

# Minutes Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission City of Pacifica

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013 - REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 2212 Beach Boulevard

## CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

#### I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Ewell.

#### II ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Cochran, Zuromski, Abbott, Ewell, Finnegan,

Murphy, Sambrailo

Commissioners Absent: None Commissioners Excused: None

Staff Present: Director Michael Perez, Captain

Spanheimer, Field Services Manager Biagini

# III APPROVAL OF MINUTES Regular Meeting 2/27/13

Commissioner Sambrailo made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Finnegan and approved 7-0.

## IV ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Zuromkski and approved 7-0.

V SPECIAL PRESENTATION None

VI ORAL COMMUNICATIONS None

VII ITEMS FOR CONSENT None

### VIII ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A) Sanchez Dog Park Discussion Item- Director Perez gave the staff report, providing an introduction to the discussion, background and summarization of the recent study session. Commissioners felt several items from the study session should be brought back to a regular meeting, and in particular discussion of the following: hours of operation, acoustical engineer, sound mitigating product information, locking and unlocking of the park, irrigation and finances. The "dog park concerns" matrix was attached to the staff report as well as Acoustifence product information.
- -Chair Cochran thanked Director Perez and asked if there were any questions for the director.
- -Commissioner Ewell asked about a cost benefit analysis, how much we had and how much we need to spend. Asked whether we would want to tie it all together, the total picture, before committing doing anything.
- -Chair Cochran thought that after this meeting we'd have a clearer idea of what we would do, and discussed some of the items from the staff report as well as what came out of our last meeting.

Commissioner Ewell – felt that the acoustics were the major problem, and that we can deal with the dust. Wanted to get "arms around" the acoustics problems.

Commissioner Abbott – if you added everything up, it was just over \$15,000. Asked if the acoustical engineers were aware of the Acoustifence product.

Director Perez – noted that the engineers he spoke to were aware of similar products, but neither had experience with it and very little if any experience or knowledge with dog parks. The sound at the source is more difficult to mitigate, but both were willing to come out and check it out for consultation purposes. Director Perez spoke about the companies doing work as well as doing a consultation.

Commissioner Ewell – was concerned about how much it will really cost and how can we mitigate it.

- -Director Perez responded with some clarification about the way in which the company would operate in terms of the consultation.
- -Chair Cochran felt that the commission can bring back after we hear public comments. We can decide where we want to go with the locking, sprinkler and the hours. Reminded everyone of the 3 minute rule, and opened public comments.
- -Naomi Shroff lives in town and uses the dog park. She feels it is a success and asset to the community. She feels the sprinkler system is a lot of money and not money well spent. Wondering if there is talk about another type of surface. It has been a problem for some dogs on the pads of their feet. As far as the noise, she uses it every day and when she is there she thinks dog owners are respectful and try to keep the noise to a minimum. Feels it is a friendly environment. There is a real community and she has made a lot of friends. She is not sure about the comments about being aggressive and violent. She has seen a lot of agitation from the photographer who video tapes and says he'll get folks banned from the park. I understand where the neighbors are coming from. She would like to see the dog park open seven days a week. She has never seen a dog park closed for a day.

Michael Schreiber – Lives in Pacifica and goes to the dog park, has been there every day since it has been open. He can safely say that the behavior of the people and the dogs is quite exemplary. Talked about the petition with 100 signatures on it given to commission to have hours back originally and that it has been ignored. He feels this has been done to placate the neighbors and Steven Johnson who have been the naysayers at every one of these meetings. This is the third time I have appeared before the commission to talk about these issues. He thinks the sprinkler system is a colossal waste of money. POOCH tried to water and it was a waste of time and water; 20 minutes after it was watered it was dry and dusty. Why are we concerned about the dust and noise? The dog park is a resounding success, dozens of people come every day and it is a great asset to our community. Doesn't understand the obsession with the noise. Dogs do bark. He lives in a neighborhood with two dogs right next to him that bark constantly; there are dogs everywhere. Thinks it is nonsense to talk about moving it. Encourages everyone to consider the hours, sprinkler system and the noise abatement as being a waste of time and money.

Bonnie Delaplane – lives across from the park on the other side of the creek. The dog park has brought a wonderful community together, wonderful to see the dogs socializing. It has been proven that by letting the dogs socialize there have been fewer cases of dog bites and fights. She has only seen finger pointing. Would like to hear more solutions, more organic solutions. Instead of structures, why not planting of organic planting. The surface is questionable. She has been to other parks and Pacifica has a lot of trees and a lot of limbs

that fall. Most of the dog parks she has been to have chipped wood for surface and seems to sustain well and do filtering. Would like the commission and director to think about more organic solutions.

