

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 | 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Luis Ramirez, Chair Javier Martinez, Vice Chair Salvatore Bozzo, Commissioner Emily Miller, Commissioner Jorge Vargas, Commissioner
Absent	Jesse Jimenez, Commissioner Theresa Graham, Commissioner

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Meeting packet was posted on March 13, 2025.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. February 18, 2025

Vice Chair Martinez requested the minutes be amended to include his park assignment at Las Animas. Amendment was supported

RESULT: Pass with amendment

MOVER: Sam Bozzo, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez, Chair

AYES: Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Bozzo, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Jimenez

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Javier Martinez, Vice Chair

AYES: Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Bozzo, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Jimenez

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Public Works Director John Doughty introduced himself and shared his background including his experience working with parks and recreation commissions.

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

None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1. **Approval of the 2025 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule**

Staff liaison Henig presented the staff report. The meeting dates were listed in the staff report. There was a question about whether an unscheduled meeting could be called if needed. Henig explained it could if there was a need

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Javier Martinez, Vice Chair

SECONDER Sam Bozzo, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Bozzo, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Jimenez

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

10.1. **Review of FY24 and FY25 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan**

Henig presented the staff report and reviewed the current work plan. Chair Ramirez facilitated the discussion about what should be included on the FY26 and FY27 work plan. Each commissioner was given an opportunity to share their comments:

- Vargas – Focus on improving the infrastructure and safety concerns at Las Animas Veterans Park. The commission should identify and analyze the current park issues and present solutions to the City to address in the future.
- Bozzo – Review the plans for a pickleball court and look into a joint use facility agreement with GUSD for the usage of pickleball courts at South Valley Middle School.
- Martinez – Concurred with Vargas. In addition, he mentioned better lighting and making the park more welcoming.
- Miller – Concurred with Vargas, Martinez, and Bozzo. Miller added she would like the Commission to continue participating in citywide events such as Arbor Day, Bike to Wherever Day and additional events like Cinco De Mile. Also, Commissioner Miller wants the Commission to seek out funding for an updated parks and recreation master plan.
- Ramirez – He concurred with the other commissioners.

There were 3 public comments:

1. Jossue Villagran – spoke about the need for infrastructural improvements to the handball court notably the concrete floor at Las Animas Veterans Park.
2. Simon Lopez – advocated for similar improvements to the handball court and spoke about the positive impact handball can have on youth and teens who cannot afford to sign up for football or basketball teams.
3. Jose Rodriguez – also advocated for improvements to the park's handball court.

Motion made by Ramirez to approve the following work plan items for FY26 and FY27:

- Engaging the community
 - Participate and/or sponsor citywide events such as Arbor Day, Bike to Wherever Day, Earth Day, Coffee in the Park, and the citywide clean-up efforts.
- Maintain and enhance existing park facilities
 - FY26 and FY27 focus on Las Animas Veterans Park
 - Monitor city parks by commissioners and report findings at regularly scheduled meetings.
- Establish permanent pickleball facilities
 - In accordance with last year's commission's study of park locations.
- Planning for the future
 - Updating Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
 - Identify potential funding sources for parks and planning.
 - Identify future recreation and expand joint use with the school district.

Also, Ramirez is requesting in the motion to have permission from the Commission to finalize the verbiage for the memo that will be submitted to the City Administrator. Miller seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Emily Miller, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Bozzo, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Jimenez

10.2. City of Gilroy's Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Budget Development

Henig presented the staff report about the commission budget input for the upcoming two-year budget cycle. Since it was discussed at the previous meeting, commissioners had an opportunity to conduct research and share their findings at this meeting.

- Miller recommended the following items:
 - An updated Parks Master Plan, which is currently listed in the CIP. The estimated cost is \$250,000 for an updated plan.

- The construction of a four-court pickleball site, preferably at Las Animas Veterans Park, which would include lighting, fencing, benches, and shade structure. The estimated cost is \$400,000.
- Supplies for engaging the community to promote parks and recreation as well as the commission. This would include printed material, branded T-shirts, event registration fees, a tarp/canopy, interactive games and so forth. The estimated costs is \$15,000.
- Martinez recommended infrastructural improvements to Las Animas Veterans Park that include repaving the handball and basketball courts as well as improved lighting.
- Ramirez recommended the same as Martinez. He estimated the cost of repaving to be \$125,000. He also supported an updated parks master plan.
- Bozzo supported funding services to utilize the pickleball courts at South Valley Middle School when school is not in session. Funding would primarily be for staff time and, if needed, reimbursement of utilities to GUSD.
- Vargas concurred with Martinez on improvements to Las Animas Veterans Park.

As a point of reference, Doughty informed the Commission about the City's current structural deficit entering the new fiscal year. In addition, staff recommended that the Commission prioritize their requests, from most important to least among the selected items. Commission prioritizations was as follows:

1. Construction of four pickleball courts at Las Animas Veterans Park (estimated \$400,000)
2. Infrastructural improvements at Las Animas Veterans Park, specifically to the handball and basketball courts (estimated \$125,000)
3. Engaging community materials for the Commission (\$15,000)
4. An updated Parks Master Plan (estimated \$250,000)

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Emily Miller, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Bozzo, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Jimenez

Staff recommended, upon approval, the Commission form an ad hoc committee of three members following this meeting in order to compile the information for the budget input memo to the City Administrator. The Chair will then follow-up with staff to finalize the verbiage. Motion by Ramirez to have an ad hoc committee made up of Ramirez, Martinez, and Miller.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Jorge Vargas, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Bozzo, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Vargas

ABSENT: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Jimenez

Vargas seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.

11. **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

11.1. Recreation Division Updates

Henig presented his report that was included in the meeting packet.

11.2. Status of City Parks

Parks Supervisor John Souza was absent. Doughty provided updates about the Third Street playground shade structure and future restroom installation at Christmas Hill Park.

12. **COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS**

12.1. Park Assignments

- Ramirez – with the new fencing at El Roble, a defined walkway is now needed; Sunrise and Renz look great.
- Bozzo – visited Carriage Hills and saw basketball being played; Noticed at Miller a tree limb was removed.
- Vargas – Christmas Hill Park needs a lot of maintenance upkeep; Minor field at Las Animas needs attention;
- Miller – Observed at Christmas Hill that the sink at Mulberry picnic area is flooded and the brick wall in the grilling area is not held up well. The Sports Park looks good, but the swings are squeaky; At Del Rey, the turf and playground are flooded; Cydney Casper looks great; Cinco De Mile and Earth Day event;
- Martinez – Los Arroyos and Rainbow are great; lots of trash near handball court at Las Animas, requesting more trash cans at that site. Noted the pavement area is uneven.

13. **STAFF COMMENTS**

13.1. Upcoming Civic Center Master Plan and District-based election workshops.

14. **ADJOURNMENT** - The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:11pm.

AH
Adam Henig, Recreation Division
Recording Secretary