



*Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services*

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

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District 1 - Vacant  
District 3 - Lawrence Ames  
District 5 - Daisy Barocio  
District 7 - Giavanna Vega  
District 9 - Janny Choy  
Citywide - Jose Villarreal

Andre Morrow - District 2  
Jo Nguyen - District 4  
Kelly Snider - District 6  
Kent Campbell - District 8  
Ken Brennan - District 10

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### **Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

**5:30 p.m.**

#### **I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day**

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- Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Snider.
- Annie Wong provided meeting logistics information.
- Commissioner Vega absent.

**Item VI. B. Director's Report was heard after Item I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day.**

#### **II. Public Comment**

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*(Members of the Public are invited to speak on any item that does not appear on today's Agenda and that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Meeting attendees are usually given two (2) minutes to speak on any discussion item and/or during open forum; the time limit is in the discretion of the Chair of the meeting and may be limited when appropriate. Speakers using a translator will be given twice the time allotted to ensure non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the Committee, Board or Commission).*

- Vanessa Rivera commented on the lack of communication to the public regarding the Prusch Farm Park Foundation, and the amount of effort the community puts into supporting the park.
- Shawn Gerth commented on the relationship between the City and Veggielution, and that the City has been responsive and collaborative with Veggielution.
- Danny Garza commented on funds for Emma Prusch Farm Park and how the City of San José has been the most responsive city in California in his experience.
- Steven H. Nakano commented on the San Jose Parks Foundation's mission and would like to work collectively with others in support of Emma Prusch Farm Park.

- Pamela Venzie commented on the contract negotiations between the City and the Prusch Farm Park Foundation and the lack of communication from the City that led to the decision to end the contract negotiations.
- James Campbell commented on the unhoused abatement policies and how there needs to be a more efficient system on how to handle the situation before it gets worse.
- Ernesto Rojas commented on the need for more collaboration with the public on decisions made by the City regarding its parks.

### **III. Announcements**

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*(Commissioners are invited to share details on upcoming or previous events that are within the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Items requiring further discussion or action from the Commission may not be presented here.)*

- Commissioner Brennan commented on the October 29<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting and the action that was taken by City Council on Item 7.1 BeautifySJ Neighborhood Blight Reduction Status Report.
- Commissioner Brennan attended a Guadalupe River Park Conservancy working meeting and found that some community members are unaware of the City's Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Brennan asked for the commission to take the opportunity to spread awareness about the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Commissioner Morrow expressed that many of the staff in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) are unaware of what the Parks and Recreation Commission is and hopes that there will be opportunities to introduce the commission to PRNS.

### **IV. Announcements of Conflict of Interest**

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- None

### **V. Consent Calendar**

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- A. Approve the October 2, 2024 Minutes
- B. Approve the October 2, 2024 Attendance Report
- C. Receive and File correspondence to Commission

Documents Filed: (1) October 2, 2024 Minutes, (2) Attendance Report for October 2, 2024

Action: Commissioner Villarreal motioned to approve the consent calendar, which was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The motion was carried (7-0-1-2). Absent: Vega. Abstain: Choy and Snider.

## **VI. Reports and Information Only**

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### **A. Chair, Kelly Snider**

- Suggested to have a holiday snack potluck during the December Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

### **B. Jon Cicirelli, Director, PRNS (Item was heard after Item I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day):**

- Distributed the November Director's report handout.
- Clarified the situation with Emma Prusch Farm Park and the Emma Prusch Foundation.
  - Emma Prusch Farm Park is open and will not be closing.
  - The City and the Emma Prusch Foundation will not be moving forward with a contract, but the Emma Prusch Foundation may continue to be involved with the park.
- Discussed the Emma Prusch Fund information.
- The Department has plans to form an advisory group that consists of the eastside community to get their perspective and feedback on the park and community.

### **C. Council Liaison, Councilmember Devora "Dev" Davis**

- Absent

### **D. County Parks Commission Liaison, Keith Ball**

- A 10% camping and picnic reservation fee adjustment increase per year over the next three years was sent to the Board of Supervisors to bring the Santa Clara County in alignment with other similar Bay Area agencies.
- The Santa Clara County provides free county vehicle parking passes that are available to check out in all 25 San José public libraries and other County libraries.
- The Fields Sports Park clubhouse is being modeled and will be completed by the end of November.
- The Santa Clara County Park Ranger program has several vacancies.

