

**MINUTES
FREMONT RECREATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2021**

1. PRELIMINARY

- A. Call to Order:** Commissioner Mora called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Flag Salute:** Commissioner Thompson led the salute to the flag.
- C. Roll Call:** Present: Commissioners Jannet Benz, Robby Gill, Brian Hughes, Mia Mora, Larry Thompson, and Elissa Winters
Staff Present: Community Services Director Suzanne Wolf, Community Services Deputy Director Kim Beranek, Parks Planning & Design Manager Roger Ravenstad, Senior Landscape Architect Tara Bhuthimethee, Senior Landscape Architect Mark Mennucci, Park Superintendent Juan Barajas, Recreation Superintendent II Irene Jordahl, Recreation Superintendent I Michael Sa, Assistant Planning Manager Cliff Nguyen, Planner II Courtney Pal, and Executive Assistant Tracey Leung

2. CONSENT CALENDAR - None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Benz to approve the minutes of December 2, 2020.

Ayes: Commissioners Benz, Gill, Hughes, Mora, Thompson, and Winters
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Item opened for public comment.

Kelly Abreu shared his opinion regarding the street names in the Warm Springs Innovation district.

Item closed to public.

5. STAFF PRESENTATIONS/CEREMONIAL ITEMS

5.1 Senior Landscape Architect Tara Bhuthimethee gave an update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Item opened for public comment.

Kelly Abreu commented that the parcel of Rancho Higuera Historical Park owned by the City offers an opportunity to expand the hiking and biking trails leading to Mission Peak.

Carin High suggested to incorporate walkable parks, environmental education programs, conservation of open spaces and nature habitats in the Master Plan. She is opposed to building a sports complex in the Pacific Common area.

Lynn Miller shared her opinion on biodiversity conservation and protection, habitat restoration, and sustainably managed landscapes.

Item closed to public.

- 5.2 Assistant Planning Manager Cliff Nguyen provided an update on the Downtown Event Center & Plaza project.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 TO CONSIDER THE ART REVIEW BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ART FOR THE NEW DOWNTOWN EVENT CENTER AND PLAZA PROJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL, (PWC 9032)

Recommend to the City Council the first and second choice artist for public artwork at the Downtown Event Center and Plaza, as recommended by the Art Review Board.

Planner II Courtney Pal provided a presentation on the five selected finalist pieces that were interviewed by the Art Review Board for public art work at the Downtown Event Center and Plaza. The Commission asked questions and provided feedback.

On a motion by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, the Recreation Commission:

1. Recommend approval of the Art Review Board's first-choice artist, Shan Shan Sheng, and second-choice artist, Barrett Miesfeld, to the City Council.

Vote on Motion:

Ayes: Commissioners Benz, Gill, Hughes, Mora, Thompson, and Winters
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion approved and so ordered.

7. COMMISSION REFERRALS

Staff took Commissioner Winters' referral to provide a presentation on sustainable environmental strategy incorporating biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration at a future meeting.

8. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Director Wolf updated Commission that staff is working diligently on supporting the community through COVID testing and vaccination; and making sure we are ready for a robust summer session.

Parks Planning & Design Manager Roger Ravenstad informed the Commission that new park project maps and videos are available on the City website.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Suzanne Wolf, Secretary
Fremont Recreation Commission