

**CITY OF CAMPBELL
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA
January 13, 2021
MINUTES**

The Parks and Recreation Commission convened for its special meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:03 pm, via Zoom Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Abraham, Fidrych, Ishibashi, Teeter, Mitchell
Absent: Beitz, Doherty
STAFF: Acting Recreation and Community Services Director Natasha Bissell, Public Works Director Todd Capurso, Recording Secretary Rebekah Rodriguez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MSC: Teeter/Abraham to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of November 4, 2020.

AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Abraham, Ishibashi, Teeter, Fidrych, Mitchell

ABSTAIN: None

NOES: None

Presentations:

NONE.

Oral Requests:

NONE.

Announcements

Commissioner Appointments – Natasha mentioned that the three commissioners were reappointed for another term. Congratulations to all three for returning. Todd also added his congratulations to them.

New Business:

Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Natasha said that there could be a conversation as to the chair position and move on to the vice chair position. Commissioner Teeter nominated Commissioner Fidrych as Chair. Commissioners Ishibashi and Mitchell both agreed with that nomination. Commissioner Fidrych thanked them accepted the nomination for the position.

MSC: Mitchell/Teeter to appoint Bob Fidrych to Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Abraham, Ishibashi, Teeter, Fidrych, Mitchell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Moving on to the discussion of Vice Chair, Commissioner Ishibashi asked if either Commissioner Teeter or Abraham have had that role. Commissioner Abraham nominated Commissioner Teeter for the position, but Commissioner Teeter mentioned that she had come from the Civic Improvement Commission and held both the Vice Chair and Chair position and would like Commissioner Abraham to

hold the Vice Chair position for this commission. Commissioner Abraham accepted the nomination for the Vice Chair position.

MSC: Teeter/Mitchell to nominate Liraz Abraham as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission
AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Abraham, Ishibashi, Teeter, Fidrych, Mitchell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Committee Assignments – Chair Fidrych took over the commission at this point. Natasha opened the discussion of the assignments and what they currently are as follows: Parks and Creek Trail: Chair Doherty with Members Fidrych and Teeter; Trees: Chair Abraham with Members Beitz and Ishibashi; Special Events: Chair Mitchell with Members Abraham and Beitz. Parks and Creek Trails will be switched up, Commissioner Ishibashi recommended that Commissioner Teeter become the Chair. No changes were suggested so it will stay as the same members but with the new Chair being Commissioner Teeter.

MSC: Mitchell/Ishibashi to appoint Sharon Teeter to Chair of Parks and Creek Trail and the other members will be Sherrie Doherty and Bob Fidrych

AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Abraham, Ishibashi, Teeter, Fidrych, Mitchell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Next Committee discussed was Trees. Commissioner Mitchell suggested that Commissioner Ishibashi be Chair of Trees.

MSC: Fidrych/Teeter to appoint Allen Ishibashi to Chair of Trees and the other members will be Liraz Abraham and Frank Beitz.

AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Abraham, Ishibashi, Teeter, Fidrych, Mitchell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Next Committee discussed was Special Events. Commissioner Mitchell nominated Commissioner Abraham to be chair.

MSC: Ishibashi/Teeter to appoint Commissioner Abraham as Chair of Special Events and the members will be Mitchell and Beitz

AYES: (Roll call vote was done) Abraham, Ishibashi, Teeter, Fidrych, Mitchell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Commission Work Plan – Natasha took the lead on the discussion regarding the FY 21 Workplan and Goals. The existing workplan and goals were established last year and due to the pandemic, not many events were done. Chair Fidrych asked if the events are still on at this point due to the pandemic. Natasha responded that it is a significant thing; the fun runs have been a virtual opportunity, no park tours were done due to the pandemic, holding a PRC meeting in a meeting did not happen. Some events did not happen like the Bunnies and Bonnets Parade, Park Volunteer Project and Arbor Day.

Todd added that Arbor Day will always happen whether we do something or not as it is on the calendar and it could turn into yet another virtual opportunity. He talked about the workplan items that have already been completed. There is still time for the commission to conduct an annual review of the Parkland Dedication Fund and it will remain on the workplan. No other park improvement project will come forward this fiscal year and the Ad Hoc subcommittee would not be needed since the John D Morgan Park renovation will begin this year. There may be other items to look for to add to the workplan to but most of them could be removed.

Chair Fidrych asked if adding a line item like a walk of the John D. Morgan park renovation. Todd agreed with that option as is a possible a tour of Campbell Park being renovated. Both renovations will happen over the next year. There could be a grand opening of the John D. Morgan renovation. Chair Fidrych asked if there is another project down the road that would need a preliminary review; for example, the track. Todd responded that the track is a good idea since it is up for a resurfacing project during the next calendar year. It should happen over the year 2021 but still trying to confirm funding from the County. There is a renovation of Virginia Park but not until fiscal year 2024 but early input would be helpful as to what is missing or lacking at that site. There could be funding from the ownership of the Pruneyard to construct a spur trail that would connect from Campbell Ave to where the Pruneyard parking garage is and back on the trail to make it more pedestrian friendly.

Chair Fidrych asked if specific items are needed or just a general item like Review and Prioritization of 2021 items. It was suggested that keeping it generic would be best. Commissioner Mitchell asked about the San Tomas Aquino trail. Todd responded that there is nothing happening with this project at this time until there is a grant opportunity or funding options are appropriate. There is no funding for the pool so it would need to be funded differently.

Natasha reviewed what items will remain on the workplan as follows: Conduct annual review of the Parkland Dedication Fund; Tour and discuss of all-inclusive John D. Morgan and Campbell park construction projects; and Review, provide early input and prioritize FY 22 projects. The discussion moved on to the goal portion of the workplan. Chair Fidrych said that there was an item missing which is the cleanup from the City of Campbell and City of San Jose. Todd said it could be something we could do in the future but not on Martin Luther King Day which is when this normally happens.

Commissioner Mitchell said some of these items could happen and they should be left on the workplan. Commissioner Ishibashi mentioned to add a condition to them like "Circumstances permitting" to these items. Vice Chair Abraham asked if the Bunnies and Bonnets Parade could be done the way Santa drove in the neighborhoods this year. Natasha responded that the Bunnies and Bonnets Parade is put on by the Downtown Campbell Business Association and the Chamber, so the City only participates in it. Commissioner Mitchell talked about the last item which was Collaborate with the Campbell Youth Commission even though that did not happen this year, it could remain on the list and collaborate with them. She did suggest that another commission that could be added to collaborate with is the Civic Improvement Commission for public art ideas and projects for parks and other places. Chair Fidrych agreed with that idea. Natasha reviewed what the workplan would be moving forward. Todd did bring up the trail improvement projects and added to collaborate with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to consider. Commissioner Mitchell did attend this committee and gave input as to what happened at that last meeting. Collaborate with the Bicycle and Advisory Committee for trail concepts and ideas. This item will return next month for final approval.

Committee Reports:

Parks and Creek Trail: Chair Doherty was not present. Commissioner Teeter is out there and is happy that the City has kept it open. She has noticed that not many people are wearing masks. She has found three encampment sites. Chair Fidrych asked what the City's stance on homeless issues is. Todd responded that it has changed. The City works closely with the Water District since it is on their property. They have the maintenance and operation along the trail. Right now, in the pandemic, they are not posting things for removal and are trying to do the best they can to keep it clean.

Trees: Chair Abraham had nothing to report.

Special Events: Chair Mitchell reported there is nothing to report.

Staff Reports:

