

## County of San Mateo

### Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors' Chambers  
400 County Center, Redwood City

### MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2. Roll Call

**Commissioners Present:** Meda Okelo (Chair), Neil Merrilees, Marico Enriquez, Basem Manneh

**Not present:** Barbara Bonilla (Vice Chair), Eeshan Bhat (Youth Commissioner)

**Staff Present:** Jonathan Gervais, Scott Lombardi, Lori Mrizek, Nirit Eriksson (Deputy County Counsel)

#### 3. Presentations

3.1 Ramona Arechiga, Parks Natural Resource Manager, introduced to the Commission John Schweisinger, Parks' new Natural Resources GIS Analyst.

Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent, introduced new Parks Rangers to the Commission: Jon Carney, Seth Eddings, Alfredo Escobar, Dylan Hofflander, David Kawakami, Lauren Ford-Peterson.

Jonathan Gervais announced Parks' new Administrative Services Manager, Rolando Jorquera, joining Parks from the office of Budget Policy and Performance. Rolando will start on December 18, 2017.

3.2 Cecily Harris, Senior Management Analyst presented the Crystal Springs Complete the Gap development plan. The Commission commented on the options and expressed support for the project.

#### 4. Action Items

4.1 The following changes to the October 5, 2017 Minutes were requested:

Neil Merrilees chaired the meeting until Chairman Okelo arrived.  
Approval of the minutes with revision followed: Merrilees/Enriquez, 4-0

4.2 Parks Communications and Community Programs Manager, Carla Schoof, introduced the Dog Management Committee.

Commissioner Merrilees, who is also the Chairperson for the Dog Management Committee, spoke about the process of the committee, and introduced the members.

Jim Sullivan spoke about the Mission Statement and Experts.

Chris Johnson spoke about community outreach.

Jerry Hearn presented the Committee's proposed policies.

Christine Corwin shared her experience with the process.

Faye Brophy talked about the challenges and controversy talking about dogs in parks.

The Commission moved to accept the recommended policies Merrilees/Manneh, 4-0.

Parks staff presented awards to the Dog Committee members.

### **Public Comment regarding the Dog Management Policy Recommendations**

- 1) Rebecca Writer
- 2) Larick Hill
- 3) Joan Johnson

4.3 Vote on new PRC Commissioner Chair and Vice Chair positions. Chairman Okelo opened up nominations for 2018 Chair. Commissioner Manneh nominated Barbara Bonilla. No other nominations were submitted for Chair. Vote: 4-0.

Chairman Okelo opened nominations for 2018 Vice Chair. Commissioner Enriquez nominated Sam Manneh. No other nominations were submitted for Vice Chair. Vote: 4-0.

Congratulations to the new 2018 Chair Barbara Bonilla and 2018 Vice Chair Sam Manneh.

## **5. Parks Foundation Executive Director's Report**

Michele Beasley highlighted four events that the Parks Foundation was involved with, including the #Optoutside movement that was started last year by REI. They close their entire company on Black Friday, and pay their employees to go enjoy the outdoors with their families. Hundreds of Non-Profit and Government agencies have now joined this movement. The Parks Foundation hike was at San Bruno Mountain and 16 people participated.

The Parks Foundation Board voted to give \$10K to the Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail Project, which will be used for logo and identity development.

The Foundation has money for youth field trips to the Parks for schools with low income students, after school programs, and non-profits that serve low income families and students.

Next year, the Parks Foundation is turning 20, and is planning an event to celebrate the anniversary.

## **6. Parks Director's Report**

Jonathan Gervais spoke about the projects and activities in the Parks Department, which was accompanied by a Power Point slideshow.

## **7. Items for Future Agenda**

- Review 2015 Visitor Study
- Budget update
- Coyote Point Eastern Promenade
- Shuttle program
- Park in-lieu program

## **8. Commissioner Reports**

Chair Okelo proposed reviewing the draft Work plan at the next meeting and increasing visibility of Parks in the Community.

## **9. Adjournment**

Manneh/Merrilees motion to adjourn. Vote: 4-0  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.