

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF MONTEREY**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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:** Cooney, Laughton, Marotta, McCarthy,  
Menendez-Herbst, Woodward

**Commissioners Absent:** Canepa (Excused)

**Military Liaison Present:** None

**Staff Present:** Recreation and Community Services Director Russo,  
Deputy Public Works Director Stafford, Recording  
Secretary Nash

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of Thursday, August 16, 2007  
***Action: Approved with corrections from Commissioner Woodward (6-0-1, Canepa absent).***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

2. **Request to Allow Scooters in the Skate Park from Citizen Steve Saunders**

***Action: Staff was directed to do further research on the liability issues and State Legislative Law to see if scooters can be legally allowed in the Skate Park (6-0-1, Canepa absent.)***

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford presented a request from Mr. Steve Saunders to allow scooters in the Skate Park. He stated that currently scooters and bicycles are not allowed and that the City Attorney has advised that based on Legislative Law the City does not have immunity from liability for use of scooters in the Skate Park. He also said

the Skate Park designer states that the park features are not designed for scooters or bicycles. He said that bicycles were originally prohibited because their metal parts can damage the concrete edges of the Skate Park features.

Mr. Steve Saunders presented his request to allow scooters in the Skate Park. He said his 3½ year old grandson loves riding his scooter in the Skate Park because he likes the curves, hills and being around other kids with the same interest. He would like the City to allow scooters in the Skate Park so that the kids have a safe, fun place to ride. He said that there is more control with a scooter than with a skateboard and there are a lot of young children using both in the Skate Park now. He also stated that the City of Salinas allows scooters in their skate park and asked if the City would research this issue further. Mr. Saunders offered to pay for half the cost of signage if scooters were approved for use in the Skate Park.

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated that the State Legislative Law regulates what types of equipment can be used in the Skate Park where the City would not be liable for any type of injury, and that law only included skateboards and inline skates. He said that just posting signs saying to use the park at your own risk would not relieve the City of liability if someone on a scooter or bicycle were to get hurt. He suggested that Mr. Saunders take his grandson to other City parks where there are safe areas for him to ride his scooter. He feels that this would be a safety and flow issue because of too many conflicting types of uses.

Recreation and Community Services Director Russo stated that this was intended to be a skate park only and that the City and designer worked very closely with the community skateboard kids and that the park is not big enough to allow more uses than it was intended for.

Commissioner Marotta asked if the City of Salinas allows scooters in their Skate Park. Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated yes but that their park is larger than ours.

Commissioner Woodward asked for clarification on the State Legislative Law. Recreation and Community Services Director Russo stated that the State gave immunity to cities with skate parks for skateboards and inline skates only. Any other uses would leave the City liable if there were any injuries, whether the park is posted to use at your own risk or not. Commissioner Woodward said that currently there are bikes and scooters using the park and maybe the Commission could consider time periods for younger children to use the Skate Park. Director Russo stated that the Skate Park is not big enough to accommodate all needs and that safety of the users is the main concern.

Commissioner Laughton said the design was for a skate park and that liability and enforcement has always been an issue for the City.

Commissioner Cooney said the Commission and City worked directly with local skateboarders to design this park and that is the intended use.

Commissioner Woodward says she understands the Legislative immunity issue but not how the scooters would harm the park. Deputy Public Works Director Stafford said that scooters were not considered when designing and building the Skate Park, mainly based on the Legislative Law giving immunity only to skateboards and inline skates.

Commissioner Marotta said he does not see a big difference between skateboards and scooters and can't see why it would be a problem allowing scooters in the Skate Park. Deputy Public Works Director Stafford reiterated that the size of the park and the flow of too many different types of equipment are safety issues. Recreation and Community Services Director Russo stated that you increase the risk of liability with conflicting uses.

Chairperson McCarthy reiterated that the State Legislative Law allows for total immunity for the use of skateboards and inline skates in city owned skate parks and that just posting signs does not give the City immunity if someone were to get injured using scooters or bicycles in the Skate Park.

The Commission gave direction to staff to do more research on how the City of Salinas is able to allow scooters in their skate park without liability concerns. Commissioner Woodward clarified that this would be for non-motorized scooters only.

On a motion by Commissioner Menendez-Herbst, seconded by Commission Laughton, and carried by the following vote, the Commission directed staff to do more research on the Legislative and liability issues regarding the use of scooters in the Skate Park:

AYES: 6 COMMISSIONERS: Cooney, Laughton, Marotta, McCarthy, Menendez-Herbst, Woodward

NOES: 0 COMMISSIONERS: None

ABSENT: 1 COMMISSIONERS: Canepa

### 3. Consideration of Dog Park Rules

***Action: Commission provided comments and direction to staff. Formal rules will come back to the Commission for approval and recommendation to City Council.***

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford reviewed the proposed rules for the Dog Park. He said that staff investigated rules from other dog parks around the State to compile the proposed rules for the City of Monterey's Dog Park. He also thanked Roni Rubenstein and Dianne Conway for their assistance in researching and creating these rules.

Commissioner Laughton asked if smoking is allowed in the Dog Park. Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated no and that this should be added to the rules.

After review of the proposed rules, the Commission made additions to include:

- Dogs must be under voice control.
- Unleashed dogs must in gated area.
- Bring your own mutt mitts.
- No food or treats of any kind (human or dog) allowed inside the park.
- Identification tag to include dog and owner's name.
- No toys allowed.
- Keep gates closed at all times.
- No smoking allowed.

