

## **MINUTES – MORRO BAY RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING – **March 16, 2017**

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – 6 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chair Robert Swain, Commissioner Kevin Carroll, Commissioner Jeffrey Cox, Commissioner Timothy Ross, Commissioner Skip Sorich, Deputy City Manager Ikani Taumoepeau, Recreation Services Division Coordinator Kirk Carmichael, Youth Services Programs Coordinator Angelica Gallardo and Seniors Programs Coordinator Brady Lock.

**ABSENT:** Chairman Drew Sidaris, Commissioner Michelle Morosin.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Swain called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<https://youtu.be/wgW6jyQf0bI?t=2m4s>

Vice Chair Swain announced that the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Dixon Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for youth sports scholarships is tomorrow. He also noted that the Citywide Yard Sale is March 31-April 2.

Commissioner Sorich gave an update on the growth of pickleball nationwide.

Kirk Carmichael introduced Angelica Gallardo, who gave a rundown on current recreation programs and registration dates.

Vice Chair Swain announced that Item C-4 would be moved up to accommodate the public.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

<https://youtu.be/wgW6jyQf0bI?t=7m57s>

City Council Member Robert Davis announced that the City Council has appointed him to be its liaison to the Recreation & Parks Commission.

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

<https://youtu.be/wgW6jyQf0bI?t=9m5s>

**A-1 Approval of minutes for Recreation & Parks Commission meeting Jan. 19, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cox moved to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2017, Recreation & Parks Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sorich and passed unanimously, 5-0.

**A-2 Recreation Services Division Status Report**

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sorich moved to receive and file item A-2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carroll and passed unanimously, 5-0.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**C. BUSINESS**

**C-4 Recognition for Morro Bay's Founder, Franklin Riley**

<https://youtu.be/wgW6jyQf0bI?t=9m58s>

Joan Solu and Glen Silloway of the Historical Society of Morro Bay gave a presentation in favor of naming an open park space after Franklin Riley, who is credited with founding Morro Bay. Their proposal involves designating the open space on the bluff above Tidelands Park, along Morro Avenue between Olive and South streets. The area was part of Riley's original homestead. The proposal includes signage with information about Riley, about the urban forest and about Monarch butterflies that frequent the area.

Commissioner Cox asked about the availability of parking near the site. Solu said there was nearby street parking as well as parking at Tidelands Park. Silloway asked for the Commission's help in working with City staff to examine what conditions may affect this plan and to determine whether the plan is feasible. He asked that the Commission reach a position on the issue and make a recommendation to Council.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cox moved to have staff research the feasibility of a plaque honoring Riley and determine to what extent the designated open space can be developed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sorich and passed unanimously, 5-0.

Vice Chair Swain announced that since the Commission had taken C-4 out of order, it would continue in reverse order from C-3 to C-1.

### **C-3 Expansion of Pickleball Facilities**

<https://youtu.be/wgW6jyQf0bI?t=26m35s>

Commissioners discussed the fact that pickleball is considered the fastest growing sport in America. Commissioner Sorich noted that our local facilities are getting crowded and that if we want to have sanctioned tournaments in the future, we will need more courts. He said the local pickleball group has 300 members. Commissioners expressed a desire to explore possibilities for multi-use facilities that could be used for more than one sport.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sorich moved to have staff study issues surrounding the addition of more pickleball courts and research possible locations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cox and passed unanimously, 5-0.

### **C-2 Bocce Ball Courts**

<https://youtu.be/wgW6jyQf0bI?t=47m35s>

Commissioner Sorich recommended looking for an area that would support at least three or four bocce ball courts. Commissioner Carroll stressed that the Commission should consider how the community as a whole feels about adding specialized courts for specific activities.

Seniors Services Coordinator Lock presented information about current bocce ball activity in Morro Bay and the need for courts. He said more than 20 people are currently playing. The pocket park at the corner of Shasta Avenue and Dunes Street has been identified as a possible location. It would accommodate two regulation-size courts; balls could be checked out from the Community Center across the street; courts are easy to build and maintain; and Morro Bay Senior Citizens Inc. has committed to help with funding.

Tim Rathke from the South Bay spoke in favor of bringing bocce ball courts to Morro Bay. Now, the only available spots to play are on grass, which he called “less than ideal.”

Cindy Betonte of Morro Bay said the Estero Bay Newcomers Club has a fast-growing bocce ball group as well, and she stressed that people of all skill levels can play.

Commissioner Ross questioned whether the proposed site would be big enough for a growing sport and suggested exploring building courts on school grounds.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sorich made a motion to have City staff review options further and report back to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ross and passed unanimously, 5-0.

**C-1 Election of Commission Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

<https://youtu.be/wgW6jyQf0bI?t=1h12m39s>

Commissioner Cox and Commissioner Sorich asked that the election be postponed until all Commission members were present, or that all members were given additional notice of the vote.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Swain made a motion to table the election for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson until the April 20, 2017, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cox and passed unanimously, 5-0.

**D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. to the next regular Recreation and Parks Commission meeting at 6 p.m. on **Thursday, April 20, 2017**, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 209 Surf Street, Morro Bay, California.

Recorded by:

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Administrative Assistant