

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 | 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Graham at 6:01 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Theresa Graham, Chair Pat Bentson, Vice Chair Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner Eric Arredondo, Commissioner Sergio Patterson, Commissioner Luis Ramirez, Commissioner
Absent	Angela Reinert, Commissioner

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Parks and Recreation Commission agenda was posted online on and posted in the City Hall kiosk on January 13, 2023.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. November 15, 2022

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez (old account),

SECONDER Sergio Patterson, Commissioner

AYES: Chair Graham, Vice Chair Bentson, Commissioner Puente, Commissioner Arredondo, Commissioner Patterson, Ramirez (old account)

ABSENT: Commissioner Reinert

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez (old account),

AYES: Chair Graham, Vice Chair Bentson, Commissioner Puente, Commissioner Arredondo, Commissioner Patterson, Ramirez (old account)

ABSENT: Commissioner Reinert

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Two members of the public made comments:

1. Trudi Souza – Wants the Commission to consider adding dog parks to a future agenda. Feels that the Third Street park dog park needs new turf and another site should be added at Christmas Hill on the Ranch Site.
2. Rosie Bowers – Recommends replacing the current turf with artificial turf at Third Street/Hecker Pass Park. Also, recommends adding a water source inside the dog park and more shade.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez (old account),

AYES: Chair Graham, Vice Chair Bentson, Commissioner Puente, Commissioner Arredondo, Commissioner Patterson, Ramirez (old account)

ABSENT: Commissioner Reinert

Commissioner Puente nominated Commissioner Ramirez as Chair and Commissioner Patterson as Vice Chair. They will serve in this position for the 2023 calendar year.

- 9.2. Select Parks & Recreation Commission Retreat Meeting Date

Commissioner Ramirez motioned to hold the retreat on Tuesday, February 7. Meeting would begin at 5:30 p.m. Location will be determined.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez (old account),

SECONDER Sergio Patterson, Commissioner

AYES: Chair Graham, Vice Chair Bentson, Commissioner Puente, Commissioner Arredondo, Commissioner Patterson, Ramirez (old account)

ABSENT: Commissioner Reinert

- 9.3. Recommendation to the City Council to rename the Gilroy Senior Center's Classroom One after Theodore "Ted" Carpenetti

Discussion about the renaming of the Gilroy Senior Center's Classroom One following the death of resident and long-time senior center participant, Ted Carpenetti. Upon his passing, Carpenetti made a generous donation to the Senior Center, which prompted the Senior Advisory Board to submit a written request to recommend the renaming of the room after Carpenetti. Three speakers spoke and all were in support.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

SECONDER Sergio Patterson, Commissioner

AYES: Chair Graham, Vice Chair Bentson, Commissioner Puente, Commissioner Arredondo, Commissioner Patterson, Ramirez (old account)

ABSENT: Commissioner Reinert

9.4. Review Proposed Closing Hours at Las Animas Veterans Park

Discussion about changing Las Animas Veterans Park's closing hours. Commissioner Patterson expressed concern that there's a bigger safety issue than just the closing hours. Graham concurred. Commissioner Puente said that by changing the closing hours, it begins the process of addressing the park's safety concerns. Ramirez recommended that the commission look into utilizing a survey to receive park user feedback.

Two speakers provided public comment. Araceli Vaquera supports the change in park hours to 10:00 p.m. She mentioned that since the nearby Armory is now open year-round, there is an increase in the number of unhoused park users, which is contributing to the evening's excessive noise. Also, proposed the new parking gates be closed at 9:00 p.m. Charles Morales also supports the change in park hours and would like to see the park address the already mentioned safety concerns.

Commissioner Puente motioned to recommend to City Council to change the park's closing hours to 10:00 p.m. and request the parking gates at Hanna and Wayland be locked at 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Ramirez seconded.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez (old account),

AYES: Chair Graham, Vice Chair Bentson, Commissioner Puente, Commissioner Arredondo, Commissioner Patterson, Ramirez (old account)

ABSENT: Commissioner Reinert

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

10.1. Review the 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan

Henig reviewed the work plan with the Commission.

11. **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Recreation Division Update

Henig reviewed the Recreation report. Ramirez and Graham requested that Henig notify commissioners in advance when volunteers are needed at the Senior Center or San Ysidro Park.

Status of City Parks

Henig provided updates about the storm's impact at Christmas Hill Park. He also informed the Commission that there will be new parking gates installed at Las Animas Veterans Park in the Hanna and Wayland parking lot entrances.

12. **BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ENCOURAGEMENT & EDUCATION**

Henig was provided the following update by Eugene Bernosky, Gilroy's representative on the VTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board Member.

- Gilroy was represented by the City of Gilroy representative Eugene Bernosky at the VTA December Joint Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)/2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) Workshop Meeting on December 18th. VTA Staff presented an Overview of the Valley Transportation Plan 2050 (VTP 2050) and VTA's Visionary Network.
- Discussion by the joint committees reported in the meeting minutes were:
 1. Provide process to facilitate contact between community organizations and VTA staff;
 2. Provide opportunities and mechanisms for community organizations input;
 3. Present an update on VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines to provide designers and engineers options on how to improve bike access on expressways; and
 4. Include quantitative data on current traffic patterns and base project goals around improvement.

Members of the Committee provided comments on defining bike lanes and focusing on people traveling in high occupancy vehicles and bikes rather than individuals in cars.

13. **COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS**

Comments from commissioners:

- Graham – CHP is closed; El Roble looks good. Rainbow is slightly flooded; Farrell Ave. is very wet; There is still the tent at LAVP; Foundation received \$1,000 donation
- Puente – Butcher Park has commercial trucks parked in front of it; Renz looks good; At San Ysidro, there's still lots of homeless in the creek; At LAVP, the light is out on the flagpole; Flag needs to be replaced (brought a new one); On San Miguel and Santa Paula Drive, the stop sign is leaning too far out; On Leavesley and Forest, a business has a commercial flag advertisement that is leaning too much into traffic
- Patterson – Del Rey has excessive sand in the walkway. Excessive trash by the fence.
- No other updates

14. **STAFF COMMENTS**

Henig mentioned the following:

1. Future agenda items – explained that if it's going to take more than an hour of staff's time, it needs to receive approval from the City Administrator. Also, the item must be in the commission's purview.
2. Ramirez was selected to fill a new four-year term.
3. City was notified by Congress member Lofgren's office that they received \$4.5 million in funding for enhancements to San Ysidro Park (\$3 million) and Lion's Creek Trail (\$1.5 million).

4. The commission will have a Department Head as the new point of contact. For the Parks & Recreation Commission, it will be Public Works Director Daryl Jordan. Henig will remain the staff liaison.

15. **FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS**

Ramirez recommended adding the Dog Park to a future agenda.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Graham adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes completed by Adam Henig, Secretary