



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

**Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at 6:31 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Cebrian, Cox (Chair), Harris, Lane, Palefsky (Vice-Chair), Stanwood, Tafoya
Staff: Derek Schweigart, Community Services Manager

A. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 30 minutes)

No Public Comment

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

B1. Accept Commission minutes for the meeting of April 22, 2015

ACTION: Motion and Second (Cebrian/Stamwood) to approve the minutes of April 22, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

The new Commission Member, Laura Lane, introduced herself to the Commission, Staff and the public.

B2. Selection of new Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

ACTION: Motion and Second (Cox/Cebrian) to appoint Marianne Palefsky as Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Motion and Second (Palefsky/Cox) to appoint Christopher Harris as Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

B3. Review and Approve Staff Recommendation for Placement and Installation of Two Benches at Bedwell-Bayfront Park

Brian Henry, Public Works Superintendent, gave the Commission a presentation on the placement and installation of two benches at Bedwell-Bayfront Park.

Public Comment

Nancy Borgeson, of Menlo Park, wanted to thanks the Community Services Department for the benches. She mentioned she feels that more benches are needed at Bedwell-Bayfront Park.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

ACTION: Motion and Second (Cebrian/Cox) to approve the Staff recommendations for the placement and installation of the benches at Bedwell-Bayfront Park. Motion passed unanimously.

B4. Review and Consider Staff Recommendation to Prohibit the Usage of Drones at Bedwell-Bayfront Park

Brian Henry, Public Works Superintendent, gave the Commission a presentation on the staff recommendation to prohibit the usage of drones at Bedwell-Bayfront Park.

Public Comments

Silas Kwok (time donated from Jim Masterson & Greg Ashford), from Belmont, member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics Foundation asked the Commission to reconsider the ban of usage of model aircrafts at Bedwell-Bayfront Park.

David Urrutia, from Fremont, asked the Commission to reconsider the recommendation to prohibit the usage of drones at Bedwell-Bayfront Park.

Ed Canty, from Redwood City, brought examples of the model aircrafts he flies at Bedwell-Bayfront Park that are flown close to the ground. He asked the Commission to find a way not to ban the usage of model aircrafts.

Frank Dickinson, from Redwood City, mentioned the issue of safety can be resolved very easily by agreeing to a list of rules that are set by the Academy of Model Aeronautics Foundation, the FAA and Park Staff. He mentioned that drones and model aircraft are not the same; drones are used primarily by the military. All users of the park stop and ask him questions and enjoy watching him fly his model aircraft.

Richard Brigitt, from Redwood City, mentioned there have been no incidents and model aircrafts can be flown as per the FAA regulations at Bedwell-Bayfront Park.

Paul Nickels, from Redwood City, mentioned the Park users that fly model aircrafts are concerned for the wildlife and the safety of the other users of the park.

Mitch Brenner, from San Bruno, mentioned he has been flying model aircrafts for eight years and that other park users stop and admire and ask questions.

Anne Moser, from Menlo Park, asked the Commission to consider the ban of flying model aircraft at the park.

Nancy Borgeson, from Menlo Park, read a letter that was sent to her from a park user that feels that drones are incompatible with the use of the park.

Jeffrey Young, from San Francisco, mentioned that banning the use of flying model aircrafts is not fair to the park users that do follow the rules and that are concerned for the safety of the other park users.

William Brotherton, from San Carlos, said that if the park users that are flying model aircraft at the park are members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics Foundation this will relieve the City of any liability.

Jerome Miller, from Redwood City, mentioned he has been flying at Bedwell-Bayfront Park for two years and spoke against the ban on flying model aircraft.

Steve Boil, from Santa Clara, mentioned that the Academy of Model Aeronautics Foundation remains off the path when practicing.

Following discussion, the Commission requested information from Staff to continue the discussion of Staff's Recommendation to Prohibit the Usage of Drones at Bedwell-Bayfront Park at the June 24, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

C1. Community Services Department Budget Overview for FY 2015-16

Derek Schweigart gave the Commission an overview of the Community Services department Budget for FY 2015-16.

Following discussion, no action was taken.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

D1. Flood Park Background Information and Status Report

Derek Schweigart gave the Commission Background Information and a Status Report of Flood Park.

Following discussion, no action was taken.

D2. Community Service Department Director's update and announcements

Derek Schweigart gave the Commission the Director's update of the Community Services Department. Following discussion, no action was taken.

E. ADJOURNMENT at 9:05 PM

Prepared by Linda Munguia, Secretary.