

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Luis Ramirez, Commissioner Theresa Graham, Vice Chair Pat Bentson, Chair (late) Doc Davis, Commissioner Sam Bozzo, Commissioner
Absent	None

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The agenda was posted on February 16, 2024.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. January 16, 2024

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Dale Davis, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Graham, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Davis,
Commissioner Bozzo

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Bentson

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Dale Davis, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez, Chair

AYES: Commissioner Graham, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Bozzo

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Bentson

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

7.1. Sam Bozzo

Commissioner Bozzo introduced himself to the Commission.

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

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Downtown Pop-Up Park

Staff member Bryce Atkins explained that the Commission is asked to consider the following two items:

- A recommendation of a grant-funded donation through the Gilroy Rotary Club for an inclusive playground equipment.
- A recommendation to Council for the procurement of park design services for the Downtown Gilroy Pop-Up Park.

The City was approached by members of the Gilroy Rotary Club to consider receiving a grant-funded inclusive playground equipment that will be installed at the Donald “Elvis” Prieto Downtown Park. The equipment is geared for children who have special needs, but will be available for all youth. It would be installed in the southwest corner of the lawn, adjacent to the parking lot. Staff recommended four panels, each having a different feature that focuses on touch, sight, and audio as well as a communication board. The grant funding was in the amount of \$10,0000 through Amazon Web Services.

The Commission supported both recommendations.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Salvatore (Sam) Bozzo, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez, Chair

AYES: Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Bozzo

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. Pickleball Site Recommendations Project Kick-off

Mr. Atkins provided an overview and schedule of what the Commission can expect will be covered as part of the review of a future pickleball facility. The review will include site visits, presentations, and a location selection process. Commissioners raised questions about restroom access, the number of courts desired, concerns about noise, and working with the school district. Mr. Atkins explained that all of the referenced issues will be covered during the ten-month long analysis except for the noted work with the school district since the project will only focus on city-owned facilities.

10.2. Discuss and Adopt FY2024 and FY2025 Work Plan

At the previous meeting, the Commission began its discussion of adopting its new work plan for FY2024 and FY2025. They agreed to continue the discussion at their next meeting (February). Staff liaison, Adam Henig, reviewed the previous suggestions and last year’s work plan. Mr. Henig explained the

importance of the work plan aligning with at least one City Council priority; that the task is clear, concise and measurable; and that it aligns with the Commission's mission statement.

After a comprehensive discussion, the Commission decided on the following work plan items:

- Hosting Arbor Day (suggestion was to have it in the fall);
- Training opportunities for Commissioners (i.e., the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition Annual Bike Summit);
- Participate in citywide events (i.e., Breakfast with Santa);
- Participate in VTA Measure B funded programs (i.e., Bike to Work Day);
- Review of establishing a Pickleball facility;
- Study opportunities for parks and recreation services to have dedicated funding sources; and,
- Work with Gilroy Library to bring about a Storywalk to a park or a trail.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Salvatore (Sam) Bozzo, Commissioner

SECONDER Dale Davis, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Bozzo

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

11.1. Recreation Division Updates

Mr. Henig provided the updates for the Recreation Division.

11.2. Status of City Parks

Parks Supervisor, John Souza, noted the following work during his parks report:

- Graffiti was found and removed at Christmas Hill and Sports Park.
- Improvements to restrooms at the Sports Park damaged by vandalism will be completed soon.
- Christmas Hill Park's Mulberry picnic area restroom will also be completed in the near future.
- Pressure washing was carried out around City Hall.
- Completed update of play structures at seven new parks.
- Trees at the Christmas Hill Park's Memorial Site will be planted soon.
- Sidewalks around city parks are getting repaired.

12. PRESENTATION

12.1. Gilroy Mayor Marie Blankley

Mayor Blankley introduced herself and invited the Commission to attend the annual State of the City address on April 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. After welcoming all Commissioners and Commissioners, Mayor Blankley described the importance of the Commission, the role the Commission

serves, and the valuable recommendations they offer to City Council. Mayor Blankley thanked all members for their dedication and service to our community.

13. COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS

13.1. Park Assignments

- Commissioner Bentson: Del Rey, Renz, Cydney Casper
- Commissioner Bozzo: Carriage Hills, El Roble, Miller
- Commissioner Davis: Christmas Hill Park & Ranch Site, Hecker Pass, Forest, Sunrise
- Commissioner Graham: Christmas Hill Park & Ranch Site, Los Arroyos, Rainbow, Farrell Avenue
- Chair Ramirez: Gilroy Sports Park, San Ysidro, Las Animas, Butcher

The commissioners made the following comments about their parks:

- **Bentson** – noticed cement is lifted at Del Rey and the water is not draining well in the playground area. Renz looked nice, Cydney Casper needs more mulch, and noticed the graffiti was removed.
- **Bozzo** – Nothing to report on Carriage Hills. Also everything looked fine at the other parks.
- **Davis** – Noticed there were not too many users because of the rain. Observed fence posts were battered.
- **Graham** – Noticed the playground at Los Arroyos is filled with water due to draining issues.
- **Ramirez** – GLL windscreen is detached from fence, bullpen was flooded, and San Ysidro looked good.

14. STAFF COMMENTS

New Public Works Director, Heba El Guindy, introduced herself and expressed her appreciation of the opportunity to support the Commission and serve the Gilroy community.

15. FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS

The Commission would like the Miller Red Barn organization to return for a follow-up presentation.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

AH

Adam Henig, Recreation Division
Recording Secretary