



# City of Mountain View

## Agenda

### Parks and Recreation Commission and Urban Forestry Board

*Commissioners Cornes, Naegele, Vice Chair Hepfer, Chair Herbach*

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Thursday, October 13, 2016

7:00 PM

Senior Center - 266 Escuela Avenue

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Thida Cornes, Katherine Naegele, Vice Chair Paul Hepfer and Chairperson Jonathan Herbach

#### 3. MINUTES APPROVAL

##### 3.1 [16-703](#) Approval of minutes

**Recommendation:** That Parks and Recreation Commission approve the September 14, 2016 minutes.

**Attachments:** [09-14-2016 PRC Minutes](#)

#### 4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter not on the agenda. Speakers are limited to three minutes. State law prohibits the Commission from acting on non-agenda items.

#### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

##### 6.1 [16-704](#) Update of One-Year-Trial-Multimodal Forms of Transportation and Speed Limits on City Trails

**Recommendation:** Review and forward a recommendation to the City Council to adopt an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 38, Article IV, of the Mountain View City Code Regulating the Use of City Trails.

**Attachments:** [Staff Report](#)  
[ATT 1 - 2012-2016 Trail Count Data](#)

#### 7. COMMISSION/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, REQUESTS, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No action will be taken on any questions raised by the Commission at this time.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to the Regular meeting of November 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center,  
266 Escuela Avenue.

## **AGENDAS FOR BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

- The specific location of each meeting is noted on the notice and agenda for each meeting which is posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Special meetings may be called as necessary by the Commission Chair and noticed at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
- Questions and comments regarding the agenda may be directed to the Executive Assistant at (650) 903-6400 or [community.services@mountainview.gov](mailto:community.services@mountainview.gov).
- Interested persons may review the agenda and staff reports at the City Clerk Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd Floor; the Friday afternoon before each meeting at 4:30 p.m. or soon thereafter; or online at <http://laserfiche.mountainview.gov/Weblink>; and they are available during each Commission meeting.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE—Reference: Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990**

- Anyone who is planning to attend a meeting who is visually or hearing-impaired or has any disability that needs special assistance should call the Community Services Department at (650) 903-6400 48 hours in advance of the meeting to arrange for assistance. Upon request, in advance, by a person with a disability, agendas and writings distributed during the meeting that are public records will be made available in the appropriate alternative format. Also upon request, in advance, an assistive listening device can be made available for use during the meeting.
- The Board, Commission, or Committee may take action on any matter noticed herein in any manner deemed appropriate by the Board, Commission, or Committee. Their consideration of the matters noticed herein is not limited by the recommendations indicated herein.

### **ADDRESSING THE BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE**

- Interested persons are entitled to speak on any item on the agenda and should make their interest known to the Chair.
- Anyone wishing to address the Board, Commission, or Committee on a nonagenda item may do so during the "Oral Communications" part of the agenda. Speakers are allowed to speak one time on any number of topics for up to three minutes.



# City of Mountain View

Senior Center  
266 Escuela Aveue

## Minutes - Draft

### Parks and Recreation Commission and Urban Forestry Board

*Commissioners Cornes, Naegele, Vice Chair Hepfer, Chair Herbach*

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Wednesday, September 14, 2016

7:00 PM

Senior Center - 266 Escuela Avenue

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Herbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

**Present** 3 - Commissioner Thida Cornes, Vice Chair Paul Hepfer, and Chairperson Jonathan Herbach

**Absent** 1 - Commissioner Katherine Naegele

#### 3. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion - M/S Herbach/Cornes - To approve the July 20, 2016 minutes.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Cornes, Vice Chair Hepfer, and Chairperson Herbach

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Naegele

#### 4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

#### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

##### 6.1 Heritage Tree Appeal-87-89 Starr Way

Parks Section Manager Jakob Trconic presented the Heritage tree removal appeal and requested to deny the appeal and allow tree to remain.

SPEAKING FROM THE FLOOR WITH EXPRESSING CONCERNS:

JUDY WRIGHT  
JACKIE

**Motion - M/S Hepfer/Herbach - To deny the appeal and allow tree to remain.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Cornes, Vice Chair Hepfer, and Chairperson Herbach

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Naegele

## **6.2 Review of Park Restroom Guidelines**

Parks Manager Bruce Hurlburt presented the Review of Park Restroom Guidelines and requested the Commission forward staff's recommendation to the City Council.

Following a discussion, the Commission made two motions:

First Motion

**Motion - M/S Cornes/Herbach - To forward staff's recommendation to the City Council as follows:**

**Continue with the existing guidelines for permanent traditional/standard restroom buildings in City Parks as follows:**

- 1. The park is a neighborhood or community park a minimum of three (3) acres in size.**
- 2. The park provides extended-stay activities such as large barbecue areas, swimming, tennis, or athletic league play.**
- 3. If a park is jointly owned and/or jointly operated, both parties must agree on the restroom(s).**
- 4. Restrooms meet design standards supportive of activity levels of the park.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Cornes, Vice Chair Hepfer, and Chairperson Herbach

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Naegele

## Second Motion

**Motion - M/S Herbach/Cornes - To forward the following recommendation to the City Council.**

**Requested staff to explore developing guidelines for single stall bathrooms such as Portland Loo bathrooms in City facilities.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Cornes, Vice Chair Hepfer, and Chairperson Herbach

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Naegele

## **7. COMMISSION/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, REQUESTS, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Services Director J.P. de la Montaigne highlighted the following:

- Celebration of Service
- October Meeting Date
- Pickleball Courts
- Magical Bridge Playground

Commissioner Cornes asked about the timelines for applications of the vacant PRC position.

