

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 | 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by the chair at 6:04 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Luis Ramirez, Chair Theresa Graham, Commissioner Pat Bentson, Vice Chair Doc Davis, Commissioner
Absent	None

Staff Present: Adam Henig, Recreation Manager and John Souza, Parks Supervisor

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The agenda was posted on January 10, 2024.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. November 21, 2023

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Pat Bentson, Commissioner

SECONDER Dale Davis, Voting Member

AYES: Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham, Chair Ramirez, Voting Member Davis

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Ramirez requested that Item 11.1 be moved ahead of Item 10.2. He wanted to discuss the work plan and see if it was possible to draft a new work plan before scheduling a commission retreat.

RESULT: Pass with amendment

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Pat Bentson, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham, Chair Ramirez, Voting Member Davis

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

7.1. Proclamation for former commissioner Ermelindo Puente

Outgoing commissioner Ermelindo Puente served on the Parks & Recreation Commission for two consecutive terms. He is termed out. Prior, he had served on other commissions and has been doing so since the 1980s.

7.2. New Commissioner Salvatore Bozzo

Mr. Bozzo was not in attendance nor has he been sworn in yet. He will be present at the next meeting.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

9. **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Gary Walter and Mike Monroe presented information about the history and current status of the Miller Red Barn, which is located at Christmas Hill Park on the Ranch Site.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

10.1. **Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair of Parks and Recreation Commission**

Vice Chair Bentson nominated herself to be chair. Commissioner Davis motioned to make her the chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the 2024 term. Commissioner Graham was nominated by Bentson to serve as Vice Chair. Chair Ramirez seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Dale Davis, Voting Member

SECONDER Luis Ramirez, Chair

AYES: Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham, Chair Ramirez, Voting Member Davis

10.2. **Selection of a Parks and Recreation Commission Retreat Date**

Since the Commission was unable to come to an agreement over a proposed work plan for FY2024 and FY2025 terms, they have proposed to hold their annual retreat during their next regular meeting, which is scheduled on February 20, 2024. If the Commission is unable to finalize the work plan, they have proposed scheduling a follow-up special meeting on Saturday, February 24, 2024.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Pat Bentson, Commissioner

11. OLD BUSINESS

11.1. Review of 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan and Preview FY24 and FY25 Work Plan

The Commission discussed ideas for the next work plan, which would cover January 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025. Ramirez recommended the Commission incorporate some of the existing work plan items:

- Hosting Arbor Day
- Training Opportunities for commissioners
- Monitor City Parks
- Participate in Citywide Events
- VTA Measure B programs

In addition, he recommended that the Commission consider studying options to develop a way for parks and recreation services to have dedicated funding sources so it is not reliant on the general fund.

Bentson wanted to add pickleball and conduct a study of shade structures for city playgrounds. Commissioner Graham concurred about adding pickleball, a dedicated source of funding for parks and recreation, and exploring development idea for Christmas Hill Park Ranch Site. Commissioner Davis wanted to keep the dog park discussion on the work plan. No vote was taken.

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

12.1. Recreation Division Updates

Henig provided the updates for the Recreation Division.

12.2. Status of City Parks

John Souza mentioned the following during his parks report:

- Working on restoring the restrooms at the Sports Park and Christmas Hill Park, following vandalism.
- Also, working on repairing issues that were caused by vandalism at the Amphitheater, Cydney Casper, and San Ysidro Park.
- Staff is conducting mainline repairs at the Ranch Site and Hecker Pass Park.
- There will be a playground upgrade at Rainbow Park. New mulch will replace the current wood chips at seven park playgrounds.
- A raised sidewalk will be repaired at Rainbow Park.
- Staff is going through the certification process to drive a commercial truck.

13. COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS

The commissioners came up with the following new park assignments that they have selected for 2024:

1. Christmas Hill Park & Ranch Site – **Terry & Doc**
2. Gilroy Sports Park - **Luis**
3. Los Arroyos – **Terry**
4. Sunrise Park - **Doc**
5. Del Rey - **Pat**
6. Carriage Hills – **Sam**
7. Hecker Pass – **Doc**
8. Forest - **Doc**
9. San Ysidro - **Luis**
10. Las Animas – **Luis**
11. Butcher - **Luis**
12. Rainbow – **Terry**
13. Farrell Avenue - **Terry**
14. El Roble – **Sam**
15. Renz – **Pat**
16. Cydney Casper - **Pat**
17. Miller – **Sam**

14. **STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

15. **FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS**

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

AH

Adam Henig, Recreation Division
Recording Secretary