

DRAFT



Parks Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee Draft Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 **PLACE:** Meeting held virtually via Zoom
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- 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 5:05 p.m. Chair Meredith Rennie called the meeting to order.

Committee Members Present: Meredith Rennie, Carol Eber, Leslie Graves, Justin Lindenberg, and Chris Borr.

Committee Members Absent: John Mills.

Committee Seats Vacant: There is one “at large” appointment vacant for the Committee.

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

All Committee Members and staff introduced themselves.

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 November 15, 2022 meeting of the Parks Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee meeting.

VOTED to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022 meeting, as follows:

MOTION:	Committee Member Carol Eber	AYES: 5	ABSTAIN: 0
SECOND:	Committee Member Meredith Rennie	ABSENT: 1	VACANT: 1

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 August, September, and October of 2022 and disbursement figures. He noted that revenues overall were significantly higher than the same period from the previous year.

Committee Member Chris Borr asked if any funds are held in reserve.

Robert Gonzalez responded that funds are not held in reserve generally, but cities and Regional Parks could choose to hold allotted funding for larger projects in those jurisdictions.

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

- Deputy Director Melanie Parker welcomed new Committee Members Leslie Graves, Justin Lindenberg, and Chris Borr. She stated that the purpose of this

meeting is to highlight the successes of Measure M in cities and in the larger County area.

- Director Bert Whitaker described the history of Measure M funding at Sonoma County Regional Parks and noted improvements over the years.
- Deputy Director Melanie Parker stated that community engagement at Regional Parks has benefitted from the tax measure with staffing improvements and new programming possibilities.

Committee Member Carol Eber thanked Regional Parks for its support of the Putnam Park expansion effort in Petaluma.

- Hector Galvan, representing Cloverdale, reported that Measure M funding has contributed significantly to enhanced vegetation management efforts, trail maintenance, building and facility maintenance, and new park amenities in Cloverdale.

Chair Meredith Rennie asked if the recent snowfall had any impact on park facilities in Cloverdale.

Hector Galvan responded that the snowfall resulted in numerous downed trees and maintenance crews would be busy over the next few weeks in efforts to clean up park areas.

- Mark Themig, representing Healdsburg, reported that Measure M funding has been utilized by the City of Healdsburg in the planning and development of Fitch Mountain, as well as programs for youth and children during the pandemic and beyond.
- Drew Halter, representing Petaluma, reported that Measure M funding enabled renovation and development of tennis courts, pickleball courts, renovation of pedestrian and bicycle pathways, a new skate park, improvements in maintenance efforts across the city's park system, and significant community engagement efforts.

Committee Member Carol Eber commented that more shady areas could be created on playgrounds throughout Petaluma. She also noted that she continues to hear great comments about the swim center.

Committee Member Chris Borr asked if a location has been chosen for the new skate park.

Drew Halter responded that a second community workshop determined a location which will then go to the Parks Committee in Petaluma for input, and then on to the City Council.

- Cindy Bagley, representing Rohnert Park, reported that Measure M funding enabled that city to add another fulltime employee to the parks division, improve trails and park maintenance, and fund community events. She added that resurfacing playgrounds as well as a new master plan were also in line for Measure M funding.
- Melanie Parker reported at the request of the City of Santa Rosa, that Santa Rosa has used Measure M funding to conduct a system-wide assessment of their parks, as well as a workshop-based community engagement survey. She additionally noted that Measure M funds have enabled the renovation of tennis and pickleball courts, as well as the purchase of a vehicle for their volunteer program.
- Oriana Hart, representing the City of Sonoma, reported that Measure M funds have been dedicated to the renovation of Depot Park, fire fuel reduction efforts in areas north of the city, renovations to Olson Park, and community engagement efforts.
- Olivia Lemen, representing the town of Windsor, reported that Measure M funds have helped increase scholarships for youth and families as well as weed abatement, a senior center remodel, park access to Cali Calmecac Language Academy, and the expansion of Kaiser Park.

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

5. Election of Officers

VOTED to elect Meredith Rennie as Chair

MOTION:	Committee Member Carol Eber	AYES: 5	ABSTAIN: 0
SECOND:	Committee Member Chris Borr	ABSENT: 1	VACANT: 1

VOTED to elect Carol Eber as Vice-Chair

MOTION:	Chair Meredith Rennie	AYES: 5	ABSTAIN: 0
SECOND:	Committee Member Justin Lindenberg	ABSENT: 1	VACANT: 1

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen Culhane, Executive Assistant
Sonoma County Regional Parks

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