

History of the Establishment of the Recreation and Park Department

September 21, 1949

San Francisco Board of Supervisors resolution favors approval of charter amendment to consolidate separate entities, the Recreation Department and the Park Department into one Recreation and Park Department.

FILE NO. 4490 (Series of 1939) RESOLUTION NO. 9078

1 AUTHORIZING BALLOT ARGUMENT FAVORING PROPOSITION "E", CONSOLIDATED
2 RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT.
3
4 RESOLVED, That pursuant to Section 183 of the Charter, the
5 Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the printing of a ballot
6 argument favoring approval by the electorate of the proposed charter
7 amendment relative to consolidated Recreation and Park Department,
8 Proposition "E" on the ballot at the election to be held November 8,
9 1949; and, be it
10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the full text of said argument hereby
11 authorized be as shown in the draft attached to the original of this
12 resolution and hereby declared to be a part hereof; and, be it
13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That no part of the cost of printing said
14 argument shall be paid from funds of this Board of Supervisors.
15
16

November 8, 1949

Proposition E passes with 53.6% of the vote, amending Section 10, 41, 42 and 11 of the City Charter, and creating the combined San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

CHARTER AMENDMENT
Proposition "E"

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified electors of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the charter of said city and county by amending Sections 40, 41, 42 and 11 thereof by consolidating the Recreation Department and the Park Department into one department to be known as the Recreation and Park Department, and by establishing the tenure in office of commissioners of said department.

The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby submits to the qualified electors of said city and county at an election to be held therein on November 8, 1949, a proposal to amend the charter of said city and county by amending Sections 40, 41, 42 and 11 thereof so that the same shall read as follows:

(NOTE: Additions or substitutions are indicated by bold-face type).

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

(11)
(bold)
(face)
(type)

Section 40. The recreation department and the park department are hereby consolidated into one department, to be known as the recreation and park department, which shall be under the management of a recreation and park commission. The recreation and park department and the recreation and park commission shall be, respectively, the successors in all regards of the recreation department and the park department and of the recreation commission and the park commission, which departments, commissions and offices of commissioner thereof shall cease to exist.

A recreation and park commission is hereby created, the members of which shall serve as commissioners thereof without compensation. Said commission shall consist of seven members, who shall be appointed by the mayor for a term of four years; provided that the respective terms of office of those first appointed shall be as follows: two for two years, two for three years, and three for four years from the effective date of this section. Vacancies occurring in the offices of appointive members, either during or at expiration of term, shall be filled by the mayor. Not less than two members of said commission shall be women.

This section and sections 41 and 42 as herein amended, shall take effect on the filing with the secretary of state of the legislative resolution of approval thereof, except that the existing commissions and departments shall continue for all purposes pertaining to the current fiscal year until the first day of the fiscal year next succeeding the filing of such resolution and the recreation and park commission shall have power prior to such date only in relation to matters pertaining to its own organization and to such next succeeding fiscal year and thereafter.

Section 41. The recreation and park commission shall appoint a general manager, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the commission. The commission shall also appoint a secretary, subject to the civil service provisions of this charter; provided that the incumbent occupying the position of secretary, recreation commission, on and for more than one year immediately prior to the effective date of this section, shall be deemed appointed and shall become the secretary of the recreation and park commission, and thereafter shall be subject to and be governed by the civil service provisions of this charter.

The general manager shall be the chief executive officer of the department. Subject to the approval of the commission, he shall have power to appoint and to remove a superintendent of recreation, a superintendent of parks, a director of the zoo, and an executive secretary to the general manager, all of whom shall be exempt from the civil service provisions of this charter, and shall hold office subject to such power of removal on approval of the commission; provided, however, that the incumbents occupying the positions of superintendent of recreation,

June 27, 1950

The initial meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission convened, where the official record reflected the Charter Amendment's passage and ratification.

San Francisco, California
June 27, 1950

M I N U T E S

Initial Meeting:

The Initial Meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission was convened on Tuesday, June 27, 1950, at 11:30 a.m. immediately following the induction ceremonies for Commissioners held in the office of His Honor, Mayor Elmer E. Robinson.

Of the seven members comprising the Recreation and Park Commission, the following were present:

Mr. Michael J. Buckley
Mrs. Henry J. Dippel
Mr. Fred D. Parr
Mrs. Sigmund Stern
Mr. Louis Sutter

Reverend Eugene J. Shea having received his appointment as Commissioner on Friday, June 23, 1950, had been excused from the meeting, and was absent from the city.

The formal appointment of Mr. Peter Bercut, presently in Europe, had not been made at the time of the Initial Meeting.

CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

The motion of Commissioner Parr that Commissioner Sutter act as Temporary Chairman of the Initial Meeting was seconded, and unanimously carried.

OFFICIAL ENTRIES FOR THE RECORD

The Secretary, through the Chairman, was authorized and directed to include in the official record the following:

Charter Amendment creating Rec & Pk Commission:

(a) The full text of the Charter Amendment creating the Recreation and Park Commission, and amending Sections 40, 41, 42, and 11 of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco;

Record of Charter Amendment's passage and ratification:

(b) Record of the Charter Amendment's passage and ratification. Charter Amendment was ordered submitted to the qualified electors of the City and County of San Francisco at its meeting of August 29, 1949.

At the election held November 8, 1949, the proposal successfully received a majority of the votes cast. The Record of the California State Legislature of 1949, Chapter 4, Resolution No. 7, contains therein certification that said charter amendment was filed with the Secretary of State on December 15, 1949.

Detail of the processing of this amendment through the Legislature was as follows:

December 13, 1949 - Passed by the Assembly and Senate.

December 14, 1949 - Read and adopted by the Senate and returned to Assembly; sent to enrollment by the Assembly.

December 15, 1949 - Enrolled; sent to the Secretary of State and filed.

(c) The Commissioners' terms of office, starting with the effective date of Section 40 of the Charter, as amended,

Initial Meeting
6/27/50