COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
PARKS COMMISSION

District 1: Paul Faklis
District 2: Arnout ter Schure
District 3: Irma Rodriguez Mitton
District 4: Brooks Esser
District 5: Basem Manneh

County Center
455 County Center, 4th Fl.
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.smcgov.org

MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting | **Thursday, October 1, 2026** | **3:30 PM**

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

This meeting of the San Mateo County Parks Commission will be held in **Room 101 at 455 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
Chair Rodriguez Mitton recognized Hannah Ormshaw as the new Parks Director.

3. Public Comment

4. Action to Set the Agenda and approve the September 3, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion to approve September 3, 2026 meeting minutes passes.

5. Reports and Presentations

5.1 Presentation: Junior Ranger youth participant
Alex Seeber, Liaison for Commission on Disabilities, and her daughter will present on their experiences with the Junior Ranger program.

The presentation was given by Maya and Becky, a speech language pathologist, who have been visiting San Mateo County Parks together and working on the Junior Ranger booklets.

- Maya is an 8-year-old Junior Ranger participant. She used eye gaze to give her presentation through her Tobii Augmentative and Alternative Communication device.
- Her favorite park is San Bruno Mountain because the paved trail makes it easy for her to get around in her wheelchair.
- She visited with docents at San Pedro Valley, Edgewood Park, and Wunderlich Park Visitor Centers.
- Wunderlich Park was harder to navigate with her wheelchair, but she liked seeing the horses.
- Favorite memories of parks are seeing the deer. She also commented that adding paved trails for access would make it easier to get around. Wheelchair accessible picnic benches set back from the parking lot and in a natural setting help to improve the visit.
- Maya used her communication device to do the Junior Ranger pledge with Ranger Katherine Wright.

5.2 Report: SMC Parks Foundation Executive Director Michele Beasley

Highlights include:

- Artists reception on October 11 at Coyote Point for the three new Parks posters: Sam McDonald Park, Coyote Point Recreation Area, and Devil's Slide.
- SMC Parks Foundation funded a nine-hole disc golf course at Coyote Point via the Park Ranger grant program. The disc golf course will be completed within the next couple of

months.
- Has done six forest and coastal therapy events in the past year.
- Pole-hiking event for veterans on October 16 at Huddart Park.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 County of San Mateo Commission connections

Discussion of Workplan goal for each Commissioner to choose one peer commission with which to connect.

The Commissioners chose the following commissions to connect with:
- Commissioner Rodriguez Mitton: Commission on the Status of Women, Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission
- Commissioner Esser: SMC Transit District
- Commissioner Manneh: San Mateo Health Commission
- Commissioner ter Schure: Commission on Disabilities
- Commissioner Faklis: North Fair Oaks Community Council

6.2 Parks logo

Introduction of the new Parks logo.
- Surveys were sent to Parks staff to explore ideas for the new logo.
- Based on staff input, the logo incorporates several habitats, flora, and fauna that represent San Mateo County Parks, including the iconic redwood tree, coastal cliffs, grasslands with rolling hills, a turkey vulture, and a meandering trail which represents an invitation for visitors to explore parks.
- The shield-shape is wider to improve readability, and colors provide contrast to support visual accessibility.
- 1924 commemorates the centennial of Parks.
- For more information: https://www.smcgov.org/parks/news/new-chapter-san-mateo-county-parks

6.3 Midcoast Multi-Modal Trail (ACTION)

Chanda Singh, Senior Planner for the Planning and Building Department, to present on the project's progress and a grant opportunity to support future improvements. Commissioners to vote on a letter in support of the grant application.
- The grant application is through the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Cycle 8 Bicycle and Pedestrian Call for Projects. The project is the Midcoast Multi-Modal Trail in Moss Beach: Carlos Street Gap Closure and would include the environmental and design phase of the project.
- The project goal is to study and develop a Class 1 bicycle and pedestrian path, roadway widening to meet fire standards, marked crosswalks, curb ramps, signage, and drainage on Carlos Street from State Route 1 to Etheldore Street.
- The project is in unincorporated Moss Beach in a central area with businesses, Moss Beach Park, a post office, and a sheriff's substation. There is also an affordable housing project currently under construction along this segment. Local destinations include Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. If this project advances, the trail would align with the Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail.
- Transportation challenges and safety concerns in this area include a lack of pedestrian and bicycle routes. Highway 1 is the only north-south corridor connected throughout this area, so currently people tend to walk on the shoulder of Highway 1.
- Grant application will be submitted by October 30, 2026. If awarded, goal is to start the environmental phase in June 2027, followed by the design phase, then seek funding for construction of the project.
- Commissioners passed a motion to form a subcommittee with Chair Rodriguez Mitton and Commissioner ter Schure to finalize and submit the letter in support of the grant application.

7. Commissioner Updates

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

- Commissioner Esser is continuing his goal to visit every park in the SMC Parks system.
- Commissioner ter Schure attended Half Moon Bay and Belle Haven's Senior Center outings to Coyote Point.
- Commissioner Faklis is interested in attending more stewardship events in SMC Parks.
- Commissioner Manneh plans to visit Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in the upcoming weeks.
- Chair Rodriguez Mitton attended a forest therapy event at Memorial Park.
- Chair Rodriguez Mitton reminded Commissioners to set up a meeting with their Supervisor or their Chief of Staff in the upcoming months to update them on Parks.

8. Items for a Future Agenda

- Impacts of VLF Funding Shortfall - Commission support of County efforts

Public Comment: Freedom Trax offers beach-friendly wheelchairs.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:21pm.

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
Hannah Ormshaw, Parks Director
Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent
Tracy Nappi, Administrative Assistant I