A. Parks – Public Works Director Todd Capurso

- Bob Siudzinski gave a verbal report out on the homeless situation in the Los Gatos Creek area. Caltrans is gearing up to do a homeless removal and they are going to fix the fence, and this should help in reducing the number of people coming from the freeway.
- Steve Holmes from the Clean Creeks Collation will be doing a cleanup in the creek. Caltrans will replace their locks so that there is no ease to come in and out.
- Along the trail, the Street department was out doing root cutting and pavement repair on the trail by Campbell Park. There will be some improvements in that area.
- The use of the trail and the parks is very popular. Many are using the parks for outdoor dining, and the garbage has become an item that staff needs to be more aware of.
- Dave Olsen retired from the City.
- Rain is needed and because we have not had rain, the use of the irrigation system has been in use but in balance need.
- At John D. Morgan Park on the Rincon side, there is a median island at the end of the road that was recently landscaped. There was a Birch tree with heavy ivy, and it was growing over the curb and gutter. The ivy was cut down to clean soil, a new irrigation system was added that will supply water directly on the plants that need it. Large boulders were also added, and a new River Birch tree was added which is drought tolerant.
- Todd gave kudos to the maintenance staff for putting up the holiday decorations but now they are coming down as we are now past the first of the year.
- John D. Morgan renovation work will begin on January 25 and a virtual groundbreaking is in the works with the Mayor and some Council members. Temporary construction fencing will be put up during that week. The demo will begin later that week if you happen to visit the park.
- The mural that was going to be done at the Creekside underpass along the trail has been postponed. The art contest was done, and the final mural was going to go up during the months of November and December but because the weather is not favorable, the volunteers will begin this project until March. Any changes will be reported out at the next meeting.
- The Measure O project meeting was held earlier this week and a preferred concept was chosen for the Library building. There was discussion for the PD building and that will be returning later. There is a temporary site for the Library at the Community Center in E46. This could be the Library's home for the next 2-3 years. They will move in by springtime.

Chair Fidrych asked if it is a tear down or renovation of the Library. Todd responded that it is a renovation project and not a tear down, but the building shell will be left. Commissioner Teeter says she goes to the Library every week so she is thankful that it will be moved to the community center. Commissioner Ishibashi wanted to know when the John D Morgan Park will be done. Todd responded that it will be sometime around June of this year. If we get rain, it will be between June and July time frame. Commissioner Mitchell said it must be completed by November for grant purposes and Todd agreed with that timeframe.

B. Recreation & Community Services –Acting Recreation & Community Services Director Natasha Bissell

- Natasha started off by mentioning the Heritage Theatre & Historical Museum remain closed.
- Museum continues with virtual programming
 - Membership Monday: March 1 (7 pm): Holocaust Speaker from the JFCS Holocaust Center
 - February 12 (6 – 7pm): History at home with Author Ehesaneh Sadr who will present her novel *A Door Between Us*; Tickets are \$10
 - Membership Monday and History At Home events will continue on a monthly basis. Check www.campbellmuseums.com for more information
 - The Campbell Museum Foundation is also recruiting for new board members if you know of anyone who would be interested in serving on the Board.
 - YouTube Channel: Campbell Museums continues with the “What’s In The Box” series where they go through different artifacts from the collection.
 - www.campbellmuseums.com also has virtual tours of the Ainsley House and Carriage House. Provides an in depth look into the house with a variety of objects and locations set up for learning.
- Skatepark will remain closed during Stay At Home Order
- Outdoor Fitness and lap swim continue
- Pre-school classes are resuming – adding one more class for January through May
- Virtual Valentine Fun run will take place 2/13 – 2/21; registration is open online. \$20 for adults and \$12 for ages 20 and under.
- Senior Nutrition Program continues.
- Donna Rice, the Recreation Coordinator in the Adult Center is retiring after 37 years with the City of Campbell. She will leave at the end of February.

Commissioner Ishibashi asked how Recreation is doing with all the programs on hold without the youth sports and programs. Natasha responded that it is very troubling. They are doing everything possible and within the guidelines. It is a very challenging situation right now. There is a new contractor for tennis, and he is more expensive, so staff is working with him to work within the allotted time. The new recreation system is now up and running and user friendly.

Good of the Game

Commissioner Ishibashi thanked the Recreation staff since the public is now appreciating the parks being open.

Commissioner Mitchell also appreciates the parks being open and how staff is doing what they can to bring in income. Also mentioned that the maintenance staff has done an awesome job.

Vice Chair Abraham mentioned she went to the track on a Farmers Market day and she enjoyed it. Commissioner Fidrych had nothing to add since they have stayed indoors during these months.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Rebekah Rodriguez

Rebekah Rodriguez, Recording Secretary