-Danielle Lanthier – live in Pacifica, goes to the dog park regularly, she goes to many dog parks and all over and agrees with everything said so far about the surface being the wrong choice. Tan bark at other dog parks seems to work well, sprinkler system seems to be a waste, dust is going to happen anyway. She agrees with the neighbors it being a problem. Sunrise to sunset is a little bit long and regular hours would be great and whoever is in charge of locking and unlocking the gate – if we are expected to abide by the hours, then they should. On a couple of occasions where the dog park was locked, I put my dog over the fence and climbed the fence. I have been on there when the person who is in charge of the gate, left the gate open. My dog ran out and could have been hit by a car and that is unacceptable. If we could have people that are responsible to do that job as we are responsible dog owners.

-Renee Glenn – I come before you in a humble and saddened spirit. One of the houses behind the dog park is my family home. My father bought that house in 1956 and raised 9 children in that home. It was a happy, beautiful place to live, lots of laughing children at Sanchez school. My husband and I bought the house from my siblings when my parents passed away and my daughter and her husband bought the house and were excited to have a beautiful house in a peaceful area. Not sure where the idea came from to put a dog park in right behind homes – all the neighbors are having to hear the barking and noise. Lived in San Anselmo where the dog park was out in the back of the valley and not right near homes, not in residential. Not fair that you guys decided to put the dog park there, and now you are talking about putting all this money in on irrigation. Told her daughter to test that dust in her yard, on her plants. Doesn't think it is healthy, has to be filled with dog feces and urine. I am pleading with you, before you put all this money into irrigation, really think about moving the park to a more complimentary place.

-Tim Thompson – 1320 Avilla Court, right in the middle of the dog park, about 8 feet from it. When the commission told us/neighbors, that they would have regular meeting to see how the neighbors were doing and what was going on with the dog park, which the committee has done, thank you. The neighbors are here tonight to tell you the barking and dust is terrible. The commission also told us the dog park could be closed if things weren't going well with the neighbors. There's no hours or days posted on a sign that would make things better. The park is in the wrong location, too close to homes and businesses that are being affected every day by the constant noise of the park. We the neighbors would like the park to be closed and relocated to a more suitable area where it is not affecting homes and businesses. Our home has been torn up. I can't do any gardening. I don't want to put thousands of dollars into landscaping if that dog park is going to be there. You go out on weekends and you can't bear it. I can put headphones on, but I live with my elderly mom and sometimes she falls and I have to hear her calling me. I am in limbo; want to know what's going on with the dog park. If it is staying there, I'm not living there. There is no way I am living next to a dog park. I just can't understand why a dog park would be wedged in between a hard-scaped building and a fence. There is no money that you can put into it that will make it right. Never. Thank you.

-Tony Poloni – I live on Alicante, back fence hits the dog park about 8 feet away. I am in charge of locking and unlocking the dog park every day. I am always dreading the interaction that I have to deal with locking or unlocking. A lot of people are pretty rude to me. As you know there was an altercation. Now we have cameras on our home because we have crazy people driving by our home threatening our home, threatening me. There is a police report, I was 5 minutes late, so you jumped over the fence, great. So, if I didn't lock the park, people would be there at all hours. No matter what, dogs will always bark

and owners will always yell at their dogs. We cannot enjoy our backyard anymore. This barking makes me angry every single day. Our peace and quiet has been taken away. Why did you take this from us? We have been recording dog barking for the past 8 months. We are at the point where we are just yelling to shut your dog up. We are dog lovers; it is a great thing to have a dog park, just not 8 feet from our fence. We should do a test how other people react – let's put a dog park behind their house. They don't care, it's not there problem. Dog owners might come in for a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour and might say there is no barking in the  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Try living next to a dog park and see how you feel. We have a dog and I run the dog every day at the beach because there is lots of running room. The dog park is simply in the wrong spot. We appreciate the City of Pacifica to take the time and make a fun place for dogs. Right now all you are doing is pissing off the neighbors. Either move the park or build some 15 foot high walls on either side to fix the sound and make everyone happy.

