



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, October 1, 2009
2:30 p.m.
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners: Cooney (Vice Chair), Enriquez, Pincus (arrived at 2:45 p.m.), Smith (Chair), Vanden Bosch

Staff: Holland, Lockman, Moore, Herzberg, Medina, Bennett, Hood, Mendez, Wagner

3. Oral Communications

There were none.

4. Agenda Amendments

Director Holland suggested that item 6.B be heard before item 6.A and for the Commission to take a recess after item 6.A to review the proposed interpretive signs for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve before the public hearing. The Commission agreed by consensus to the suggested agenda amendments.

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

A. Regular Meeting of September 2, 2009

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

Motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Cooney abstaining and Commissioner Pincus not yet in attendance.

6. Correspondence and Presentations

- A. PowerPoint Presentation by Senior Planner Herzberg on the Clean Up of Lands on San Bruno Mountain Recently Dedicated to the County (item was previously "B")

Senior Planner Herzberg provided the Commission with a presentation on the cleaning done San Bruno Mountain parcels that were recently dedicated to the County, including the dramatic removal of several abandoned cars by helicopter.

- B. Resolution Honoring Connie Wagner for 21 Years of Service with San Mateo County Parks

Director Holland read a resolution recognizing Ms. Wagner for her dedicated and loyal service to the County and the Department. Ms. Wagner said she has really enjoyed working for the Parks Department and she would miss her co-workers, but she was looking forward to retirement.

The meeting recessed at 2:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

7. Director's Report*

Director Holland said the opening of the Mirada Surf Coastal Trail was successful, well attended by decision makers, donors, volunteers and staff.

8. Commission Action Items

- A. Public Hearing to Receive Public and Commission Comment on the Proposed Interpretive Signs at James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Review and Approval of the Proposed Project

Staff Comment: Financial Services Manager Harris said the Commission was being asked to conduct a public hearing and receive public comment on the proposed Interpretive Signs to be located at the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, and after the close of the public hearing, to review those comments, make comments and review the project for approval.

Financial Services Manager Harris said the County had received a \$424,080 federal earmark for interpretive exhibits and tools focused on the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and that \$43,177 of the earmark had been allocated to develop and fabricate the signs. She said the County hired Fallon Multimedia, who developed

sixteen unique signs for the Moss Beach Reef Access, Visitor Center, Seal Cove, Pillar Point Bluff, Nye's Overlook, and Pillar Point Marsh.

Financial Services Manager Harris said the committee to develop the signage was comprised of Mary De Long and Pam Larkin, Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Carol Preston, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Ranger Sarah Lenz and her. She said under "Discussion" in the staff report was a list of the proposed signs and their locations.

Financial Services Manager Harris said they held two public meetings to receive comments on the proposed signs. She said the first one was June 6 at the Reserve and the second was June 11 at Cypress Meadows in Moss Beach.

Public Comment: Ms. Mary De Long, Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, said she was very pleased with the new proposed interpretive signage for the Reserve and noted that there was agreement to state clearly "No Fishing." She invited the Commissioner to join the Friends on November 1 for a celebration of the Reserve's 40th years.

Chair Smith closed the public hearing at 3:15 p.m.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Vanden Bosch said the signs were very well designed and provided helpful material for visitors. She asked about the durability of the materials that would be used. Ms. Fallon, Fallon Multimedia, said the signs would be made of a composite that would be covered with resin and there was a solution available to use to remove graffiti.

Commissioner Pincus asked how the signs would be mounted and how quickly they could be replaced, if damaged. He asked if the Parks would receive the digital files of the signs for future reproduction. Ms. Fallon showed how the signs would be mounted and that the County would have the digital files for the signage. Chair Smith suggested that the signs be vertical rather than slanted as less of a surface for bird droppings. Superintendent Moore said that GGRNA had signs made of out of the materials proposed for these and that the resin kept bird droppings from sticking and penetrating. Chair Smith said he liked the unifying graphic at the top of the signs. Commissioner Enriquez asked how the stanchions for the signs would be secured. Financial Services Manager Harris explained that the end of the signpost would be secured underground in a concrete sleeve. Commissioner Pincus asked if the corners of the signs were sharp. Ms. Fallon said that they would be rounded.

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Vanden Bosch to approve the proposed interpretive sign project for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. Discussion Item

A. Budget Update*

Director Holland said the County Manager had asked all of the departments to develop 10/20/30 percent budget reduction scenarios over the next three years to address the \$100 million deficit faced by the County. He said the Department looked at what the consequences would be at each level of reduction. He said the information had been turned into the County Manager's Office and would be reviewed over the next few weeks. He said there would be an internal dialogue on the budget and then it would go out to the public. He said the information provided to the Commission only addressed the 10 percent budget reduction scenario. He said beginning in September management staff had met to consider core business and looked at programs and possible ways to make operations more effective and at programmatic reductions and efficiencies, and budget reductions. He reviewed strategies to reduce the budget by 10 percent the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Pincus said that some of the strategies such as the possibility of moving the administrative office from Redwood City to the Captain's House would provide a gain for Parks but a loss for the County. Commissioner Vanden Bosch questioned the capacity of the Captain's House for the administrative staff and the loss of revenue. Director Holland said that most of the use of the Captain's House was by Human Resources for training and there was no revenue for that. Commissioner Pincus asked if the strategies took into account revenue lost and maintenance costs. Director Holland said staff would be looking at those type of questions over the next eight months. Commissioner Pincus said that one of the proposals was to cut the Historical Association contract by 10 percent. Director Holland said that staff would work with the Historical Association on making services commensurate with the financial reduction. Commissioner Enriquez asked whether the 10 percent reduction would impact staff's employment. Director Holland said not at that level as savings would be realized through not filling positions that would become vacant, such as the Lead Gardener position. He said the Administrative Secretary position created as a shared position between Parks and LAFCo was now vacant and would be removed; the Parks Executive Secretary would take on some duties for LAFCo. He said if the budget had to be reduced by 20 to 30 percent that would have impacts on parks staff. Commissioner Cooney noted that when positions were lost they nearly always were never regained. Director Holland said that without impacting staff's employment to accomplish the 10 percent they had to eliminate the Lead Gardener position. If it could be kept, it would have been converted to a Ranger position. Director Holland said staff had done a phenomenal job of developing ideas and strategies, and he would report back on the budget in December.

10. Operations and Maintenance Activities

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Moore said that last year Mounted Horse Patrol had raised \$50,000 to rebuild upper Crystal Springs Trail and would donated another \$50,000 to rebuild the lower Crystal Springs and Chinquapin Trails to make those year-round. He said the equestrian community really supported the Department in tough times.

Superintendent Moore said the Parks issued a filming permit for the producers of a new TV show "Trauma" for use of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park in one of the showings. He said the producer had complimented the Department on the three-day turnaround on the permit, noting National Parks Service would have taken three months and State Parks six months for the same type of permit. He thanked the administrative staff for their work on the permit.

Superintendent Moore said that Carla Schoof, the Volunteer Programs Coordinator, had established a good working relationship with the Rangers and developing projects that the Rangers liked and which volunteers enjoy.

11. Friends and Subcommittees

A. Parks Foundation*

Executive Director Bott reported on an educational Board retreat they held recently at San Pedro Valley Park. She said Director Holland and Ranger Lombardi provided a presentation on the parks system and frequently asked questions. The Board was given background on the parks users and parks facilities and were provided with the new Parks brochures and maps. She said in the afternoon the Board took a field trip in the Park and saw first hand the interaction of visitors and rangers and the value of that.

12. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Vanden Bosch said she had participated in the Coastal Cleanup Day; she said former Parks employees Nick Ramirez and Leon Souza also participated. She said she has been hiking in Edgewood and noted how beautiful it is. Commissioner Pincus said he had visited the Grand Teton National Park and it was magnificent. Chair Smith said that the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council was offering grant programs to get more families out on the trails with possibly two activities in Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. He said he had attended the Youth Commission meeting and would like the Commission to consider meeting at a time that would work for high school students who wanted to participate through Youth Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

San Mateo County
Parks and Recreation Commission
December 3, 2009