



**MINUTES  
REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**September 21, 2020**

**CITY OF WATSONVILLE  
REMOTE TELECONFERENCE**

**1. ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONERS: BARBA, CARRASCO, DEWORKEN, HAYASHIBARA,  
HURTADO, SANCHEZ**

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: SENCION**

**PCS STAFF: PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR NICK  
CALUBAQUIB  
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSISTANT DIRCTOR  
BENJAMIN HEISTEIN  
RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT IMELDA NEGRETE  
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST ADRIANA FLORES  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II DESIREE MOYA**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**3.2 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – NONE**

**3.3 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS FROM THE  
COMMISISONERS**

Commissioner Sanchez welcomed Frank Barba to the Commission

Commissioner De Worken requested that the Commission be able to provide new topics for the commission meetings and would like to see more art topics in the parks and create open walls for art to minimize graffiti.

**3.4 DIRECTOR’S REPORT-** Director Calubaquib updated the commission on various tasks that took place within the month.

- The Department led the efforts on setting up a shelter and assisted with the donation center for evacuees from the fires that where spread across the counties.
- Excel in Place program was launched for the year and is serving a great number of youths that are in need of support with distance learning along with providing youth with enrichment recreational activities.

- The school district adopted a joint use agreement with the City of Watsonville 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.
- The City Council adopted an agreement with a contractor to begin the construction of the permanent restrooms at the City Plaza. This project is expected to be completed in early spring.
- A request for proposal (RFP) was released to find a new operator for Pinto Lake City Park to help run the RV Park along with water access and use of the park. The RFP ended a week ago and interviews will be conducted within the week.
- A few events will be coming up in the next few weeks: A Town Hall meeting will be held on September 23rd for the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance Assessment District (LLMAD) at Vista Montana, this meeting is to help inform residents what the LLMAD is about and what it covers along with discussing solutions for the future.
- A drive-up Ice Cream social for our older adults in our community will be held, at the Senior Center on September 26, 2020.
- National Night Out will be taking place on October 6th, our Police Activities League and recreation team are planning fun activities.
- Plans for Halloween to host a drive through event and further plans for the holidays and will be posted on social media soon with further information.

Assistant Director Benjamin Heistein provided an update on the pump track at Ramsay Park. The Mountain Bikers of the Santa Cruz (MBOSC) organization will enter in an agreement with the City to build and maintain a pump track at the Ramsay Park old skate park area. The City Parks and Community Services Department will maintain the landscaping and surrounding utilities. Once the construction is completed, the MBOSC will donate the track to the City. Currently the plans are being finalized through permitting and approval by City Council. Construction will begin in October and plan to open the track by the end of December, weather permitting.

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

##### **4.1 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES August 3, 2020**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Hurtado, seconded by Commissioner Carrasco and carried by the following vote to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 3, 2020.

**AYES: BARBA, CARRASCO, DEWORKEN, HAYASHIBARA, HURTADO, SANCHEZ**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: SENCION**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

#### **5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – NONE**

## 6. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

**6.1 SUMMER CAMP 2020 REPORT** – Imelda Negrete, Recreation Superintendent, reported on the summer camp offered over the summer. Due to COVID-19, the camp had to comply with the CDD and Santa Cruz County guidelines. In collaboration with the County of Santa Cruz Parks Department, a summer camp was able to be provided to the community and consisted of a 9-week program offered at seven different sites and ran from June 8<sup>th</sup> through August 7th.

**6.2 GEORGE WASHINGTON UPDATE** – Director Calubaquib updated the Commission on the process for determining a plan of action for the George Washington bust. There have been three community-initiated petitions released in July, two sit ins and demonstrations in front of the bust. The sit ins and the petitions expressed desire for two opposing actions: one to keep the George Washington in the City Plaza and the other to remove the bust. In addition to the sit ins and petitions, many letters and emails were submitted to the City Parks Commission, City Council, and City Manager’s office in regards to the removal or to keep the George Washington Bust in place. A study session was provided at the last City Parks Commission meeting in August, where the community was able to provide their opinions. A community survey was opened on September 1st and will stay open to the public until September 30th. The survey asks for community if the bust should be removed or not and their reason why. On Tuesday, October 20th a town hall meeting will be held and on November 2nd a number of options will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration and action. Commissioners asked questions and voiced their opinions on the subject.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

**7.1 PUBLIC ART APPLICATION - COMMUNITY BRIDGES MURAL** – Sr. Admin. Analyst Flores reported on the application for public art, submitted by Community Bridges, for restoration of a mural located at 18 W. Lake Avenue at the La Manzana center office building. The artist is Guillermo “Yermo” Aranda who created the mural concept design and created the original work. Mr. Aranda will be restoring the mural. It was recommended that the restoration of the existing mural be approved.

- a) **COMMISSION QUESTIONS & INPUT** – Commissioners asked questions about the art piece and Flores and Artist Guillermo Aranda responded for clarification.
- b) **PUBLIC INPUT** – None
- c) **APPROPRIATE ACTION: MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner De Worken, seconded by Commissioner Hayashibara and carried by the following vote to approve the application for Public Art for restoration of the existing Mural at 18 W. Lake Avenue.

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

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8.1 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN REVIEW** - Director Calubaquib updated the Commission on the work plan for the Commission. Director Calubaquib asked the Commission to provide ideas on how to update the work plan, knowing some areas of the work plan are not able to move forward due to the current pandemic situation. A few items in the work plan were updated and changes in responsibilities made due to Commission membership change.

- a) **COMMISSION QUESTIONS & INPUT** - Carrasco for the outreach and subcommittee stated she likes the idea to get information to the community especially now and would like to keep this idea in the work plan.

De Worken commented on the Community engagement and well-being and expressed that we can still engage the community via zoom.

Barba volunteered to take over any subcommittee roles previously held by Commissioner Florez.

- b) **PUBLIC INPUT** – None

- c) **APPROPRIATE ACTION** - It was moved by Commissioner Hurtado, seconded by Commissioner Deworken and carried by the following vote to approve the updates on the Commission work plan.

**AYES: BARBA, CARRASCO, DEWORKEN, HAYASHIBARA, HURTADO, SANCHEZ**


**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: SENCION**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**


**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm**

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Abel Sanchez, Parks & Recreation Commission Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Nick Calubaquib, Parks & Community Services Director