



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes

Parks & Recreation Commission

11/21/2023

7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting
Cafeteria - City Hall East Wing
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Commissioner Vikas Gupta will be attending remotely from the following location:
C56 Ram Marg, Shastri Nagar, Jaipur 302016, India

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).

Via Zoom:

<https://santaclaraca.zoom.us/j/91316665755>

Meeting ID: 913 1666 5755

Or join by phone: 669-900-6833

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Gupta attended the meeting remotely from the following location:
C56 Ram Marg, Shastri Nagar, Jaipur 302016, India

Commissioner Hai was ill, and attended the meeting via Zoom as a member of the public.

Chair Caldwell called the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present 5 - Chair Dana Caldwell, Commissioner Maureen Chu, Commissioner Kelly Cox, Commissioner Brittany Ricketts, and Commissioner Vikas Gupta

Absent 2 - Commissioner Eversley Forte, and Vice Chair Sajid Hai

Commissioner Cox made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chu, to excuse Commissioner Forte and Vice-Chair Hai.

Aye: 5 - Chair Caldwell, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Ricketts, and Commissioner Gupta

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte, and Vice Chair Hai

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A [23-1214](#) Action on the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the October 17, 2023 Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of the October 17, 2023 Meeting.

Commissioner Chu made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cox, to recommend approval of the October 17, 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes.

Aye: 5 - Chair Caldwell, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Ricketts, and Commissioner Gupta

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte, and Vice Chair Hai

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [23-1366](#) Make a Recommendation to Council on the Preferred Park Master Plan and Schematic Design for Henry Schmidt Park Playground Rehabilitation Project

Recommendation: Make a recommendation to Council on the preferred park master plan and schematic design for Henry Schmidt Park and Playground Rehabilitation Project

The Commission heard a presentation by Gates and Associates and reviewed the park design options. The Commission preferred option 2.

Commissioner Chu made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cox, to recommend Option 2 to Council, as the preferred park master plan and schematic design for Henry Schmidt Park Playground Rehabilitation Project.

Aye: 5 - Chair Caldwell, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Ricketts, and Commissioner Gupta

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte, and Vice Chair Hai

3. [23-1211](#) Receive a Presentation and Provide Feedback on the De La Cruz/Coleman Bikeway Planning Project

Recommendation: Receive a presentation and provide feedback on draft design concepts.

The Commission heard a presentation and shared feedback on the design concepts. They expressed a preference for bike lanes that match the flow of traffic on both sides of the road. Having bike lanes match the flow of traffic could avoid serious conflicts with bicyclists. The Commission also expressed the need to make barriers highly visible. If at all possible, adding landscaping adjacent to the bike lanes, would soften the appearance and improve the aesthetics of barren areas, and could also have a positive effect on the flow of traffic.

4. [23-1369](#) Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan Goals for FY2023/24

Recommendation: Report on activities and efforts in support of the Commission's Work Plan Goals for FY 2023/24.

Commissioner Chu made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gupta, to recommend the approval of an additional goal to consider the annual budget of the Parks & Recreation Department during the budget preparation process and make recommendations with respect thereto to the City Manager and the City Council.

Aye: 5 - Chair Caldwell, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Ricketts, and Commissioner Gupta

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte, and Vice Chair Hai

STAFF REPORT

Acting Director Seale reported that the Magical Bridge All-Inclusive Playground Project is on schedule for completion in summer 2024; Fairway Glen restroom will be installed by the end of the year; Parks Division staff have added dozens of shrubs to Montague Park; and all aquatic facilities are up and running. The Holiday Tree Lighting Event will be held on Friday, December 1, 5:30 - 8:30 PM. Commissioners should be present and ready to be on stage by 6:00 PM. The Nutcracker is upcoming at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts located at Wilcox High School. Commissioner Forte had shared an email regarding the German Holiday Market as an example of how a market may be added to enhance an event. The Holiday Home Decorating Contest will be starting soon. For more information, go to:

<https://www.santaclaraca.gov/our-city/government/boards-commissions/cultural-commission/decorating-contest>. The Art Center is not moving forward, as SummerHill has pulled out of this project. The Placer AI pilot, which considers park site visit data, will be starting soon.

Recreation Manager Castro indicated that the Recreation Division will use some of their production items for "Sponge Bob Square Pants," which is a hilarious show and will be a fun production this summer.

Commissioner Cox left the meeting at 9:03 PM.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Chu reported that she has been to Henry Schmidt Park building for Nutcracker rehearsal; she will be volunteering backstage for Nutcracker in December; and went to Milpitas Community Theater. She wondered if the Roberta Jones Jr. Theater has a relationship with them since they are doing similar work and may have costumes to share.

Commissioner Gupta reported that since he will still be out the country, he will not be able to attend the Holiday Tree Lighting. Recently, he has frequented Central Park and observed good progress on the Magical Bridge project; he has been thinking about the rebuilding of the ISC, talking to officials, staff, and volunteers at pool facilities that he visits to understand how they build, maintain, and operate their facilities. He will keep the Commission updated and will share more.

Commissioner Ricketts reported that she visited Henry Schmidt Park. She attended and enjoyed the ethics presentation via Zoom.

Chair Caldwell reported that he visited Westwood Oaks Park and the contractor is making great progress with the construction; and all non-native eucalyptus trees within the fenced area have been removed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Chu made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ricketts, to adjourn the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 9:14 PM, until the next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Aye: 4 - Chair Caldwell, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Ricketts, and Commissioner Gupta

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte, and Vice Chair Hai

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Cox

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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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