

**BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Via ZOOM, SANTA ROSA, CA**

August 25, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Quant at 4:10pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Carole Quant, Vice Chair Terri Griffin, Board Members Logan Pitts, Madonna Cruz, Steven Spillman and Cynthia Rich

Absent: Board Member Carolina Spence

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ken Kerst would like the minutes from July 28, 2021 corrected to read: Kerst proposed that two or three tennis courts at Howarth Park be turned into pickleball courts at no cost to the City.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Board Member Pitts moved to approve the July 28, 2021 minutes with the inclusion of corrections noted by Mr. Kerst. Chair Quandt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS ON ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A list of accomplished and upcoming events was distributed to the Board and made available to the public prior to the meeting. Deputy Director of Parks, Jen Santos, highlighted the Creekside Open Space renaming item going to Council on August 31, and the McDonald Avenue Tours in the Rural Cemetery sold out for all time slots.

6. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Deputy Director Santos informed the Board that the County is in the process of cutting large, dangerous eucalyptus trees on their property at the Rural Cemetery. A request for proposals (RFP) has begun for re-imagining Fremont Park downtown. Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan will be presented at Council on September 28. The City is responding to an increase in COVID cases in the County, designating October 1 as the back-to-work date for most staff. We are modeling Council in terms of hybrid meetings, but this will be a decidedly slow process. The drought has caused a lower-than-normal lake level at Howarth Park's Lake Ralphine. Therefore, staff may decide to close the boathouse earlier than scheduled. Some picnic reservations have cancelled due to an uptick in COVID cases and poor air quality due to smoke from wildfires. Council had their goal setting meeting this week with homelessness and housing as top priorities.

7. SCHEDULED ITEMS

7.1 PARK MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UPDATE

Parks Superintendent James Castro will provide an overview of the Parks Maintenance Section of the Transportation and Public Works Department. The overview will include an update on Park Maintenance including staffing, water reduction in parks, and a newly created email address for the public to contact Park Maintenance.

Recommended Action: Information

Parks Superintendent James Castro provided a brief background of his experience with the City and shared information about parks maintenance efforts to keep up with demands despite 40% fewer staff compared to 2008. Parks would need an additional 40 full time employees (FTE) to meet the National Recreation & Parks Association's average of 16.5 acres per FTE. Our parks maintenance staff maintain 45 acres per FTE and oversee 73 acres of median and roadside landscaping. With the exception of Community Parks and sports fields, the City has reduced water use in parks by 20% and has opted not to use the Prince Gateway Park spray ground during the drought. Staff is working on revitalizing the Parks Volunteer Program, including cleaning up one park a month. This program provides educational activities, additional support for parks staff and a response to citizens' concerns about park maintenance, safety and recreational issues. Parks signage soon to be installed in parks will include this email for all maintenance requests: parksmaintenance@srcity.org. Urgent matters can still be reported on the 543-3770 parks line.

Discussion ensued by the Board.

Public Comment: None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Mayor's Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs Recommended Action: Information

Chair Quandt reported that no luncheon was held.

8.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee Recommended Action: Information

Chair Quandt stated the Committee did not meet, and that a meeting scheduled for August 26th will revisit a location on Old Stony Pt Road.

9. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS Invitation to Parks Foundation members Invitation to Clerk's Office for Board training Interaction with Community Advisory Board

11. ADJOURNMENT Chair Quant adjourned the meeting at 5:24pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on September 22, 2021, at 4:00pm.