



AGENDA
CITY OF WATSONVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Location: City Council Chambers
275 Main Street, Top Floor
Watsonville, CA 95076
Monday, August 15, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Nick Calubaquib, Director, Parks & Community Services
Robert Berry, Sr. Utilities Engineer, Parks & Comm Svcs
Adriana Flores, Sr. Administrative Analyst, Parks & Comm. Svcs
Jeremy Sanders, Asst. Admin. Analyst, Parks & Comm Svcs.
Joseph Medina, Parks Superintendent

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
Commissioner Jessica Carrasco

Commissioners Absent: None

Pursuant to Charter Section 900, Paragraph 2.

No motion taken 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 Barba asked what the policy is for absences excused or unexcused. Chairperson Sanchez explained the expectation is to let the Commission know ahead of time if you are unable to attend upcoming meetings. Director Calubaquib also added that unexcused absences by a Commissioner can result in the council person for that district appointing a new Commissioner. The City Clerk is currently looking into these rules.

Commissioner De Worken stated the Strawberry Festival was a huge success, and thanked the Parks Department for a job well done. He also asked if the Department is connected to the Wine Walk event. Director Calubaquib confirmed that the Department has been working with the City Manager's office to plan the Art, Beer and Wine Walk taking place on August 20th.

Commissioner Carrasco stated that she enjoyed the band choices for the Strawberry Festival. Commissioner Carrasco added that she was recently a part of the Back to School Backpack Give Away at the Plaza and that she would like to see the Parks team participate next year. Commissioner Carrasco also commented that she heard from a community member that the all-inclusive swing that was placed at Callaghan Park is up and that it is very much appreciated by the community.

- 3.c. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Calubaquib provided an update on the Summer season for the Department that was just wrapping up and that kids are now back in school. He stated that Fall programs started, including after school programing. He informed the Commission that the school district has a growing afterschool program and the Department is partnering with the district on an expanded learning program to support a 9-hour school day. This would be broken down into six hours of instruction and three hours before or after school support and enrichment. Calubaquib reminded the Commission of additional events coming up in September and October like the Art, Beer and Wine Walk, Music in the Plaza, and more.

4. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 4a. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2022

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Ibarra, seconded by Commissioner DeWorken to approve the minutes of June 20, 2022.

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

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
NONE

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS
NONE

7. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

7.a. RAMSAY PARK RENAISSANCE PROJECT 65 PERCENT DESIGN UPDATE Report only. No action needed

a) Staff Report: Sr. Utilities Engineer Robert (Bob) Berry reported on the Renaissance Project at Ramsay Park. He provided details on specific areas of the project along with working with Caltrans to complete parts of the renovation.

b) Commission Questions & Input: Chair Sanchez asked if we need approval from Caltrans for the renovation of the Main street parking lot. Chair Sanchez also asked about the cost of the project.
Berry explained that the project is too large for an encroachment permit and was advised that it be a joint project with Caltrans. Berry stated the projected cost has gone up to \$24 million from \$17 million.

c) Public Input: None

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a. MOTION APPROVING MOSAIC MEDALLIONS ON HIGHWAY 152 (MAIN ST) AS PART OF THE CLEAN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM Staff recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the designs for Public Art by artist Kathleen Crocetti to be placed on various medallions of Highway 152/Main Street

a) Staff Report: Sr. Administrative Analyst Adriana Flores presented on the Clean California Program. Flores provided information on each Medallion submitted by Kathleen Crocetti to be placed in various locations near Ramsay Park, and Memorial Park.

- b) Commission Questions & Input: Commissioner De Worken and Commissioner Carrasco stated that the second medallion did not show the history of Japanese Americans in a positive, uplifting way.

Chair Sanchez asked if there was a deadline for art submittal. Flores responded that Caltrans has provided a deadline and are awaiting the results of tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Ibarra asked how many members of the community were part of the survey. Director Calubaquib responded that we had 58 responses, however, we didn't ask for demographics.

Commissioner Barba suggested that artists submitting art should be present to provide insight, as well as, answer questions.

Commissioner Ibarra asked if there were alternative medallions. Flores responded there are other medallions; however, the medallions chosen were lined up to the public's response, which was a requirement by Caltrans.

Chair Sanchez provided the idea of the use of QR Codes for a description of the art pieces and a word from the artist. Flores stated she would bring that suggestion back to Caltrans for consideration.

- c) Public Input: Bernie Gomez, Shirley Flores Munoz, Ms. Rodriguez all spoke in regards to the second medallion symbolizing the Japanese Internment Camp and that it did not show the history in a positive light and stated they would like for it to be modified.
- d) Appropriate Action: Staff recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the designs for Public Art by artist Kathleen Crocetti to be placed on various medallions of Highway 152/Main Street.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Carrasco and seconded by Commissioner De Worken to approve 4 of the 5 Medallions, and not approving the medallion number 2 depicting the Japanese Internment Camp.

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

8.b. MOTION APPROVING IMAGE TO BE PLACED ON A UTILITY BOX AS PART OF THE CLEAN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM. Staff recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the new image as proposed by Artist Jessica Carrasco to be placed on the utility box at Memorial Park or approve the image originally proposed during the meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission on July 18, 2022.

- a) Staff Report: Sr. Administrative Analyst Adriana Flores provided an update on the Utility Box art submitted by artist Jessica Carrasco. At the last Commission meeting, a motion was passed to ask the artist to remove the vehicles in the image due to them not matching the other images and theme. Flores presented the new image with modifications as well as an overview of the Clean California Program. After her presentation, Flores gave the artist an opportunity to speak about her work.
Artist Carrasco explained that the image is based on her life experience and her attendance as a child to the 4th of July Parade and seeing the low rider cars and horses. Carrasco also stated that the Low Rider community is big part of the community and she wanted to highlight them and their importance to the city of Watsonville.
- b) Commission Questions & Input: Commissioner De Worken stated that he had miscommunicated to the artist that the Commission had stated at the last meeting that the lowrider cars were thought to have gang affiliation. De Worken apologized for this and also stated that he would like for the original image to be approved.
Commissioner Barba commented that he read the letters submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission and stated that he had concerns of sitting Commissioners to be able to submit art to be approved by the Commission, and stated he felt it is a conflict of interest. Chair Sanchez clarified that if a vote is being held and it is benefiting a specific Commissioner financially, that that Commissioner will abstain from the vote.
Commissioner Ibarra commented that the term Lowrider was not used and acknowledged people in attendance in support of the image. Ibarra asked why the cross was taken off the original image. Flores responded that Caltrans prohibits any religious images and or wording to be placed on its property.
- c) Public Input: Shirley Flores Munoz, Mo Haro, Israel Garcia, Bernie Gomez, Karina Moreno, Vanessa Carter, Alejandro Grijalva, all spoke in support of artist Jessica Carrasco and the original image submitted by Jessica Carrasco.
- d) Appropriate Action: Approve the new image as proposed by Artist Jessica Carrasco to be placed at Memorial Park or approve the originally proposed image at the meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission on July 18, 2022.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner De Worken and seconded Commissioner Ibarra to accept the original image submitted on July 18, 2022 by artist Jessica Carrasco.

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

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held on September 19, 2022 at 6:30pm.