parks and Recreation. Jones presented additions and changes to the Parks Project Status Sheet since the last Commission review and Park and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects. There was discussion about postponing most of the Canyon Trail Clubhouse rehabilitation project in order to provide more funds for the Swim Center projects.

There was discussion about the Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial Park and possibility of having an environmental center at that location. The Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial Park is not included in the City's General Fund Budget and at this time, the City has no funds dedicated to the Rosenberg property.

The Fairmont Park Gateway Area Improvements Project has been assigned to the City Engineering Manager. Jones will report back the Commission on any updates for this project at future Commission meetings.

The City is coordinating with BART on Ohlone Greenway improvement projects.

The City is looking for grant opportunities for unfunded projects. Jones discussed the Housing Related Parks Program. The City qualifies for this program and plans to complete the application when it is released. There could be an upwards of \$150,000 dollars in funds for the affordable housing that has been built in El Cerrito.

Commissioner Mitchell requested Master Plan examples be sent to the commissioners before next meeting.

8. Discussion of Needs of Underserved Residents and Populations in El Cerrito

Commissioners discussed the needs and brainstorm potential solutions to the underserved residents and populations in El Cerrito. Lipson presented information from the El Cerrito Committee on Aging "Senior Planning Park Improvements."

The Park and Recreation Commission was in agreement the Commission should not work to solve these issues independently of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Rather, the Commission should work together with the City on this section of the Master Plan. Included in the Master Plan there will be there could be a needs assessment, community meetings, stakeholder meetings, and surveys. The Commission also discussed alternate ways to get other sub communities involved that normally are not involved in City processes.

There was public comment from Houdey Goudy who suggested that as the planning process goes forward, the allocation of money coming from low income units may be earmarked by the City for parks oriented towards this underserved community.

There was further discussion about how access and awareness of parks and affects certain communities. It was noted that there are no restroom facilities below the Ohlone Greenway. The Commission discussed in the impact of the homeless populations in the area.

9. **Recreation Department Update:** Sarah DiBenedetto, Recreation Analyst
DiBenedetto provided an update on items of interest in the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department and other City Departments celebrated Unity Day on October 19, 2016 by wearing an orange anti-bullying shirt that read: "Be Kind to Each Other, El Cerrito Recreation Department."

Halloween Haunted House and carnival has expanded this year to include a Friday Teen and Adult Night (Haunted House only) on October 28, 2016 from 4pm-7pm at the El Cerrito Community Center. On Saturday, October 29, 2016 there will be the Haunted house and Carnival to what we have had in the past. The event will be 1pm-4pm- including a non-scary version of the Haunted House. There is a \$5 entry for everyone across the board (to include the cost of the Haunted House and Carnival games). Cookie decorating, face painting, and items for sale at the snack shack are at an additional cost.

Fun Day, which provides care for K-6th grade on November 1, 2016 is officially full with a waitlist.

The Recreation Department is always looking for new instructors to teach classes. Please complete a Course Proposal if interested.

The Commission agreed to cancel the November 23, 2016 and December 28, 2016 meetings and have a special meeting date of November 30, 2016.

10. **Items For Next Agenda:**
Park and Recreation Master Plan

11. **Meeting Adjournment** 8:22pm

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