



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/92252246302?pwd=T2syK1ppUFhMcFNlUHk5MFFySk1WQT09>

Event ID: 922 5224 6302 **Password:** 899387
or Dial in: 1-408-638 0968

Staff Liaison

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Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, teleconference restrictions of the Brown Act have been suspended, as well as the requirement to provide a physical location for members of the public to participate in the meeting.

Members of the public can watch or listen to Park and Recreation meeting via Zoom using the meeting information listed above.

Public comments may be submitted one of two ways:

1. Via Zoom using the "Raise Hand" icon to request to speak. If joining by phone, dial *9 to "raise your hand", and when prompted *6 to unmute/mute.
2. Via email to cjones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Email must contain in the subject line **Public Comments – Not on the Agenda** or **Public Comments – Agenda Item #**.

To ensure that the Park and Recreation Commission receives your written comments prior to taking action, they must be received by **4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting**. All written comments received by this deadline will be provided to the Park and Recreation Commission and posted online in advance of the meeting.

Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the Park and Recreation Commission and included with supplemental materials **after the meeting**. **No written comments will be read into the record.**

7:00 P.M. CONVENE REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL – 7PM** Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron; Members, Kathy Fleming, Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Megan Wier
2. **COMMISSION/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUCEMENTS**
Commissioner Codron asked a question in regard to last month's presentation about the Recreation Department Staff cuts and asked what role volunteers could play.

Recreation Director Chris Jones responded that there are certain things that volunteers cannot do like money handling and offering support in areas that could be a potential for injury. The Department will continue to pursue volunteers and most certainly for Senior Services volunteerism will be restored in the fall. Commissioner Wier introduced herself. She is happy to be here and be involved.

She has a background in public health and education. Following her brief presentation, the Commissioners also gave brief instructions and welcoming comments to Commissioner Wier.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dave Weinstein- gave an update from the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. They have been receiving support from Boy Scouts. The Hillside Festival was held in May with Zoom events and the organization has recordings that will be published online. The Trail Trekkers are exploring ways for the City to acquire additional open space to be added to the Hillside Natural Area. Trail Trekkers are also hoping to resume planning the development of urban paths on public easements.

There were follow-up questions and voiced appreciation of all the work the Trail Trekkers have done over the years from Commission Members and agreement to add urban pathways as a future agenda item.

4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Fadelli reported that City Council passed the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget with a vote of 3 to 2. The adopted budget takes away a considerable number of services offered by the City of El Cerrito. Recreation was the center of discussion for many meetings. Mayor Fadelli also reported that structural changes will be made within the City.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on **May 26, 2021**.

Moved/Seconded: Members Kaczor/Machado. Pass a motion to approve the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on May 26, 2021.

Ayes: Chair Ben Chuaqui; Vice-Chair Avis Codron, Members, Kathy Fleming, Jennifer Kaczor, Norman La Force, Art Machado, Megan Wier.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

6. OVERVIEW OF THE BROWN ACT AND MEMBER ROLES

Received a presentation from the City Clerk, Holly Charléty on requirements of the Brown Act and an overview of Commission roles and responsibilities.

Questions and short discussion followed by the Commission including the topics of Ad Hoc Committees, sharing reports, members meeting outside of the Park and Recreation Commission Meetings, and special events.

7. 2021-22 PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORKPLAN DISCUSSION

There was initial discussion and brainstorming for the Commission's 2021-22 Work Plan. Recreation Director, Chris Jones, gave an overview of the 2018-19

Work Plan and what was expected to help institute discussion and planning for this year's work plan.

There was discussion and questions by the commissioners including drone restrictions, the current relationship and collaboration between WCCUSD and the Recreation Department, how the Department is communicating to the public about our accomplishments and how to increase this communication including signage, the current budget situation, fee structures, who the City and Recreation Department specifically is serving and pricing of services.

The Commission would like to keep the budget as a priority for review and pursue the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

8. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PARKS AND RECREATION RELATED PROJECTS

Director Chris Jones reviewed the Parks Projects Status Sheet of funded and unfunded capital improvement program projects related to Parks and Recreation including the Natural Hillside Area improvements, signage improvements, and the Swim Center Capital Enhancements moved to fiscal year 2022.

9. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE


Recreation Analyst DiBenedetto provided an update about the Recreation Department including the transition to re-opening more programs and modified office hours. The City re-opening date is July 6, 2021. The Recreation Department will continue with online registrations and have in-person service for answering questions, guiding online registration and item sales.

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 7 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Facilities Projects Update – Ongoing
- Park and Recreation Commission Work Plan – July & August
- Permanent Pickleball Courts Considerations – August
- Urban Paths Discussion- TBD


11. ADJOURN REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

9:25pm



Ben Chuaqui, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting on June 23, 2021 as approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.



Christopher Jones, Staff Liaison