

PARKS, RECREATION AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 2025, 7:00 P.M., Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St

Minutes - Draft

The Commissions may discuss any items listed on the agenda, but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. **Call to Order** (Chair): pm
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary): Present: Abshez; Cardile; Cox; Diehm; Hurtado; Kawczynska; Absent: none.
3. **Land Acknowledgement**.
4. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Chair). (M/S/C: Kawczynska/ Cox / U): Abshez; Cardile; Cox; Diehm; Hurtado; Kawczynska; Noes: none; Absent: none.
5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for January 8, 2025 (Chair).* (M/S/C: Kawczynska/ Diehm/ U): Ayes: Abshez; Cardile; Cox; Diehm; Hurtado; Kawczynska; Noes: none; Absent: none.
6. **Public Comment** (2 min each). a) Kelly Hammargren, Fire Zones; b) Martin Nicolaus, subcommittee on nature.
7. **Discussion/Action:** Election of Vice-chair (Abshez). (M/S/C to elect Commissioner Kawczynska as vice-chair: Diehm/Hurtado/ U): Abshez; Cardile; Cox; Diehm; Hurtado; Kawczynska; Noes: none; Absent: none.
8. **Chair's Report**. (Abshez). Tour of parks last Thursday.
9. **Director's Report** (Ferris): Update on special events, community engagement, capital and maintenance projects, forestry, and recreation. Update was provided.
10. **Presentation:** Resident Camps Programs and staff recognition (Stephanie Chu). Presentation was provided. Resolution of recognition of the Camps staff was read by Commissioner Diehm. Public Comment: Kelly Hammargren.
11. **Presentation:** Tree Planting Program and staff recognition (Ian Kesterson). Presentation was provided. Resolution of recognition of the Forestry staff was read by Commissioner Hurtado. Public Comment: a) Paul Kamen; b) Kelly Hammargren.
12. **Discussion/Action:** PRW Commission Workplan on Impact Fee (Abshez). Discussion was held. Public Comment: a) Jim McGrath.
13. **Discussion/Action:** PRW Cesar Chavez Park Vision Committee for the Conceptual Plan process (Abshez). Discussion was held. Public Comment: a) Martin Nicolaus; b) Paul Kamen; c) Jim McGrath; d) Kelly Hammargren.
14. **Discussion/Action:** Identify date for next site visit of City Parks and add date to PRW Commission 2025 calendar (Ferris). The next site visit was scheduled for April 10, 2025.
15. **Information Reports*:** Recent PRW Council Reports.
16. **Future Agenda Items:** Parks and Recreation Program presentations (monthly); Tree planting goals for 2025; Recognize Recreation Program participants (monthly); Recognize donations (ongoing); Waterfront Specific Plan; Public Art in Aquatic Park (Lavvorn); Citywide Accessibility Plan; Locations for Dog Parks; Dog subcommittee.
17. **Communications**.
18. **Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025.
19. **Adjournment:** 9:30pm.

* document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.

** document will be provided at the meeting.

- Commissioners in attendance: 6 of 6 appointed.
- Public in attendance: 6
- Public speakers: 10

February 13, 2025
ITEM 10
DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley established our fabulous family camps at Tuolumne in 1922, Echo Lake in 1923, and Cazadero in 1927; and

WHEREAS, the family camps have provided 100 years of sun-splashed, care-free summer days to hundreds and hundreds of thousands of Berkeley residents and non-residents alike; and

WHEREAS, the Echo Lake camp was threatened by the Caldor wildfire in 2021 but saved thanks to the heroic Berkeley firefighters who had been sent to protect it; and

WHEREAS, Tuolumne Camp was destroyed by the Rim wildfire in 2013, but rose from the fire in 2022 after a heroic 9-year rebuilding effort costing over \$60 million; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley's overnight camps offer youth camp, performing arts, family camp, and 50 and Better Camp, programs; and

WHEREAS, campers must bring their own sleeping bags or linens; and

WHEREAS, bear-proof food storage is available in several locations; and

WHEREAS, campers are served three square meals from communal dining halls, and the food is surprisingly tasty; and most of all

WHEREAS, none of said 100 years of fun would have been possible, or would continue to happen, without the passionate dedication of Berkeley overnight camp staff who built the camps, maintain them, program them, and open their doors to happy campers every summer.

NOW THEREFORE, on behalf the hundreds and hundreds of thousands of campers who – since 1922 – have sung songs by a camp-fire, tried to shoot a bow and arrow, swum in one of the rivers, tie-dyed a shirt, or learned how to make lanyards at any one of Berkeley's overnight camps, the Berkeley Parks Recreation and Waterfront Commission hereby recognizes, honors and takes a deep bow to our Camp Management and Maintenance Staff who make it all possible.

February 13, 2025
ITEM 11
DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City's Forestry division loves trees and manages an urban forest comprised of 35,000 trees and 10,000 tree sites on Berkeley's streets and in Berkeley's parks, and

WHEREAS, the Parks Commission organized Measure Y, which was approved by 75% of those voting in the November 2024 election, and which will provide an extra \$3.8 million annually for Berkeley's parks, trees and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, these funds will partially be used to enable the Forestry Division to hire permanent, full-time landscape gardeners dedicated to planting trees, which will help the City to fill the 10,000 empty tree spaces in the City's parks and public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry Division strives to involve the community in tree planting and a three-year long New Tree Care program for all new trees with their amazing technical and people skills; and

WHEREAS, everyone in Berkeley is currently benefiting from a healthy and expanding urban forest; and

WHEREAS, Shel Silverstein reminds each of us that "once there was a tree, and she loved a little boy, and every day he would come... and climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples, and when he was tired he would sleep in her shade."

NOW THEREFORE, on behalf of every Berkeley resident who has climbed a tree, swung from a branch, or lounged or slept in the shade of one of our beautiful trees, the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission hereby recognizes, honors and takes a deep bow to the staff of the Forestry Division for their hard work in sustaining and expanding our wonderful urban forest.