

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**March 11, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
110 East Cook Street
Santa Maria**

Members Present: Commissioner Rebecca Carey, Commissioner Anais Diaz, Commissioner Cynthia Gudino, Commissioner Jose Ramirez

Members Absent: Commissioner Sally Lopez

Staff Present: Director of Recreation & Parks Alex Posada, Business Program Leader Neville Smeda, Recreation Services Manager Dennis Smitherman, Assistant Director Angela Oslund

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commission Chair Carey called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes to approve the February 25th meeting will be delayed until the next Commission meeting on April 8; the minutes from the February 11 meeting are approved.

Moved by: Commissioner Jose Ramirez

Seconded by: Commissioner Cynthia Gudino

Review and approve the minutes from the regular meeting of February 11 and the special meeting of February 25.

Approved

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Not to Exceed 15 Minutes)

There were no requests to speak.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.a Cost Fee Study- Update

Director Posada and Mr. Smitherman gave a recap on the costs and fees that were discussed at the special meeting held on February 25.

Commissioner Gudino was absent during the special meeting.

6. DIRECTOR AND MANAGEMENT STAFF

6.a Business Manager's Report

Mr. Smeda gave a brief update on the budget revenues. As of February 28, the year-to-date expenditures is at 66 percent and the remaining budget is at 34 percent.

A staffing update was also presented, with six new hires, three employees promoted, and eight employees separated.

6.b Operations Division Report

Mrs. Oslund gave an overview of park operations. She discussed recommendations for maintenance park priorities, including ball field maintenance, weed abatement, playground woodchips, graffiti abatement, and general landscape maintenance. She also discussed the level of service and water usage at parks.

The Veteran's Memorial Park, Minami parking lot, Enos House, Japanese Community Center, Community Garden, Dejoy and Taylor pocket parks, the Battles Road beautification, and City Hall landscaping, updates were also discussed.

Chair Carey asked how many garden plots are available, Mr. Posada responded that 88 plots are available, a third being used by Alan Hancock Students, and there is a wait list.

6.b.1 Simas Park Update

Mrs. Oslund gave an update on the Simas Field design including the benches, pathways, ramps, etc. The cost estimated for the renovations is over \$1 million. The next step is to come up with an ADA transition plan. Recreation and Parks will request \$600,000 for the next two years' budget for the field.

Commissioner Ramirez asked if the field is open while it is being worked on. Mrs. Oslund stated that the park will be closed for the next two years as it will be under construction.

Commissioner Gudino asked what fields the South Side Little League are using. Mr. Posada responded that Robin Ventura field and basin are being used.

6.c Recreation Division Report

Mr. Smitherman discussed some upcoming activities this spring. The Denim and Diamonds Family Dance will be held on March 16 at the Veterans Hall; the Kite Festival will be held on April 27; Machado Plaza will be hosting Earth Day on April 22. The First Annual Strawberry Fun Run will be held on April 26.

Mr. Smitherman gave a quick update on the Leisure Needs Assessment, the goal is to receive 1000 surveys, and the results will come out in the next few weeks.

6.d Director's Report

Director Posada reported on a few items. The CPRS Conference is next week, March 19- March 21. The Sports Complex contract has been signed, construction will begin next week, and a groundbreaking will be held soon. Director Posada also mentioned Mr. Jim Glines, an involved community member, who has passed and has suggested the Commission to possibly recommend naming a facility on behalf of Mr. Glines, a handout of the available facilities will be provided to the Commission. The recommendation from the Commission will be taken to the City Council for approval.

7. COMMISSIONER ITEMS (Oral)

7.a Official Business conducted by a commissioner

Commissioner Gudino mentioned that she participated in a street clean-up that was led by Councilmember Escobedo. She also mentioned that there was debris that obstructed the bike paths due to the median and traffic of vehicles, causing the bike paths to not being used. She also attended the Employee Awards Dinner of February 13.

Commissioner Diaz has nothing to report.

Commissioner Ramirez discussed the special meeting held on February 25, he gave appreciation for the staff for all the hard work that is done.

Chair Carey attended the Downtown Committee meeting, the old Sears building will become a Super Mercado; she attended the Employee Awards Dinner on the 13th and it was enjoyable. She will be attending the CPRS Conference next week; and is looking for someone to join CRAYTAC to represent the 5th district.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commission Chair Carey adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Alex Posada, Secretary