



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

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### Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 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 2:35 p.m.

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

Staff: Bourland, Holland, Lockman, Moore, Schoof

### 3. Oral Communications

Mr. Rob Hutchinson, Coyote Point Yacht Club, said he wanted to bring attention to the serious shoaling problem at the Marina. He said a visiting crew from Berkeley became quite upset after docking at the Marina and finding their boats in the mud. He said other crews were now canceling planned visits to the Club because of the problem. . He said this impacts docking, bar and restaurant sales for the Club. He said also five to six boat owners have removed their boats from the Marina because of the shoaling.

Mr. George Suppes said he was with Mr. Hutchinson and was also concerned with the shoaling in the Marina.

Superintendent Lockman said the shoaling issue had been brought to the Department's attention earlier in the year and was discussed at the annual stakeholders' meeting in April. He said staff has reviewed and revised capital project priorities and dropped some projects to free up the revenue needed; an RFP had been distributed; and a consultant hired. He said the agreement would shortly be before the Board of Supervisors for approval. He said with other preparations needed such as a depth study of the whole Marina, development of plans, permitting and suitable windows for

the actual dredging to protect spawning seasons, it was expected that the dredging would occur the summer of 2010 with an estimated cost of \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Commissioner Pincus asked if it was necessary to get an environmental report with each dredging episode and whether there could be a continuing report to cover the numerous dredging episodes. Superintendent Lockman said the Department has a 10-year permit, which permits removal of a certain quantity of soils. He said however that for each dredging episode, if it would occur after three years since the last dredging episode and/or if the work was in a different part of the Marina than previously, that environmental sampling for contamination had to occur. He said that sampling would take several months. He said additionally U.S. Army Corps permitting was needed for each episode and that took four to six months. He said the Marina has a permit for dredging but needs additional permitting for the actual dredging episode. He said there were a number of authorizing agencies for these dredging episodes.

#### **4. Agenda Amendments**

There were none. Director Holland noted that Planner Herzberg was absent. He said either he or Superintendent Lockman could address questions related to Planner Herzberg's report.

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

##### **A. Regular Meeting of June 4, 2009**

Commission Action: M/S Pincus/Enriquez to approve as submitted.

Motion carried 3-0 with Commission Vanden Bosch abstaining and Commissioner Cooney absent.

#### **6. Correspondence and Presentations**

##### **A. Introduction of Staff**

##### **1. Park Ranger Beau Bourland - recently hired as Park Ranger II**

Director Holland introduced newly hired Park Ranger Beau Bourland to the Commission. He said the Department was pleased to have hired Ranger Bourland, noting Ranger Bourland's education and experience with the U.S. Forest Service "hot-shot" crew. Responding to the Commission, Ranger Bourland said he was very happy in his new position, that things were going very well, and he was assigned to Huddart Park in Area II.

#### **7. Director's Report\***

Director Holland said Commissioner Pincus had commented on the thinness of the agenda packet. He agreed with the Commissioner relative to this meeting packet, but also thought it was important to note that much work had occurred already this year. He said there were impacts to Parks' projects due to the state granting and bond process

delays because of State Parks budget issues. He said that projects would eventually start to pick up as the State got its budget sorted. Additionally, he said the County was facing a \$100 million budget deficit and each department had been charged to develop 10, 20, 30 percent budget reduction scenario due to the County Manager by September 29, which would describe what the Departments would look like at those levels of reduction. He said both management alone and management and staff had been meeting to identify the Department's core business, what activities or programs could be dropped, and what efficiencies were possible to implement to meet those reduction scenarios. He said staff would bring this report to the Commission in October. He said the first of the three 10 % reductions would apply to the 2010/11 budget.

