



## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**August 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Araseli Campos,  
Commissioner Vanessa Quiroz-Carter,  
Commissioner Brando Sencion,  
Commissioner Abel Sanchez,  
Commissioner Noe Ibarra,  
Commissioner Frank Barba

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Jessica Carrasco

Staff Present: Parks and Community Services Director Nick Calubaquib,  
Senior Administrative Analyst Adriana Flores,  
Administrative Assistant II Marco Diaz

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### **1. ROLL CALL**

### **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 Sencion commented on the good turnout of attendees at the Strawberry Festival and thanked Parks & Community Services for planning the festival. Commissioner Sanchez also attended the Strawberry Festival and was impressed by the event and also thanked Parks & Community Services for coordinating the event.

#### **3.c DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Director Calubaquib stated he appreciates the Strawberry Festival compliments and gave thanks to Parks & Community Services teammates for putting the event together, as well as community partners such as Main Street Enterprises and Arte De Corazon who helped coordinate vendors in the Strawberry Festival. He also thanked Commissioner Carrasco for helping to coordinate art activities for kids during the festival.

Director Calubaquib discussed the planning for future special events and working with the County Health Officer for guidance due to the recent COVID-19 surge. He reminded the Commission of the Music in the Plaza summer music series that is scheduled through October, with collaborations with the Watsonville Film Festival, and also the Watsonville Airport Open House event on September 4th.

Director Calubaquib gave an update on the Ramsay Park projects, and the Watsonville Slough Connector Trail project. The project will begin with the parking lots, next to Harking Slough Road, being closed starting Monday, August 23, through the end of

November, as improvements are worked on. The Nature Center will also be closed during this time through mid-January. In December, the construction will then begin on the Main Street side of Ramsay Park, and the Main Street parking lot will be closed, with the Harking Slough Road parking lot re-opening. Designs are also moving forward for the larger elements that are included in the Ramsay Park master plan.

Director Calubaquib informed the Commission that the City Plaza restroom project is moving forward with the installation scheduled to take place in October. Recently an RFP was released for designs of a mural that will wrap around the restroom building exterior.

Director Calubaquib shared the department is recruiting to fill vacant positions, and will be interviewing candidates in the coming weeks.

Director Calubaquib discussed a potential sales tax measure for Parks & Recreation that will help to secure long term funding for the Department and provide services across the community.

Director Calubaquib shared the teammate of the month for August is the Customer Service team.

Director Calubaquib informed the Commission that the next meeting date may be an in-person meeting but due to the COVID-19 surge, this will be determined at a later date and the Commission will be notified.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **4.a MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2021**

**Moved by** Quiroz-Carter

**Seconded by** Sencion

AYES (6): Campos, Quiroz-Carter, Sencion, Sanchez, Ibarra, Barba

ABSENT (1): Carrasco

**Carried (6 to 0)**

#### **5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **6.a APPROVE APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ART FOR A SCULPTURE LOCATED AT 1200 MAIN STREET, SUBMITTED BY WATSONVILLE SHOPPING CENTER ASSOCIATES, LLP BY SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST ADRIANA FLORES**

**a) Staff Report** – Staff recommends approval for a sculpture located at 1200 Main Street submitted by Watsonville Shopping Center Associates, LLP. The property owner, Robert Katz, requests to install a large 8-foot-tall by 2-foot-wide art sculpture in the shape of a horseshoe. The artist, Jack Lawton, is a long-time resident of Watsonville and is a CSUMB graduate. The sculpture is made of Corten steel and the color is oxidized steel. The expected lifespan of the art piece is thirty to fifty years and the owner is committed to the maintenance and upkeep of the art piece. Property owner Mr. Katz commented to the Commission of the initial idea of installing the art piece and

proceeding to formally requesting approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**b) Commission Questions & Input** – Commissioner Sanchez thanked Mr. Katz and asked if there are plans to add more art pieces. Mr. Katz responded he is opened to receiving art piece ideas, and is currently working with Monterey Bay Murals to add murals around the shopping center. Commissioner Barba commented on concerns regarding vandalism.

**c) Public Input** – None

**d) Appropriate Action** – Motion to approve application for public art for a sculpture located at 1200 Main Street, submitted by Watsonville Shopping Center Associates, LLP

**Moved by** Ibarra

**Seconded by** Quiroz-Carter

AYES (6): Campos, Quiroz-Carter, Sencion, Sanchez, Ibarra, Barba

ABSENT (1): Carrasco

**Carried (6 to 0)**

#### **6.b REVIEW OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BYLAWS BY PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR NICK CALUBAQUIB**

**a) Staff Report** – Director Calubaquib recommends reviewing the existing bylaws and discuss potential updates or changes. The City Clerk's office will also be reviewing the bylaws to determine consistency with other commission bodies and changes may be suggested. Director Calubaquib reviewed the bylaws and provided details for each section.

**b) Commission Questions & Input** – Commissioner Sanchez suggested changing the meeting date of the Parks & Recreation Commission, which is held on the first Monday of the month. Commissioner Sencion stated the current meeting schedule works, and having the meeting at the beginning of the month allows for decisions to be made, and has a positive impact. Commissioner Quiroz-Carter agrees with Commissioner Sencion and also stated there are schedule conflicts if the date is changed. Commissioner Campos shared her work schedule, and will work with her employer to be available on Mondays.

**c) Public Input** – None

**d) Appropriate Action** – No Action Taken

### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **7.a 2021 PRC WORKPLAN**

**a) Staff Report** – Director Calubaquib displayed the current adopted 2021 Work Plan, and brought back this topic for assigning Commissioner Campos to the current list of projects.

**b) Commission Questions & Input** – Commissioner Campos selected to join the PRC Social Committee.

**c) Public Input** – None

**d) Appropriate Action** – motion to approve the 2021 Work Plan assignments

**Moved by** Brando Sencion  
**Seconded by** Quiroz-Carter

AYES (6): Campos, Quiroz-Carter, Sencion, Sanchez, Ibarra, Barba  
ABSENT (1): Carrasco

**Carried (6 to 0)**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Abel Sanchez, Chair

ATTEST:

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Nick Calubaquib, Parks & Community Services Director