Commissioner Herbach stated that he is unable to attend the next Mayor's Meeting with Advisory Body Chairs, but Vice Chair Hepfer will be attending.

Per Commissioner Herbach's request, the Commission decided to move October 12 meeting to October 13.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:46 p.m., the Chair adjourned the meeting to the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to be held on October 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center, 266 Escuela Avenue.



**MEMORANDUM**

Community Services Department

**DATE:** October 13, 2016

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** John R. Marchant, Recreation Manager  
J.P. de la Montaigne, Community Services Director

**SUBJECT: Update of One-Year-Trial—Multimodal Forms of Transportation and Speed Limits on City Trails**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Review and forward a recommendation to the City Council to adopt an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 38, Article IV, of the Mountain View City Code Regulating the Use of City Trails.

**BACKGROUND**

On November 13, 2013, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) directed staff to review the possibility of permitting zero-emission, multimodal forms of transportation on City trails that is consistent with neighboring cities, including a recommendation for a trail speed limit.

On October 8, 2014, staff presented information regarding Best Practices for multiuse trails and made recommendations to the PRC to review types of vehicles to permit on trails as well as implementing a 15 mile per hour (mph) speed limit on trails. The PRC recommended a one-year trial period to permit electric bicycles, electric scooters, and skateboards. In addition, they recommended a trial period for electric skateboards once allowed by the California Vehicle Code. The PRC also directed staff to return at a subsequent meeting to provide additional information regarding speed limits and enforcement.

On March 4, 2015, staff returned to the PRC to discuss the enforceability of speed limits on trails when pedestrians are present. The PRC forwarded a recommendation to City Council for a continuous 15 mph speed limit throughout the trail system and to create an educational outreach program about trail etiquette, additional signage along trails, and enforcement.

On April 29, 2015, staff presented the PRC's recommendations to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (B/PAC) and staff requested the Committee's input. While no specific motions were made during the meeting, a majority of the five members supported the proposed 15 mph speed limit as well as allowing additional permitted uses, including skateboards, electric-assist bicycles, and scooters.

On June 9, 2015, staff presented to City Council the PRC's recommendations regarding changes to the City Code. Council voted 7-0 to move forward with PRC's recommended changes.

The ordinance approved by Council changed Chapter 38 by adding Article IV as of August 1, 2016, to include:

- A 15 mph speed limit and in no instance shall the speed allowed be greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.
- The use of electric-assist bicycles and electric scooters, as defined by the California Vehicle Code, and skateboards is permitted for a one-year trial period.
- The use of electric skateboards is permitted for a one-year trial period, once defined and approved by the California Vehicle Code.

## ANALYSIS

Following direction of City Council and adoption of the ordinance, staff began working to implement the numerous objectives set to implement the new speed limit and trial period of new uses on the trail systems.

Communicating the changes to the operation of the trails was a priority. A trifold brochure was created and placed at trail heads and informational kiosks. The trifold consists of a welcome message outlining what types of uses are permitted, examples of proper trail etiquette, and a Mountain View trails map, as well as information directing the public to a newly created web page and trail-specific e-mail address. The newly created web page contains trail status information, a trail visitor welcome statement, proper use etiquette, a description of new regulations, special provisions for trails, and contact information for trail-specific items. Staff also communicated with local businesses in the North Bayshore Area as well as user groups to publicize the changes to the City Code. Lunchtime presentations were made at Google and LinkedIn campuses where the trifold brochure was distributed electronically to employees. The

Friends of Stevens Creek Trail and several cycling clubs were also contacted and provided materials to distribute to members.

In early July 2015, approximately 100, 15 mph speed limit signs began to be installed along the trails. Signage is placed in both directions of travel every few hundred feet as well as additional signage in problem areas such as around schools and tight trail sections. Along with the speed limit signage, etiquette signage was also placed on the trails beginning in August 2015. Approximately 60 etiquette signs are now located on the trail system.

