

City of Gilroy
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called at 6pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Attendance	Attendee Name
Present	Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner Luis Ramirez, Chair Theresa Graham, Commissioner Vince Sasso, Commissioner Doc Davis, Commissioner
Absent	Pat Bentson, Vice Chair Kortney Hodge, Commissioner

Commissioners Hodge and Bentson are absent.

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Davis led the flag salute.

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The meeting packet was published on October 12, 2023.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. September 19, 2023

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Luis Ramirez, Chair

SECONDER Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

AYES: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Puente, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Saso, Voting Member Davis

ABSENT: Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Hodge

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RESULT: Pass

MOVER: Ermelindo Puente, Commissioner

SECONDER Luis Ramirez, Chair

AYES: Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Puente, Chair Ramirez, Commissioner Saso, Voting Member Davis

ABSENT: Commissioner Bentson, Commissioner Hodge

7. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Karl Bjarke is the Interim Public Works Director and Doc Davis is the newest Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

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

Terence Fugazzi requested the Commission gauge a better understanding of what is under the Commission's purview such as the Pop-up Park, Garlic Incident Memorial, Sharks Ice, and Lions Creek Trail. Commissioner Puente and Graham responded and thanked him for bringing it to their attention.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1. **Potential Donation and Fundraising Policy**

Commission discussion and recommendations regarding the draft policy.

Atkins reported the City is developing a donation and fundraising policy which will eventually be presented to the City Council for consideration and adoption. The goal is to provide structure and guidance on acceptable and legal conduct for fundraising and accepting donations. Staff is seeking comments and suggestions. The item will be brought back next month for a formal recommendation to the City Council on the final policy.

Atkins went through the draft policy. He requested that comments about the policy prior to the November meeting should be sent to commission staff liaison Henig.

Ramirez asked Atkins to clarify the term "net benefit analysis." Graham wanted clarification about the Commission's role with regards to the policy and if it had anything to do with the naming of a public facility (it does not). Ramirez also asked if Sharks Ice would fall under this policy (it would not since it's a lease agreement).

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Commission Staff Liaison Henig reviewed the updates to the Work Plan:

- **Arbor Day** – the annual event will be held on Wednesday, December 6 (time undetermined) at the Hecker Pass Dog Park. Parks Supervisor Sousa said that he's working on securing a dozen donated trees from a local landscaper. If successful, seven will be planted along the walking path (white alder), which will replace the previous seven trees planted there. Three will be planted in the oval area (Valley Oak). And two more will be planted in the parking lot. Trees will comprise of 48 -60-inch box specimen. The tree planting will occur while the park is undergoing a refurbishment. Park staff will cordon off half the park at a time so the public is still able to use it.

- **Study Dog Park** - Ramirez had questions about the status of the park benches and the budget request the Commission submitted for dog park improvements_ made. He also requested a site plan. Graham asked if they would be planted near the trees? Davis inquired about the original park plans and if those plans showed where the trees were supposed to be planted. Puente did not feel the original park plans for that park were effective.

During public comment, Fugazzi reiterated that many of the commission's questions had already been established by the commission's dog park committee, which had met in spring 2023.

Ramirez proposed inviting dog park users to the next meeting and have staff provide the Commission with the original dog park plan.

John Souza, City Parks Maintenance Supervisor, recommended that the Commission wait until the trees are planted and then see how they have reshaped the park. For example, instead of placing a bench in the middle of the park, it may make more sense to have it located by a newly planted tree, where there's more shade. In addition, Henig recommended that the Commission form a three-member committee (Davis, Puente, Graham) and draft a one-page memo to the Public Works Director, highlighting the following:

- Current issues with the dog park (i.e., moving the water spigot, more shade, etc.)
- Recommended purchases (i.e., park benches, trees, etc.)
- Suggestions for future operations (focus on shade, reseed the grass on a regular basis, etc.)

Commissioners accepted the suggestion about the memo and Souza's recommendation.

In other updates, Henig mentioned that he submitted a reimbursement request for VTA Measure B funding from expenses encumbered from Bike to Wherever Day 2023. Ramirez said he would like to have Coffee in the Park happen occur in the near future.

Fugazzi asked if he could make a public comment. Ramirez opened up public comment. He mentioned there was a park clean-up this Saturday at the Gilroy Sports Park. It begins at 9:00 a.m.

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- 11.1. Recreation Division Updates – Henig presented his report about the Recreation Division.

- 11.2. Status of City Parks – Sousa informed the Commission about the water issue at Del Rey Park, new trees planted at Rainbow Park, and the demolition of the damaged restroom at Christmas Hill Park will begin shortly.

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

VTa Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Gilroy Representative Eugene Bernosky presented his report about potential grant opportunities to improve Gilroy's transportation infrastructure. He cited the Sustainable Communities Grant, the Climate Adaptation Grant, and the Valley Transportation Plan 2050, which includes a bicycle superhighway that would run through Gilroy. Among other projects that affect Gilroy that were listed on VTA's "project list" is \$400 million rail station improvements in Gilroy and Morgan Hill and \$30 million for the development of the Tenth Street Bridge.

He also mentioned projects that address equity and transportation have a higher likelihood of being funded.

13. **COMMISSIONER PARK REPORTS & COMMENTS**

Below is the feedback from commissioners regarding their park assignments:

- Saso – Forest Street looks nice, noticed water main was being replaced; Los Arroyos and Carriage Hill were clean.
- Graham – The city parks always look great. At Los Arroyos, the ground was torn up. At Las Animas, the wood from the snack shack building is decaying.
- Ramirez – Noticed at Las Animas, there are 3 or 4 bikes mangled in a pole or tree near the Lakeside picnic area. The Sports Park looks great, though, he noticed the ground was flooding by the bullpen. Overall, the parks look good including Christmas Hill. Feels that El Roble Park Tennis Court should be locked because it's in poor condition and potentially a liability for the City.
- Puente – Butcher and Renz parks look good. Forest Street is missing a tree; A Miller Park light pole #5 is out; The street signs on Santa Barbara and Third is missing and a street sign on San Ysidro Avenue is covered up by a palm tree.
- Davis – Needs a park assignment. Was given Christmas Hill Park.

14. **STAFF COMMENTS** – Henig reminded Commissioners to RSVP for the Commissioner Appreciation Event on November 9 at Old City Hall.

15. **FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATED ITEMS**

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

AH

Adam Henig, Recreation Division
Recording Secretary