

**BHNA General Meeting Minutes**  
**April 15, 2014, 7:30pm**

Speaker: Sheila Canzian, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of San Mateo

Topic: What's Going On in Parks and Recreation and Dates to Remember

Number of Attendees: 24 current BHNA members, 2 nonmembers, 26 total attendees

Board Members in Attendance: Lisa Taner, Jan Prisco, Kaye Sharma, Andrea McCutchin, Ellen Wang, Monika Lee, Heinz Plischke and Susan Rowinski.

The meeting was hosted by Lisa Taner. The meeting began with Lisa honoring Sheila for her recent recognition through the 2014 Hall of Fame Award from the California Parks and Recreation Society.

**Beresford Park**

Sheila first presented an update on Beresford Park's Playground Remodel. Parks typically have a 20 year upgrade cycle for improvement and to meet ADA and Safety requirements. The park has not been updated in 24 years.

Working with local schools, Sheila's team solicited input directly from kids on the future of the Park. 65 fifth graders responded to surveys on what they would like to see and were responsible for getting additional input from their peers. Input included more natural settings, no sand, no plastic, and tall slides. Designs had been created by the landscape architect Jeff Miller, and the kids gave feedback on the designs.

Sheila reviewed the planned enhancements which were detailed on a drawing in the front of the room. We are approximately half way through the drawing and planning stage. The project will cost \$2.5 million and take one year to build; it is \$350,000 short of funds so fundraising is required.

Sheila also mentioned that San Mateo is fortunate enough to have about 500 acres of open space which includes Sugarloaf and Shoreline areas. The first enhanced hiking trail at Sugarloaf was completed just this month through the work of volunteers and a donation from Jane Baker, former mayor.

**Central Park Master Plan Update**

Parks and Recreation is working on a new long term vision for Central Park, which has a master plan dating back to 1982. Meetings are upcoming regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue edge of the Park and the Laurel Avenue edge. Sheila positioned Central Park, along with Beresford, as the "two jewels" of San Mateo's parks. It has been agreed that the Kohl

Pump House, the Japanese Garden, and the great lawn will remain intact as the focal points of the park.

In early May, a meeting will be held to engage kids and the general community in ideas for the park. Sheila asked interested parties to sign up on Notify Me for future meetings regarding Central Park planning.

Recent fundraising by Macy's has provided \$3700 which Macy's matched in order to support San Mateo Central Park's summer concert series and the Japanese Garden.

### **Laurie Meadows Dog Park**

By early August a small enclosed area for dogs will be available at Laurie Meadows. In addition, the Central Park and Beresford Park ball fields are also available for use from 6am to 8am, Monday through Friday.

### **Water Conservation Strategies**

The goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to reduce water use by 10% this year. The current water bill for the parks runs around \$500K per year. Ball fields and shrubs will continue to be watered but ornamental turf will yellow. A lot of areas have already been "chipped" to avoid the need to water, and City Hall will be putting in drought resistant plants.

### **Parks and Recreation Dates to Remember**

Spring Eggstravaganza – April 19, Central Park

John Lee Dog Park Dedication – May 24, Bayside/Joinville Park

Central Park Playground Focus Group – May 3

### **Other**

Sheila also mentioned that there have been issues with tagging at Beresford Park. She requested that residents who see or hear anything of a problem to please call the Police Department.

The meeting was then opened to general questions. The issue of trash being deposited at Laurelwood Park was discussed and Sheila agreed to take action on putting a refuse barrel at the site to collect trash.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.