



CITY OF NOVATO
PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation, Cultural and Community Services Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2021 - 7:00 PM

Teleconference Only

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Crow at 7:05 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Dennis Bentley, Suzanne Crow, Erin Lacey, René Pouteau, Betsy Ricketts, Nancy Weber

Commissioners Absent: Patrick Giambalvo,

Staff Present: Deputy Director of Parks Recreation and Community Services Katie Gauntlett, Recreation Supervisor Teresa Ehteshami, Recreation Supervisor Ronele Schaefer, Office Assistant Jean Holzgang de Buren

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Weber and seconded by Commissioner Bentley, the Commission voted 6-0-0-0 to approve the final agenda.

Ayes: Bentley, Crow, Lacey, Pouteau, Ricketts, Weber

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Giambalvo

Motion Carried

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. CONSENT ITEMS

D.1. Approve the Meeting minutes from January 14, 2021

Approval of the meeting minutes postponed until the May 13, 2021 meeting.

E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

None

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

F.1. Receive update from Recreation Supervisor, Teresa Ehteshami on programming events at the Margaret Todd Senior Center.

Recreation Supervisor Teresa Ehteshami provided historical information on the Margaret Todd Senior Center and discussed the ways the staff are engaging with the community since COVID-19. With changes in the tier status, staff are looking forward to offering in-person programming with outdoor classes in the spring, following COVID protocols.

F.2. Receive an update from Deputy Director Gauntlett on Hamilton Pool Summer Programming

Deputy Director Gauntlett shared an update on the status of Hamilton Pool, stating that the City of San Rafael staff are in the hiring process for summer staff; limited information is available at this time regarding programming specifics and operating hours of the Hamilton Pool for this summer. Modified recreation and lap swim will be offered following all State and County COVID Guidelines, and pre-registration will be required per the guidelines.

F.3. Receive Update from the Ad Hoc Committee for Naming and Sponsorship Opportunities.

The Commissioners explained that the Ad Hoc Committee is in the initial exploratory phase of the project now, assessing the property, parks, and facilities available in Novato. The committee will continue to identify the potential of each park for advertising and revenue.

Chair Crow asked the Ad Hoc Committee to continue to provide updates on their ongoing research at future meetings.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

G.1. Staff Updates

Deputy Director of Parks Recreation and Community Services Katie Gauntlett announced that the City Council approved staff to apply for a State of California Per Capita Grant under Proposition 68. Funding for this grant has been identified to go towards the completion of the Pioneer Park Playground Improvement Project, which will help deliver all of the requests of the community. Construction is targeted for the summer of fiscal year 2021-2022.

Deputy Director Gauntlett shared that the spring activity guide was released on February 25th and offered more in-person programming such as tumbling tots, preschool gymnastics, after school gymnastics, and Supernova, a parent participation class for children with adaptive needs. The after-school sports camp continues to be popular, socially distanced special events are ongoing with Letters to Leprechauns and the upcoming “egg” hunt in our community parks.

Deputy Director Gauntlett will invite the Novato Gymnastics Staff to present an update at the next meeting.

G.2. Commissioner Reports

Commissioners Weber and Lacey expressed their thanks to the gymnastics program staff for being so welcoming, organized, and for continuing to be so invested in what’s happening in the community. Commissioner Crow stated that she has been hearing positive comments about the Hill Recreation Area from members of the community who appreciate what PRCS staff are doing.

The next RCCS meeting is on May 13, 2021.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly adopted at the RCCS Commission meeting of July 8, 2021.

/ Jean Holzgang de Buren /
Jean Holzgang de Buren, Office Assistant