

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF MONTEREY**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER, FEW MEMORIAL HALL**  
**MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93940**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the Secretary to call for roll.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:** Canepa, Cooney, Laughton, McCarthy, Menendez-Herbst, Woodward

**Commissioners Absent:** Marotta (Excused)

**Military Liaison Present:** None

**Staff Present:** Recreation and Community Services Director Russo, Deputy Public Works Director Stafford, Deputy Public Works Director Turnbeaugh, Recreation Superintendent Vierra, Monterey Senior Center Director Aiello, Recording Secretary Nash

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of Thursday, February 15, 2007  
*Action: Approved as submitted (6-0-1, Marotta absent).*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

2. **Award of Appreciation – Charles Wilson – Volunteer Computer Instructor, Monterey Senior Center**

*Action: Award of Appreciation presented.*

Recreation Superintendent Vierra stated that over the past five years, Charles Wilson has volunteered over 1,200 hours of computer instruction at the Monterey Senior Center. Charles gave one-on-one instruction to adults and seniors and created a training

program to help them overcome their technology phobia. His commitment and dedication to the Senior Center participants and residents of our community have been greatly appreciated and Charles will be missed by all.

The Commission and staff thanked Charles for his volunteer computer instruction and his outstanding contribution to the City of Monterey and presented him with a plaque.

**3. Review and Comments of Parks/Recreation Related Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) Projects Submitted for Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

***Action: Parks and Recreation Commission approved submitted NIP parks/recreation related projects for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.***

Deputy Public Works Director Turnbeaugh informed the Commission that tonight they will look a little closer at the submitted projects and provide comments back to the NIP Committee regarding the process to evaluate the projects. He stated the Commission's review and recommendation would be based on operation and maintenance and compliance with the Parks Master Plan. Deputy Public Works Directors Turnbeaugh and Stafford reviewed the following submitted projects for Fiscal Year 2007-2008:

**Alta Mesa:**

AM-01 Don Dahvee Greenbelt Management, Phase I

**Casanova Oak Knoll:**

COK-06 Casanova Oak Knoll Park Improvements

**Deer Flats:**

DF-01 Deer Flats Park Basketball Resurface

**Downtown:**

DT-06 Hartnell Gulch Walkway Construction – Phase I

**Monterey Vista:**

MV-16 Via Encanto Water Diversion & Landscape

**New Monterey:**

NM-01 Cypress Park Tennis Court Resurfacing  
NM-08 Hilltop Park – Replace Small Play Structure  
NM-09 Hilltop Park – Resurface Basketball Court  
NM-10 Oak Newton Park – Play Equipment Replacement  
NM-11 Hoffman Park – Landscape & Walkway Improvements  
NM-16 Bay View School / Hilltop Park Bus Stop Pedestrian Safety Study

**Old Town:**

OT-01 Madison Street Tree Planting  
OT-08 Lower Presidio Park Recreation Trail Connection & Bridge Security Fence  
OT-26 Franklin Street Island Renovation

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**Skyline Forest:**

SF-04 Skyline Drive Median at Chatswood Place – Planter & Curb Redesign  
SF-06 Lower Presidio Picnic Ground  
SF-07 Lower Presidio Disc Golf Course

**City Wide:**

CW-03 Fisherman’s Wharf & Del Monte Beach Restrooms Upgrade  
CW-04 Dog Park (location to be determined)  
CW-10 Monterey Sports Center Locker Room Renovation  
CW-12 El Estero Lake Edge Restoration – Phase IV  
CW-13 Monterey Bay Park – Landscaping & Parking Improvements (Del Monte Avenue/Park Avenue)  
CW-14 Monterey High School Field & Track Renovation  
CW-16 Dennis the Menace Park Improvements  
CW-17 Del Monte Avenue along Lake El Estero Pathway Lighting  
CW-18 Camino El Estero Parking Lot Landscape Improvements  
CW-19 El Estero Street Landscaping & Parking – Phase III  
CW-20 El Estero Picnic Area Improvements  
CW-21 Friendly Plaza Pathway Lighting Replacement  
CW-23 Recreation Trail “A” Landscape Improvements

After review and discussion of the above proposed projects, the Parks and Recreation Commission supported all projects except for the following changes:

- Remove: New Monterey Item NM-01, Cypress Park Tennis Court Resurfacing  
This project will be completed within the Parks Division budget.
- Remove: Skyline Forest Item SF-06, Lower Presidio Picnic Ground  
This project is not consistent with the Lower Presidio Historic Plan and should be moved to City Wide project list.
- Remove: Skyline Forest Item SF-07, Lower Presidio Disc Golf Course  
This project is not consistent with the Lower Presidio Historic Plan and should be moved to City Wide project list.
- Add: City-Wide Item CW-15, Monterey High School – Move topsoil from football field to lower baseball field  
This project was not on the original list submitted as part of the staff report.