-Stephanie Poloni – lives behind the dog park. Do we move the park or mitigate all these things. Appreciates that Commissioner Ewell is looking at a holistic view. We are not against a dog park, understand it is creating a community for the dog park users, but it is tearing our little community a part. We have long term residents talking about moving (for the first time). Are the dog park people impacted by the neighbors, no because we are not creating situations that impact them. The dog park is creating a lot of situations that are affecting the neighbors and artists. Look at all the things that need to be mitigated. I started doing that with Commissioner Abbott's Matrix, gave a copy to Michael Perez. Maybe this is something we could all fill in together. Is it better to move it? If we move it the dog park folks' concerns will be mitigated...they will have more hours and won't have all these eyes looking on you, hating you because you are changing the environment we had. I know the situation you were talking about with the gate being open. Someone went into the park when it was closed, he stormed off without closing the gate and I got yelled at for it. If you move the park, the city won't have to spend money on mitigation issues. I think a lot of these problems will go away if we find a different space to put the park.

-Nancy Bailey – I met a woman in the dog park who had missed the sense of community she had...this is not a community with the bickering going on. I spoke to people in POOCH about why the park is closed on Tuesday; they said it was a compromise. She wonders what it is we are giving up/mitigating that we didn't have the opportunity to do so in the years leading up to the park opening. I have been to several meetings and listened to all the neighbors and the artists tell you their problems. These are their personal problems. The dog park does not create paranoia, insecurity, lack sleep or any of the other things or even depreciation of their home values. There are many things that can be used to mitigate these symptoms. There is nothing you can do to correct these peoples' problems except to decide to close the park. Is that really what this board wants to do? She also went on to discuss the people and dogs affected by any closure of the park – a disabled veteran, and other dogs that get socialized, other owners that have health problems and dog walkers trying to make a living – these are the people you can open by keeping the park open 7 days a week with normal hours.

-Bill Donovan – neighbor on Avila court, moved here for peace and quiet, we no longer have peace and quiet in our neighborhood. He is concerned about dust and noise – both humans and dogs.

-Jana Lane – president of POOCH, speaking on behalf of POOCH and herself. It is conflicting – we want the neighbors and artists to be happy. What we don't want is to see the park further restricted than original hours. Would love to see it go back to normal hours, would make dog park users happy, but doesn't know if that is a viable solution at this point. Feels that restricting it further is reasonable...it is hard to take away with the intention of giving back hours or days. Would like to see whether the decision is move it or fix it, would like the hours remain. Let's allow the Pacifica community to continue to use

the park. I know the park is greatly impacting a small community of people. It is also greatly affecting, in a very positive way, a large portion of the Pacifica community. I don't have the statistics on licensed dogs in town, but would guess it is larger than we would all guess. Whatever POOCH can do to help and support any changes, we will help.

- -Chair Cochran closed the public comment period, and brought it back to the commission for discussion.
- -Commissioner Sambrailo I know we are working on issues. There are a lot of park users, but you can't say that so many people are getting enjoyment out of it that you can discomfort everybody else; we still need to find a solution. I don't know that if we take care of noise and dust, will that be enough. I have concerns about spending money if that won't be enough. Appreciate everyone coming in and speaking civilly and that folks can understand each others' points of view. Need to understand that the owners of property are going through this every day. Also need to understand that there are also no other places for the dog owners to go.
- -Commissioner Finnegan thanked everyone for coming out; appreciates everyone's feelings. Don't think we should close the park, think we need to mitigate the noise and dust and keep the hours the same.
- -Commissioner Murphy From the beginning I have been a fan of the park, I know the benefits and sense of community and appreciate that. I also understand concerns of noise and pollution for neighbors. I have a hard time going forward with keeping the park there until we address the problems of the noise and sound abatement. If we don't have a solution to those problems, I don't think we keep the park open it is a disservice to the neighbors. When we approved the park we had a duty to the neighbors, at quarterly meetings we discussed these problems but we haven't really solved them, so the neighbors still face them. When I first moved to Pacifica Sharp Park Beach was an off leash area for dogs, a beautiful place to have your dog run, but the City Council went against it. I think we should have a study session to see if we could bring Sharp Park back as an off leash area. I don't think the neighbors should lock and unlock the park, recommend that staff do that.
- -Commissioner Abbott asked questions about the surface sounds like DG is the surface of choice, positive maintenance, not as much funding, and wanted to know if that was correct and asked Field Services Manager Biagini to address it.
- -Field Services Manager Biagini talked about research saying that wood chips will absorb urine and that it would be hard to find/pick up feces.
- -Commissioner Abbott asked about maintenance and replenishment for wood chips
- -Field Services Manager Biagini said they would have to be replenished, wood chips or sand, probably 2-3 times a year, but wasn't sure.
- -Commissioner Zuromski asked about resin/material to add to DG to make it less dusty.
- -Field Services Manager Biagini talked about the two different stabilizers that could be added to the surface that would harden the DG, but might also be abrasive on the dogs paws...that is why we have the loose DG.
- -Commissioner Abbott asked about the training schedule for POOCH trainings and or schedule of them being at the park.

-Director Perez – does not have it, and referred to POOCH – dates are not set.

-Commissioner Abbott – would like to see some more commitment of time from POOCH at the park, to fill the need of having an ongoing presence and would like a follow up on that. Responsibility of opening and closing should be city staff, and maybe signage that if it isn't open on time, that PD or PW has another responsibility at that time. Doesn't think the hours should change or the park be closed. Referred to the petition to keep the hours and feels that the Commission needs to come up with a balance and positive time for everyone. Would like to look at an alternate location, not closing this park, but there are a lot of dogs and many don't use this dog park for a number of reasons. Need a balance and something to alleviate pressure from the Sanchez dog park; go back to documents about Sharp Park Beach.

-Commissioner Zuromski – two overarching issues – moving the park and mitigation. I agree mitigating is the way to go, but we should do this in parallel. While working on mitigation, we should be exploring what we can do at Sharp Park beach, lower Frontierland to relieve pressure on owners, but not close park in the interim. These should be priorities, either by us or City Council. They are viable options. We have made a lot of compromises in the hours and have listened, don't want to change the hours and neighbors shouldn't have to open/close park. We should continue to look at sound walls, shrubbery, etc. Dust is a huge issue and hate wasting water and money on sprinklers, but I think we have to do something, but making the surface harder is hard on the dogs and tan bark also not good. Concerned about summer months and using water, but think we need to do something but can't figure it out at this point.

-Commissioner Ewell – Appreciates everyone coming out, and the empathy the two sides have for one another. What bothers me is that when I hear what is going on down there, I wish some of this empathy would continue. We need to look at this holistically, what this park needs to make it successful – surface, water, noise, looking at another site. Hours are a reflection of that balance, not in favor of changing it. Should be City's responsibility to open/close the park. Appreciates POOCH's hard work, but in the end, it is a City park. Want to thank Tony and Stephanie for doing locking/unlocking. We need to understand the cost/benefit. Have a plan and go forward.

-Chair Cochran – the civil code talks about nuisances. It is easy for me as a dog owner to go to a dog park and let my dog bark because I can go home. Everyone that brings their dog to a dog park can go home. Everyone has a different tolerance to barking dogs. There was gentleman who said he lives next to barking dogs, if they lived next to me, they would be gone - Police would be there every day, and I would file a suit and bring them to small claims court. Everyone has a different tolerance, everyone here, to noise. Some it doesn't bother, some live with it their whole lives and others their tranquility is disturbed. Everyone in Pacifica has the right, in their home, to live a peaceful existence. We are not talking about the rights of dog owners; we are talking about the rights of homeowners. Dog owners do have rights, but they can go home and then have the rights in their own home to a peaceful existence, etc. It is tough living in a situation when you are being bothered all the time. I am a property rights person, and think everyone has a right to a peaceful existence in their home and backyards. If you lived next to someone playing music 24/7, you'd be calling the police all the time. Some people have been living here 55-60 years; noise from kids (at the school) is different from noise from dogs. I go to dog parks about 5 days a week. I go to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave in San Mateo, no one lives around there and I feel pretty good about letting my dog go crazy. I remember us telling the homeowners that we would listen and work with them and work with POOCH and work with the dog park users and we have listed to everyone. We have given up a few hours, but there are still a lot of hours left and I think we can do more. I think we need to look at other options for dogs. One of the richest cities in America has dogs running around on their beautiful white beaches – Carmel. There is no reason why we can't work it through, look at alternative locations. In the meantime we should go ahead and water it; summer is coming and I would like to do something. I would recommend closing another day and do research another location. I would like to see the users of the park give a little and we have already asked the people who live there to give a lot. We go ahead and water, shut down Sundays and start working together as a community. We can't do it without all of you – everyone has the incentive to help find another/additional location. Would like to bring it back, questions for staff and see if we have motions.

- -Commissioner Abbott would like to see us have separate motions. Asked about automatic locking, etc.
- -Director Perez clarified that commission did not need to figure out how we would lock it, just to recommend that staff do it, he would take that to the City Manager who would then determine how that would happen.
- -Chair Cochran seems like items are locking and unlocking of park; should we pay for a consultant, for \$500,
- -Director Perez clarified that they were talking about getting a consultant to come out.
- -Director Cochran also the water maybe get a low flow system but we should do something.
- -Commissioner Murphy thought we should consider changing the flooring to wood chips if we did put the irrigation in. Use the water to get the urine out of the chips.
- -Commissioner Finnegan suggested that changing the surface would require and environmental study.
- -Chair Cochran can't find dog droppings in wood chips. Thinks the wood chips are not sanitary.
- -Commissioner Sambrailo asked about sand.
- -Commissioner Zuromski asked about pea gravel.
- -Chair Cochran said we would spend all night talking about this, but that we should come up with a decision about the hours, water and locking.
- -Commissioner Zurmomski made a motion recommending that City staff now be responsible for locking and unlocking the park according to the hours as currently stated, whether modified or not. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ewell and passed 7-0.
- -Motion was made by Commissioner Zuromski to hire an acoustical engineer consultant to come out and visit the park to give us an analog consultation and site visit for \$450 to determine whether or not there are ways to mitigate the noise at the park. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Finnegan and passed 7-0.
- -Commissioner Ewell wants to remediate it quickly, but was concerned about putting \$4,500 towards a sprinkler system when there is a surface issue. He thinks there is a little more of a holistic approach that should be taken.
- -Commissioner Finnegan there are two surface issues one is the dogs and one is the dust, correct?

- -Commissioner Ewell wanted to be thoughtful about it before watering it.
- -Commissioner Zuromski asked about surface research
- -Chair Cochran talked about parks he visits and why DG is used in parks we did our homework on this from the beginning.
- -Commissioner Finnegan noted that the neighbors had a positive report of mitigating the dust with watering.
- -Chair Cochran felt we owed it to the neighbors
- -Commissioner Murphy was concerned that if the sound mitigation doesn't work then we would have spent this money on the irrigation and asked staff how long before getting the sound engineer out.
- -Director responded that he would call within a week, and check with other companies as well.
- -Commissioner Finnegan agreed about the money concerns, and talked about the money we spent, and mentioned the time and money POOCH has put in, and felt that it was worth mitigating this particular issue now.
- -Commissioner Sambrailo agreed
- -Commissioner Abbot made a motion to move forward with the agreement with the contractor to install the irrigation system to mitigate the dust from the park surface. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sambrailo and passed 6-1 (Zuromski no).
- -Chair Cochran talked about establishing a task force or direct staff to bring to a study session to look into alternate locations.
- -Director Perez made a clarification that they wouldn't need a motion to bring to a study session.
- -Commission, by consensus, asked that there be a study session to look into either alternative or additional off leash sites.
- -Chair Cochran talked about the hours; that we owe the owners of the properties some concessions. One commissioner stated he'd like us to move it to the beach, others are concerned. We all live here and have homes and know what it is like to have a nuisances and asked for a motion.
- -Commissioner Murphy suggested closing it on Thursday.
- -Commissioner Zuromski felt there would be more push back.
- -Commissioner Sambrailo wanted clarification about the length of the change in hours.
- -Chair Cochran knows what the neighbors want and what the users want.
- -Commissioner Finnegan made a motion that they recommend the park be closed an additional day and it be Sunday, seconded by Commissioner Murphy.
- -There was discussion about whether it was going to be temporary, or not, how the language should work and how to review it.
- -Commissioner Murphy as far as I'm concerned it is temporary because if we don't fix the issues, we'll close the park.
- -Chair Cochran making motion and review on almost a quarterly basis, and we can make a motion in six months to reopen on Sunday. Should we reword it.
- -Commissioner Finnegan reworded the motion and discussion ensued on the review period.
- -Director Perez discussed what he heard about temporary as opposed to 6 months.
- -Commissioner Finnegan wants it to be revisited as 6 months. Doesn't feel it is temporary.
- -Commissioner Finnegan made a motion that the dog park be closed an additional day, the existing Tuesday and Sunday for a temporary time period of six months. Motion seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed 6-1 (Abbott no).
- -Commissioners discussed studying alternative/additional locations and asked staff to schedule a study session in June to look into either alternative or additional off leash sites and would like to set that meeting in June.

-Director Perez – invited commissioner to talk with him between now and the study session to meet and discuss the item.