Chair Smith asked how the County's budget experience compared to the State Parks budget experience. Director Holland said the Department was not considering park closures but determining what core business was needed to keep parks open. He said there might be restrictions on hours and noted there was really no way to absolutely close parks as they were accessible. He said a concern with park closures and limited staffing was the high possibility of vandalism and damage. Commissioner Vanden Bosch suggested activating more volunteers to help. Director Holland said that was definitely part of the Department's discussions; he noted that the County was also being challenged to take care of local State parks should they be closed. He said State Parks would release their parks' closure list after Labor Day.

Chair Smith said his work organization had planned an event which included a hike on regional trails part of which was on State Parks' lands. He said he had to get dispensation from the State Parks District Superintendent for that portion of the hike if the park was in fact closed at the time of the event.

Director Holland said there would be a ribbon-cutting for the Mirada Surf Coastal Trail segment on Tuesday, September 29, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. He noted that the Half Moon Bay Lions Club had donated two picnic tables for the Trail. He noted a flyer the Commission had received for an Active San Mateo County event on October 16 with guest speaker, Gil Penalosa, who is an advocate for city street closures to vehicular traffic to promote physical activity. He said this event was hosted by Supervisor Carol Groom and additionally Supervisor Jacobs Gibson would make an announcement at the event of five subsequent weekends for walking activities which would occur in both County parks and cities in the County.

Director Holland said the Board of Supervisors would conduct a public hearing for a San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan #5 Amendment for the northeast ridge development at their September 22 meeting. He said the development would bring in additional funds for the Habitat Conservation Plan through residential assessments and the developer would give the HCP a \$4 million endowment when the development was approved.

Director Holland said the Department had redone their brochures noting that Volunteer Programs Coordinator Carla Schoof had managed the project. A packet of the brochures and other logo items were distributed to the Commission.

## **8. Action Items**

### **A. Consideration of Resolution Establishing Meeting Schedule**

Director Holland said staff was recommending this alternative schedule to address both the slow down in projects and as a way to manage staff time and labor resources. He said that the months selected for the Commission to meet were based on known actions needed to be taken by the Commission. He emphasized that special meetings and tours might be scheduled as needed.

Commission Action: M/S Pincus/Vanden Bosch to approve a resolution establishing the Commission's meeting schedule.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Cooney absent.

## **9. Operations and Maintenance Activities**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Moore noted he had no additions to his written report.

Chair Smith said that he was impressed with the commendable level of work being done by ranger staff despite shrinking resources.

Commissioner Pincus asked why Sawyer Camp Trail had to be closed for seasonal mowing. Superintendent Moore said that the flail mowers used presented a safety hazard to users as the mowers throw out debris which could hit users and the debris covers the trail during the mowing and could cause users to slip or trip. He said scheduled maintenance rather than emergency maintenance was easier for trail users as signs were posted along the Trail two weeks prior to the work commencing. He said staff also does a press release to local media and affected bicycle organizations, which also was distributed to the Commission and Board of Supervisors.

## **10. Support Services**

### **A. Planning Activities – Senior Park Planner**

Director Holland noted that Planner Herzberg was unable to attend the meeting, but he and Superintendent Lockman were available for questions about the written report.

Commissioner Enriquez thanked staff for the safety improvements made at Coyote Point Recreation Area, which safety concerns he had raised at the last Commission meeting.

Chair Smith asked for updates about the PG&E road grading issue on San Bruno Mountain. Superintendent Lockman said that the meeting was to occur the previous day but did not as U.S. Fish and Wildlife had to cancel. He said the meeting would be rescheduled.

Commissioner Pincus said he had attended the local mobility workshops in El Granada and asked when the report would be ready. Director Holland said an administrative draft of the report had been previewed by members of the Highway 1 Crossings Task Force and had been very well received. He said the report would develop four or five alternatives and long and short term recommendations, and would be presented at a public meeting. He said after that Supervisor Gordon would establish a steering committee to move recommendations forward.

