



MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, August 6, 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. Roll Call

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

Assistant County Attorney Brian Kulich: Due to technical difficulties in the Boards and Commissions Meeting Room, the Parks Commission meeting was moved to Room 101, 455 County Center. Notices were placed on the doors of the original meeting location.

3. Public Comment

4. Action to Set the Agenda and approve the June 4, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion to approve June 4, 2026 meeting minutes passes.

5. Reports and Presentations

5.1 SMC Parks Foundation Report - SMC Parks Foundation Executive Director Michele Beasley
Highlights include:

- Artists are finalizing the next three Parks posters: Sam McDonald Park, Coyote Point, and Devil's Slide.
- Purchasing annual Parks passes to place 4 each in all 34 libraries in County of San Mateo.
- Working on scheduling forest therapy sessions. Recently held a program for Veterans at San Pedro Valley Park.

5.2 Interpretive Division Presentation – Interpretive Ranger III Katherine Wright and Administrative Assistant I Tracy Nappi

- Interpretive Strategic Plan was finalized in 2022 and included the recommendations described below.
- Parks offers interpretation for all visitors; however, target audiences were identified by the Department and stakeholders. Target audiences include community-based organizations (CBO) serving disadvantaged communities, school-aged children and teens, and disabled persons and caretakers.
- Recommendation 1 - Equitable Access, expanded uses, and public outreach

Examples include:

- Junior Naturalist Camp at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
- CBO Youth camping program at Memorial Park
- Educational programs in classrooms, community centers, after-school programs, and

- in parks
 - Programs with libraries such as Big Lift summer camps and hiking series
 - Junior Ranger booklets in six parks
 - Community events include the Take a Hike series, three major festivals, and tabling events
 - Friendship Park includes community garden beds, annual salsa festival, Art in the Park, and Dia de los Muertos festival
- Recommendation 2 – Partnerships
 - San Mateo County Park Foundation provides funding for CBO transportation to parks, visitor center improvements, Bilingual Community Engagement Intern, festivals, and more.
 - Sustainability Department – partner to teach climate change to school field trips
 - San Mateo County Libraries
 - Hold quarterly meetings with five Friends groups
- Recommendation 3 – Interpretive Media
 - Updating interpretive panels throughout parks, working on sign plan
 - San Mateo County Parks app with ten self-guided tours in parks
 - Updates to visitor centers
 - Social media
- Recommendation 4 – Organizational Capacity and Training
 - Provide Certified Interpretive Host and Guide Training
 - Interpretive toolkits for each park
 - Quarterly trainings to support continuing education for staff and volunteers include Ohlone culture and history, ticks, etc.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 Commission 2026-2027 Workplan (ACTION)

Presentation of completed Parks Commission 2026-2027 workplan and feedback discussion.

Identified three goals for the workplan:

- Community Engagement
 - Includes engaging with members of the public while at park events and encouraging them to attend Commission meetings
- County Relationships
 - Includes meeting with Supervisors or their Staff on a regular basis to share priorities and successes.
- Commission Effectiveness
 - Recommend quarterly Department updates

Public Comments:

- 1) Recommendation to listen to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space meetings available on Zoom; commenter appreciates the updates they provide about their parks.
- 2) Youth Commission Liaison to Parks Commission Ella – able to connect us with other Youth Commissioners who would be interested in the Parks Commission

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Workplan passes.

7. Commissioner Updates

7.1 Commissioner report on information items, subcommittee, or project updates

- Commissioner ter Schure and Commissioner Faklis attended the Youth Commission networking event and spoke with youth who have an interest in being Youth Liaisons to the Parks Commission.
- Commissioner Esser plans on attending the Don Horsley County Park ribbon-cutting.
- Chair Rodriguez Mitton attended a Parks/Library hike at Sam McDonald Park. She also

attended a beach clean-up at Don Horsley County Park.

- Commissioner ter Schure attended an SSF Senior Outing at Coyote Point. He also attended Heritage Fire at Coyote Point.

8. Items for a Future Agenda

Prior topics under this item have been moved to the 2026-2027 workplan.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Commission

**Paul Faklis, 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

Hannah Ormshaw, Assistant Parks Director

Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent

Tracy Nappi, Administrative Assistant I