The signage consists of messages and associated pictures stating:

- KEEP DOGS ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES – STAY TO THE RIGHT
- DO NOT BLOCK TRAILS WHEN IN GROUPS – STAY TO THE RIGHT
- ANNOUNCE YOURSELF WHEN PASSING – PASS ON THE LEFT
- REDUCE SPEED – USE CAUTION AROUND TURNS
- YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS

The next phase of community outreach began in October 2015 with the launch of the new Trail Ambassador Program. Staff created a brand new volunteer program that consists of training volunteers to model good behavior on the trails, help educate other trail users, and to communicate any concerns they observe on the trail systems. The initial rollout of the program required staff to create training materials and a new web-based volunteer communication tool. This tool allows volunteers to track volunteer hours and for communication between Trail Ambassadors and staff. Each Trail Ambassador typically spends less than 10 hours a month volunteering, and a total of 30 to 60 hours is currently being recorded monthly by the group. To date, there are a total of 11 volunteer Trail Ambassadors patrolling City trails. Staff continues to publicize this volunteer opportunity and is preparing to train additional Trail Ambassadors.

In order to assist the public in understanding the speeds they are traveling, a mobile radar unit was purchased and placed on the trail system. Rangers deploy the radar unit and educate the public about trail regulations. The large Police Department radar trailer was also placed on the trail system at the La Avenida trailhead and at the Sleeper Avenue trailhead in fall 2015, and spring and summer 2016. The radar helps remind

trail users of their speed and typically lower speeds are observed when radar units are visible.

Over the past five years, staff completed annual trail counts on Stevens Creek Trail (Attachment 1). Since 2012, the Stevens Creek Trail has seen a 96 percent increase in volume during commute times. Due to the Permanente Creek Trail becoming more popular, trail counts began in 2015. Trail count data for the Permanente Creek Trail shows an increase of nearly 13 percent within the last year alone. With increased use, conflicts continue to exist between cyclists and pedestrians on the trails, specifically during commute times and on weekends. Since the creation of the trail-specific website and e-mail address, few comments have been received directly. A total of five comments were received and typically relate to concerns over bicyclist speeds and conflicts with pedestrians. Staff received several compliments directly from trail users when the new speed limit signs and etiquette signs were being installed. The public stated that they thought the signage would help improve both speeding cyclists and etiquette.

In addition to increased use of electric-assist bicycles for commuting purposes, some of the larger businesses in the North Bayshore currently offer the use of electric-assist bicycles to their employees for traveling from one office building to another. Staff found that a large age range of people was observed enjoying the benefits of electric-assist bicycles during the last trail survey.

Finally, staff continues to check in with the Police Department regarding the trial period and Officers are able to respond to areas of concern as directed by staff. To date, no direct requests were made for targeted enforcement, nor were any citations for speeding written through the trial period. Should the need arise in the future, citations can be written by Officers.

## **ELECTRIC SKATEBOARD UPDATE**

Staff has recently received communication that Assembly Bill (AB) 604 makes electric skateboards legal for use under California Vehicle Code. Staff recommends that a one-year trial period begin December 1, 2016. AB 604 defines an electronically motorized skateboard as:

- Less than 60" long and 18" wide.
- Powered by 1,000 watts or less.
- Capable to carry only one person.
- Not considered a motorized skateboard by the current California Vehicle Code.

The California Vehicle Code states that the below precautions must be made:

- A helmet must be worn while operating device.
- Operator must be at least 16 years of age.
- Board must be equipped with safety equipment outlined in the California Vehicle Code which includes a braking system.
- The maximum speed cannot exceed 15 mph.
- A governing board may enact any special provisions or regulations.

In addition to the above restrictions, AB 604 also ensures a person shall not operate an electrically motorized board at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, pedestrian, and vehicular traffic, and the surface and width of the highway, bikeway, public bicycle path, sidewalk, or trail, and in no event at a speed that endangers the safety of any person or property. While the formal one-year trial period has not started, staff has observed electric skateboard users on the trail system and has not received any specific complaints regarding their use.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Based on input from the public, observations of staff and Rangers, it is recommended to continue allowing the use of electric-assist bicycles and electric scooters, as defined by

the California Vehicle Code, and skateboards on an ongoing basis on the trail systems in the City.

Should this recommendation be approved by City Council, staff will continue efforts to build the Trail Ambassador Program by increasing participation, and trail safety events will be scheduled during the year. In addition, Community Services will be increasing trail patrol hours by Rangers through a new contract in the coming months. Additional Ranger hours will allow the use of the radar system on a more regular basis to encourage lower speeds and use of trail etiquette.

JRM-JPdIM/CV/3/CSD  
231-10-13-16M-E

Attachment: 1. 2012-2016 Trail Count Data

2012-2016 Trail Count Data							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Increase	Overall Increase
Stevens Creek Trail Morning Commute	1070	1418	N/A	2036	2043	91%	
Stevens Creek Trail Evening Commute	685	430	N/A	1640	1401	105%	
						<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96%</b>
Permanente Creek Trail Morning Commute				419	508	21%	
Permanente Creek Trail Evening Commute				439	460	5%	
						<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13%</b>

2015 vs. 2016 Use Types			
	Bicycles	Pedestrians	Other
2015	3411	1094	29
2016	3277	1105	30

2016 E-Bikes	
	E-Bikes
Stevens Creek Trail Morning Commute	47
Stevens Creek Trail Evening Commute	22
Permanente Creek Trail Morning Commute	25
Permanente Creek Trail Evening Commute	6
	<b>100</b>