



AGENDA  
CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Location: City Council Chambers  
275 Main Street, Top Floor  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
Monday, March 06, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Abel Sanchez  
Commissioner Noe Ibarra  
Commissioner Araseli Campos  
Commissioner Paul De Worken  
Commissioner Fabian Leonor  
Commissioner Jennifer Schacher  
Commissioner Emiko Stewart  
Youth Representative: Izabella Brandon  
Commissioners Absent: None  
Staff Present: Nick Calubaquib, Director, Parks & Community Services  
Nick Merolla, Recreation Supervisor Parks & Comm Svcs  
Jeremy Sanders, Asst. Admin. Analyst, Parks & Comm Svcs.

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1. ROLL CALL

Motion to excuse absent Parks & Recreation Commissioners

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Abel Sanchez  
Commissioner Noe Ibarra  
Commissioner Araseli Campos  
Commissioner Paul De Worken  
Commissioner Fabian Leonor  
Commissioner Jennifer Schacher  
Commissioner Emiko Stewart  
Youth Representative: Izabella Brandon  
Commissioners Absent: None

Pursuant to Charter Section 900, Paragraph 2.

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 Leonor stated he attended the first annual Mariachi show in January. Leonor stated he was impressed by the amount of youth participating along with excitement that the City of Watsonville was embracing the diversity of the community. Commissioner Schachar shared that the Watsonville Film Festival is going on. Commissioner De Worken commented on the utility boxes that have been painted have also been vandalized. De Worken posed the question, how we can maintain them better with the new artwork.

Commissioner Stewart also commented on the Watsonville Film Festival that it was empowering to see Watsonville on the big screen.

Commissioner Sanchez welcomed the new Commission Members along with the new Youth Representative to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

3.c. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Calubaquib welcomed the new Commissioners, as well as, Izabella Brandon who is the Youth Representative from the Teen Action Council in partnership with the Library. Calubaquib also recognized Commissioner Sanchez as the Chairperson for his support and hard work with the Parks team during his time serving on the Commission. Calubaquib spoke on upcoming events and the Parks stars of the month. Calubaquib played a video from the Foundation for Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members on the importance, duties, and expectations of being a Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4a. MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of DECEMBER 5, 2022

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Schacher, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the minutes of December 5, 2022.

AYES:	Sanchez, Ibarra, Campos, Leonor, Schacher, De Worken, Stewart
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
MOTION:	Passed

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES, & APPEALS

NONE

## 7. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

### 7.a. STATUS UPDATE ON PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN Report Only.

- a) Staff Report: Director Calubaquib provided an update on the progress of large-scale goals of the strategic plan. Calubaquib went on to report on the City Plaza master plan and that design on the project has just begun looking to go out to bid in 2024. Calubaquib also reported that construction is underway at the Youth Center, to include a new registration station. He also informed the Commission that a building assessment is being completed which has preliminary results show about a 30 million dollars in needs in recreation facilities. Calubaquib also informed that a second assessment is being conducted which is a park facility assessment. It will include city parks, and county parks in our community. Calubaquib provided information about the development of a Tree Preservation Ordinance that will be brought to the commission. Calubaquib provided an update on the Park and Trail Master Plan, this will be used to standardize signage throughout our parks and facilities. Calubaquib also updated the Commission on the partnership with PVUSD stating that the department is currently providing recreational and science workshop programs at elementary schools afterschool. Starting this summer, the department will be able to provide free registration in our Summer Camp programs for PVUSD students. Calubaquib reported on the Public Arts Master Plan, this will be funded by the percent for arts program. This will be used address community priorities for art, potential locations of art and how we spend the money from the percent of arts program.
- b) Commission Questions & Input: Commissioner De Worken posed the question on the possibility of having fruit trees planted on the medians along highway 129, and highway 152. De Worken also asked who is responsible for volunteers. Director Calubaquib replied that fruit trees could present a safety risk with pedestrians crossing the street to get to the fruit trees. It can also create a problem with maintaining the cleanliness of the area with the fallen fruit. Calubaquib also advised that the Parks Department has a volunteer program where we manage the onboarding process. Commissioner Leonor asked if a survey was completed to see what type of trees as well as signage the community wanted throughout the City. Leonor also asked after Caltrans installs the medians will the City of Watsonville maintain them. Director Calubaquib responded that surveys were done for the types of trees the community wanted planted. A survey is also being conducted for the new signage and will be using the same contractor the City Manager's office used. The medians will be improved by Caltrans, and maintained by Parks. Native plants will be planted along with other plants and trees that require less maintenance. Representative Brandon commented on the youth programs that are currently free and in place. Brandon also asked about activities geared towards teens in the community. Director Calubaquib provided information regarding the Youth Center how it now focuses on supporting middle school through high school students.
- c) Public Input: NONE.

