



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, May 7, 2009
2:30 p.m.
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Commissioners: Cooney, Enriquez, Pincus, Smith (Chair), Vanden Bosch (Absent)
Staff: Bennett, Harris, Herzberg, Holland, Humphrey, Lockman, Medina, Moore, Schoof

- 3. Oral Communications**

Mr. David Williams, San Carlos, said he was a member of the Professional Disc Golfer Association, and was representing the Silicon Valley Disc Golf Club and the San Francisco Disc Golf Club. He said the organizations would like the Commission to consider the installation of a professional disc golf course in the Tarwater Area at Pescadero Park. He said they had received \$5,000 in pledged donations for that purpose.

Ms. Jan Miller, Coyote Point Yacht Club, said she would no longer attend the Commission meetings as the Yacht Club's liaison. She said the Commission and the Club had developed a good working relationship over the years, and she had enjoyed attending the Commission meetings. She said Mr. Rob Hutchison, "Hutch," would continue as the Club's liaison to the Commission; she introduced Mr. Hutchison.

Chair Smith thanked Ms. Miller for her support and welcomed Mr. Hutchison. He requested that staff look into the disc golf proposal, and report back to the Commission.

4. Agenda Amendments

There were none.

5. Consideration of the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission A. Regular Meeting of March 5, 2009

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Vanden Bosch not in attendance.

6. Correspondence and Presentations

Director Holland said that two letters had been distributed to the Commission at the dais: The first was from the San Mateo County Weed Management Area and expressed support of the proposed project to remove 24 Eucalyptus trees at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. The second was from Supervisors Church and Gordon to Marsha Cohen and Leah Cohen in response to the Cohens' concerns about the proposed Outdoor Interpretive Educational Exhibit for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

7. Director's Report*

Director Holland introduced Ms. Sharon Humphrey, newly hired Administrative Secretary for LAFCo and the Parks Department. He said Ms. Humphrey most recently worked as the Planning Commission Secretary for the City of Stockton. He said newly promoted Ranger IIIs Kevin Scott and Mario Nastari, and recently hired Ranger II Amber Pinkerton would be introduced to the Commission at their next meeting.

Director Holland distributed a flyer to the Commission for a May 13 Midcoast Community Council meeting on Coastside Trails. He said that a five day design charrette would be conducted beginning June 25 on the coastside with the Local Government Commission for Planning Services for the "Improving Safety and Mobility along Highway 1 on the Unincorporated San Mateo County Midcoast Project." He said he would email the Commission the schedule. He reported that the pedestrian bridge at Mirada Surf West had been installed and that the Folger Stable renovation was expected to be completed by November 2009. He said that discussions related to the management of the Stable had begun.

Director Holland said a number of people had written letters to the Board and to the Department indicating their concern with the proposed Outdoor Artistic Interpretive Exhibit at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. He said that a public meeting would be held on June 6 at the Reserve to review the locations of the planned improvements; he said the first part of the meeting would be informational and the second part of the meeting would be a public meeting.

8. Commission Action Items

A. Public Hearing on a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration Prepared for the Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve Eucalyptus Tree Removal Project

1. Presentation: Senior Planner Herzberg

Planner Herzberg provided information on the proposed project and noted that 24 trees were to be removed and not 22, which was a typographical error.

2. Open public hearing and receive public comment on a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration Prepared for the Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve Eucalyptus Tree Removal Project

Chair Smith opened the public hearing at 2:55 p.m.

There were no speakers.

3. Close public hearing

Chair Smith closed the public hearing at 2:55 p.m.

4. Commission Comments

Commissioner Pincus asked whether removal of the trees would create a wind effect. Planner Herzberg said that might occur as the trees provided a wind break. He said the trees would be replaced at a 1:1 ratio with Coastal Live Oak, California Buckeye, and Arroyo Willow in the Edgewood Day Camp Area. He said the site, following the removal of the Eucalyptus trees, would be re-vegetated with native wildflowers grown from seeds collected at the Preserve. He said the eucalyptus tree stumps would be treated with herbicide to prevent re-sprouting.

