



PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Parks and Waterfront Commission

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

- To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device, join the meeting at the following public **URL**: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89264197181>
- If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop-down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.
- To join by phone: Dial US: +1-669-900-6833,,89264197181#
- If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 to raise your hand. Once recognized by the chair, press *6 to unmute your phone. **Note:** Your phone number will appear on the videoconference screen.

Agenda

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).
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary).
3. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Chair).
4. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for September 14, 2022 (Chair).*
5. **Public Comment**.
6. **Chair's Report**.
7. **Director's Report** (Ferris): Divisions: Recreation; Parks; Waterfront; Capital; Budget.
8. **Discussion: Update on PRW Capital Projects / Public Process** (Ferris).
9. **Discussion: Update on Recreation Programs FY2022 – FY 2023** (Brown).
10. **Discussion: PRW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives** (Ferris).
11. **Information: Recent Council Reports**. *
12. **Future Agenda Items**: Workplan 2023; Parks Development Fee; One-time State funds PRW spending plan, Citywide Accessibility Plan.
13. **Communications**. Lights Out, America! Songbirds Are Counting on Us, NY Times, Oct. 3, 2022.
14. **Next PRW Commission meeting**: Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

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

** document will be provided at the meeting.

ADA Disclaimer: This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB343 Disclaimer: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA.

Communications Disclaimer: Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** All communications to the Commission should be received at least 10 days before the meeting date. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the commission or committee for further information.

Commission Information: The agenda packets for the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Waterfront Commission are available for review at www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions; the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3rd Floor, during their normal business hours. If you have questions, call Commission Secretary, Roger Miller at 981-6704 at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 or by email at rmiller@cityofberkeley.info.

MISSION STATEMENT – PARKS AND WATERFRONT: Reviews and advises the City Council on issues related to all City/public parks, open space, greenery, pools, programs, recreation centers, the Waterfront, and resident camps: their physical conditions, policies, projects, programs, planning efforts, activities, and funding; early childhood education programs; and animal care issues in parks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mayor - Gordon Wozniak	District 3 - Brandon Floyd	District 6 - Laurie Capitelli
District 1 - Kerry Birnbach	District 4 - Erin Diehm	District 7 - Davina Sriudom
District 2 - Claudia Kawczynska	District 5 - Brennan Cox	District 8 - Mark Humbert

Current Subcommittees: none

2022 Commission Meeting Dates

Name of Commission: Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission

Commission Secretary: Roger Miller

Location: Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St

Month	Meeting Day and Date (2 nd Wednesday per month)	Time	Notes
2022			
January	No meeting		
February	Wednesday, February 16	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
March	Wednesday, March 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
April	Wednesday, April 27	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
May	Wednesday, May 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
June	Wednesday, June 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
July	Wednesday, July 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
August	No meeting		
September	Wednesday, September 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
October	Wednesday, October 12	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
November	Wednesday, November 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
December	Wednesday, December 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
2023			
January	Wednesday, January 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg

PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Zoom Meeting

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). 7:00pm
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary). Present: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Srioudom; Woznia; Absent: Humbert (LOA); Floyd (ux).
3. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Chair). (M/S/C: Kawczynska/Capitelli/unanimous): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None; Absent: Floyd; Humbert.
4. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for July 13, 2022 with corrections (Chair).* (M/S/C: Diehm/Kawczynska/unanimous): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None; Absent: Floyd; Humbert.
5. **Public Comment.** a) Matt Peterson, fishing report; b) Martin Nicolaus, burrowing owl; c) Cameron Woo, last month's zoom; d) Kelly Hammargren, Climate & Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; e) Tetsu Tokunaga, skate park; f) Irazema Guerrero (Peter), request dock space for kayaks at marina.
6. **Chair's Report** (Wozniak). Berkeley Times articles; Erin's article on habitat/insects/pollinators.
7. **Director's Report** (Ferris): Divisions: Recreation; Parks; Waterfront; Capital; Budget. An update was provided.
8. **Presentation: Berkeley Civic Arts Overview** (Zoe Taleporos, Public Art Program Lead).** A presentation was provided. **Public Comment:** a) Kelly Hammargren; b) Cameron Woo; c) Martin Nicolaus.
9. **Action: Appoint PRW Commission liaison to Civic Art Commission** (Wozniak). The commission took action to appoint commissioner Diehm (M/S/C: Kawczynska/ Birnbach/ unanimous): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None; Absent: Floyd; Humbert.
10. **Discussion: Update on FY2023 PRW CIP plan** (Ferris). Update was provided.
11. **Discussion/Action: PRW Commission Roadmap: a long-term action plan** (Floyd).* Item was carried over to next meeting.
12. **Discussion: Update on Civic Center Park Planning** (Diehm). * Update was provided. **Public Comment:** Kelly Hammargren.
13. **Information: Recent Council Reports.** *
14. **Future Agenda Items:** Workplan 2023; Parks Development Fee; One-time State funds PRW spending plan.
15. **Communications.** Lights Out, America! (Songbirds Are Counting on Us), NY Times, Oct. 3, 2022
16. **Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022
17. **Adjournment:** 9:35pm.

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

** document will be provided at the meeting.

- Commissioners in attendance: 7 of 9 appointed.
- Public in attendance: 15.
- Public speakers: 10.

***Note:** For handouts distributed at the meeting, please see the Draft Minutes for September 14, 2022 on the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission webpage at the following link online:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-and-waterfront-commission>

Agenda Item 11. Recent Council Reports

PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

RECENT COUNCIL REPORTS

The following recent PRW council reports can be accessed from the City Council Website by using the following URL's:

September 29, 2022

1.-Lease Agreement: 80 (North Building), 82/84 & 90 Bolivar Drive in Aquatic Park with Waterside Workshops

URL: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-09-29%20Item%2001%20Lease%20Agreement%20%2080%20%28North%20Building%29_0.pdf

GUEST ESSAY

Lights Out, America! (Songbirds Are Counting on Us.)

Oct. 3, 2022

**By Margaret Renkl**

Ms. Renkl is a contributing Opinion writer who covers flora, fauna, politics and culture in the American South.

NASHVILLE — One morning last fall, during the height of the songbird migration, I opened my door to the glorious autumn light and saw a yellow-rumped warbler lying on my front stoop. I knew it was dead before I opened the storm door. A living warbler does not lie with its elegant passerine toes curled into a tiny cage of tiny bones holding nothing.

Yellow-rumped warblers don't breed in Middle Tennessee. This one was migrating to its wintering grounds, either here or farther south. Migrating birds are vulnerable to many hazards: predators, extreme weather, insufficient food and insufficient water. Glass is particularly treacherous. Expanses of glass — windows without mullions, storm doors, skyscrapers — are the worst.

During the daytime, glass reflects the living world: It tricks birds into thinking that the sky lies safely before them, though what actually lies ahead is an invisible, neck-breaking solidity. At night, when most birds migrate, lights pose another threat. Artificial lights attract birds, which then become disoriented, crashing into windows, buildings and one another or flying until they collapse, unable to see their way past the light.

The height of the fall migration season runs from around mid-September to around mid-October. It's mind-boggling to check the real-time migration map at BirdCast each night and discover just how many millions of birds are migrating and where they are. At any given time, tens of thousands of them may be right overhead.

Up to a billion birds die in window strikes every year because of daytime reflections or nighttime lights. There are several ways to make expanses of glass safer for birds. But the best way to make the migration seasons safer overall is also the easiest to do: Just turn out the lights. Many outdoor lights are merely decorative anyway and can be safely turned off, especially during the crucial weeks of the migration season. And there's almost always a bird-safe way to adjust the lights that are truly necessary.