Commissioner McCarthy motioned that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the parks/recreation related Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) projects submitted for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 with the above noted changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woodward and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	6	COMMISSIONERS:	Canepa, Cooney, Laughton, McCarthy, Menendez-Herbst, Woodward
NOES:	0	COMMISSIONERS:	None
ABSENT:	1	COMMISSIONERS:	Marotta

**4. Recommendation to the City Council Approving Dog Park at El Estero Park**

***Action: Recommended approval to City Council to create a Dog Park at El Estero Park (6-0-1, Marotta absent).***

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford said that at their November, January and February meetings, the Commission discussed possible sites and criteria to create a Dog Park. The proposed site at El Estero Park eucalyptus grove adjacent to the Catholic Cemetery had the most support of the Commission and the best configuration for the installation of an area for smaller dogs and a separate area for larger dogs. He stated that the estimated cost would be approximately \$12,000 and the bulk of the cost would be the installation of brown vinyl-coated fencing.

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated that staff met with the Catholic Cemetery staff to review the site and to discuss any areas of concern. They were supportive of the proposal and did not feel that there would be any conflicts. He also stated that the City would agree to close the Dog Park should there be a funeral service in progress directly adjacent to the Dog Park. He also informed the Commission that parking might be an issue during baseball games held at Sollecito Ball Park.

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford informed the Commission that at subsequent meetings, they would review Dog Park rules and regulations from other agencies and also review the design and layout of the Dog Park.

Commissioner Cooney motioned that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended City Council approval to create a Dog Park at El Estero Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Canepa and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	6	COMMISSIONERS:	Canepa, Cooney, Laughton, McCarthy, Menendez-Herbst, Woodward
NOES:	0	COMMISSIONERS:	None
ABSENT:	1	COMMISSIONERS:	Marotta

**STAFF INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:**

The Commission received the following reports:

- 5. Monthly Reports:**
  - a. Recreation and Community Services Department – February 2007**
  - b. Parks Division – February 2007**
- 6. Easter Egg Hunt 2007**

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford reported that the new Dennis the Menace statue will be installed on Wednesday, March 28 at 11:00 a.m. and that a small ceremony will be held. He reminded them that Cutting Day is this Saturday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m. in Friendly Plaza. He stated that they are almost ready to begin construction of the new roller slide in Dennis the Menace Park.

Deputy Public Works Director Turnbeaugh reported that the City Attorney's Office and some of the Finance staff will move into the trailers set up on Dutra Street after the Recreation and Community Services Department staff have moved back into the Vasquez Adobe.

Recreation Superintendent Vierra reported that staff has been doing recruitment for summer staff and are working hard getting ready for summer programs. She said that the upstairs staff have moved back into the Vasquez Adobe.

Recreation and Community Services Director Russo said that staff can't wait to get back into our building and commended them for dealing so well with the flooding and moving. She said that registration for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will begin on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. and that by Council direction anyone can be in the parade, 100 units maximum, 50 people and two vehicles are the maximum for each unit, and that they are considering having the City Council all ride in one vehicle this year. She also reported that the City Council approved the increase of fees and charges for the Recreation and Community Services Department. She said that staff is working hard on the budget and new payroll system.

**COMMISSIONER AND MILITARY LIAISON COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Laughton thanked the Commission's Dog Park Subcommittee and said it is exciting to see this project happen. She reported graffiti on the Recreation Trail by the big whale mural. She said that while walking on Del Monte Beach there were a lot of dogs loose and that we should consider allowing dogs to be off-leash on the beach and provide mutt mitts. She said that she visited the Monterey Senior Center and it looks great and that Maryrose Aiello is doing a great job as the Center Director. She also inquired about naming of park and recreation facilities and staff reviewed the policy with the Commission.

Commissioner Woodward said it is softball season and thanked the Parks Division staff for having the fields in such great condition. She reported that the picnic area at Ferrante Park needs to be cleaned and power washed. She asked if a memorial bench would be allowed in the picnic area at Ferrante Park and Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated that a memorial bench can be placed in any City park if there is a spot available.

Commissioner Canepa noted the work being done at Shoreline Park and Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated that this project was reviewed by the Commission and that funding is from a Park District grant. Commissioner Canepa asked if Simoneau Plaza would become a park area if Monterey-Salinas Transit moved this bus stop to another area on Tyler Street. Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated that whole area would change with the Hartnell Gulch project. Commissioner Canepa thanked staff for their hard work and said go visit a park, they're beautiful.

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**NEXT MEETING:**

- The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting outside Few Memorial Hall of Records.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kay Russo, Director  
Recreation and Community Services Department

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Dennis McCarthy, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission