



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: January 10, 2017
Board Meeting Date: January 24, 2017
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Warren Slocum

Subject: Reappointment of Meda Okelo to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation for the reappointment of Meda Okelo as the District 4 representative to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission, for a term ending January 10, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission acts in an advisory capacity and makes policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the management and operation of County natural preserves, marine reserves, open space areas, trails, parks and/or recreation areas and facilities within unincorporated San Mateo County. The Commission shall adopt and forward to the Board of Supervisors, recommendations regarding fees to be charged for the use of these areas. The Commission shall advise the Board of Supervisors regarding fish, game and wildlife policies and programs, and shall make recommendations to the Board regarding the expenditure of fish and game propagation funds.

Commissioners receive input from citizens on County Parks issues and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Board of Supervisors. They also act as liaison to a number of support groups such as the Parks' Foundation, Volunteer Roundtable, and other ad hoc committees that may be appointed. They may serve as Commission liaison to special projects, especially related to master plan developments.

DISCUSSION:

Supervisor Warren Slocum recommends the reappointment of Medo Okelo to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission for a second term.

Mr. Okelo, born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, came to the United States as a graduate student at Stanford University. He has been an active resident in his adopted home town of East Palo Alto for over 30 years. Mr. Okelo served as the Community Services Director of East Palo Alto for 23 years, retiring from the position in 2011. As part of his duties in this position, he was responsible for developing and implementing goals and Supervisor Warren Slocum recommends the appointment of Medo Okelo to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Okelo, born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, came to the United States as a graduate student at Stanford University. He has been an active resident in his adopted home town of East Palo Alto for over 30 years. Mr. Okelo served as the Community Services Director of East Palo Alto for 23 years, retiring from the position in 2011. As part of his duties in this position, he was responsible for developing and implementing goals and objectives for the city's Recreation and Parks Departments, including coordination of the Parks Capital Improvement fundraising program. He also developed the East Palo Alto Summer Sports Camp/Reading Enhancement Program, the Summer Performing Arts Camp, the Summer Rainbow Camp, and the Young Adult Diversion Program giving youth sports/life skills training. He is currently a Public Relations consultant for a local Special District and Publisher of an informational resource guide for East Palo Alto.

Mr. Okelo holds a BA degree in Political Science and French from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, an MA degree in Applied Communications Research from Stanford University, and an MPA in Public Administration from California State University East Bay. His hobbies include camping, hiking, photography and travel.

He has served as the District 4 Parks and Recreation Commissioner since January 10, 2014 with distinction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.