### **E. Staff and Organizations**

#### **i. Park Water Play Features Information Memorandum**

Documents Filed: (1) Memo from Jon Cicirelli, Director, PRNS, dated November 1, 2024

Avi Yotam, Deputy Director, PRNS, presented.

Commissioner discussion ensued.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions.

Chair Snider opened the item for public comment.

Public Comments:

- Vanessa Rivera commented with her support on turning on the park water features.

Action: Commissioner Brennan motioned to request staff to return to the commission before July 2025 with a report that details to total costs of turning on all park water features. The motion was rejected.

**ii. Native Gardens Overview**

Documents Filed: (1) Memo from Avi Yotam, Deputy Director, PRNS, dated October 21, 2024; (2) PowerPoint Presentation

Veronica Schulte, Parks Manager, PRNS; Leticia Espino, Program Manager, PRNS, presented.

Commissioner discussion ensued.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions.

Chair Snider opened the item for public comment.

Public Comments:

- Michelle Deandrea commented on the need to integrate the appropriate native plants into public places and how native plants support ecosystems.
- Kathy Kleinsteiber commented on the importance of planting native plants and how volunteers have supported with creating biodiversity hotspots in the community.
- Jay Shuler commented on how planting native gardens with the support of the City's volunteer network can provide an educational learning opportunity for community members and deter vandalism from occurring.
- Stephanie Morris commended the native garden community for having the opportunities and resources available for people plant native gardens and to learn about the importance of these gardens.
- Linden Shay commended the PRNS Department for implementing the nature portion of ActivateSJ and invites PRNS to collaborate with the Parks Pollinator Working Group to further the growth of native gardens.

## VII. **New and Returning Business**

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### A. **ActivateSJ Strategic Plan Status Report**

Documents Filed: (1) Memo from Jon Cicirelli, Director, PRNS, dated November 21, 2024; (2) PowerPoint Presentation

Jon Cicirelli, Director, PRNS; Andrea Flores Shelton, Assistant Director, PRNS, presented.

Chair Snider opened the item for public comment.

Public Comments: None

Commissioner discussion ensued.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions.

Action: Commissioner Morrow motioned to approve the ActivateSJ Strategic Plan Status Report, which was seconded by Vice Chair Ames. The motion was carried (9-0-1). Absent: Vega

### B. **2024-2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan**

Documents Filed: (1) 2024-2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan.

Andrea Flores Shelton, Assistant Director, PRNS proposed a special meeting in January 2025.

Action: Commission Morrow motioned to accept the special meeting date of January 22, 2025 at 5:30p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Barocio. The motion was carried (9-0-1). Absent: Vega

Annie Wong, Interim Analyst, PRNS, presented the follow changes:

- Placemaking and Public Life Status Report moved from February 2025 to March 2025.

Chair Snider opened the item for public comment.

Public Comments: None

Commissioner discussion ensued.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions.

Action: Commissioner Brennan motioned to add a discussion item to the January 22, 2025 special meeting on:

- Commission roles and responsibilities
- San José Municipal Code

- Council Policy 0-4
- Parks and Recreation Commission Bylaws
- Request for staff to return with a list of the commission's recommendations from the past couple of years.

Chair Snider seconded the motion. The motion was carried (5-4-1). No: Ames, Barocio, Choy, Villarreal. Absent: Vega.

Action: Commissioner Brennan motioned to accept the 2024-2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan, which was seconded by Chair Snider. The motion was carried (8-0-1-1). Absent: Vega. Abstain: Villarreal.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

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Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

The City of San Jose is committed to open and honest government and strives to consistently meet the community's expectations by providing excellent service, in a positive and timely manner, and in the full view of the public. The City Code of Ethics may be viewed on-line at <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/office-of-the-city-manager/employee-relations/city-policy-manual/city-administrative-policy-manual-section-1-2-1-code-of-ethics#!/>

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For questions, please contact Parks Division at (408) 793-4186.

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department at San José City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 9th Floor, San José, CA 95113 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body.

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on December 4, 2024.

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Kelly Snider, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission