



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 22, 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 - Manish Doshi - excused, Ben Chuaqui - excused, Gary Hill, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson – arrived 7:15pm, Glen Lubcke, Robin Mitchell.
2. **Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements** (*Informal reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Staff*)
 - Kaplan – Vision for Huber Park flyer dated December 2, 1997 found by neighbor
 - Hill – Hillside Campaign donor sign located on Moeser has been updated with all donors and will displayed at the upcoming Hillside Festival. Hill gave an overview of what to expect at the Hillside Festival. Also mentioned that the ECHS Mountain Bike Team season is ending and that NorCal and State Championships coming up.
3. **Oral Communications From The Public**

All persons wishing to speak should sign up with City Staff. Remarks are generally limited to 3 minutes per person. Please state your name and city of residence for the record. Comments related to non-agenda items will be heard first. Comments related to items appearing on the agenda are taken up at the time the Park and Recreation Commission deliberates each item.

 - 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.

 - Abelson – Spoke about items of interest from the April 21st City Council meeting including approval of housing element which is online.
 - Marin Clean Energy – City joined MCE which is now El Cerrito’s default electricity provider instead of PG&E. PG&E provides 22% renewable energy to its customers, MCE Light Green is 50%, MCE Dark Green is 100%. Light Green is currently the most affordable plan, then PG&E, then Dark Green (maybe \$5.00 more per month on average than Light Green). Energy will still be delivered by PG&E. PG&E discounts

apply to MCE accounts as well. MCE is a Joint Powers Authority made up of cities in Marin, Richmond, El Cerrito, San Pablo, Benicia, unincorporated Napa County and others. Both companies have to go through same approval process for rate changes with State. Residents have a choice, if they don't make a choice they will be light green. They can opt out system and remain with PG&E.

- Lipson – MCE is an aggregator, they are selling power to PG&E who adds MCE's power to the pool.
- Abelson – the change increases the amount of clean energy in the pool. Inexpensive way of going green, don't have to do anything in your house. You can change provider choice if you would like to. Default will change in May for customers who have not already opted out of MCE.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from March 25, 2015

Approval of the March 25, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

- Kaplan moved approval, Hill seconded. Mitchell, Kaplan and Hill voted aye. Lubcke and Lipson abstained.

6. **Presentation and Discussion on Hillside Festival:** Howdy Goudey, Environmental Quality Committee Vice Chair

Explain plans and goals, answer questions, and solicit feedback for upcoming Hillside Festival II on Sunday, May 17, 2015. Discussion and possible action for the Park and Recreation Commission to co-sponsor the event.

- Goudey – on behalf of the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) he is hoping that the Park and Recreation Commission will co-sponsor the Hillside Festival event again. Last year the focus was on fundraising for the purchase of the Madera Hillside Property. This year will see a transition to promoting the Hillside Natural Area as a recreation opportunity and amenity. Fundraising for maintenance, renovations, fire abatement, etc. will also begin. There will be lots of events including a pop up bike park, and a ceremonial celebration of Madera Hillside Property acquisition. Hope is to spread word of event in circles and networks to encourage people to attend. Manish Doshi was generous in donating as well as Spurs Soccer Club. Most of budget for event is from the EQC, MCE may also sponsor and donate as well as be part of the outreach efforts. Hill will be at event and miss bike championship, he will also create map again. Happy for commissioners to attend or take advantage of volunteer opportunities.
- Hill – festival could be milestone for annual event and grow over time. Potential of food vendors, etc. wanting to attend because Hillside is a regional destination. Events are spread out so people may need to pick and choose what they do. Dave Weinstein worked really hard on acquisition and festival organization; people should give all help they can.
- Hill moved to co-sponsor 2nd Annual Hillside Festival, Lipson second. Unanimous approval.

7. **Recreation Department Division Overviews & Budget Update:** Recreation Department Supervisors

Receive a presentation from each Recreation Supervisor which will give an overview of their division as well as a snap shot of its budget year to date.

- Presentation received (attached)

8. **Proposed Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule FY 2015-16:** Christopher Jones, Recreation Director
Receive a presentation on the Recreation Department Staffs' proposed additions, changes, and revisions to the Master Fee Schedule for fiscal year 2015-16. Possible action to recommend adoption by the City Council.
- Jones – current recommendation from Finance Department is for a 4% general increase due to a 2.5% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and increased personnel costs. Staff has made many cosmetic changes, rearrangements, in order to make the Master Fee Schedule clearer. Many fees are market driven; staff compares comparable facilities and services to surrounding communities to ensure items are not priced too high. The most significant change is the proposed elimination of non-resident fees for childcare and school based enrichment programs. This is a strategy to attract more enrollments from non-El Cerrito residents into programs that typically have capacity.
 - Lipson moved approval of recommendation of Master Fee Schedule as presented, Lubke second. Unanimous approval.
9. **Reorganization of the Park and Recreation Commission**
Annual election of Park and Recreation Commission Officers.
- Commissioner Mitchell called for reorganization of the Park and Recreation Commission
 - Jones – declared the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair vacant and called for nominations for the office of Chair
 - Commissioner Hill nominated Commissioner Kaplan for Chair, Kaplan declined
 - Commissioner Kaplan nominated Commissioner Mitchell for Chair
 - Commissioner Lipson moved for nominations to be closed, Hill seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - Commissioner Mitchell was voted in unanimously as the new Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission
 - Chair Mitchell called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair
 - Commissioner Hill nominated Commissioner Kaplan for Vice Chair
 - Commissioner Lubcke nominated Commissioner Hill for Vice Chair, Hill declined
 - Commissioner Lipson moved for nominations to close, Commissioner Hill seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - Commissioner Kaplan was voted in unanimously as the new Vice-Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission.
10. **Recreation Department Update:** Christopher Jones, Recreation Director
Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department
- Sarah DiBenedetto attended an advanced RecTrac training in preparation for big upgrade. Upgrade should have several improvements for the customer and employee user. New version will be web based; authorized users can log-in anywhere.
 - PG&E installed a significant amount of landscaping at Casa Cerrito Preschool due to the future construction of a ten foot wall near the preschool. Other improvements are slated for the future.
 - Successful golf tournament held on April 13, 2015. There were 16 hole sponsors and several other generous prize donors.

- Landscaping work completed in Splash Park to increase shaded areas for people to sit in using drought tolerate plants.

11. **Items For Next Agenda**

- Huber Park
- Commission Work Plan

12. **Meeting Adjournment**

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