

# Parks & Recreation Commission



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 9/12/2015  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**City Council Chambers**  
**555 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025**

### Roll Call

Present: James Cebrian, Marianne Palefsky, Tucker Stanwood, Christopher Harris, Kristin Cox, Elidia Tafoya, Laura Lane

Absent:

Staff: Cherise Brandell, Community Services Director, Derek Schweigart, Community Services Manager

### A. Public Comment

None

### B. Introductory Activity

Commission member introduction

### C. Commission reviewed their work plan – goals, achievements and next steps (ranked order)

#### C1. Belle Haven Action Plan Work Plan Goal #1

##### i. Potential of adding a dog park

1. Location
2. Equity

- ii. Chilco – outreach needed from Recology for bulk item pickup
- iii. Expand pool hours
- iv. Senior Center
- v. Belle Haven School Field (under-programmed)
- vi. BH Library – issues about hours and accessibility
- vii. Community space at substation – more people should know about this
- viii. Music in Kelly Park – joint marketing needed
- ix. Shuttle service information needs to be more available in Belle Haven

#### C2. Arts (Work Plan Goal #2)

- i. First must determine if arts is a core function of what we.

1. Budget?
  - a. 1% for public art?
2. Staff time?
- ii. Public Art displays (2/2)
  1. Concerts, music in the park,
  2. When streets are blocked, stores can display
  3. Theme of the month
- iii. Painting – utility boxes, hydrants, landscape features
- iv. Piano event

C3. Parks Goal (Work Plan Goal #3)

- i. Play structures
  1. Upkeep of existing
  2. New experiences i.e. sand play or pebbles (i.e. Washington State)
  3. Urgency to safety issues
- ii. Drones / RC aircraft
- iii. Dog park locations
- iv. Water usage
- v. Pool Locker rooms at Burgess
- vi. Healthy lifestyles and general fitness related enhancements including
  1. “mindfulness” opportunities (spirit past, fountain, tai chi)
  2. Fitness walks and courses
- vii. Energy efficiency – lights, signage visibility, solar
- viii. Alternate source of funding (sponsorships, donations, foundations)
- ix. Commission felt their work on this goal was passive – Further discussion needed on potential room for a more active role here

C4. Other Suggestions

- i. Audit of gymnastics classes to see if there is something better
- ii. Overview look at what’s missing in terms of classes – also what’s redundant and compare to offerings in other cities
- iii. Go to local foundations and corporations and sources of funding
- iv. Art in the parks
- v. Playgrounds – we need to move faster
- vi. Youth and family services need to be improved. Want to learn more about the needs and our response to make them world class experiences
- vii. How can we promote public forums for input
- viii. Community garden on the west side
- ix. Partner with the library to sponsor mini lending library in the park.

**D. Feedback on Draft Strategic Plans**

- D1. Commissioners hear a presentation on the draft program level strategic plans and made the following suggestions related to feedback from stakeholders:

- On line vehicle where can people can log on and make comments via survey monkey or similar, etc. (incentives?)

- One or two community meetings, open houses or workshops. Provide child care.
- Paper survey at the last class or after downtown movie night
  - Use an iPad or other instant forum.
- NextDoor – use this to let people know it's the time for input.
- Partnership with the Chamber and business members could reach out to employees. In order to reach those who work here

## **E. Commission Role Discussion**

### **E1.**

- Secret customer experience helped Marianne feel more involved and see facilities being used.
- Staff could present a calendar of events Commissioners could attend
- Site visits to programs – Let Commissioners know when to visit
- Attend other parks and rec commission meetings to see how neighboring cities do it
- Attend classes or events in other cities
- Volunteer at events
- Scope of work is different in each
- Make report out of visits and involvement a standing item at monthly meetings

## **F. Adjournment**

These Minutes were approved at the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of October 28, 2015