



MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 2026

3:30 PM

***** IN-PERSON WITH REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AVAILABLE *****

This meeting of the San Mateo County Parks Commission will be held in **The Boards and Commissions Meeting Room, 400 County Center, 1st floor, Redwood City, CA, 94063**. Members of the public will be able to participate in the meeting in person in Redwood City or remotely via the Zoom platform.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Swearing in of Commissioner Arnout ter Schure, District 2

3. Roll Call

Present: Chair Rodriguez Mitton, Vice-Chair Esser, Commissioner Manneh, Commissioner ter Schure

4. Public Comment

5. Action to Set the Agenda and approve the February 5, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion to approve February 5, 2026 meeting minutes passes.

6. Reports and Presentations

6.1 SMC Parks Foundation Report – SMC Parks Foundation Executive Director Michele Beasley
Highlights include:

- March 21, 2026 – Memorial Park Nature Center ribbon cutting
- 58 artist proposals submitted for the next round of Parks posters – Sam McDonald Park, Devil's Slide, and Coyote Point
- Working with CompassPoint Mentorship youth to create a mural on one of the Flood Park restrooms
- Upcoming programs include forest and coastal therapy sessions, nature journaling classes, a pole hiking demo, and tabling at numerous community events
 - Parks Foundation staff member Cristina is undergoing training to become a Certified Forest Therapy Guide, and she will be able to provide forest therapy programming in Parks.
 - Goal is to create a Certified Forest Therapy Trail within SMC Parks in the future.
- Upcoming funding for Memorial Park Naturalist Interns, Community Engagement Intern, and transportation for several community organizations to visit parks

7. Regular Agenda

7.1 Welcome and onboarding of new Commissioner (INFORMATION)

Arnout ter Schure

- Would like to bring the CARES framework to his work on the Parks Commission: Community, Affordability, Recreation, Environmental education, Safety.

7.2 2026 Commission workplan and items for future agendas (DISCUSSION)

- Past workplans were organized based on commissioner's areas of interest and suggestions by members of the public.
- Suggestion to create an 18-month workplan to go through the end of 2027. This would allow more time to form subcommittees, collaborate with other departments, and gather data to accomplish goals.
- Commissioner Esser: interested in community engagement efforts to see what people would like to see in Parks. Last visitor survey was in 2015.
- Commissioner ter Schure: interested in incorporating CARES into Priority Area 5: Other Areas of Interest.
- Chair Rodriguez Mitton: interested in bike use in Parks, particularly guidelines around assisted bikes.
 - Superintendent Scott Lombardi suggested a Priority Area focusing on Trail Guidelines, which would include bike usage.
- Commissioners to send suggestions to Chair Rodriguez Mitton for compilation.

8. Commissioner Updates

8.1 Commissioner report out on information items, subcommittee, or project updates

9. Items for a Future Agenda

- County priorities update
- Welcome & onboarding of new Commissioners
- County diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Partnerships and connections – have representatives of partner organizations provide presentations to the Commission. Discuss which County department may be able to attend.
- Update on sustainability actions for the Parks Department & alignment with action plan for County Office of Sustainability. Regional transportation and active transportation
- Summary of Revitalize Coyote Point survey
- Subcommittee structure and assignments
- Processes to address public comment
- Address technological gaps to ensure accessibility for public attendees and improve participation at in-person and remote meetings.

10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:48pm.

County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Commission

Vacant, District 1 | Arnout ter Schure, District 2 | Irma Rodriguez Mitton, District 3 (Chair) |

Brooks Esser (Vice-Chair), District 4 | Basem Manneh, District 5

County of San Mateo Parks Department

Emma Gonzalez, Interim Parks Director

Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent

Tracy Nappi, Administrative Assistant I