



AGENDA
CITY OF WATSONVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Location: City Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor
Watsonville, CA 95076
Monday, July 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Abel Sanchez
Commissioner Noe Ibarra
Commissioner Frank Barba
Commissioner Araseli Campos
Commissioner Paul De Worken

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Jessica Carrasco

Staff Present: Nick Calubaquib, Director, Parks & Community Services
Joseph Medina, Parks Superintendent
Imelda Negrete, Recreation Superintendent
Adriana Flores, Sr. Administrative Analyst, Parks & Comm. Svcs
Jose Barrera, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Comm Svcs
Jeremy Sanders, Asst. Admin. Analyst, Parks & Comm Svcs.

1. ROLL CALL

Motion to excuse absent Parks & Recreation Commissioners

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Abel Sanchez
Commissioner Noe Ibarra
Commissioner Frank Barba
Commissioner Araseli Campos
Commissioner Paul De Worken

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Jessica Carrasco

Pursuant to Charter Section 900, Paragraph 2.

No motion made to excuse absent Commissioners

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

3.a. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
NONE

3.b. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND LIAISON REPORTS FROM THE PARKS &
RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner De Worken expressed his thanks to the Parks Team and for activities like youth soccer and the swim program he and his family are enjoying over summer break.

Chairperson Sanchez commented that he appreciated the 4th of July Parade. He stated it was good to see the community come out and support, along with the excitement of the community.

3.c. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Calubaquib provided an update on the City Plaza restroom. He announced that it is open and the mural is complete. He stated that currently, Staff is working through the plans for Ramsay Park. The 65% plans should be ready to present to the Commission during the August meeting. Calubaquib also informed the Commission that July is Parks and Recreation month and that Family Fun Day will be on July 30, to conclude the month of activities. The Strawberry Festival will be two full days on August 6th and 7th and the Wine Walk is also coming up and tickets are available and are expected to sell out.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4a. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2022

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Ibarra, seconded by Commissioner De Worken to approve the MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2022

AYES: Sanchez Campos, Ibarra, De Worken, Barba
NOES: None
ABSENT: Carrasco
MOTION: Passed

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
NONE

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS
NONE

7. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

7.a. **SPORTS PROGRAMMING REPORT**

Receive the report on Sports Programming.

a) Staff Report: Recreation Supervisor Jose Barrera reported on the Parks and Community Services Sports Programs. Barrera reported on various activities available to the community for different age ranges. Barrera stated that the Youth Soccer spring program was a success. Barrera reported on the adult activities available to the community. Barrera added that Pickleball has been introduced and has become very popular amongst the 55 and older senior community. Barrera also reported on the partnership with American Red Cross, which allowed the team to hire staff more efficiently, as well as train staff on first aid. Barrera provided information on future programs that are being considered to bring to the Parks Department.

b) Commission Questions & Input: Commissioner De Worken commented how the parents were a huge help to the soccer program and how he enjoyed the season and first-time coaching.

Chairperson Sanchez commented that he liked the wide range of ages and enjoyment of the community members with activities that Parks provide.

c) Public Input: None

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.a. **MOTION APPROVING PUBLIC ART ON HIGHWAY 152 (MAIN ST) AND STATE ROUTE 129 AS PART OF THE CLEAN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM**

Staff recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve:

1. The design for public art by artist Taylor Reinhold to be placed on the retaining wall on the north side of Highway 152/Main Street between Clifford Avenue and Pennsylvania Drive, and
2. The designs for Public Art on Utility Boxes submitted by Priscilla Martinez (two designs), Carrasco Concepts (two designs), Monterey Bay Murals (two designs), Nessa Ledesma (two designs) and Bruce Harman (one design).

a) Staff Report: Sr. Administrative Analyst Flores provided a report on the Clean California Program. She stated that Watsonville will receive funding for the beautification of State Route 129, and Highway 152 (Main St). This plan includes Landscaping and the utilization drought tolerant plants as well as installation of new irrigation systems. Flores also shared that there is an art component to the project and provided a description of each piece of artwork

that was chosen through an RFP process and a selection committee. She presented that the committee selected art proposed by Priscilla Martinez, Carrasco Concepts, Monterey Bay Murals, Nessa Ledesma and Bruce Harman for the utility boxes and the proposal by artist Taylor Reinhold to be placed on the retaining wall on the north side of Highway 152/Main Street between Clifford Avenue and Pennsylvania Drive.

Commission Questions & Input: Commissioner Ibarra commented that the cars in #7 presents differently than all of the other artwork and would like to recommend they be removed. Commissioner Ibarra asked what the process would be to do that.

Director Calubaquib answered that a Commissioner may make motion to accept all images, or accept all but remove the cars out of #7.

Commissioner Barba asked what the process of the selection committee was.

Flores advised that the committee was made up of a local artist that had not submitted artwork for the proposal, a member of a local art organization, two city staff and one CalTrans staff. The committee used the criteria in the RFP make recommendations for approval by the PRC.

Commissioner Barba responded it would be great to give additional individuals an opportunity to submit art, or to give kids the ability to have space to design.

Chairperson Sanchez asked about the possibility of a junior Art Program to encourage and motivate students to pursue art.

Flores answered that currently the Youth Development Division partners with the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County to offer art programs for youth.

Director Calubaquib added there is a small but experienced group of muralists in the City of Watsonville that have the ability to complete murals on public spaces and that artist like Monterey Bay Murals, as well as Nessa Ledesma both work with students to design and install murals, such as the ones being proposed for approval.

Chairperson Sanchez asked about utility boxes that do not have art work and if there is an inventory.

Flores answered that Staff is working with the Public Works Department on this and that some of the utility boxes belong to other organizations like PG&E, who do not allow anything on their utility boxes.

Commissioner De Worken provided his thoughts on starting a youth art program and to advise that he agree with the commission's comments.

Chairperson Sanchez asked if the murals were designed first and if a utility box was then randomly assigned or if the artists could select the location of the utility box first to draw inspiration from the area.

Flores responded there was a mix of proposals, some of which proposed particular location, and some that did not.

b) Public Input: NONE

c) Appropriate Action: MOTION APPROVING PUBLIC ART ON HIGHWAY 152 (MAIN ST) AND STATE ROUTE 129 AS PART OF THE CLEAN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM

1. The design for Public Art by artist Taylor Reinhold to be placed on the retaining wall on the north side of Highway 152/Main Street between Clifford Avenue and Pennsylvania Drive, and
2. The designs for Public Art on Utility Boxes submitted by Priscilla Martinez (two designs), Carrasco Concepts (two designs), Monterey Bay Murals (two designs), Nessa Ledesma (two designs) and Bruce Harman (one design).

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Ibarra and seconded Commissioner Barba APPROVING PUBLIC ART ON HIGHWAY 152 (MAIN ST) AND STATE ROUTE 129 AS PART OF THE CLEAN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM with the vehicles removed from the #7 utility box proposal.

AYES:	Sanchez, Campos, Ibarra, Barba
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	De Worken
ABSENT:	Carrasco
MOTION:	Passed

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

The next Commission meeting will be held on August 15, 2022 at 6:30pm