Commissioner Vanden Bosch suggested that the eucalyptus removal project at Edgewood could be set aside to realize cost savings as it was not an essential project. Director Holland said the Department had funding for projects that had come from other entities. He said County general funds were being cut back and that impacted many projects, but this did not impact projects for which there were grant funds. Superintendent Moore said the San Mateo County Weed Management Area, a regional group, had received State grant funding which was then granted to agencies for projects. He said County Parks had applied for and received funding for the eucalyptus removal project.

Commissioner Pincus asked where Fisherman's Park was located. Superintendent Lockman described its location and said some years ago Parks had become involved with its maintenance. He said they contacted the State Lands Commission who went to the lessee, which entity has now taken over the maintenance.

#### B. Volunteer Activities – Volunteer Program Coordinator

Ms. Schoof said the process used to develop the brochures included finding out how people viewed parks, which was done through a survey of reservation system users. She said the brochure process was quite collaborative with rangers and office staff providing input and in the end the brochures developed focused on marketing the parks. She said the trail maps in the brochures are now very user-friendly with mileage included. She said there was also information about Friends' groups, the Foundation and volunteer opportunities. She said staff was presently working on the overall Parks brochure and the Crystal Springs Regional Trail brochures. She said brochures for the Sanchez Adobe and Woodside Store would also be developed.

Commissioner Pincus commended the staff for the clarity of the maps. Ms. Schoof said the brochures will also be posted on the Parks' website.

Ms. Schoof asked if there were any questions about her volunteer activities report. Chair Smith commented that it was positive feedback to get copies of the letters from the SCA program participants related to their experience working at County Parks.

Ms. Schoof said on September 12 there would be continuance of a trail build at Memorial Park with The Trail Center; September 19 was Coastal Clean Up Day and Parks would focus on the Coyote Point Recreation Area and Pillar Point Harbor; and September 26, County Parks would participate in National Public Lands Day with open “houses” at San Pedro Valley and Huddart Parks, and Crystal Springs Trail.

## **11. Friends and Subcommittees**

### **A. Parks Foundation\***

Executive Director Bott said that the Tour de Peninsula was a successful event, which accomplished an increased awareness of the Coyote Point Recreation Area. She said that this had been an investment year as there were startup costs that would not be needed other years. Director Holland said it was a great staging area and raised awareness of the Parks. Executive Director Bott noted that 1,400 people participated.

Executive Director Bott said the bids received for the Bill and Jean Lane Interpretive Center at Edgewood Natural Park and Preserve were more than the projected construction costs and the amount of money raised for the project. She said that there was 90 days to consider the bids and look at other options for funding. She said it might be necessary to reject the bids and reissue a request for the bids.

Executive Director Bott said the Foundation to date in this fiscal year has given \$20,000 to the Volunteer Program, \$25,000 to support additional design work for the Coyote Point Recreation Area promenade, \$30,000 for Mirada Surf, and \$50,000 for all or part of the costs of continuing use of the Green Force.

## **12. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Enriquez thanked Ms. Bott and the Foundation for their support of parks. He said he would like a report on the high priority projects, operations, and maintenance. He said that his review of commission items takes at least a week and that having the information requested would decrease the amount of time that Commissioners needed to review commission items.

Commissioner Vanden Bosch said she had visited Woodside Store several times recently and it was educational, authentic and charming. Director Holland said that the store was operated by the Historical Association through agreement.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the level of danger of the Lockheed fire to Memorial Park. Superintendent Moore said each park has an evacuation plan. He said the Lockheed fire at its worst was three ridges away from Memorial Park but if the fire had moved to the second ridge away, there would have been an evacuation of the Park.

Chair Smith said Mirada Surf Coastal Trail was being used fabulously used and he had notice that far fewer people were walking on the bluff than before the Trail was

developed. He said on the previous weekend the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council had been involved in ribbon cuttings in the Martinez/Benecia area and said that there were some strange conditions on the entrance and exit to the George Miller Bridge. He said what was most effective was the painting of the roads indicating bike use rather than using vertical signs. He said Caltrans was considering using a different color pavement to indicate bike lanes.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.