7.b. RAMSAY PARK RENAISSANCE PROJECT 95 PERCENT DESIGN UPDATE

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the 95% design plans for the Ramsay Park Renaissance project.

a) Staff Report: Tod Young with Verde Design provided an update on the 95% design plans for the Ramsay Park Renaissance project. The next steps after the commissions input and approval are that the design plans will be taken to City Council on March 14<sup>th</sup> for approval.

b) Commission Questions & Input: Commissioner Ibarra asked if there has been changes to cost of the project. Young advised the budget is being worked on to be finalized. The cost has gone up due to inflation. Calubaquib added that the plan is to utilize Measure R to help offset the inflation cost.

Commissioner Leonor asked about the 30 parking stalls that were not being built on the Main St and will they be installed elsewhere. Young advised that two additional parking rows were able to be added to the south end parking lot. Calubaquib added that the additional parking design is being worked on.

Commissioner Sanchez asked what was being placed in the area next to Main street instead of the 30 parking stalls. Also, if there is any concern with the trees located on Longview. Young explained that additional landscaping to enhance the current landscaping will be added to the area on Main street, in replace of the 30 stalls. Young advised there are no concerns for trees in the Longview area. They are working on preserving the trees in that area.

Commissioner De Worken asked about security and safety of the park trails and adding additional lights. De Worken also asked about the dog park and its proximity to the kids play area. Young advised that the trails are not lighted for night use. Spot lights have been installed for areas that can light specific areas of the park, like the kids play area. Young explained that the Dog Park will be elevated and gated to allow for more separation from the kids play area.

Commissioner Campos asked if there will be vending machines, or a snack bar for families as they enjoy the park. Calubaquib advised there are vending machines located in the Family Center. Other avenues like food trucks and local businesses to possibly and only use them when they are needed or on weekends when sports are running. De Worken asked if Ramsay Park could be a potential spot for a future Farmers Market. Calubaquib advised there are few areas at Ramsay Park that have been looked at vendors may potentially be staged for different events.

Commissioner Sanchez asked if there are any plans or updates with soccer central. Bob Berry Project Manager, advised that there are no updates with soccer central. Calubaquib added that the current soccer central contract runs through 2030.

Representative Brandon commented on the repurpose of soccer central, that it is still widely used by the youth and should be kept for the youth in the community.

c) Public Input

d) Appropriate Action: Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the 95% design plans for the Ramsay Park Renaissance project

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Leonor, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to approve the 95% design plans for the Ramsay Park Renaissance project

AYES: Sanchez, Ibarra, Campos, Leonor, Schacher, De Worken, Stewart  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
MOTION: Passed

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

a) Nomination Period: Commissioner Leonor nominated Commissioner De Worken, stating that the position should be filled by a person who does work in the community and De Worken does a lot of work in the community. Commissioner Sanchez added that Commissioner Ibarra has been the Vice-Chairperson for a year. Commissioner De Worken withdrew his name and nominated Commissioner Ibarra. Commissioner Ibarra accepted the nomination.

b) Public Input

c) Motion Electing New Chairperson:

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner De Worken and seconded by Commissioner Leonor to elect Commissioner Ibarra as the new Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson.

AYES: Sanchez, Ibarra, Campos, Leonor, De Worken, Stewart  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Schacher  
MOTION: Passed

8.b. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION VICE-CHAIRPERSON

a) Nomination Period: Commissioner De Worken recommended that he take the Vice-Chairperson. All Commissioners agreed.

b) Public Input

c) Motion Electing New Vice-Chairperson:

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Ibarra to elect Commissioner De Worken as the new Vice-Chairperson and seconded by Commissioner Schacher.

AYES: Sanchez, Ibarra, Campos, Leonor, De Worken, Stewart  
NOES: None

ABSENT: Schacher  
MOTION: Passed

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

The next Commission meeting will be held on April 17, 2023 at 6:30pm.