

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The agenda was posted on April 11, 2024.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. March 19, 2024

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Commissioner

SECONDER Doc Davis, Commissioner

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

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Commissioner

SECONDER Doc Davis, Commissioner

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

7. **PRESENTATION**

7.1. **Gilroy Moves Updates by Michelle Wexler, Program Manager, County of Santa Clara, Public Health Department**

Ms. Wexler presented to the Commission about the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's Gilroy Moves campaign that kicked off in April and will run through May of this year. The focus is to educate residents and all road users about the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety. In addition to the media campaign, safety messages for example have been posted on VTA bus tails and on bus shelters.

7.2. **StoryWalk by Cassandra Wong, Gilroy Community Librarian**

Ms. Wong presented about the StoryWalk Project of which the library would like to collaborate with the City. Approximately 15-17 posts would be installed with each one featuring a page from a published children's book. A new book would be rotated approximately every four months. The posts would be spread out between 1/3 and 1/2 mile along a walkable trail. The purpose of StoryWalk is to expand opportunities for children to be exposed to literature as well as encourage families to exercise in natural public spaces such as a city park or trail. Ms. Wong mentioned that the selected stories would be in English and Spanish. The Project team is responsible for installation and maintenance of the signs and posts, while City staff will monitor and support installation of the posts.

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

None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

10.1. **Potential Pickleball Court Location Scoring Criteria Discussion**

Assistant to the City Administrator Atkins explained the next step in the pickleball assessment process. He requested each Commissioner apply the scoring percentage for each category. The percentage can be different for each category, however, once it is finalized, it will be consistently applied during the scoring process for each prospective location. Commissioners had several questions for Mr. Atkins, which he was able to field. He informed them that it needs to be completed by the next Commission meeting.

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

Recreation Manager Henig reviewed the FY24 and FY25 Commission Work Plan. These were the following updates:

- Chair Bentson, Vice Chair Graham, and Commissioner Ramirez will be watching a webinar about funding parks and recreation.
- Mr. Henig mentioned the upcoming Bike to Wherever Day on May 16, which the Commission has participated in previous years.
- The Commission received a presentation about the StoryWalk Project and will receive further direction from staff in a future meeting. Once the Commission recommends a location, the final decision will be made by City Council.
- Commissioner Ramirez provided an update to the Commission about funding options for city parks and recreation services. He identified the following areas to generate more funding for parks and recreation services:
 - Capital Improvement Projects
 - Sales Tax Measure
 - Grant Allocations
 - Developer Impact Fees
 - Sponsorships
 - Foundations

11. **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

11.1. Recreation Division Updates

Mr. Henig provided the updates for the Recreation Division as described in his staff report.

11.2. Status of City Parks

Parks Supervisor Souza provided the following updates:

- Weed abatement for cycling event at Christmas Hill Park (CHP)
- Tree removal occurred at CHP, Rainbow, Las Animas Veterans Park (LAVP)
- Completed baseball and softball field improvements; reattached shade structure at CHP; scheduled light repair at GSP.
- The horseshoe pits were refurbish at LAVP.
- CHP Mulberry restroom repair due to vandalism
- Window broken at San Ysidro Park's Recreation Building
- Playground repairs at Rainbow Park, Los Arroyos, and Del Rey
- Vertical banners will be installed on Monterey Street in Downtown.
- Status update on the accessory panels at the pop-up park

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

VTa Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee representative Eugene Bernosky updated the Commission about the local events celebrated during Biking to Wherever Day in May, including the one he hosts at Gilroy Gardens. Also, he informed the Commission about potential grant opportunities through the VTA.

13. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Chair Bentson requested that the Miller Red Barn Association be invited to present again at a future Commission meeting.

14. **COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS**

The Commissioner members provided the following reports:

- **Bentson** – At Del Rey, the cement is lifting; At Cydney Casper, the hop scotch paint is coming off.
- **Graham** – CHP and Rainbow are well-maintained.
- **Bozzo** – Nothing to report.
- **Ramirez** – Sent the Parks Supervisor photos of graffiti he discovered at a park.
- **Davis** – Wanted a status about the water spigot at the Hecker Pass Dog Park; indicated that there is a lack of seating at the Dog Park and more benches are needed.

15. **STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bentson adjourned the meeting at 8:17p.m.

AH

Adam Henig, Recreation Division
Recording Secretary

Parks and Recreation Meeting
April 16, 2024
Luis Ramirez

Goal FY C4-25: Study opportunities for Parks and Recreation to have dedicated Funding Source.

Why: Provides for a better quality of life for Gilroy citizens by promoting the acquisition, development and sustainability of Gilroy's parks and recreational services.

How: Identify and pursue possible sources of funds such as:

- Capital Improvement Fund (CIP) allocations
- Sales Tax Measure – Possible to participate in Public Safety Measure going before Gilroy voters in November?
- Grant Allocations → grant writing ;
- Developer Impact Fees (Requires Master Plan update)
- Sponsorships
- Foundations