

**CITY OF SAN LEANDRO
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chair DeQuincy, Vice Chair Lamb, Commissioners Kline, Mui, Davis, Maes, and Bustos

ABSENT

Commissioner Moore, Wagner

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Jennifer Auletta, Parks Services Manager, Ely Hwang, Recreation Services Manager, Jackie Felix, Rec & Parks Administrator, Erwin Gonzales and Marie Levesque Recreation Supervisor.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 6, 2024

Commissioner Kline gave a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Maes seconded the motion. (7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Commissioner Kline gave a motion to approve minutes, and Vice Chair Lamb seconded. (7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions).

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A Age-Friendly Initiative.

- Senior Commissioner Marci Dillon and Debra Lopez Nacario encouraged public participation in the Age-Friendly Action Plan by inviting individuals to complete surveys and visit the dedicated website.

4.B Facility Reservation Program – Fields, Facilities, Tennis Courts, and Picnic Areas

- Recreation Supervisors Marie Levesque and Erwin Gonzales presented an overview of the Recreation and Parks Department's Facilities, Picnic Area, Fields, and Tennis Court reservations programs.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- During the meeting, attendees expressed strong support for the Drowning Darryls, emphasizing the critical need for a swimming pool to support their activities. Advocacy for biodiversity and ecology in the area was also highlighted, with attendees stressing the importance of environmental conservation. Suggestions were put forward to improve recreational facilities by adding more basketball courts across the city, aiming to meet the diverse recreational needs of residents. Additionally, a Hayward Area Recreation and Park District board member discussed potential collaboration with San Leandro Recreation, emphasizing the benefits of working together to enhance recreational programs for the community.

.6. REPORTS

- a) Commissioner Park Visit Report.

- The commissioners provided comprehensive updates on their recent park visits, highlighting various issues encountered during their inspections. These issues encompassed the absence of trash can liners and instances of overflowing trash cans, as well as instances of dogs being off leash in certain parks. Other concerns included broken exercise equipment and parking difficulties at Marina Park, the ongoing closure of Cherry Grove Tennis Courts, and worries regarding loose asphalt and exposed studs near the Tennis Court area. Furthermore, observations were made regarding the untidy state of bathrooms and restricted access to the skate park at Thrasher Park. Additionally, tripping hazards at picnic sites in Bonaire Park, potholes, and uneven asphalt near the t-ball area at Stenzel Park, and the continuous presence of smokers at Washington Manor Park were also reported.

b) Park and Open Space Operation and Maintenance Report.

- Parks Services Manager Jennifer Auletta provided updates on various park-related matters. She mentioned that the exercise equipment at Marina Park requires a replacement part for repair, but there is currently no budget allocated for this purpose. There have also been challenges with access to Washington Manor Middle School Field. She also reported that maintenance work on Victoria Circle will proceed once the grass is dry, and she clarified that trash can liners are not utilized during the off-season. Additionally, she informed the commission about the upcoming public meeting regarding the Tree Master Plan.

c) Recreation and Parks Master Plan

- Recreation Services Manager Ely Hwang provided updates on the ongoing Recreation and Parks Master Plan. She reported that the consultant has completed all stakeholder focus group meetings, conducted two workshops, and is now actively engaged in a survey. The next phase will focus on data analysis and coordination with other city master plans and initiatives. WRT, the consulting firm, will participate in upcoming city events and will present their progress at a future commission meeting. Furthermore, another series of workshops is planned for June or July to unveil a draft of their findings.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Ely Hwang, Recreation Services Manager, along with Jennifer Auletta, Park Services Manager, introduced the Beautify San Leandro Program. This initiative aims to enhance cleanliness in our parks and right of ways. As part of the program, a Community Volunteer Specialist will be recruited to oversee cleanup projects, while Recreation Supervisor Marie Levesque will provide supervision for the program.

9. ORAL REPORT OF SECRETARY

- Recreation Supervisor Erwin Gonzales shared important announcements related to upcoming dates and events organized by the Recreation and Parks Department. These include the registration dates for the Summer Recreation Activity Guide, which opens on April 25 for residents and May 2 for non-residents. Additionally, he highlighted the successful season of the Junior Warriors, with the last session held on March 16. The annual egg hunt is scheduled for March 23 at 10 am in Stenzel Park. Furthermore, it was announced that Vicente Zuniga will assume the role of the new Recreation and Parks Director, while Erwin Gonzales will be stepping down as the Secretary of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Maes expressed interest in initiating a discussion with the school district regarding the use of swimming pools. Commissioner Mui inquired about the potential for funding requests for departmental projects with the new Recreation Park Director. Chair DeQuincy highlighted the need for a representative from Aquatics to present regarding the pool issues. He also acknowledges the significance of aquatics programs, access to biodiversity, and basketball courts. He expressed hope that these aspects would be adequately addressed in the parks master plan.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Kline gave motion for adjournment Commissioner Maes seconded. (Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstentions 0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.