

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Special Called Meeting
Thursday, August 14, 2025 06:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1209 FIORELLA STREET

I. Call to Order- 6:31p

II. Roll Call

Present:

Adriana Arrington- Calk, President

Nicol Schriener, Vice President

Alli Welch, Secretary

Kyle McVay- Member

Stephen Dauphin- Member

Vacant- Alternate

Vacant- Alternate

Jonah Chang, Director of Parks and Recreation

David Merz, District 4 City Council Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Helen Delevan- Friends of the Parks

Pricilla Garrett- Citizen

Scott Dixon- City Administrator

III. Citizen Comments

David Merz

Rules and regs and update- already done, adopted under previous mayor

Look at fee schedule and make recommendations for updates- possibly too late to get into 2026 budget

At the City Council meeting, the Mayor inquired about the following;

- 1) Update to parks rules and regulations (this has already been completed and was adopted under the previous Mayor)
- 2) review of the fee schedule with recommendations for updates; however, it may be too late to include changes in the 2026 budget.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes for July 16, 2025

Motion: Accept minutes from last meeting.

Motion By: Kyle 2nd By: Nicole

Vote: Yes# No# 0 Pass

V. Presentations

a. Presentation on September Square entrance & walkway improvement plans by Cindy Guzman

Cindy presented on behalf of 4-H members who could not attend: Jonny Guzman, Connor Haby, and Curtis Binford.

Purpose: To recognize veterans and raise awareness.

Funding: Will be collected through donors to cover project costs.

Coordination: Already in contact with Mrs. Garrett, who regularly maintains the park. The project has also been presented to the American Legion, which suggested alternative wording; the group will make corrections and resubmit.

Logistics: Parks staff will need to flag irrigation lines; if digging is required, lines may need to be rerouted.

Need: September Square currently has no entrance. In the past, there was interest in adding an entrance along with head-in parking, but it was never implemented. This project will move forward with the entrance while keeping potential future parking changes in mind.

Timeline: Target completion by January.

Approvals: Must receive approval from the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) after Parks; both approvals are required before going to City Council.

VI. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discuss and take action on September Square entrance plan

Discussion

No further discussion

Motion: To approve the presentation for the September Square entrance and walkway improvement project.

Motion By: Kyle 2nd By: Nicole

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

b. Discuss and take action on Lions Park splashpad foundation issues

Discussion

Timeline in packet

Jonah has met with Advanced Aquatics, Vortex, and MWF Concrete Services

Report Summary – Mike Farris, MWF Concrete Services, LLC

Mike Farris evaluated the excessive cracking and underground plumbing damage at the Lions Club Park splash pad. The pad was built to industry standards with 6” concrete, rebar reinforcement, and a perimeter beam, but prolonged extreme drought caused the subsoil to shrink more than 12 feet deep. This clay shrink-swell cycle, worsened by irregular rainfall, has led to severe structural damage.

Recommendation:

Completely demolish the existing splash pad.

Excavate and remove 24” of native soil; replace with 24” compacted crushed limestone fill.

Install a new 6” reinforced concrete pad with perimeter and cross-grade beams (no more than 20’ apart).

Hard-trowel the surface, then apply a slip-resistant coating (such as cool-deck) to improve safety when wet.

Advanced Aquatics indicates that the downward pressure of slab broke the pipes which is why the water features are not working

Staff are obtaining bids for repair costs and reviewing legal and warranty options. Councilman Lee suggested repurposing the existing slab as a shade structure, with sections removed and reused if relocation is needed. The splash pad is currently unsafe and will remain closed until further notice.

Motion: move to table discussion until more information is available.

Motion By: Alli 2nd By: Nicole

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

c. Discuss and take action on Regional Park Swimming Pool heating options during Autumn and Winter

Discussion

The ideal water temperature for the pool is 79–81°F, generally required from mid-September through mid-February. Heaters were installed 4–5 years ago, though additional information is needed regarding the total number of heaters, how many are currently operational, and what protection measures are in place. During periods of peak demand, heating costs range from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month, with a typical season totaling around \$20,000—significantly lower than the original estimate of approximately \$45,000. Current pool covers only protect up to 50% of the pool, and the heaters operate on a separate gas meter. Full pool covers, combined with a reel, could cost \$18,000 or more but would significantly reduce heat loss. Dixon suggested presenting detailed cost figures to the Council to demonstrate the potential return on investment, while also considering whether upgraded covers might provide additional long-term savings, such as protecting the pool structure.