Responding to Commissioner Enriquez' comments about the significant size of the trees, Planner Herzberg said that the area was within a scenic corridor which required a higher level of environmental impact review, and that the wildflowers that would be planted there would be visible from Highway 280.

In response to Commissioner Cooney, Planner Herzberg said that the stumps would not be removed as that would create a crater but rather the stumps would be treated to prevent re-sprouting; additionally the trunks, branches and limbs would be chipped at another location to prevent re-vegetation of the eucalyptus at this site.

Chair Smith asked what size replacement trees would be planted. Planner Herzberg said that was not yet determined but at a minimum five-gallon trees would be planted. Chair Smith said that shade tolerant plants should be used under the tree canopies. Planner Herzberg said that there would not be much planting under the trees. Commissioner Cooney said there was a PG&E access to the area and asked if the area could be opened up for the public to walk. Superintendent Dave Moore said that the planting in the area was for butterfly habitat and that having the public walk through the area would be disturbing to that sensitive environment. Director Holland noted that there were plenty of opportunities within the Preserve to have the same experience as what public access in this area would provide for visitors.

5. Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to:
 - a. Direct staff to respond to public and Commission comments, and prepare a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve Eucalyptus Tree Removal Project
 - b. Direct the Director of Parks to certify the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Prepared for the Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve Eucalyptus Tree Removal Project

Motion carried 4-0 with Commission Vanden Bosch not in attendance.

B. Review of Proposed 2009/2010 Park and Marina Fees and Recommendation to the Board of Supervisor to Approve Certain Changes to the Park Fees

Administrative Services Manager Medina said that the CPI used for the Marina fee setting was -0.4 and staff recommended that Marina fees remain at the FY 2008/09 level for FY 2009/10. She said park fees for FY 2008/09 had been standardized to support an online reservation system and make it user-friendly. She said after a review of park fees and fee policy, staff recommended minor changes to that fee schedule, to include allowing cancelations for family camping and horse camping, which are not allowed at present. The cancellation fee for picnic sites is \$15.00 per day but would be unfair for family camping at \$21.00 a night; she said that staff therefore was recommending a 25% cancellation fee for family camping and a 10% cancellation fee for horse camping. She said that staff was also recommending increasing the 51-75 person capacity picnic sites to 51 -100 person capacity picnic sites which would put three sites currently in the 76-200 site capacity site tier at \$225 to the 51-100 person picnic sites at \$120. Finally, staff recommended creating an annual pass for families and corporations, \$100 and \$200 respectively.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the corporate annual pass. Ms. Medina said that businesses have requested the individual annual passes with the intent of the pass being used by more than one person. A corporate pass would allow the business to provide the pass to different employees at different times. Commissioner Pincus asked about cancellation of reservations because of weather, and if a fee was charged. Ms. Medina explained the rainout procedure for cancellation for which no fee is charged. Commissioner Pincus asked if disabled Vets had free entry to the parks. Ms. Medina indicated that all disabled people received free admission on non-holidays Monday through Friday and received a 50% discount at all times for use of the park facilities.

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Pincus to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of certain changes to Park fees.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Vanden Bosch not in attendance.

9. Operations and Maintenance Activities

A. Superintendent's Report

In addition to the written report, Superintendent Moore reported that staff was receiving phone calls from Marina berthers about a sandbar at the entry channel. He said staff confirmed that there is a sandbar and access through the entry channel is limited. He said an RFP for a small dredging program would be done. Commissioner Cooney asked about disposal. Superintendent Moore said it would be hauled offsite. Chair Smith asked about the permit with the Army Corps of Engineers. Superintendent Moore said that permit had two more years on it.

