

# DRAFT



## Parks Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee Draft Minutes

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.      **PLACE:** Sonoma County Regional Parks  
400 Aviation Blvd., Suite 100  
Santa Rosa, CA 94928

- 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** – Melanie Parker, Assistant Director, read the 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 5:32 p.m. Vice-Chair Leslie Graves called the meeting to order.

Committee Members Present: Leslie Graves, Justin Lindenberg, Meredith Rennie, Chris Borr, and John Mills.

Committee Members Absent: Chair Carol Eber

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

Melanie Parker introduced Nate Luna who express interest in the “at large” appointment and was here to observe.

Staff Present: Bert Whitaker, Director, Melanie Parker, Assistant Director, and Robert Gonzalez, Fiscal and Administrative Services 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.*

Vice Chair Leslie Graves called for any comment from the public. There were none.

**3. Approval of the Minutes – of the May 21, 2024, meeting of the Parks Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee meeting.**

Committee Member Meredith Rennie noted for the approval of the minutes, the minutes read there were six Ayes but should have read, “5 Ayes, 1 Absent, 1 Vacant as Committee Member John Mills was not present. She also noted on Item 4, the minutes stated “Chair Meredith Rennie asked for public comment, but it should read “Chair Eber.”

Vice Chair Leslie Graves suggested to maintain accuracy of minutes now that the meetings are in person, we should be recording the minutes. Parks staff will investigate doing this at future meetings.

VOTED to approve the minutes of the May meeting, as amended:

MOTION:	Committee Member Chris Borr	AYES: 5	ABSTAIN: 0
SECOND:	Committee Member Meredith Rennie	ABSENT: 1	VACANT: 1

**4. Reports: Robert Gonzalez, Fiscal and Administrative Services Officer, Sonoma Regional Parks**

- Fourth Quarter Revenue Report**

Robert Gonzalez presented the revenue report corresponding to the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-2024. He stated that the total amount for the third quarter coming into the County was \$3,675,835.24 million in revenue disbursed to Sonoma County Regional Parks and to the nine cities in the county.

Sonoma County Regional Parks	\$2,451,338.77
Santa Rosa	\$615,533.58
Petaluma	\$205,695.16
Rohnert Park	\$154,102.95

Windsor	\$90,148.80
Healdsburg	\$38,493.11
Sonoma	\$37,657.22
Cloverdale	\$30,991.29
Sebastopol	\$25,916.02
Cotati	\$25,958.34
Total	\$3,675,835.24

## 5. Updates: Scott Wilkinson, Park Planner, City of Santa Rosa

As a follow up to the city of Santa Rosa's Measure M presentation in May 2024, Scott Wilkinson brought forward the Measure M budget proposal from Santa Rosa for FY 2024/25 outlining anticipated projects.

Based on the Fourth Quarter Revenue Report, Vice Chair Leslie Graves noted the city receives approximately \$625K quarterly and the estimated \$2.5M would be additional revenue over the budget proposal that was shared. The projects presented would utilize an estimated \$2,062,739.

The Santa Rosa proposal was presented to address questions specific to the city's large fund balance with questions raised on where the city was intending to spend funds on their three category priorities – Capital Projects, Park Maintenance and Recreation. The committee had several questions on when Santa Rosa's fund balance would be spent and what is occurring with the interest earnings on these dollars. There were also voiced concerns regarding transparency around the spending of funds, communication to the public and what the non-use of funds could symbolize.

Hector Galvan, City of Cloverdale asked where do funds go at the end of the Measure if it has not been spent? Bert Whitaker stated funds not spent will be held by each jurisdiction and be spent only on the exact type of projects and issues the ballot measure authorized.

Melanie Parker said that she will reach out to Santa Rosa and ask city staff to be prepared at the next meeting to report on the projected use of the fund balance.

Vice Chair Leslie Graves stated the committee typically receives verbal reports from the cities. She suggested that written reports in the future should be placed on the agenda.

Committee Member Chris Borr stated written reports in the future would be helpful. They would act as a report in time, a snapshot of what is happening with each city.

Melanie Parker reminded the committee that per the Measure M ordinance, this type of written report as part of a committee meeting is not required. Committee Member Justin Lindenberg expressed he would not be in favor of any additional burden to the city staff in having to complete a new report format.

Melanie Parker shared that typically the various park jurisdictions give a verbal report in the spring detailing what we are expecting to do in the upcoming year and one at the end of summer on what was accomplished and spent. If the committee wants those to be written staff reports in the meeting packet, we can do that. Staff will put this item up for further discussion and decision at the next meeting.

**6. Report: Affirmation by cities and County of Sonoma of Adopted Budgets for Fiscal year 2024-25 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Requirements (Action Item)**

Melanie Parker presented the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) document for FY 2024-25. There were no questions.

VOTED to approve the MOE report:

MOTION:	Committee Member John Mills	AYES: 5	ABSTAIN: 0
SECOND:	Committee Member Chris Borr	ABSENT: 1	VACANT: 1

**7. Announcements**

Melanie Parker thanked Nate Luna for his attendance. Based on various scheduling conflicts, the Measure M Oversight meetings were difficult for some city partners to attend regularly. A Doodle Poll would go out to try and capture a better day/evening to move the meetings.

**8. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Leslie Graves adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Gonzalez, Fiscal and Administrative Services Manager  
Sonoma County Regional Parks