



MINUTES
REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

August 3, 2020

CITY OF WATSONVILLE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
275 MAIN STREET, TOP FLOOR

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS: HURTADO, DE WORKEN, SANCHEZ, SENCION, CARRASCO,
HAYASHIBARA (Present for the first half of the meeting)
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: HAYASHIBARA

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – Elizabeth Atilano, a member of the public asked to keep the chat for the public meeting open. She feels this is beneficial for the community to communicate with one another regarding the topic. Director Calubaquib informed that this was disabled for any City of Watsonville public meetings in order to comply with the Brown Act.

3.2 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner De Worken reported he was approached by a community member regarding the use of the Watsonville High School swimming pool and why it is not open for use for the community for the summer.

Commissioner Hurtado reported on the 18th Annual Cesar Chavez Community Awards that was held virtually by the Friends of Watsonville Parks and Community Services. Hurtado wanted to recognize those individuals that were awarded under the categories of Adult Role Model, Local Supportive Business who support youth in our community, and Youth Serving Organizations.

3.3 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Calubaquib reported to the Commission about the programs that had to be cancelled due to the shelter in place order by the state.

Director Calubaquib also reported that the summer camp was going to end that week and that all 7 sites were successful.

He also stated that the plans for programs for youth for the school year are being developed and will be shared to the community in the next few weeks.

Director Calubaquib also stated that as a reminder to the community, our Parks and amenities are open even with the Shelter in Place order, with the exception of the playground structures which are still closed. He also stated that it is required that when utilizing any of the parks or playing any sports, to ensure to keep the participants to those within your household to slow the spread of COVID-19, or follow social distancing guidelines and wear your mask when within six feet of others.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JUNE 1, 2020 AND JULY 6, 2020

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Hurtado, seconded by Commissioner Carrasco and carried by the following vote to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 1, 2020 and July 6, 2020.

AYES: HURTADO, DE WORKEN, SANCHEZ, SENCION, CARRASCO,
HAYASHIBARA
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

5. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – NONE

6. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

6.1. REPORT FROM PAJARO VALLEY ARTS – Judy Stabile of Pajaro Valley Arts (PVA) provided an update on the public art projects in the City that they are working on and would like input from the Commission on the themes and formats for the 2020 Movable Murals at 250 Main St. PVA has some funds in the form of stipends for painted murals or they could cover the cost of digitizing and installing a photo collage and use the back of existing panels or the artist may choose to replace their panels. PVA suggests a photo collage because it can involve the entire community, it can be done with social distancing, and a possible theme could be an “Act of Love Wearing Masks”. Another option is to have a call for muralists and let the artists propose a new theme. Feedback was provided from the Commissioners to move forward with the movable murals at 250 Main St. with the idea of the act of love wearing masks.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 STUDY SESSION REGARDING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BUST IN THE CITY PLAZA BY PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR NICK CALUBAQUIB

- a) **STAFF REPORT** – Director Calubaquib provided an outline for the study session that consisted of three parts 1) Provide information regarding the George Washington Bust and its placement at the Watsonville City Plaza 2) Facilitate a community conversation 3) Gather information to help determine the next steps. He also stated that the study session was not meant to decide a final action but to provide a forum to allow the Commission to hear the community on their thoughts of the bust. He stated that the facilitation of this study session does not signal either City support or opposition to the retention of the bust. Following this agenda item study session the next steps will be to utilize the Community’s input and Parks and Recreation Commission’s feedback to develop options to discuss with the parks and recreation commission in an upcoming meeting.
- b) **COMMISSION QUESTIONS** – Commissioners asked questions regarding the George Washington Bust. Commissioner Carrasco asked whether the Council vote to accept the donation from the Alaga Estate was anonymous. Director Calubaquib confirmed that it was.
- c) **PUBLIC INPUT** – The following members of the public provided their input, for the George Washington Bust to remain at the City Plaza:

Betty Bjur
Mark
Poly Lofton
Becky Steinbruner
Patricia Smith
Oscar Soto
Mary Samsway

Manny Solano
Diane Dutton
Margret Christritch
Ariel Guzman
Brenda Blake
Frank Barbra

Tony Gregorio, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Brenda Blake, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Tom and Carol Harris, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Eric Vargas, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Scott Martin, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Margaret McNeely, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Nick Alaga, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Doris Russell, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Wayne Gloff, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Beverly Gloff, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Marilyn and Carl Lewis, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Bob Wiser, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Pablo Barrick, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Terry Martinez, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Brad Hubbard, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Joanna Benson, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Carol, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Donna Blasé, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Loren Iversen, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Bonnie Terribillini, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Brittany Sarkes, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Kerri Barrick, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Bill Beecher, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Evelyn Gettler, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Pat Klay, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Judy Nielsen, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Evan Benevento, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Anne Dobler, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Steven Bennett, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Jerry Iversen, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Holy Myers, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Dyan Wilcox, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Daniel Cordova, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Merlene Fernandez, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Frank Marcos, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Mark Trabing, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Manny Solano, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)

The Following members of the public provided their input, to remove the George Washington Bust from the Plaza.

Emerlinda Sadania	Yesenia
Linda Orozco	Jaime Sanchez
Frances with Revolunas	Victoria Banales
Elizabeth Atilano	Pedro Castillo
Claudia Ramirez	Yan Banales
Mitchell Gomez	Martin Garcia
Xitali	Isaiah Johnson

Antonio Fernandez Arias	Surel Rodriguez
Gabriel Medina	Lupita Sanchez
Celeste Gutierrez	Dave Stinbrener
Monique Sanchez	Daniel Pescada
Abel Mejia	Francisco Moldonado
Ramiro Medrano	Mireya Sanchez
Maura Leonor	Dustin Fernandez

Julia Canalias, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Meghan Brandt, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Kendra Ortiz, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Veronica Galvan, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Alexa Gonzalez, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Yesenia Molina, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Claudia Vargas, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Denise Payan, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Brianna Valle-Gallegos, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Valentina Velasquez, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Jessica Vargas, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Jessica Scoppettone, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Nayeli Gil, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Rosa Noriega-Rocha, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Linda Orosco, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Dezaray Angulo, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Rachel Bleisch, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Ollie Jackson, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Erica Hernandez, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Briana Ontiveros, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Sam Bleisch, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Andrea Castillo, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Adrian Elizalde, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Xochilt Chavez-Ortiz, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Junhee Ae, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
E.B. , via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Piper Debella, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Danielle A. Sanchez, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Sarah Brown, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Grass O Dad, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Celeste Gutierrez, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Eliana Gonzales, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Stephanie Pittman, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Xamuel Banales, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)
Alejandra Ponce, via email (read by Administrative Assistant Moya)

d) Commissioner Input – Commissioner Hurtado gave her input on the George Washington Bust after hearing the public input. Hurtado stated she found it hard to keep the bust where it is but hopes that whatever decision is made that it be in a respectful manner.

Commissioner Carrasco stated she felt it important to revisit the City Art policy although it was not in place during the time the Washington bust was approved to be placed at the City Plaza. Commissioner Carrasco would like to revisit the placement of the bust given that not all the community wants it located at the plaza.

Commissioner De Worken gave his input and some solutions. Suggested solutions he mentioned were to find a way to recognize our past and present, set up public art piece that represents every culture in Watsonville, ask the Pajaro Valley Arts, Pajaro Valley Historic Association, Library or the Courthouse if either of the four are willing to take the bust for preservation and for historical educational purposes.

Commissioner Sencion provided his input after listening to all the public input and stated he wanted the community to know he is listening to the community and he supports the removal and relocation of the bust.

Commissioner Sanchez stated he felt this is a learning experience for everyone and wanted to address some misconceptions. First he noted that the idea that those with less money are at a disadvantage doesn't apply because in 1999 when the donation of the Washington monument was made, the item was a public item on the City Council Agenda and any member of the public could speak on it. Those sitting on the Council at the time made their decision to accept the donation based on the Community wants at the time. The second misconception related to grouping people into groups of "us" versus "them". Sanchez stated he does not feel grouping and labeling people is healthy for the community and people should look at what the community holds in common instead. He would like to see the community work together and come up with a compromise or a plan that works best for both sides.

7.2 APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ART, SUBMITTED BY EL PUEBLO FOODS, FOR A MURAL LOCATED AT 100 UNION STREET BY SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST FLORES.

- a) STAFF REPORT** – Senior Administrative Analyst Flores reported on the application for public art, submitted by El Pueblo Foods, created by local mural artist Mario. It is recommended that this mural be approved at the current location where it stands at 100 Union St.
- a) COMMISSION QUESTIONS & INPUT** – Commissioners asked questions about the art piece and Senior Administrative Analyst Flores responded for clarification.
- b) PUBLIC INPUT** – None
- c) APPROPRIATE ACTION: MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner De Worken, seconded by Commissioner Sencion and carried by the following vote to approve the application for Public Art to keep the Mural at its current location on 100 Union St.

AYES: HURTADO, DE WORKEN, SANCHEZ, SENCION, CARRASCO,

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: FLORES, HAYASHIBARA

ABSTAIN: NONE

7.3 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN REVIEW -

Parks and Recreation Commission work plan review was moved to the next meeting.

- a) STAFF REPORT**
- b) COMMISSION QUESTIONS & INPUT**
- c) PUBLIC INPUT**
- d) APPROPRIATE ACTION:**

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 pm