

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 19, 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, Vice Chair Theresa Graham, Commissioner Vince Sasso, Commissioner
Absent	Kortney Hodge, Commissioner

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The meeting agenda packet was published on September 14, 2023.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. July 18, 2023

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez, Chair

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

ABSENT: Voting Member Hodge

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Pat Bentson, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez, Chair

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

ABSENT: Voting Member Hodge

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Recreation Manager Adam Henig introduced the new Parks Operation Supervisor John Sousa.

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

There were three public comments made:

1. Gary Walton – Discussed the Red Barn at Christmas Hill Park. Mentioned how the Commission was supportive of saving the barn when it was scheduled to be demolished. Invited commissioners to take a tour.
2. Terence Fugazzi – Spoke about the need for frisbee golf course in Gilroy and how Uvas Creek Park Preserve should be added to the Commissioner's Park assignments.
3. Mike Monroe – longtime resident who is also affiliated with the Red Barn.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. **Parks and Recreation Staff Appreciation Breakfast hosted by Parks and Recreation Commission**

The Commission recommended hosting a parks and recreation division staff appreciation breakfast on Thursday, October 12 at the Gilroy Senior Center. Staff will work with the commissioners to determine who will bring what dish.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

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

ABSENT: Voting Member Hodge

9.2. **Input on Future Outdoor Pickleball Courts**

Staff presented its report and requested comments about future options for outdoor pickleball courts. The following options were presented to the Commission:

1. Lining Tennis Courts 5 and 6 at Las Animas Veterans Park
2. Renovate existing tennis courts at El Roble Park
3. Build a new pickleball court at a city park.

There were six public comments:

- Carla Ruigh – Supportive of both pickleball and tennis, but does not want pickleball to come “on the backs of the tennis courts” at Las Animas. Proposed pickleball players play at South Valley Middle School.
- Robert Nettleblau – Does not want pickleball lines on Courts 5 and 6 at Las Animas. Would affect USTA requirements.
- Carol Marques – Provided history of the Gilroy Tennis Club and the club's investment at the tennis courts at Las Animas. During the pandemic, the use of courts 5 and 6 for pickleball caused damage to the courts, which required them to be resurfaced. Supports development of pickleball courts at Las Animas or at another park.
- Terry Nemoff – Wants pickleball and tennis players to find a way to work together. Noted there are 800 active pickleball players in the area.
- Bruce Serpa – Plays pickleball at Sunrise and wants all courts in Gilroy to be accessible for both sports.
- Terence Fugazzi – Does not play either sport, but would like to see if lines could be added to basketball courts and the City develop an updated parks master plan.

The commissioners provided the following comments to staff:

- Bentson – Wanted to know if Gavilan College was an option. Recommends pickleball players raise funds or obtain a grant to support City in construction or renovation of pickleball courts.
- Graham – Agrees with Bentson about raising funds; does not believe pickleball lines should be added to tennis courts 5 and 6 or disrupt any other additional court.
- Ramirez – Supports an update to the Master Plan to see best location(s) for pickleball courts. Would like to see a report or analysis and have it brought forward to Council.
- Puente – Recommends that pickleball players get organized and raise money through donations or grants to fund the development of pickleball courts.
- Saso – Agrees with what was already said by his fellow commissioners.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. Further Commission Input on Proposed Dog Park Improvements

Recreation Manager Adam Henig presented the background on the FY24 and FY25 budget input recommendations made by the Commission for improvements to Hecker Pass Park's Dog Park.

The following public comments were made:

- Terence Fugazzi – Wants a site plan developed so the proposed amenities will be placed strategically. He feels the park is still poorly maintained. Among changes made, he would like to see water access for dogs be located inside the fenced area. Also, noted that Sycamore trees are not the right tree for dog parks.
- Rosie Bowers – Agreed about the need for water access inside the fenced area. Also recommends moving the “poop area” to an unshaded section of the dog park. Recommends different trees than what the City presented. Also, would like to see better park maintenance.

During the discussion, commissioners stated the following:

- Bentson – Believes a shade structure is cost prohibitive. Agrees that the City needs to address the irrigation issue. There needs to be guidelines developed for this dog park.
- Graham – Asked staff if there is a “fast growing tree” that can be planted, to provide the needed shade canopy. Also mentioned she does not feel safe at the Las Animas dog park.
- Ramirez – There needs to be a site plan developed before these new improvements can be made. Agrees the water source is a high priority.
- Puente – Agrees that the water source is important and should be moved inside the fenced area.
- Saso – Also agrees about moving the water source as well as addressing the soil needs and moving the poop area.

Chair Ramirez motioned that he recommends a site plan be developed for the Hecker Pass Dog Park. He would like it to include a) costs estimates, b) tree recommendations c) a diagram of where amenities should be placed. Henig explained that the motion is different from what the Commission originally recommended to Council. Ramirez acknowledged it and said this was more pressing based on the additional information that came up during the meeting.

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

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

ABSENT: Voting Member Hodge

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

Henig reviewed the updates to the Commission's work plan. He mentioned the following:

- Arbor Day – Staff has identified Hecker Pass Park as the location for the next Arbor Day.
- Training Opportunities – Ramirez and Henig attended the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition Summit in August at the Mountain View Community Center. Ramirez discussed the sessions he attended.
- Citywide events – Saso participated in Party in the Park in July
- Dog Park – see previous report.

During public comment, Terence Fugazzi made a public comment about the need to focus on dog parks and the commission should add the Uvas Levee as part of its park assignments.

11. **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

11.1. Recreation Division Updates

Henig reviewed the Recreation report.

11.2. Status of City Parks

There was no parks report.

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

There was no bicycle and pedestrian encouragement report.

13. **COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS**

Commissioners shared the following comments about their park assignments:

- Saso

- Forest Park – noticed there was a party earlier and the garbage cans were full. Also, a park light was out (Souza is aware and will get fixed)
- Los Arroyos and Carriage Hills – Clean, grass is nice.
- Puente
 - Renz and Butcher – looks good
 - San Ysidro Park - Well-used, looks good
 - Miller – Pole #7, light is out
- Ramirez
 - Sports Park – “gorgeous”; noticed flooding on A4 and graffiti on A4.
 - Las Animas – looks good; noticed police presence
 - Christmas Hill – looks fine
- Graham
 - Hecker Pass & Farrell – look good
 - Sports Park – Noticed aphids on the trees
 - Rainbow – playground surface is torn
- Bentson
 - Christmas Hill Park – when will the bathrooms be fixed? (6 months); noticed gates are unlocked late at night.
 - Rainbow – trees from Arbor Day that were planted a few years are dead.
 - Del Rey – Brown patches on turf; picnic tables need power washing
 - Casper – graffiti in various parts of the park.

14. STAFF COMMENTS

None.

15. FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS

None.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

AH
 Adam Henig, Recreation Division
 Recording Secretary