



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Parks & Recreation Commission

01/12/2026

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting
Sparacino Conference Room - City Hall East Wing
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Commissioner Vikas Gupta attended the meeting remotely from:
A6/10 Vasant Vihar
New Delhi, 110 057

The City of Santa Clara conducted the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting in a hybrid manner (in-person and a method for the public to participate remotely).

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/88066854956>

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Chu called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present 6 - Commissioner Dana Caldwell, Chair Maureen Chu, Commissioner Derek DeMarco, Commissioner Eversley Forte, Vice Chair Vikas Gupta, and Commissioner Edward A. Souza

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A [26-33](#) Action on the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the November 10, 2025, Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the November 10, 2025, Meeting.

Commissioner Forte made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Souza, to recommend approval of the November 10, 2025, Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Caldwell, Chair Chu, Commissioner DeMarco, Commissioner Forte, Vice Chair Gupta, and Commissioner Souza

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [26-34](#) Status Update on the Progress Made on the FY 2025/26 Parks & Recreation Commission's Work Plan Goals

Recommendation: Discuss and update Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals and Activities for FY 2025/26.

No action was taken on this item.

STAFF REPORT

Director Damon Sparacino

Parks & Recreation Department will check on the status of Art & Wine financials. There are currently no action items for the Art & Wine festival. The Director provided updates on construction projects that may impact 2026 Art & Wine Festival. He also provided an update on 4th of July celebration will be heard by Council in February.

Additionally, the Parks & Recreation Master plan will be brought to City Council in February or March. The Director also provided an update on Warburton construction. A contract may be awarded in early 2027.

Recreation Manager Castro

Staff undertook the website update for all the Parks and Park Project pages. Recreation Manager Castro suggested the Commissioners check out the updated page when they get the chance. She said a special event survey went live recently. She encouraged the Commissioners to forward the survey to friends and family.

Several items will be coming to the Commissioners in February including: Wade Brummal grant, Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and a Charter Review presentation by the City Attorney. Recreation Manager Castro also thanked the Commissioners for attending the Tree Lighting event.

Recreation Manager Castro provided an update on ISC. The contract is being finalized for ISC. Construction is on track to begin in February. The bid results for Phase II should also arrive in February. Recreation Manager Castro also noted that Henry Schmidt park and restrooms will be open during construction.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT**Commissioner Caldwell**

Attended the Tree Lighting event. He was surprised with the amount of vendors in attendance. The Commissioner commented that "this was an upgrade to previous years' ". The Commissioner also reiterated his experience with a downed tree limb at Maywood park he was concerned about.

Commissioner Chu

Attended the Tree Lighting Event. Commented on the Nutcracker performance. "Well run!"

Commissioner DeMarco

The Commissioner did not attend the Tree Lighting event. His children started Acrobatics with the Recreation Department. Noted that Bowers Parks "Looks Great!"

Commissioner Forte

Attended the Veterans and Tree Lighting events. The Commissioner inquired if these events were good/ successful for the vendors?

Commissioner Gupta

The Commissioner spent a lot of the holiday season traveling. He was not in attendance at the Tree Lighting event. The Commissioner visited several landmarks on his journeys and noted how the local governments (of his destinations) invested so heavily into their parks systems. The Commissioner noted all the amenities and features and infrastructure of these park systems.

Commissioner Souza

The Commissioner enjoyed the Tree Lighting event and "Loves to see it grow year over year!" The Commissioner made note of the recent passing of Ray Gamma, who leaves behind a great legacy with the city.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner DeMarco made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell to adjourn the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting at 7.59 PM until the next regular meeting on March 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Sparacino Conference Room at City Hall.

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Caldwell, Chair Chu, Commissioner DeMarco, Commissioner Forte, Vice Chair Gupta, and Commissioner Souza

MEETING DISCLOSURES

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If a member of the public submits a speaker card for any agenda items, their name will appear in the Minutes. If no speaker card is submitted, the Minutes will reflect "Public Speaker."

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