Superintendent Moore said that an agreement for a community garden at Quarry Park on Wicklow property had been made and the Friends of Quarry Park would operate it. He said that the County would install an eight-foot fence to protect the garden from deer. Responding to a suggestion from Chair Smith to utilize a Master Gardener, Superintendent Moore said that there were three Master Gardeners involved.

Chair Smith said he had recently attended a meeting which projected impacts of global warming and showed a map of the San Francisco Bay with Coyote Point Recreation Area underwater by end- or mid-century. He suggested that additional analysis be done on projects in Coyote Point Recreation Area and the coastal area that looked at this projected impact. Director Holland said that there were funding challenges to consider and projects were looked at in terms of necessity and the projected lifetime of the improvements.

10. Support Services

A. Planning Activities – Senior Park Planner

Planner Herzberg said he had nothing to add to the written report. Chair Smith asked about the proposed project for the 14-acre property south of Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Planner Herzberg said that an RFP had been sent out but the proposals received had not been acceptable. Director Holland said that the project needed to get done so that the property could be transferred to State Parks as the land was outside the County's area of effective management.

Chair Smith asked about the proposed low impact demonstration parking lot at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Director Holland said a public meeting would be held on June 6 to lay out for the neighbors and public what was being proposed at the Reserve.

Commissioner Cooney suggested that Planner Herzberg contact him about the San Bruno Mountain Sewer Line Project as he might be able to assist with the permitting process.

B. Grants and Programs Report – Financial Services Manager

Financial Services Manager Harris said that a public meeting would be held on June 11 to consider the proposed interpretive signs for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and receive comments. She said the project was anticipated to come to the Commission at their July 16, 2009 meeting for review and approval with anticipated ~~installation~~ **fabrication** in August / September 2009.

C. Draft Final Proposed Budget – Administrative Services Manager

Administrative Services Manager Medina reviewed the draft FY 2009/10 budgets for the Commission. She said that three vacant positions were removed to balance FY 2009/10 budget. She said that the net County cost for FY 2010/11 had a number of unknowns.

Director Holland said the County Manager's Office had begun community meetings to look at structural deficit estimated at \$100 million. He said despite the constraints the Department was treated well for the upcoming budget year. He said that by September there would be better information related to 2010/11 budget targets but he expected that Parks would receive less County funding. Commissioner Pincus asked about revenues. Ms. Medina said that \$151,000 in revenue was projected. Commissioner Pincus asked if Parks received donations. Ms. Medina said donations are received, and when indicated put into trust funds specific to a park.

Ms. Medina said there had been a decline in berthers which was typical regionally. She said that the dredging project would keep the Marina an attractive site for boaters. She said the Marina budget had been impacted by the Lehman Brothers loss. She said funds being held for a restroom would be shifted to the dredging program.

Ms. Medina briefly reviewed the Fish and Game, Off-Highway Licensing Vehicle Fees, and Acquisition and Development Budgets, noting that the Off-Highway Fund would not exist by 2012.

D. Volunteer Earth Day Events – Volunteer Programs Coordinator

Volunteer Programs Coordinator Schoof summarized recent Earth Day Park events, Special Group events, and Friends' Groups activities. Chair Smith asked about National Trails Day events. Ms. Schoof said there would be a three day event at Huddart Park with the Trail Center. Commissioner Pincus asked about volunteer recognition. Ms. Schoof said that a recognition event would be held and she was developing criteria to do additional recognition of individuals and groups. Commissioner Pincus asked whether anything was done to recognize volunteers other than the annual event. Ms. Schoof said she sends a photograph of the volunteer event and a thank you to volunteers after each event.

11. Friends and Subcommittees

A. Parks Foundation*

No report.

12. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Enriquez thanked Ranger Alvarez for the educational tour of Huddart Park.

Commissioner Pincus said the highlight of the month had been the opening of the playground at Junipero Serra Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting in memory of Eileen Marie Bowden, nurse, mother, Girl Scout leader, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve docent, and community activist, who collapsed and died just minutes after giving CPR to a softball coach and saving his life.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

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