

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 | 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Ramirez at 6:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner Luis Ramirez, Chair Pat Bentson, Commissioner Theresa Graham, Commissioner Terence Fugazzi, Commissioner Vince Sasso, Commissioner
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 April 13, 2023.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. March 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. Bentson motioned, with the amendment, to accept the minutes. Puente seconded.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Pat Bentson, Commissioner

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

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

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Pat Bentson, Commissioner

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

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

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

- 7.1. 1. Vince Sasso
2. Terence Fugazzi

Chair Ramirez introduced the newest commissioners, Terrence Fugazzi and Vince Sasso.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Araceli Vaquera discussed the current location of the entry gate at the Las Animas Veterans Park dog park. To enter the dog park, one must go through an area where there are tents and groups of transients. According to the speaker, this can intimidate visitors to the park, limiting the potential number of users at the dog park. She recommended to city staff that the entry gate be moved to another section of the park where visitors would feel more comfortable entering and exiting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Commission Chair Welcomes New Commissioners and Expectation for the Meeting

Chair Ramirez welcomed the new commissioners and reviewed his expectations of the commission. He wants everyone to have a voice but to respect each other. He also emphasized staying on topic and arriving on time.

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

Commissioner Fugazzi nominated himself. Bentson nominated herself. The commission chose Bentson as the Vice Chair to replace Patterson. Ramirez motioned. Sasso seconded.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Vincent Sasso, Commissioner

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

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. Review of 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan

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

- **Host Arbor Day:** The Commission learned that the City of Gilroy received its designation as a Tree City USA for the 42nd year. No site yet has been determined for the 2023 Arbor Day.
- **Training opportunities:** Bentson and Ramirez registered for the upcoming Volunteer Leader Roundtable workshop offered through the National Association of Park Foundations.
- **Coffee in the Park:** Puente and Ramirez met and shared their updates. They would like to host two meetings, one on a weekday evening (6/8 at 6pm) and the other on a weekend morning (6/24 at 11am). They would also like to have a Quality of Life police officer present. The event will be

focused on getting ideas from park users; commissioners will serve as scribes and facilitate the meeting. They would like ~~to~~ the City to assist publicizing the event. They will also need a bilingual translator.

- **Park Assignments** – with two new commissioners, the revised park assignments are:
 - Bentson – Del Rey, Cydney Casper
 - Fugazzi – Sunrise and Carriage Hills
 - Graham – Hecker Pass, El Roble, Rainbow, Sports Park
 - Puente – San Ysidro, Renz, Butcher, Farrell Ave.
 - Ramirez – Miller, LAVP, Christmas Hill, Sports Park
 - Sasso - Los Arroyos, Forest
- **Participate in citywide events:** Henig shared upcoming opportunities with the commission:
 - Clean-up at Las Animas Veterans Park on April 22.
 - Bike to Wherever Day on May 18
 - Annual Creek Clean-up on May 20.
- **VTA Measure B Funds** – Henig purchased yard signs for the Bike to Wherever Day.
- **Study dog parks:** Established a committee to study and develop recommendations to the City for improvements to the current dog park. Committee will comprise of Graham, Fugazzi, and Puente.

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

11.1. Recreation Division Updates

Henig reviewed the report enclosed in the meeting packet.

12. BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ENCOURAGEMENT & EDUCATION

Nothing to report.

13. COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS

- Puente –
 - Butcher – the ADA parking spot needs to be repainted (faded).
 - Renz – looks good
 - San Ysidro – water fountain is not working; barbeque pits need to be cleaned; found oil containers in the dumpster.
 - El Roble – lights are not on in the evening.
- Bentson –
 - Del Rey – noticed there were cement issues (lifting the ground); Turf looks good
- Ramirez –
 - Miller – soccer players are chewing up the grass
 - LAVP – tent has been up for a while at Las Animas (near dog park); Found graffiti on water fountain
 - Christmas Hill – found a shopping cart at Silva's Crossing; otherwise looks good.

- ## 14. STAFF COMMENTS

15. FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS

16. ADJOURNMENT

 AH
Adam Henig, Recreation Division
Recording Secretary