



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Parks & Recreation Commission

02/10/2025

7:00 PM

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

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/89140287145?pwd=vxTpbZL37PSa9tyNRsapnbNKFauJJJ.1>

Meeting ID: 891 4028 7145

Passcode: 863597

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Hai called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Present 6 - Commissioner Dana Caldwell, Vice Chair Maureen Chu, Commissioner Eversley Forte, Commissioner Derek DeMarco, Chair Sajid Hai, and Commissioner Vikas Gupta

Absent 1 - Commissioner Brittany Ricketts

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [25-62](#) Action on the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the January 13, 2025, Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the January 13, 2025, Meeting.

Commissioner Forte made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chu to approve the Parks & Recreation Minutes of the January 13, 2025, meeting.

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ricketts

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

An email message from Susan Hinton, a member of the public, was shared with the Commission regarding not using synthetic surfacing for the Warburton Park Playground Rehabilitation Project.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [25-590](#) Action on the Park Master Plan and Schematic Design for Warburton Park Playground Rehabilitation Project

Recommendation: Discuss and take action on a recommendation to the City Council on the Park Master Plan and preferred schematic design for the Warburton Park Playground Rehabilitation Project

Commissioner DeMarco made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chu to recommend approval of Option 2 with the expanded playground shade structure for the preferred master plan for Warburton Park, and that the new pathway loop be expanded as much as possible.

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ricketts

3. [25-165](#) Action to Recommend City Council Adoption of the Updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines

Recommendation: Recommend that City Council adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines

Commissioner DeMarco made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gupta to recommend that City Council adopt the Updated Wade Brummal Scholarship Program Guidelines.

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ricketts

4. [25-161](#) Status Update on the Progress Made on the FY 2024/25 Parks & Recreation Commission's Work Plan Goals

Recommendation: Provide status update on progress made on the FY 2024/25 Parks & Recreation Commission's work plan goals.

Goal A: Review park site and facility condition assessments and recommend priorities given existing and anticipated service levels and available resources.

--No update.

Goal B.1.: Review and solicit community input on the existing City park rehabilitation projects based on the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget and schedule.

--The Commission recommended City Council approval of Option 2 with the expanded playground shade structure as the preferred master plan for Warburton Park.

Goal B.2.: Review residential developer proposed schematic designs for new neighborhood parks that serve new residential development.

--No update.

Goal C.1.: Host and develop recommendations for the annual Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival 2024.

--No update (completed)

Goal C.2.: Participate in Citywide Special events.

--No update.

Goal D.: Partner with at least one other commission to build upon/expand at least one existing Parks & Recreation event by adding one extra element for patrons to interact with during the event.

--No update.

Goal E.: Participate in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Process.

--No update

Goal F.: Consider the annual budget of the Parks & Recreation Department during the budget preparation process and make recommendations with respect to the City Manager and City Council.

--No update.

STAFF REPORT**Director Damon Sparacino**

Parks & Recreation Staff are working to standardize the Commission's Work Plan Goals across the organization which will provide a greater opportunity for City Council to play a larger role with the various commissions. The Director provided updates for the George F. Haines International Swim Center project. A few unanticipated issues have come to light with the pool gutter, apron and coping. The City will be considering next steps based on addressing those issues. Recent rain days have also impacted the project timeline.

Recreation Manager Castro

Summer Camp registration will begin on February 25, 2025. The Senior Center Wellness Fair has been updated from a one day event to four days, every Friday in March 2025. These events will be held indoors to mitigate accessibility issues for patrons and to better serve their needs. As a reminder, The Senior Center serves seniors 50 and older to promote and encourage activities, exercise and wellness. Membership is \$37 per month for Santa Clara residents. The Senior Center Showtime event will be showcasing "The Saga of the Sasparilla Saloon" on March 1-2 at the Community Recreation Center. The show is produced by the Santa Clara Women's League as part of the Health and Wellness Program.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT**Chair Hai**

Chair Hai visited Maywood Park and Jenny Strand Park. He thoroughly enjoyed watching the Super Bowl with family and friends.

Commissioner Caldwell

The Commissioner visited the construction site for the new park at Gateway Crossings to see the progress. He noted that the park looks great and it's getting close to completion. He and former Commissioner Field spent some time clearing blocked storm drains, which were severely blocked as the result on recent rains.

Commissioner Chu

Commissioner Chu visited her local neighborhood parks as well as Henry Schmidt Park. Commissioner Chu mentioned that the heater in the recreation building at Henry Schmidt Park was broken, which made the room quite cold for program participants. Deputy Director Seale assured the Commission that Parks Division staff were already working on the issue. Commissioner Chu also made note of a heating issue at the Montague Park community building. Commissioner Chu also mentioned that visitation numbers for Henry Schmidt Park appeared to be waning due to the playground being closed and its aged structure.

Commissioner DeMarco

The Commissioner visited several parks with his family. He and his assigned subcommittee met and discussed how they could leverage visitation, geospatial and census data collected from Placer AI to enhance the park system. He also enrolled his child in the programmed dance class on Mondays.

Commissioner Gupta

The Commissioner met with his subcommittee regarding how to best utilize park patron visitation data from Placer AI. He Commissioner also visited several parks over the past month. He visited several parks over the past month, including Mary Gomez Park and Warburton Park to inspect the amenities and to observe park lighting after sunset. Commissioner Gupta submitted four entries for the Commission's Park Visitation database. Commissioner Gupta was interviewed by The San Jose Spotlight on February 7, 2025. The article outlined the current construction project and future of the George F. Haines International Swim Center and highlighted his passion for youth sports.

Commissioner Forte

Commissioner Forte worked-out at Bowers Park. He asked to query staff regarding the programmed class offering for this facility and the lack of options available. Currently, zumba classes are one of the only options offered at the Community Recreation Center. Staff responded that finding additional instructors is challenging. Commissioner Forte offered to inquire with his contacts in an attempt to find instructors to increase the options for programming.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner DeMarco made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Caldwell to adjourn the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting at 9:15 PM until the next regular meeting on March 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Sparacino Conference Room at City Hall.

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ricketts

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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