

# DRAFT



## Parks Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee Draft Minutes

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022      **PLACE:** Meeting held virtually via Zoom  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** – Melanie Parker, Deputy Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks took note of the following Land Acknowledgement Statement:

“The County of Sonoma recognizes that we are on the ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok, Pomo, and Wappo who are the original caretakers of this area. We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who have been stewarding and maintaining relationship on this land as knowledge keepers for millennia. The County of Sonoma is dedicated to understanding and educating the public about historical and ongoing connections between land conservation and social inequities. This includes the histories of genocide, forced removal and displacement, and broken promises with Indigenous peoples as a part of American history. Indigenous people are not just in our histories. We strive to optimize Indigenous voices to share their own history, as to not perpetuate another form of being silenced. While recognizing the past, we honor the resiliency of Native people still in their ancestral territories in relationship with their land and culture.

This acknowledgement does not take the place of authentic relationships with Indigenous communities, but serves as a gesture in respect to the land we are on.”

### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting started at 5:00 p.m. Chair Meredith Rennie called the meeting to order.

Committee Members Present: John Mills, Karen Collins, Rhonda Ahanotu, Meredith Rennie, Carole Eber, and Dan Condron.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Bert Whitaker, Director; Melanie Parker, Deputy Director; Robert Gonzalez, Fiscal and Administrative Officer.

2. **Comments from the Public** – Public may address the Committee on matters that are not on the agenda

Members of the public wishing to suggest an item for a future Committee agenda may do so during this Public Comment period. The Ralph M. Brown Act (the State local agency open meeting law) prohibits the Committee from acting on any matter that is not on the agenda. Speakers are limited to three minutes each, however, the Commission Chair may adjust the time limit in light of the number of anticipated speakers.

Chair Meredith Rennie called for any comment from the public. There was none.

**3. Approval of the Minutes – of the September 13, 2022 meeting of the Parks Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee meeting.**

VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022 meeting, as follows:

MOTION:	Committee Member Dan Condrón	AYES: 6	ABSTAIN: 0
SECOND:	Committee Member Meredith Rennie	ABSENT: 0	VACANT: 0

**4. Reports and Updates: Quarterly Revenue Report; and Measure M Parks for All Annual Report, FY 2021-2022: Presentation by Robert Gonzalez, Administrative Services Officer, Melanie Parker, Deputy Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks, and Bert Whitaker, Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks.**

- Robert Gonzalez provided a brief recap of the latest quarterly sales tax collection from May, June, and July of 2022 and disbursement figures. He noted that sales growth in the county should remain stable and predictable for the remainder of the year.
- Robert Gonzalez and Deputy Director Melanie Parker introduced the Measure M Parks for All Annual Report FY 2021-2022, noting the following highlights:
  - This third annual report reflects a period of coming out of the pandemic and expanding community programs.
  - Total revenue was about 15.5 million dollars which was used for maintenance, safety, programs, park management, and recreation in parks across the county.
  - The report shows the aggregate value of parks to Sonoma County, including the total number of parks, park volunteers, community gardens, and playgrounds.
- Director Bert Whitaker noted that natural resources accomplishments included shaded fuel breaks at Shiloh, North Sonoma Mountain, Foothill as well as grazing program improvements; deferred maintenance projects including Maxwell Farms, and community engagement programs such as the Youth Crew program. He observed that Measure M funding is a critical and transformative funding source that often fills in funding gaps.

- Deputy Director Melanie Parks highlighted accomplishments of Cities around the County with Measure M funds including
  - Cloverdale's focus on fire risk mitigation and vegetation management
  - Healdsburg's efforts with access to Fitch Mountain
  - Petaluma's investment in maintenance of all parks and community events through the pandemic period
  - Santa Rosa's focus on fire recovery projects as well as building out their volunteer program
  - Sebastopol's focus on Ives Park improvements and master plan
  - The town of Sonoma's focus on Montini Reserve and vegetation management
  - Windsor's new dog park, shade structure work and emergency preparedness

Committee Member Dan Condrón asked what the goals are for next year in terms of shaded breaks.

Deputy Director Melanie Parker responded that Regional Parks is increasing shaded breaks and overall fuels treatment every year. She said that Measure M funds have been leveraged for more funding for shaded breaks. She added that Regional Parks is working at Calabasas on a collaborative project with Napa County on a fire line, which is a CalFire project.

Committee Member Carol Eber asked what the timeline is for considering renewal of Measure M.

Director Bert Whitaker replied that re-authorization would be a matter put to the Board of Supervisors. He noted that it could be in year 2026 or 2028 election cycles where voters might seek to reauthorize the measure.

Chair Meredith Rennie asked for any public comment at this point in the meeting. There was none.

## 5. **Approval of the Measure M Parks for All Annual Report, FY 2021-2022**

VOTED to approve the Measure M Parks for All Annual Report, FY 2021-2022, as follows:

MOTION:	Committee Member Dan Condrón	AYES: 6	ABSTAIN: 0
SECOND:	Committee Member Rhonda Ahanotu	ABSENT: 0	VACANT: 0

Deputy Director Melanie Parks and Director Bert Whitaker acknowledged the hard work of the Committee Members present, and thanked departing Committee Members Rhonda

Ahanotu, Dan Condrón, and Karen Collins for their excellent contributions as park champions and advocates.

**6. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen Culhane, Executive Assistant  
Sonoma County Regional Parks

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