Consider what happened in 2016 at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., where a giant cross rises 60 feet above a grassy park at the very edge of the Cumberland Plateau. War Memorial Cross is illuminated at night by spotlights. There is no other ambient light in the deeply forested area.

That's a problem for migrating birds, as the biologist and celebrated nonfiction author David George Haskell noted in a blog post about what happened one cloudy night in September, when more than 130 birds got caught in the light dome and died. The pictures in his post have haunted me ever since.

The university faced what seemed to be an irresolvable conundrum. Students can't safely wander around a park on the edge of a deadly bluff in the pitch-black night. But birds can't migrate safely without darkness, and the forests surrounding the university are part of a critical flyway for migrating birds. As Dr. Haskell wrote, "Every bird taking the overland route from the northern U.S. or the vast Canadian boreal forest is winging through the Southeast."

But the conundrum wasn't irresolvable, as it turned out. It wasn't even hard to fix. Within hours of finding the dead birds, the university's offices of Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability and Physical Plant Services came up with an alternative: According to Nathan Wilson, the domain manager at Sewanee, they simply swapped out the two 1,000-watt halogen lamps with two 400-watt-equivalent LED clusters. The plan worked. In the six years since the university dimmed the lights, no dead birds have been reported at the foot of the cross.

The human population has also adjusted: "Initially, I did receive complaints that the cross was too dimly lit, but everyone is used to it now," Mr. Wilson said in an email.

At our best as a species, this is what we do: We change our ways to protect others, and then we adjust to the new ways. Soon, we can't remember doing things differently. This is why lights-out initiatives are spreading across the country. Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Indianapolis, Miami, Minneapolis-St. Paul, San Francisco, St. Louis and a host of other cities, large and small, are working to create safe passage for migrating birds.

Birds are in profound crisis, and these efforts can make a measurable difference in their populations: A 2021 study by Field Museum scientists analyzed 20 years of data collected at Chicago's McCormick Place convention center. The researchers found that merely darkening the windows resulted in a roughly 60 percent reduction in bird mortality. That study points the way to other accommodations. In New York, the Sept. 11 memorial lights are now turned off for 20 minutes at a time to give disoriented birds a chance to disperse.

Homeowners can do their part, too. If you can't turn off all your lights, identify the ones that are truly necessary and reduce the wattage or reorient them in a way that is safer for wildlife. Lights triggered by motion detectors are far less dangerous for birds than continuously burning lights, for example. The same is true for hooded lights that direct the illumination downward rather than into the sky. Indoors, draw the curtains and close the blinds after dark. Turn off lights in empty rooms. Use lamps instead of overhead lights in the room you're in.

Migration seasons don't last very long, so it isn't strictly necessary to make these changes permanently, but it would be better for wildlife, and better for the climate, if we did. Vast numbers of wild creatures are nocturnal. They evolved to hunt — and to avoid being hunted — in darkness. And as the writer Paul Bogard points out in "The End of Night," darkness is good for us, too. We evolved to rest in darkness.

I thought my husband and I had long ago made our house as bird-safe as possible. We followed the recommendations of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, hanging screens on our windows and putting closely spaced stickers on the glass storm doors. We just didn't make the house safe enough. Before I tucked the doomed yellow-rumped warbler under a tree, where some hungry scavenger could at least make a meal of it, I studied its curling feet, its flawless plumage. It broke my heart. The only thing wrong with that perfect little bird was our storm door, which had somehow drawn it from its nighttime path.

We'll never be able to make this house completely safe for our wild neighbors, but that warbler was a reminder to take even more care with lights and glass, especially during the migration seasons. I have no choice but to try. It's hard enough to feel powerless in the face of the many dangers my own species has created for the species whose ecosystems we share. It's far worse to feel personally responsible for those dangers, too.

Margaret Renkl, a contributing Opinion writer, is the author of the books "Graceland, at Last: Notes on Hope and Heartache From the American South" and "Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss."

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Douglas Gochfeld