Motion: This item will be tabled until next month so Jonah can gather additional information for the next meeting and present to Council as a one-time purchase, supported by statistics and data

d. Discuss and take action on advising the Mayor and City Council to enter into a non-binding agreement with the Wildlife Habitat Foundation, in order to develop a Conservation Management Plan for Castroville Regional Park.

Discussion

Patrick Conner, an independent contractor with the Wildlife Habitat Foundation (WHF), is proposing a non-binding agreement with the city to develop a Conservation Management Plan for the Regional Park. The plan, fully supported by Scott Dixon and the FCRP, would provide documentation for the TPWD Hiking Trail Grant, address erosion and runoff, and suggest conservation practices—all at no cost to the city. Participation is voluntary, and the NRCS provides guidance without regulatory authority. WHF

contractors bring extensive conservation expertise, and plans are reviewed by the NRCS for credibility. The proposal also allows collaboration with the city engineer to integrate vegetation strategies into park designs. Conner requests the Park Board place this item on the next agenda and send a letter of support to the Mayor and Council.

Motion: Motion to approve entering a non-binding agreement with the Wildlife Habitat Foundation to develop a Conservation Management Plan for the Regional Park

Motion By: Kyle 2nd By: Nicole

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass Action: recommend to council

VII. General Updates

a. Friends of Castroville Regional Park General Update by FCRP Representative

A letter was also sent to the Council by FCRP in support of Patrick, as noted above. They have occurred recent repairs totaling \$6,000. The upcoming Boo Bash will include several improvements to enhance the event, such as a costume contest and a modified “trick-or-treat” format with candy stations along the trails hosted by local organizations, replacing the traditional trunk-or-treat. A work session for the butterfly garden and trails is scheduled for this Saturday. Special thanks to Jonah for his help.

b. General Update by Parks & Recreation Director including:

Community Center Construction

Framing complete, dry-in underway, working on ruff-ins

Needing replacement for bathroom tile (long lead time)- architect is working on finding something similar

Irrigation

The fields are currently being watered, but there is no set schedule in place. For the upcoming soccer season, the plan is to water 3–4 times per week, rotating through the different zones. It will be necessary to have someone present during watering to ensure that no one is playing on the fields, as the water comes from the wastewater treatment plant.

Swimming Pool

Several issues contributed to algae growth and the pool's unappealing appearance this summer. The situation is now under control, and Jonah has provided instructions to the lifeguards to prevent similar problems in the future.

Park Events

There was a question about soccer conflicting with Boo Bash. Kyle expressed concern that soccer often runs well past the scheduled end time of 12p, creating a safety hazard with all the cars still in the park.

RV Park

Discussion focused on conducting a guest survey through CivicRec to identify future improvements and demonstrate guest satisfaction at the RV park. Using google forms was also a suggestion for the survey that would allow more response options. Councilman Lee has suggested the park may not be profitable, so additional information is being gathered to show its value. Available revenue records indicate that the RV park is, in fact, profitable.

Other

September Square Brick Sidewalk:

Sidewalk allows people to purchase bricks to dedicate to family members or veterans.

Garden Club previously managed the project, but it has been unattended for some time.

Suggested that the Parks Board consider taking over responsibility.

Steinbach House:

South side of the house is caving toward the neighboring residents' ditch.

Master plan may include a fence to address the issue.

Jonah suggested a simpler solution using fencing he already has.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- a. Phase II of Pool additions including additional changing areas, showers, restrooms, and handicap accessibility.
- b. Master Plan Update
- c. Regional Park north restroom remodeling spec and budget

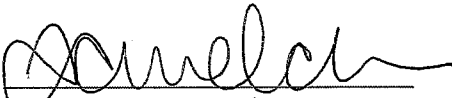
IX. Adjourn

Motion: Adjourn meeting

TIME 8:06p

Motion By: Nicole 2nd kyle By:

Vote: Yes# 5 No# 0 Pass

Prepared By 

Approved By 