Roni Rubenstein, Monterey resident, suggested that the sign with the rules should go by the entry gate and that other signs reminding people of the rules and petiquette should be installed around the inside of the park. She also suggested that the City set up days to offer dog licensing and offered to check for current dog licenses at the park before allowing dogs inside.

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford stated that he would put the revisions together and bring a formal recommendation to the Commission to recommend approval of the Dog Park rules to the City Council.

**4. Recommendation to the City Council to Support the Cannery Row Foundation's Proposal to Install a Bust of Kalisa Moore on Bruce Ariss Way at Cannery Row**

***Action: Approved recommendation to the City Council to support the Cannery Row Foundation's proposal to install a bust of Kalisa Moore on Bruce Ariss Way at Cannery Row (6-0-1, Canepa absent).***

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford reviewed the request of the Cannery Row Foundation to install a memorial bust of Kalisa Moore on Bruce Ariss Way and stated that the support of the monument is consistent with the City of Monterey's policy of art in public places and meets the City Council's strategic initiative of interpreting the Pacific Biological Lab, Wing Chong Market and La Ida Café. He said that the Cannery Row Foundation will fund the project and there will be no cost to the City for installation; maintenance and preservation will be an ongoing City responsibility estimated to be less than \$500 per year and will be paid by the Cultural Arts & Museum Division.

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford gave some background history and said that Kalisa Moore's La Ida Café closed in 2007 after being a fixture on Cannery Row for over 50 years. Through Kalisa's longtime association with Cannery Row, she has been instrumental in keeping the history and literary tradition associated with that part of Cannery Row alive and vibrant. Kalisa is symbolic of bohemian and literary tradition of Cannery Row popularized by John Steinbeck and advanced by the Pacific Biological Lab and Ed Ricketts connections.

On a motion by Commissioner Laughton, seconded by Commission Woodward, and carried by the following vote, that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend approval to the City Council to support the Cannery Row Foundation's proposal to install a memorial bust of Kalisa Moore on Bruce Ariss Way at Cannery Row:

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

**5. Park Project Update**

***Action: Slide show presentation.***

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford presented a slide show to the Commission highlighting projects and events that the Parks Division has been involved in including relandscaping the traffic island adjacent to Ferrante Park; new play equipment at Montecito Park Tot Lot; the new building remodel project at 735 Pacific Street for City offices; Sollecito Ballpark infield renovation; Del Monte Dunes Boardwalk; Public Works Week at Farmers Market; Shoreline Park improvements; Lower Presidio Park Walkway; demolition of the Mohr Imports building at Monterey Bay Park; Disk Golf at Don Dahvee Park; two Eagle Scout projects: installation of timber steps in Don Dahvee Park and the landscaping project near Shoreline Park that was presented by Isaac Nikssarian at the last Commission meeting; the Parks Division display at the Monterey County Fair; and he included a photo of a rare Red Flowering Horse Chestnut Tree that is located in Friendly Plaza.

The Commission thanked Deputy Public Works Director Stafford for a great slide show and commented on how busy the Parks Division is and what a great job they do for the City.

**STAFF INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:**

The Commission received the following reports:

**6. Monthly Reports:**

- a. Recreation and Community Services Department – August 2007**
- b. Parks Division – August 2007**

**7. Kids Flea Market**

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Deputy Public Works Director Stafford reported there was a picture in the Herald of a Parks Maintenance Worker cleaning the play equipment at the City parks due to the spraying for the Light Brown Apple Moth. He said they are taking precautions by washing down the play equipment for the safety of the children. He reported that the fence at Ferrante Park is scheduled for repairs. He said the Dog Park is scheduled to open in October and that the City Council approved both amendments to the City Code regarding the Dog Park. Mr. Stafford said the Parks Division had some reorganization changes with the retirement of Park Maintenance Supervisor Alan Robbins, the promotion of Senior Park Maintenance Worker Louie Marcuzzo to Park Maintenance Supervisor, and the resignation of Park Maintenance Supervisor Anthony Lombardo. He hopes to fill the vacant positions in-house.

Recreation and Community Services Director Russo reported that staff is busy with upcoming projects and events. She said she spoke to Paul Davis regarding the expansion of the Monterey Youth Center and that plans are moving forward on some of the improvements, which will enhance the Center. She said that we are working on recruitments to fill the vacant positions of Facility Coordinator and the new Aquatics position at the Sports Center, Recreation

Coordinator at Casanova Oak Knoll Park Center, and Senior Recreation Leader for the Afterschool Program at Hilltop Park Center.

**COMMISSIONER AND MILITARY LIAISON COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Woodward complimented and thanked Deputy Public Works Director Stafford and the Parks Division crew for their preventive maintenance in cleaning the play equipment at City parks after the spraying was done for the Light Brown Apple Moth. She said that the next round of spraying is scheduled for October and the biggest concern is to protect the health and safety of the children and seniors and that more information needs to be given to the public regarding the health risks of the spraying done by the State of California.

Commissioner Laughton reported that a friend recently hiked the trail from Veteran's Memorial Park to Huckleberry Hill and that they climbed about 200 steps. They said it was a fabulous hike with great views. Go visit a park.

**NEXT MEETING:**

- The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 8:45 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