Commissioner Abbott – would like to see at the study session – input from staff and POOCH on training, supporting the dog park on a regular basis.

Commissioner Zuromski – one of the reasons the park was sold on was this involvement from POOCH.

## IX REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- -Commissioner Ewell looking forward to Earth Day this Saturday.
- -Commissioner Zuromski asked about recent changes at the pool with the swim team.
- -Director Perez talked about the levels and structure of the swim team, and coaches said that they would look to bring the coaches to the next commission meeting.
- -Commissioner Abbott Reported about the Fireworks Task Force, and their meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>, discussing litter on the beach and the revenue generation from booths. Talked about possibilities for promoting more block parties.
- -Commissioner Murphy none
- -Commissioner Finnegan talked about Earth Day, the plastic bag ban, and mentioned the tote bag exchange drop off at the Community Center and the activity on Earth Day.
- -Commissioner Sambrailo RSVP'd for the Senior Volunteer Recognition day, and announced it.
- -Chair Cochran talked about the south beach parking lot closure this Saturday for the Earth Day Festival and celebration.

#### X REPORTS FROM STAFF

A) Director's Update

## **PLAY Brochure**

The PLAY brochure became available today and registration began as well. Summer Aquatics registration starts May 28<sup>th</sup>. With Lisa Warns' departure, we had a few members of staff really step up and get it going. In particular I wanted to single out and thank Vicki Russo, who really did the bulk of putting it together with very little previous experience. Beth Phipps also stepped in and contributed quite a bit to the process as well.

### Staffing Update

Over the last 4 months we have gone through quite a bit of full time staffing change, and just this week have completed our 4 new staff appointment in that time.

It started all with, what was previously reported, our new Food Services Coordinator Cindy Fuentes who started in December.

Denise Reed, one of our part-time employees, is now our new Recreation Specialist for Senior Services. She'll be specializing on Meals on Wheels and Transportation programs. Denise is a longtime PB&R employee with tremendous knowledge of our programs and has had the opportunity to work throughout our entire department. Recently she has been filling in for Janis Haynes at the Community Center and doing an outstanding job. Denise's first official day in her new position was Monday March 25, 2013.

Beth Phipps has been appointed as the new Recreation Specialist assigned to PB&R Administration (office). Beth is a long time department employee, who has spent much of that time at the pool; however, over the years she has also had the opportunity to work throughout

our department in various programs. Recently she has been working at the office since Lisa left in January and doing a tremendous job. Beth's first day was April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Michele-Bridget Ragsdale, is our new Recreation Coordinator. Her first official day on the job was Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>. Michele-Bridget has worked for the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto for almost 5 years. She grew up in San Jose and graduated from UOP, and received a graduate degree from UNLV.

We also hired one of our two part-time bus driver positions. Len Russo, a retired truck driver, started in March as our long-time Coordinator Ray Lopez retired.

We are thrilled to have Cindy, Denise, Beth, Michele-Bridget and Len as part of our department and I look forward to their roles as part of our department team.

With all the changes happening in the department, we have had to rely on several staff members to take on additional duties and continue doing their current jobs. In particular staff at the Community Center and the main office. We have several part-time employees that have also stepped up to help. They are filling in the gaps, learning some new skills and contributing efforts to keep things running.

#### **CPRS**

Director Perez and Coordinator Russo will be attended the annual CPRS conference in San Jose this year – next week, from March 6-8. Director Perez attended the CPRS District IV awards to accept a community award of excellence for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Fest, this Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

# **STEM Program**

Director Perez attended the San Mateo County STEM Innovation Reception on Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup>. Currently we are running two classes at IBL and one each at Sunset Ridge and Ortega. This is our Spring session, which will end in May and culminate with a STEM Fair on June 1<sup>st</sup> – site TBD, time will be in the AM.

# **Volunteer Recognition Dinner**

April 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm. This is a special event where staff has a chance to thank all the volunteers that help serve our senior community. Over 140 volunteers aid us.

### Devil's Slide Ride

**Expanded service on Earth Day** 

PB&R will have a booth at the Earth Day Celebration.

# 49<sup>th</sup> Junior Olympics

Prelims is Wednesday April 24, 3:30 at TN Groups 3-4 finals is Wednesday May 1, 3:30 at TN

Group 1-2 finals is Saturday May 4, 9am at TN, commissioners are invited.

### XI CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### XII ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zuromski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Murphy

seconded, and motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michael J. Perez Department Director

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Greg Cochran, Chair