



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mel Pincus, 1st District
Marico C. Enriquez, 2nd District
Bern Smith, 3rd District
Marian Vanden Bosch, 4th District
Michael J. Cooney, 5th District

County Office Building
455 County Center, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 599-1393
Brenda Bennett, Clerk
www.eparks.net
www.sanmateocountyparks.org

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, April 1, 2010
4:00 p.m.
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063**

MINUTES

Chair Cooney called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Commissioners: Cooney (Chair), Enriquez (Vice Chair) (absent), Pincus, Smith, Vanden Bosch

Staff: Bennett, Harris, Herzberg, Holland, Kraemer, Lockman, Lombardi, Medina, Noyer, Schneider, Schoof, Vasquez

3. Oral Communications

There were no communications from the public.

4. Agenda Amendments

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. Consideration of the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission

A. Regular Meeting of February 4, 2010

Commission Action: M/S Smith/Vanden Bosch to approve the minutes of the regular February 4, 2010 as presented.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Enriquez not in attendance.

6. Correspondence and Presentations

A. Report on Trail Crew Leader Training: Volunteer Programs Coordinator Schoof

Volunteer Programs Coordinator Schoof reported that Parks staff had developed written materials and an instructional program to support the training of volunteer trail crew leaders. She said the manual development and training program were activities supported by a two-year grant received from the Coastal Conservancy. She said all participants were required to attend the classroom training and at least one field training session, and were asked to sign up for future trail maintenance dates as a way to build upon their new skills and gain trail experience. She said five students had signed up for trail days and were interested in reaching a skill level to lead future trail activities.

B. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Rangers Dunsmore-Bertoni, Heisinger, Lombardi, Kraemer, Nastari, Schneider, Trewin, and Vasquez for Conducting Trail Crew Leader Training

Director Holland thanked the rangers who had developed the written materials and instructional program and conducted the trails training; he noted that each contributing ranger would receive a certificate of appreciation. He presented Rangers Kraemer, Lombardi, Schneider, and Vasquez, who attended the meeting, each with a certificate of appreciation.

7. Director's Report*

Commissioner Vanden Bosch asked about the \$500,000 needed for the trail associated with Devil's Slide. Director Holland said that was for cleanup, controls for bicycles, how to separate uses for safety, and also towards maintenance of Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, which properties at some point will come to the County as well.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the one-time use of reserves. Director Holland said that a certain percent of reserves was required and the Department would have to pay back the funds to the reserve. He said that the required reserve was two percent of the operating budget.

Commissioner Smith asked about the requirement for the County to take the Devil's Slide road. Director Holland said that the Coastal Commission permit to build the tunnel required that the County take over the road and create a trail once the tunnel was functional.

8. Commission Action Items

A. Consideration and Support for Parks to Develop a Plan in Partnership with The Peninsula Disc Golf Club for Disc Golf Facilities at Junipero Serra County Park

Director Holland made a short PowerPoint presentation on disc golf. He described disc golf courses at Golden Gate Park. He said the Commission was being asked to consider authorizing the Department to begin development of a plan for a disc golf

course at Junipero Serra Park, noting that this is an underutilized park. He said the golf disc activity occurs adjacent to and around trails and away from other activities. He said revenue enhancement was expected with this use.

Director Holland introduced Mr. Peter Black and Mr. David Williams, Peninsula Disc Golf Club. Mr. Williams said their Club is a non-profit, 501.3c, and that members would maintain the course itself. He said many of their members are San Mateo County residents. He said they fund raise, charge membership fees and sell discs, which money is used for maintenance of courses. He said players stand down if other people are in the area and resume play when it's clear.

Commissioner Smith asked how players handle conflicts. Mr. Williams said that generally there were no conflicts but that members practice courtesy and respect for other users in the area of a disc golf course. Commissioner Pincus asked whether the discs damage trees. Mr. Black said they use netting to protect trees and also plant native species to mitigate or offset any potential impact. Mr. Williams said that tree damage has been minimal at most. Commissioner Pincus asked about the liability if someone was struck by a disk. Director Holland said that was one of the questions that would be answered in the process of moving forward with a plan. Chair Cooney asked about revenue for Parks. Director Holland said the disc golf course users would pay the vehicle entry fee.

