

HIGH GEAR

“Mia’s Dream”

Hayward Rotary Club and Foundation are proud sponsors of the Mia’s Dream universally accessible playground project, inspired by 9-year-old Mia Vasquez, who has cerebral palsy and dystonia, a movement disorder that causes her muscles to contract uncontrollably. Her wish is to have a playground near her home in Hayward where she and other children with disabilities can play.



Photo by Paul Kuroda

Mia Vasquez, 9, is held by her mother, Emelyn Lacayo, on the swing at the Tennyson Park playground. The park is the future site for Mia’s Dream Comes True Playground.

CALL TO ORDER

President A.T. Stephens called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Michael Cobb**, followed by a Patriotic Song: "Yankee Doodle Dandy," led by **President Stephens**. The Thought for the Day was provided by **Dave Elkins**: "*Life is short, time is fast, no replay, no rewind, enjoy it as it comes.*" – Anon.

INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Spielberg introduced Visiting Rotarians: Bob Tucknott, Dublin Club; Brian Chen, a Rotarian looking for a new Club; Lawrence Hansen, Newark Club; and Sherry Higgs, Niles Club. We also welcomed several guests:

- Jean Luong, pediatric oncology nurse, guest of **Matt Spielberg**;
- Michael Seitzger, owner of two Hayward Supercuts, introduced by **Kim Huggett**;
- Laurel Quirk, retired insurance underwriter, introduced by **María Ochoa**;
- Brianna Jones, district representative for **Assemblymember Bill Quirk**; and
- Ken Rowden, former Mt. Eden High School choral faculty, guest of **Brian Schott**.

President Stephens led the club in welcoming our visitors with a rousing rendition of our favorite song: "HELLO!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Rod Andazola** is heading up the club's search for an International Project in 2018.
- **President Stephens** reports that the new Rotary District 5170 Governor will be visiting our club in two weeks.
- Last week, we were visited by Justin Nguyen from Arroyo High School, the Area 2 Interact Club director for the upcoming year. He oversees the four Interact Clubs we sponsor: Hayward High, Mt Eden High, Moreau Catholic, and LPS (Leadership Public Charter High School).

GREETERS



Dave Elkins



April Chan

Justin is seeking two persons from each local club to assist with the Interact Club Camp-Out Aug. 3-6 outside of Chowchilla. A collection was taken to help support transportation for the event.

- The Child Spree back-to-school shopping event will be Saturday, Aug. 19 at JCPenney Southland Mall, 6:30 to 9 a.m. Revenue so far raised is \$16,000, with book contributions appreciated by Friends of the Hayward Public Library. **Kenny Altenburg** is chairing the event with **Lindsey Vien**. Volunteers are the No. 1 need.
- Every fourth Sunday, our club helps prepare and serve meals for the Hayward Salvation Army on A Street. Contact **Chuck Horner** to help.
- **Past President Sean Reinhart** is spearheading a committee to develop a new major fundraiser, a craft beer festival, with a tentative date of August or September of 2018. The committee members include **President Stephens, President-elect Sid Hamadeh, Janiene Langford, Robert Pimentel, Lindsey Vien, and April Chan.**

FINES AND FOOLISHNESS

- **Barbara Halliday** was pictured in the August 2017 *Diablo Magazine* with Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf at the May 6 Oakland Ballet Gala and was fined *in absentia*.
- **Jasmir Singh**, banker extraordinaire, celebrated a birthday on July 31 and was fined *in absentia*.
- **Sam Falk**, celebrated 15 years of marriage to **Isabel** on June 22. Congratulations, **Sam** and **Isabel!**
- **Assemblyman Bill Quirk** celebrated twelve years of membership in Hayward Rotary Club with a fine, matched by his sponsor, **Bob Sakai**.



Assemblyman Bill Quirk, Hayward Rotary Club member since 2005

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



*H.A.R.D. General Manager Paul
McCreary*

Pam Russo, executive director of the H.A.R.D. Foundation, introduced our keynote speaker: Paul McCreary, general manager of the Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District. Prior to coming to H.A.R.D., Mr. McCreary worked for agencies in Dublin, Pleasanton and Walnut Creek in business and program management and implemented \$100 in capital improvement projects. He has led H.A.R.D. for 18 months, with one of his highlight experiences being the passage of Measure F1.

The 75 year old district was formed as an independent special district and has oversight by a board of directors of five. H.A.R.D. has more than 140 parks and facilities and signature locations include the Hayward Plunge (built in 1931), Japanese Gardens, Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, Kennedy Park, Skywest and Mission Hills golf courses, Sulphur Creek Nature Center, Meek Estate and Park, the Douglas Morrison Theatre, and the Alden E. Oliver Sports Park.

