

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 | 6:00 PM
AMENDED 4.18.2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ramirez at 6:06 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

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 March 23, 2023.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. February 28, 2023

Commissioner Bentson proposed an amendment to the minutes. Bentson and Graham had their former titles listed in the minutes, Vice Chair and Chair, respectively. They no longer hold those titles and requested they be struck from the minutes. Commissioner Puente motioned, with Bentson's amendment, to accept the minutes. Bentson seconded.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

SECONDER Pat Bentson, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Puente, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Puente, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Public Works Director introduced City Traffic Engineer Gary Heap and Engineer Julie Oates, who will be presenting on the Capital Improvement Projects.

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

Resident Terence Fugazzi spoke about the state of the city's dog parks. He feels they are worse now than when he previously spoke about it to the commission. At the Third Street dog park, trees are missing, the turf is in poor shape, the small dog area is still inadequate in size, and the gate is loose, which enables dogs to get out easily. He does not recommend upgrading Las Animas Veteran Park's dog park and instead focus on the dog park at Hecker Pass Park.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1. **Parks and Recreation Commission Review of FY24-28 Capital Improvement Program Projects**

Engineer Heap presented his report to the Commission. Chair Ramirez advocated for a parks and recreation master plan, arguing that there needs to be a guiding force when planning for the future. He contended the City is always reacting to situations, rather than being pro-active. Public Works Director Jordan estimated it would cost approximately \$500,000. Heap said he could add that in as part of the Commission's recommendations.

Bentson recommended that Public Works staff include, in the narrative, the need for Council to reestablish a park impact fee, which will support future maintenance. Commissioner Puente advocated for sidewalk repairs along Rancho Hills Drive.

Public comment was made by Fugazzi. He was in support of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Ramirez motioned that the Commission select their top recommendations from the CIP list. Ramirez advocated for the upgrades to the softball field (#900690) and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; Puente concurred about the softball field; Graham advocated for upgrades to the Miller/Uvas Trail (#900100); Bentson supported new fencing for the tennis courts at Las Animas Veterans Park (#800120). These items would be the one recommended to Council to be adopted into the CIP.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Puente, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

10.1. **Parks & Recreation Commission Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Requests**

At the previous meeting, the Commission identified four items for possible recommendations to Council for the upcoming budget cycle:

1. Playground shade structure – Graham said it begins at around \$15k. Jordan believes it is starting at around \$25k.
2. Astroturf at dog park – Ramirez estimated that upgrades to a dog park could be about \$50k. He does not recommend turf, but other elements

- such as planting of mature trees, dog toys, benches, and shade structure.
- 3. Master Plan – Henig received a cost estimate between \$250k-\$300k. Since this was approved for the CIP, the Commission decided not to include it in its budget request.
- 4. Park Ranger – Puente informed the Commission that he received a cost estimate from Santa Clara County that was in the amount of \$2.5 million for six rangers, which would come out to approximately \$425,000 per ranger.

Public comment was provided by Fugazzi, who mentioned that he is in support of recommending more funding for the Third Street dog park.

Following deliberation, commission supported recommending to City Council that they set aside \$50,000 for improvements to the dog parks.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Puente, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham

10.2. **Formal Adoption and Review of 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan**

The Commission made the following updates to their proposed 2023 work plan:

- **Host Arbor Day:** Bentson recommended having it at a dog park, either Las Animas Veterans Park or Hecker Pass, given the need for shade. No other update.
- **Training opportunities:** Commissioner Bentson and Graham attended a recent 5-day webinar offered by the National Association of Park Foundations. They are encouraging other commissioners to watch future webinars since the information is relevant to the Commission
- **Coffee in the Park:** Puente and Ramirez will meet and provide an update at the next meeting.
- **Participate in citywide events:** Next event is Bike to Wherever Day on May 18.
- **Study dog parks:** Recommending to City Council in budget advisory board letter to invest \$50,000 in city's dog parks.

Since the Commission did not motion to approve the 2023 work plan, Henig requested they do so.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Theresa Graham, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Puente, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Graham

11. **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

11.1. Recreation Division Updates

Henig reviewed the report enclosed in the meeting packet.

11.2. Status of City Parks

Henig mentioned the notes he received from Public Works Deputy Director Jones about the city's parks.

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

12.1. Information Regarding Bike to Work Activates and Valley Transportation Authority's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

VTA Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee Member Bernosky provided the following updates:

- Shared the three Gilroy sites for the upcoming Bike to Wherever Day on May 18: Gilroy Gardens, Christmas Hill Park Levee, and the CalTrains parking lot. He encourages commissioners to register for Pledge to Ride, which will demonstrate great interest in the region.
- Recommends the City become more engaged with grant opportunities
- Other mentions comprise of what was stated in his report that was included in the meeting packet.

13. **COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS**

- 13.1.
- Puente – lots of tree limbs fell during March storms at San Ysidro; Renz looked good.
 - Bentson – Casper looked good, but hop scotch needs to be repainted and adaptive playground equipment is needed; Del Rey has area where it's ripping around the clay area and a sign is needed by the smaller playground to tell kids not stand up on the swing.
 - Ramirez – Trees need to be trimmed by Miller Park. It is becoming a safety hazard since it's hitting the telephone line; Noticed a fallen tree at Las Animas; Christmas Hill looked good.
 - Graham – Noticed a tree down at El Roble.

14. **STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

15. **FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS**

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

8:15 p.m.

AH

Adam Henig, Recreation Division
Recording Secretary