Commission Action: M/S Smith/Vanden Bosch to authorize the Department to move forward in partnership with Peninsula Disc Golf Club to develop a plan for Disc Golf Facilities at Junipero Serra County Park.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Enriquez not in attendance.

B. Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Acceptance of the Final Report: Improving Safety and Mobility along Highway 1 on the Unincorporated San Mateo County Midcoast

Director Holland said that the County had produced the Midcoast Action Plan for Parks and Recreation and developed the "Improving Safety and Mobility along Highway 1 on the Unincorporated Midcoast of San Mateo County Project" to begin implementing goals identified in the Midcoast Action Plan. He said the conceptual plan that came out of this project looks at how Highway 1 can better serve the communities and enhance the appearance of the Highway. He said the County partnered with the Local Government Commission on this project, and Dan Burden, a nationally recognized expert on Walkable Communities, had assisted as a design team member and public forum facilitator. He said the Commission was being asked to recommend acceptance of the report to the Board of Supervisors. He said if accepted a technical advisory group would be formed to look at implementation of the conceptual plan(s).

Commissioner Pincus said that the public forum for this project had been one of the most exciting meetings he had attended as a Parks Commissioner. He asked who

would fund the work. Director Holland said it was conceptual at this time and the intent would be to build out the specifications and plans. He said those plans would drive where the money would come from; he said the scope of work was bigger than just the county, but very needed as the Highway divides the community from recreational areas and prevents safe passage. Commissioner Pincus said people seemed to prefer an overpass. Director Holland said the next step would be to look at all alternatives. Commissioner Smith said that this was important work for the residents of the mid-coast and allowed for potential to use the Burnham strip in ways that supported recreation and open space.

Commission Action: M/S Pincus/Smith to recommend to the Board of Supervisors acceptance of the "Final Report: Improving Safety and Mobility along Highway 1 on the Unincorporated San Mateo County Midcoast."

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Enriquez not in attendance.

C. Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Acceptance of the 2010 California Coastal Trail Plan for the San Mateo County Midcoast

Director Holland said that as a critical action in the Midcoast Plan, the County has developed the proposed 2010 California Coastal Trail Plan for the Midcoast. He said the project developed a conceptual plan to improve the Midcoast section of the California Coastal Trail from Mirada Surf to Pillar Point.

Commission Action: M/S Smith/Vanden Bosch to recommend to the Board of Supervisors acceptance of the 2010 California Coastal Trail Plan for the San Mateo County Midcoast.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Enriquez not in attendance.

D. Review and Approve Revisions to Appendix B, the Commemorative Bench Program of the "Guidelines for Donations, Memorial and Sponsorship Contributions"

Financial Services Manager Harris said that there was no rededication policy in place for commemorative benches and that the proposed revision to "Appendix B, Commemorative Bench Program" of the "Guidelines for Donations, Memorial and Sponsorship Contributions" would remedy that.

Commissioner Pincus asked if the rededication donations would be used strictly for bench maintenance or whether it could be used for operations. Ms. Harris said that the funds would be used for bench maintenance. Commissioner Pincus said he liked the program but suggested more thought be given to it as a revenue source. Director Holland said the program needed to be updated at the least; he said the Department had a brainstorming list of revenue generators and that bench donation revenue could

be looked at within that context. Commissioner Pincus suggested also looking at expanding the proscribed wording for bench plaques.

Commission Action: M/S Smith/Vanden Bosch to approve the revised “Appendix B, Commemorative Bench Program,” of the “Guidelines for Donations, Memorial and Sponsorship Contributions;” and receive notification of \$3,500 minimum donation amount for a new bench with a ten-year term and \$6,000 for a twenty-year, and \$3,000 for a rededicated bench with a ten-year term; and to further investigate revenue potential for bench donations operations from the program funding and expanded wording for bench plaques.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Enriquez not in attendance.