STATISTICS: H.A.R.D. records more than 72,000 of private rental bookings annually. In programs, there are 3,994 activities offered, amounting to 36,000 registrations, and hundreds of thousands of casual users of the facilities. The most popular program is aquatics, with 11,000 registrations a year.

Measure F1 was supported by 79% of the voters in H.A.R.D.'s boundaries. It updated safe, clean, park and recreation facilities. The bond issue will raise \$250 million to be expended in six to eight years. The Phase 1 bond sale was last June for the first \$125 million. The average life cycle of a H.A.R.D. facility is 30 years, so the district is addressing those ready for renovation. H.A.R.D. is looking at a broad implementation of bond funds over many facilities, addressing requirements of the district's master planned projects. Some facilities are 40 to 50 years old, while Mia's Dream

Playground is a new concept to create access for disabled children. Review is by the bond oversight committee and board of directors.



KENNEDY PARK | Master Plan

To follow progress of how the bond issue is transforming H.A.R.D.'s facilities, go to www.haywardrec.org. Agendas and minutes of the oversight committee will soon be posted there, along with progress reports. The "Measure F1" link is in the upper righthand corner of the home page.

After he concluded his presentation, Mr. McCreary took several questions from Rotarians in attendance concerning: park in-lieu fees paid by developers; the order of projects to be completed using Measure F1 funds; and the status of the Mia's Dream playground project to which the Hayward Rotary Club and Foundation made a major gift in 2016.

At the end of Mr. McCreary's talk, **President Stephens** presented him a children's book, *Relaxation and Yoga*, which will be donated to Hayward Library in honor of his keynote speech.

HAYWARD ROTARY BACK-TO-SCHOOL "CHILD SPREE"

Hayward Rotary Club's annual "Child Spree" back-to-school shopping event will provide 100 Hayward children the back-to-school clothing and supplies they need for their upcoming school year.

All 100 participating children have been identified in partnership with the Hayward Police Department Youth and Family Services Bureau.

Event sponsored by Hayward Rotary Club in partnership with JCPenney, Southland Mall and Friends of Hayward Library



10th Annual Back-to-School "Child Spree"
Saturday, August 19, 2017
6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
JCPenney at Southland Mall in Hayward

Volunteers and donations are needed and gladly accepted. To volunteer: please sign up on the registration page Haywardrotary.org or contact **Kenny Altenburg**.

Donations in any amount are accepted. The event goal is to raise \$100 per child (\$10,000 total). To make a tax-deductible donation, please make checks payable to Hayward Rotary Foundation and mail to: Hayward Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 629, Hayward CA 94543

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE: Ken Rawdon, classification Music Education, has been proposed for membership in Hayward Rotary Club, sponsored by Brian Schott

ADJOURNMENT

President Stephens offered thanks to High Gear recorder **Kim Huggett** and greeters **Dave Elkins** and **April Chan**. He rang the official Rotary Bell at 1:30 p.m. to conclude the meeting.

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 7

Our keynote speaker on Monday, August 7 will be **Damon Golubics, Senior Planner for the City of Hayward**. Mr. Golubics will provide an update on the progress of the Downtown Hayward Specific Plan, a long-term community planning and visioning effort to revitalize and grow Hayward’s downtown district. The plan asks several key questions: What is Downtown Hayward like today? What do we want Downtown to become? What strategies can we use to achieve the vision? How do we evaluate and prioritize the strategies going forward? Learn the answers to these questions and more at the next Hayward Rotary Club luncheon, 12:00 noon on August 7.

Hayward Rotary club is the premier service organization serving Hayward since 1922. Our keynote luncheons feature the best and brightest speakers.

HAYWARD ROTARY CLUB CALENDAR



Aug. 7 Damon Golubics - Downtown Plan

Aug. 14 Assemblyman Bill Quirk

Aug. 19* Back-to-school "Child Spree" 6:30 a.m.

Aug. 21 Dr. Nidhi Khosla - Rotary Peace Fellow



Aug. 7 - Damon Golubics

CHARTERED



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CLUB NO. 482

www.haywardrotary.org

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- President.....AT Stephens
- President - Elect.....Sid Hamadeh
- Immediate Past President.....Sean Reinhart
- Secretary.....Mona Diamantine
- Asst. Secretary.....Matthew Spielberg
- Treasurer.....Gay McDaniel
- Sergeant at Arms.....Janiene Langford

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