



**MINUTES
REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

November 2, 2020

**CITY OF WATSONVILLE
REMOTE TELECONFERENCE**

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS: BARBA, CARRASCO, DEWORKEN, HURTADO, SANCHEZ, SENCION

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: HAYASHIBARA

**PCS STAFF: PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR NICK CALUBAQUIB
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST ADRIANA FLORES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II DESIREE MOYA**

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC- Jessica Vargas, a community member, asked what we have planned after the elections and what should business owners and people do should things not go their way. Michel, Mike - Asked if anything can be done to clean up the lake at Pinto Lake and possibly make it a tourist site. Ely - Request an apology for the individual that purchased the Ramsay skate ramps and received them broken.

3.2 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner De Worken, suggested creating open walls for art to minimize graffiti.

Commissioner Sencion, commented on the Dia de los Muertos art in the Plaza and said they were nice. Sencion, also apologized about the conditions of the ramps and understands they meant something to the person that bid.

3.3 DIRECTOR'S REPORT-

WATSONVILLE PRC MEETING ZOOM WEBINAR INSTRUCTION- Admin Asst. Moya went over the instructions for ZOOM webinar.

Director Calubaquib updated the Commission on upcoming events that will be taking place.

- Grand Re-opening of Muzzio Park Playground

- Virtual Ribbon cutting for the adopted joint use agreement between the City of Watsonville and PVUSD to provide community access at three school sites: Ann Soldo, EA Hall and Radcliff. This agreement allows the community access to fields and playgrounds during the time school is not in session. These sites are planned to be opened in the next few weeks.
- National Night Out will be taking place on October 6th. Police Activities League and recreation team are planning fun activities.
- Senior events for Thanksgiving.
- Holiday in the Plaza tree lighting on November 22, 2020

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Carrasco, seconded by Commissioner Hurtado and carried by the following vote to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 21, 2020.

AYES: BARBA, CARRASCO, DE WORKEN, HURTADO, SANCHEZ, SENCION
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: HAYASHIBARA
ABSTAIN: NONE

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

6. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 PUBLIC ART APPLICATION – MURALS ON UTILITY BOXES – Sr. Admin. Analyst Flores reported on the application for public art, submitted by Jaime Sanchez and City of Watsonville, for two (2) murals located on Utility Boxes at two (2) locations along Freedom Boulevard. Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Application for public art.

- COMMISSION QUESTIONS & INPUT** – Commissioner De Worken mentioned he would like to see the artist do a wraparound due to concerns of graffiti on the blank area. Commissioner Hurtado mentioned that the artwork provides a suitable reminder to the community to wear masks.
- PUBLIC INPUT** – None
- APPROPRIATE ACTION: MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner De Worken, seconded by Commissioner Sencion and carried by the following vote to approve the application for Public Art for two (2) murals located on Utility boxes at two (2) location along Freedom Boulevard.

AYES: BARBA, CARRASCO, DEWORKEN, HURTADO, SANCHEZ, SENCION
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: HAYASHIBARA

ABSTAIN: NONE

7.2 PUBLIC ART APPLICATION – MURAL ON MADISON STREET- Sr. Admin. Analyst Flores reported on the application for public art, submitted by Ome Garcia for The Watsonville History Mural Located at the First Christian Church at 15 Madison Street. Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the application for Public Art.

- a) **COMMISSION QUESTIONS & INPUT** – None
- b) **PUBLIC INPUT** – None
- c) **APPROPRIATE ACTION: MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Hurtado, seconded by Commissioner Carrasco and carried by the following vote to approve the application for Public Art for The Watsonville History Mural Located at the First Christian Church at 15 Madison Street.

AYES: BARBA, CARRASCO, DEWORKEN, HURTADO, SANCHEZ, SENCION

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: HAYASHIBARA

ABSTAIN: NONE

7.3 ACTION REGARDING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BUST - Director Calubaqib provided a background of the George Washington Bust. During the town hall meeting that was held on October 20, 2020, results from a community survey were presented a discussion was facilitated on options to present to the PRC for recommendation to the City Council. Based on survey results and the Town Hall, staff recommendation was for the George Washington bust to remain in the City Plaza and that a bilingual plaque that outlines a broad historical perspective about George Washington be added.

The recommendation was determined using feedback from the community survey, in which 60% of respondents indicated a desire to keep the bust in place. Further input collected from the town hall meeting indicated a desire to work together and find a solution that does more to bring the community rather than to divide it.

- a) **COMMISSION QUESTIONS & INPUT** – Chair Sanchez stated that the Commission would be taking all input into consideration and come up with their own opinions on this subject.

Commissioner Carrasco made a motion to make the recommendation to add a plaque that tells a broader history of George Washington and that it is relocated to the Pajaro Valley Historical Association (PVHA). Carrasco stated she motioned this so George Washington’s historical contributions are not erased and the bust continues to serve as an educational opportunity to learn more about past presidents. In addition, Carrasco also stated that everyone could learn more about George Washington, including those who speak Spanish, if it is placed in an environment where it is less likely to be tampered with and can be appreciated for its historical significance. Carrasco stated that this would make the Plaza a welcoming place for all and without symbols that remind the community of symbols of genocide and slavery.

Commissioner Sanchez stated that he felt this matter has been handled in a non-partial way, and not sided. He stated he is concerned with the divide this topic has caused in the community and in order to overcome this issue, we need to work together. Commissioner Sanchez supports the recommendation provided by staff to keep the bust in the City Plaza and add a bilingual plaque. Commissioner Sanchez had a question about the motion Commissioner Carrasco made, in regards to the specific location that was recommended for where the George Washington Bust should be relocated. Commissioner Sanchez wanted to clarify that if PVHA was able to accept the bust. Calubaquib confirmed that PVHA is not able to accept and place the bust at their location.

Commissioner Hurtado stated she was in support to relocate the bust and add a plaque. She stated she would also like to see the City publicly denounce white supremacy.

Commissioner Sencion recommended to move the bust and for the City Council to find a new location for the bust.

Commissioner Barba stated he feels this is not a political issue, but a contract issue regarding a will and should be reviewed by the City Attorney. Commissioner Barba stated the bust should remain at the City Plaza. Commissioner De Worken, stated he feels the bust should be removed because it has no historical connection to our community.

b) PUBLIC INPUT – The following public members provided their input regarding the George Washington Bust.

Jessica Vargas, Karina, Jeb Proker, Andrea Castillo, Ome, Xitlali, Steve Trullio, Sophie Grant, Frances, Jerry, Ely, Leslie Laso, Chris, Marco, Vicky, Rosa Noriega, Sophie, Kristian Flores, Lupita Sanchez, CJ Jessie, Daniel Pescada and Suryel Rodriguez.

c) APPROPRIATE ACTION: MOTION: Commissioner Carrasco made a motion to make the recommendation to the City Council to add a plaque that tells a broader history of George Washington and that the bust be relocated. Commissioner Hurtado second the motion.

AYES: BARBA, CARRASCO, DEWORKEN, HURTADO, SANCHEZ, SENCION

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: HAYASHIBARA

ABSTAIN: NONE

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 pm

ATTEST:

/s/ Desiree Moya

Admin Assistant II

Parks and Recreation Director

Parks and Recreation Chair