9. Operations and Maintenance Activities

A. Superintendent’s Report

Chair Cooney asked what had happened to the educational exhibit proposed for the Reserve. Director Holland said that Chair Cooney had inquired if a letter could be written to a political person such as Congresswoman Speier to get support of the educational exhibit. Financial Services Manager Harris noted that the County had received an earmark for NOAA funding which was negotiated to be used for interpretive signs and for the outdoors interpretive exhibit. She said that there had been public outcry against the outdoor interpretive exhibit and it was determined that the funding might be used for the Seal Cove Stairway Project. Director Holland said that a small, very focal group of citizens stopped the installation plans and that in the future another site might be found. Chair Cooney said it belonged at the Reserve. Director Holland said that he was afraid there would be too much resistance but there were other places within the area that would work. Commissioner Pincus said he was concerned that the Commission had not had oversight over the decision to change which project would receive the funding. Director Holland said that there had been report backs related to the project redirection. He suggested that Chair Cooney and he might continue the discussion about the exhibit offline.

Superintendent Lockman said he had nothing to add to Superintendent Moore’s report.

10. Support Services

A. Capital Projects Update – Parks Superintendent Lockman*

Superintendent Lockman said Parks has about \$115,000,000 of unfunded capital projects and does annually about \$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000 worth of projects which are funded almost exclusively from grants, donations and loans. He said for the last 10 years Parks had received only about \$12,000 from the County general fund for capital projects.

Superintendent Lockman distributed a handout to the Commission that provided an overview of the capital projects list through the end of this year and next, and reviewed those projects briefly for the Commission.

Commissioner Smith asked about an opportunity to alter the intersection where the Mirada Surf Trail ends at Coronado to allow bicyclists to legally cross the highway from the west side. Superintendent Lockman said the original concept plan did not include a second crossing; he said they could look at re-signalizing the light and redesigning the crosswalks but that would be about \$60,000. Commissioner Smith asked about a completion date for the Seal Cove Stairway. Superintendent Lockman said the expected completion would be the end of May depending on rain.

B. Report on Volunteer Events/Activities – Volunteer Programs Coordinator Schoof

Volunteer Programs Coordinator Schoof said there was a final trails day at San Bruno Mountain as part of the Coastal Conservancy grant, which also funded the trail crew leader training. She said the Disney program had such great response to its “give-a-day, get-a-day” program that it finished early. She noted numerous activities scheduled for April related to Earth Day.

Commissioner Smith asked about the calendar of volunteer events. Volunteer Program Coordinator Schoof said this was in process. She said they were about to enter into an agreement with a vendor for a system that would allow users to look at activities and register and complete needed forms online.

11. Friends and Subcommittees

A. Parks Foundation*

Executive Director Bott said the Foundation just completed five days of public outreach at the Flower Show. She said they were getting a good response from their fundraising letters. She said they were providing an \$80,000 grant for the Student Conservation Corps to work in County Parks again this summer.

12. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Pincus expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Smith for his service as Chair the past year and congratulated Commissioner Cooney for being selected to serve as Chair in 2010. He said he expected to welcome new Youth Commissioners at this meeting. Ms. Huong Nguyen, Youth-Adult Ally Coordinator, Youth and Family Enrichment Services, said that youth commissioner recruitment for the next school year was taking place now and the expectation was to have youth commissioners in late August.

Commissioner Smith said the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council received grant funds to get more families and children out on trails and that they were getting information from other

agencies on trail-related activities. He said that it would be helpful to consult with youth commissioners and look at developing youth-led trail hikes as a component in San Mateo County Parks. He said he went on one of the first Transit/Trails hike events. He said the participants met at the Civic Center BART station, took the Golden Gate Transit bus to Sausalito about 300-yards from the trail head; hiked 12 miles over the Marin headlands, ending at Crissy Fields, where they caught a bus back to the BART station. He said the Transit/Trail website had much information about using public transportation to reach trails.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.