
City of Hollister Parks and Recreation Commission

MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jason Ballew called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Jason Ballew, Commissioners Laura Miller and Marlene Medina

Absent: Commissioner Robert Kutz

Also Present: Recreation Supervisor Tina Garza, Recreation Coordinator Trisha Lee, City Manager Bill Avera

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Jason Ballew led the Commission in the pledge of Allegiance.

VERIFICATION OF AGENDA POSTING

Recreation Supervisor Tina Garza informed the Commission that the agenda for the February 24, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was posted at both the Hollister Community Center and City Hall on February 20, 2015 per Government Code Section 54954.2.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

After review of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2015, Chairperson Ballew called for a motion to approve said minutes. Commissioner Miller made a motion, while Commissioner Medina second the motion. The meeting minutes were approved with a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Kutz absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Pollard, a resident of Hill Street, let the Parks and Recreation Commission know that she didn't think the proposed play structure for Vista Park Hill was a good idea. She believes that there will continue to be unsafe for community members. She mentioned that she has seen a fair amount of needles, etc. at the park and thinks a contained play structure will be inappropriate. She would like to see a structure similar to Las Brisas Park up there with the see-through portions to help keep the negative behavior off the structure, and ultimately off Vista Park Hill. Robin asked that the Commission rethink the structure before the final decision is made.

Anita Kane, a West Street resident, backed up what Robin Pollard said. She agrees that the current proposed structure would be unsafe and a "bad choice" for Vista Park Hill. She mentioned that she never heard of a public hearing process for the park structure and said that her West Street neighbors wanted to weigh in before a decision was made.

Anita also talked about R.E.A.C.H. and their want to help with the stairs project at Vista Park Hill. She said they would be happy to fundraise to help offset the cost of the stair project they

would just need guidance on how to get the conversation started about how to precede with the project.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Veterans Memorial Skate Park update –

City Manager Bill Avera informed the Commission that there was a meeting held at the Veteran's Memorial Building the week prior in order to provide the community with ideas/pictures of different skate park addition options. The community was then able to vote on their favorite and it would be considered as the final addition. The number one pick was sent to the ramp builder and conversations about cost estimates are going on at the present time. There have been proposals received for phases 1&2. There is between \$70,000 and \$80,000 in the budget and the proposal for what the community wanted came in at \$79,000. The next step is to have the Veteran's Commission put it on their agenda for approval. Once the project is approved, it shouldn't be long before the structures are ordered and start being built. The goal is to get the key pieces in as soon as possible. Commissioner Medina, in her day job, has worked really hard at getting the project going.

Public Comment-

Gail Hernandez asked City Manager Bill Avera if the City was willing to take other bids that may provide more additions for the same amount of money.

City Manager Bill Avera responded by letting Gail know there are codes and rules that the City has to go by in order to be in compliance with a project like this. He told her that the company that will be doing the work is already vetted so there doesn't have to be a public bidding process, which will cost money and time. The plans and specs process is expensive.

Gail Hernandez then brought up that she would like to see pay-as-you-go lights installed at the skate park. She thinks that as long as you have the adult softball program going with lights, the skate park should have lights too because a lot of the softball players children are at the skate park during the softball games. She would like to see the lights added in the future.

Commissioner Medina let Gail know that there are ordinances to lights, but asked staff to look at the Municipal Code to make sure.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dunne Park Tennis Courts –

Recreation Coordinator informed the Commission that staff met with a tennis court contractor regarding the resurfacing of the three Dunne Park Tennis Courts. After gathering information and doing some research, staff created a Request for Proposal/Qualifications (RFP/Q). The RFP/Q was sent out on Monday February 23,

2015 and they will be due on March 13, 2015. Staff is excited to get the project going so the community has adequate courts to play on for the spring and summer seasons.

Public Comment-

John Bessa has been an admirer of the park for many years and is glad the City of Hollister is putting time and money into fixing up the tennis courts since they are in dire need of it. John likes the idea of junior and pickle ball lines being added. He also mentioned that the tennis community would like to play in USTA matches at the courts.

Rick Espino has used the courts for three or four years, four days a week during the summer for the high school team he coaches. He mentioned that he would like the City to use a legitimate tennis court company because they would be able to best fit the needs of the courts. Rick would also like to see the fences (exterior and interior) replaced at the time of the resurfacing. He mentioned that they will need to be done in the near future and it would decrease the chances of cracking if they were replaced before the new surface is put on.

Chuck Davida is a long time tennis player and let the Commission know that the current private court he and his group play on currently is not up to par. A senior was seriously injured while playing on their court, so he is excited that there is going to be a better place to play.

Valeria Egland mentioned that since the high school teams will be playing on the Dunne Park courts when the high school tennis courts are ripped out then maybe they should pay for some of the resurfacing.

Rebecca Pearson is a current member at Ridgemark. Her friend's kids want to take lessons there, but it is too expensive so Rebecca has been giving free lesson at Dunne Park to any and all kids who would like to learn. She is excited about the resurfacing project because the safety of the kids she gives lessons to is her biggest concern. Rebecca would like to see at least five courts down the road at Dunne Park, but is happy with the three current courts being resurfaced.

2. Vista Park Hill Stair Project –

City Manager Bill Avera let the Commission know he needed to do some more research on the proposed item.

Public Comment-

Robin Pollard asked about the stairs project and let the Commission know that R.E.A.C.H. would fundraise to pay for the project, but need direction. She wants to get the ball moving.

Chairperson Ballew directed staff to work directly with Robin Pollard to start the conversations about the Vista Park Hill Stair Project.

Valerie Eglend feels that Vista Park Hill is very central to the downtown area and is a public place for the community to enjoy. She feels that stairs to the top of the hill would be a great gesture from the City for exercise. Valerie believes that the City needs to act on situations where the public at large is taking over and the City needs to take advantage of this opportunity. She believes there may be grants and/or matching funds available for the project in order to make it doable. She would like to see R.E.A.C.H. come together and partner with the City on this project. Would like to have everyone put their ideas together and get it done.

REPORTS

1. **San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission Update** – There was no representative in attendance from the County in order to provide the Commission with an update on the recent activities of the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission.
2. **Recreation Program Review** - Recreation Supervisor Tina Garza provided the Commission with a brief review of the month's Recreation Division activities.
3. **Parks Division Review** – City Manager Bill Avera provided the Commission with a monthly report of the Parks Division's activities

Next Meeting – Recreation Coordinator Trisha Lee informed the Commission that the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission would be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission. Chairperson Ballew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Second was by Commissioner Miller. Motion passed 3-0-1 with Commissioner Kutz absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trisha Lee, Recreation Coordinator
Parks and Recreation Commission