

September 23, 2022

Dear Staff and Task Force,

The entire Parks and Recreation Commission is grateful for the work that has been done on the revision of the PDO/PIO process for the city of San Jose. The old policies needed a major overhaul to fit the times in which we live.

We have some major concerns as staff and the task force move toward a final document. Primary issues include equity as it relates to park deficient areas of the city. The new policy cannot be one size fits all, as we have the chance to help balance out the lack of parks in several areas of the city. This will only be possible if park credits in these areas are not traded away. Perhaps formulas can be put into place based on the amount of existing parks per thousand people in any given area. The commission is also in favor of outdoor recreation credits, as long as these spaces are clearly marked and can be used by the public.

As stated in past commission meetings on this topic, a park fee should be levied on businesses bordering on residential areas. This is incredibly important in the new urban villages where the city is dense and the stated outcome is to “live, work, and play” all in one area. Once again, this should also be looked at in terms of existing parks in any given area.

Sincerely,

Daphna Woolfe
Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission