

**PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 3, 2022**

AMENDED

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Lieberg called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

- a. Present: Chair Lieberg, Vice Chair Krogh, Commissioner Jimenez, Commissioner Singh & Commissioner Souza
- b. Absent: None
- c. Staff Present: Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks & Recreation; Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning & Development Manager; & Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager
- d. Recorded By: Andrea Pedigo, Executive Assistant & JoAnn Ronngren, Administrative Assistant

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice Chair Krogh

4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Mary Mitracos community member asked for an explanation of why item 6a was tabled to the May Parks Commission meeting. Ms. Mitracos also asked for an update on the Urban Forestry Plan.

Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development Manager answered the question of Ms. Mitracos.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. Review and Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from **January 6, 2022**

Commissioner Jimenez questioned item 7, items from commission asking if there was a time set for staff to return to the Commission.

Richard Joaquin, Parks Planning and Development manager stated staff will investigate the request and amend the minutes if needed.

ACTION: Motion was made by Commissioner Souza and seconded by Commissioner Jimenez to approve the minutes. Roll call found Chair Lieberg and Commissioners Jimenez and Souza all in favor. Vice Chair Krogh and Commissioner Singh abstained. Passed and so ordered with a 3,0,2 vote

- b. Review and Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from **February 3, 2022**

Commissioner Jimenez questioned item 6 and stated she did not feel the action was written as it was stated during the meeting.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager stated staff will investigate the verbiage of the motion.

ACTION: Motion was made by Commissioner Krogh and seconded by Commissioner Singh to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2022. Commissioner Souza

abstained. Roll call vote found Chair Lieberg, Vice Chair Krogh, and Commissioners Jimenez and Singh all in favor. Passed and so ordered with a 4,0,1 vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **APPROVE A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR FINAL ADOPTION OF THE CITYWIDE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

ACTION: This item has been tabled to the May Parks Commission meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **REVIEW THE APPLICATION(S) RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC NAMING PROCESS FOR A NEW LINEAR PARK IN THE HILLVIEW DEVELOPMENT AND PRIORITIZE THE TOP THREE (3) NAMES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

Richard Joaquin, Park Planning and Development Manager presented the staff report.

John Palmer with Integral Communities addressed the commission. He mentioned that he does not envy them as they have a huge decision to make. He stated he is very proud of the list of names that were submitted as they are the whose who of Tracy. Tracy Hills would be honored to have any one of them named as their park. He mentioned that they have started the naming process for the next parks and wanted to remind the members of the community that put names on this list that there will be numerous opportunities in Tracy Hills and thought out the City to name additional parks.

Vice Chair Krogh asked about the process to re-apply for park naming and Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Program Manager, answered his questions.

Steve Abercrombie addressed and thanked the commissioners for serving on the Commission. He stated he went to City Council a few months ago proposing the roundabout at 6th and Central be named in honor of Ray Morelos. This location was where Ray's restaurant was located and near the original South Side. Staff is still exploring that possibility and he states he would support a park being named after Ray, but he thought the roundabout would be a more appropriate area for him. Additionally, there are 2 people on this list that have been role models for him; Gene Birk, he served as the Chair for Brighter Christmas for 30 year. He also served on many boards and commissions. Dan Schack is the Chair on the Good Samaritan Board and is involved in numerous things around Tracy. He states Dan guided him when he was thinking about joining City Council. Has been a great mentor. He also has 2 daughters that have given quite a bit to the City of Tracy. He states this is a great list of people and there are the 2 names he supports. If the roundabout does not get named after Ray Morelos, then he supports a park being named after him as well.

Conrad Leviot stated this opportunity to name a park is a privilege to the community. He commends the process of park naming. He states he is going to mimic Mr. Abercrombie. The 3 names that he spoke of, Ray Morelos, Gene Birk and Dan Schack, are all names he knows personally and has worked with. Naming a park or even a roundabout after them would be amazing.

Kaylin Delaringa stated that Dan Schack is her father. She states that their family would be honored if her father was considered. He is the most amazing person on the planet and anyone in the room can understand why he is part of the nomination process. He has done more for the city than anyone would ever know. He has taught his children,

and they are teaching their children to do the same. They are Tracy residents and would love to bring their children to a park or a building or a bench that is named in honor of him. Hopefully the Schack Family remains alive and kicking in Tracy and it would be an honor to have their fathers name as something to commemorate and celebrate that.

Lisa Balogh asked for consideration to name the park Frank Hagerty Park. Frank was a special ed educator for 40 years in Tracy. He taught at many schools and he loved kids. She stated how the park was along the aqueduct and that Frank was a runner. He always prided himself on running. She stated, sadly, we lost Frank in 2019. He was a good man. It would be an honor to have his name on something. She added this is a great list of names and she knows lots of them.

Alice English stated she gets all choked up when she sees certain names on the list. She doesn't envy the commission and the decision they will have to make. The first that comes to mind is Ray Morelos Jr. Park. Sadly, we lost him a year ago. He has done so much for the community. Her 2nd choice would be Dan Schack. He as well has done so much for the Community. Mr. Schack and Ray Morelos have done so much for the community. If you agreed with them or not, its ok. Gene Birk served on Parks and did a lot of good things for the community. She states she would love to see that the commission submit Ray Morelos Jr., Gene Birk, and Mr. Schack.

Mary Mitracos stated that she is going to repeat what others said. She states she has 2 suggestions; in the parks master plan there is forward planning, and one day in the Bow Tie, there will be at least one park and she believes that is where Ray Morelos Park should be. Secondly, she thinks that just as we have McCray Family Park there should be a Schack Family park since this is a generational thing. She remembers when Mrs. Schack taught her in the 2nd grade. Lastly, she states she does not know why this list would have to be limited to 3 names and would like to keep 6 names for future parks.

A member of the community congratulated all the names that have been submitted for consideration. He wanted to highlight that Raymond Morelos Jr. was recognized by the State of California Capital with the record published there honoring his historic contribution to the City of Tracy. Mr. Morelos was a 4th generation Tracy native who served the Tracy Community for nearly 50 years. He was elected as Tracy's first Mexican City Council member in 1984 and would go on to serve as the Chair of the Tracy Chamber of Commerce, on the San Joaquin Council of Governments, Tracy Hispanic Group, and the South Side Community Organization. Ray also served our nation in the Marine Corps as a Sergeant during the Vietnam War. Mr. Morelos also worked along his family in a family-owned business, El Castillo Café, Mexican restaurant. Mr. Morelos also spent much time as a Grassroots Organizer, serving as a substance abuse counselor at the Rising Sun Center and the San Joaquin County Office for nearly 20 years. He was also a coach to the Tracy High Track and Cross-Country Team. Ray Morelos is celebrated by those here in the Tracy City and lives on through his family. We also want to acknowledge that he has impacted countless lives here, in the City of Tracy throughout the decades. To have the Tracy Hills park named in his honor would memorialize his immense impact for the City of Tracy and for Latinos across the state of California.

Elisa Barrera Morelos stated that she is Raymond's daughter. She states it would be an honor for his name to be put anywhere in City of Tracy and she didn't realize all the work he had done. Now that she is older, she can't believe all that he has done. She states he wasn't done yet. He had a big list of things he wanted to do. She states she wanted to speak for him since he can't speak for himself. It would be nice to have something out there for him so people can see his name and look him up to find out about the person

he was. And for his grandkids to see his name. He grew up South Side Tracy. He loved Tracy. His family does too. Everyone on this list were good friends with him. She states she will keep putting applications in until she can get his name out there somewhere.

Chair Lieberg asked why we are limiting it to 3 suggestions.

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Program Manager, referenced the Park Naming Policy to answer his questions.

Commissioners discussed and recommendation followed.

ACTION: Motion was made by Commissioner Souza and seconded by Commissioner Singh to nominate Mr. Morelos as the 1st choice of 3. Vote passed and so ordered with 4,1,0 vote

Motion was made by Commissioner Souza and seconded by Commissioner Jimenez to nominate Gene Birk as the 2nd choice. Vote did not pass 2,3,0

Motion was made by Vice Chair Krogh and seconded by Commissioner Souza to nominate Dan Schack for 2nd choice. Vote passed and so ordered with 4,1,0

Motion was made by Commissioner Souza and seconded by Commissioner Singh to present to City Council the top 3 choices in order: Ray Morelos, Dan Schack and Gene Birk. Vote passed and so ordered with 5,0,0 vote.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

a. RECEIVE SENIOR COMMENTS AND CONCERNS QUARTERLY REPORT

Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager, presented quarterly report.

Commissioner Jimenez asked if it was possible to do a video of Zumba, or if an instructor was needed.

Commissioner Souza asked how we are reaching out to the community for a Zumba volunteer. She also asked if one day a week availability would be ok.

Jolene Jauregui answered questions from the Commission.

9. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Jimenez stated there is no report for Tracy Friend Parks, Recreation and Community Services. The Parks and Community Services Foundation will be meeting at the end of this month. She states she should have a report for April because they are meeting every other month. For the Tracy Senior Association, she states she has a church contact that is familiar with the homeless at El Pescadero Park. She requested that they please identify and let her know if there are seniors living at El Pescadero Park. She wants to make sure all seniors needs are being met. She will notify the Tracy Senior Association as they want this information. They are attempting to outreach to seniors that are off the grid to provide support and help if they need it.

She added that the California Parks and Recreation Society Conference is being held next week and she will be attending the session on Thursday. She states she wants to get to the booths that have skate parks and another vendor that has sports equipment, hoping they could give her information and support for a BMX pump track.

Commissioner Souza stated that TUSD will be able to be mask free beginning March 14th.

Commissioner Singh let everyone know that if anyone needs covid test kits will be distributed on Sunday at the Sikh Temple on Clover Rd. Additionally, they are giving away hand sanitizer and masks.


Chair Lieberg stated that 2 weeks ago he spoke on a special committee at the City Council meeting about Measure V. He states he advocated for aquatics. He stated they said they discussed doing special funding and taking out a loan for the Rec Center and use Measure V money for the Aquatics Center. There was discussion about using 1 million in Measure V funds to be allocated to the nature park, sooner rather than later.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Time of Adjournment: 8:21 pm

ACTION: Motion was made by commissioner Souza and seconded by Commissioners Jimenez and Singh.

The above agenda was posted at Tracy City Hall on February 24, 2022. The above are action minutes. A recording of the meeting is available at the Parks and Recreation Department.



Jolene Jauregui, Staff Liaison