

COMMISSION MEMBERS
Eric Holm, Chair
Sean Williams, Vice Chair
Mike Etheridge
J. Christopher Massey
Stan Watkins

CITY OF SAN MATEO

Regular Meeting Minutes

City Hall
330 W. 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
www.cityofsanmateo.org

Park and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

City Hall - Conference Room C 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting ** Please note new meeting time!

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Holm called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Etheridge, Holm, Massey and Watkins. Excused: Williams
Staff Present: Canzian, Fried and Wilson. Sheila Canzian introduced Assistant City Attorneys Gabrielle Whelan and Bahareh Abdollahi who were also in attendance.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes Approval](#)

Commissioner Etheridge moved, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2017. Motion carried 3/0/1 abstention. Commissioner Massey abstained due to his excused absence from the February meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

2. [Appeal of Heritage Tree Permit Denial: Aragon High School](#)

The Park and Recreation Commission was asked to hear an appeal of the decision of the Parks and Recreation Director to deny the removal of two dwarf blue gum trees on the grounds of Aragon High School. Matthew Fried, Managing Arborist provided a PowerPoint presentation and provided some background information on the permit process. He also explained the reasons for his original decision to deny the permit.

Mr. Raymond Ko, Woodland Drive, provided a PowerPoint presentation stating his interest and reasons for wanting the trees removed. His attorney Barri Kaplan Bonapart was in attendance to answer any questions. Richard Gessner, Arborist from Monarch Consulting Arborists LLC, provided an additional PowerPoint presentation and was available to answer questions on behalf of Mr. Ko.

San Mateo Union High School District members Linda Carlton, Director of Maintenance and Elizabeth McManus, Deputy Superintendent were in attendance to answer questions. Their independent consulting arborist, Dr. Jim Clark from HortScience was also in attendance. He provided

the background information for his report and how he arrived at his findings. He was available to answer further questions.

Commissioners posed questions.

Chair Holm opened the public comment. The following members of the public spoke in support of Mr. Ko: Geary Chew, Barri Bonapart, David Mitchell, Mary Chew, Guy Chew, Jonathan Tsou, and Stephanie Ko. Susan Rowinski also spoke to the item asking Commissioners to keep the integrity of the Heritage Tree Ordinance intact while making their decision. Hearing no further requests to speak, Chair Holm closed the public comment.

Commissioners had a thoughtful discussion. Each gave their opinion on the trees meeting the five considerations for removal. Commissioner Massey did not agree with Dr. Clark's report of a risk rating of low for the child's play area being only occasionally used, and therefore with the determination of a branch falling as probable under normal conditions he felt there was a danger of it falling on or near the proximity of the proposed playhouse structure.

Commissioners took a preliminary vote and then Chair Holm moved, seconded by Commissioner Etheridge to uphold the decision of the Parks and Recreation Director to deny the appeal of Mr. Ko for the removal of the two dwarf blue gum trees on the grounds of Aragon High School and to adopt the Statement of Decision and Findings of San Mateo Park and Recreation Commission in the matter of the appeal of Denial of Aragon High School's Heritage Tree Removal Application. Chairman Holm explained that aye's would uphold the decision of the Parks and Recreation Director, nay's would support the appeal from Mr. Ko for the removal of the trees. Ayes - Etheridge, Holm and Watkins. Nays - Massey. Motion carried 3/1.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Director Canzian reminded Commissioners that she would be accepting the Design Award for the Beresford Playground at the California Park and Recreation Society Conference Award Ceremony in Sacramento on Friday March 3, 2017. The award will be presented at a future City Council meeting. Sheila will inform Commissioners when that date is confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Holm adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.

SUBMITTED BY:

Vicki Wilson, Recording Secretary