

Director's Report to the Parks & Recreation Commission

November 2019

Parks & Recreation Director's Position

I am Randy Schwartz and have been serving as the Interim Parks and Recreation Director since October 24th. My career in municipal recreation began in Pacifica in 1981 and had stops in Brisbane, Burlingame (for 23 years), Millbrae and San Bruno before retiring as the City Manager for the Town of Hillsborough. Post retirement, I have consulted or had interim assignments for a few cities and continue to teach in the San Mateo public sector training academy.

The search for a permanent Parks and Recreation Director is underway. The Cupertino Human Resources Department has updated the job specifications, created an information flyer and established November 19th as the deadline for applications. The City Manager's office will be in charge of the search, but staff will keep the Commissioners informed of the process along the way.

Unfortunately, a pre-planned family vacation prevents me from attending the November Commission meetings, but I have had a FaceTime conversation with Chairperson Tambe to review the upcoming meeting agendas. Assistant Director Hanel and Administrative Services Director Alfaro will be leading Departmental operations in my absence and will be able to connect with me throughout my vacation.

Update on Masterplan

The Parks & Recreation System Master Plan has progressed and is nearing completion. A draft Master Plan was issued earlier this year. Wide input was received from Commissions and other groups, as well as from the public. The City Council reviewed Master Plan elements in February, April and May. The Master Plan was refined based on the input from these meetings and an updated version was issued in October. Environmental review documents (aka 'CEQA' documents) for the Master Plan have been prepared and posted for public comments. The formal public comment period on the CEQA documents commenced on October 23 and will conclude on November 22.

The next steps for the Master Plan include:

- Planning Commission, informational presentation, date TBD, tentatively Nov. 21
- Environmental Review Committee, Dec. 5, 9:30 am, consider the CEQA documents and make a recommendation to Council regarding adoption
- Parks & Recreation Commission, Dec. 5, 7:00 pm, receive a presentation on the updated Master Plan and make a recommendation to Council regarding its adoption
- City Council, date TBD, tentatively Feb. 4, 2020, consider adoption of the Master Plan and the associated CEQA documents

Staff appreciates the time and energy the Parks and Recreation Commission has put into the Master Plan process, and for all the ongoing guidance and support the Commission has provided. We look forward to presenting the Master Plan to you next month.

All-Inclusive Playground

Cupertino's Public Works Department continues to explore options for installation of an all-inclusive playground at Jollyman Park. I have spoken with the Public Works Director regarding the topic and agree with his approach. City staff has received renderings of a possible layout from one of the vendors, as well as a follow-up phone call to confirm receipt and clarify the pieces of equipment included. We have not asked the vendor for follow-up or pricing information, nor did we discuss the public bidding process with

them at this time, to ensure the vendor is not disqualified from submitting an application under the public bidding process. We will have more information available to the Commission at the December meeting.

Accreditation

Due to the heavy amount of staff time necessary to complete the application and submittals, and with the approval of the City Manager, I have asked staff to stop the NRPA accreditation process. Instead, the time required to research files and data over the past 15 years will be better served continuing the amazing programs the residents of Cupertino enjoy. Receiving the NRPA accreditation, in my opinion, is necessary only to those agencies who do not have the support of their public, elected or appointed officials. The hundreds of staff hours required to submit a full application is one of the main reasons so few agencies in California even seek the accreditation.

I look forward to meeting each of you in December. If you have any questions for me or if I can be of assistance before then, please send me an email at randys@cupertino.org. Thank you.

Randy Schwartz
Interim Parks & Recreation Director