



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, December 4, 2008
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 Pincus called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. He noted that Commissioner Smith would be absent.

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

Staff: Bennett, Harris, Herzberg, Holland, Lockman, Medina

3. Oral Communications

There were none.

4. Agenda Amendments

There were none.

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

A. Regular Meeting of November 6, 2008

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Vanden Bosch to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 6, 2008 as presented.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commission Smith not in attendance.

6. Correspondence and Presentations

There were none.

7. Director's Report

Director Holland reported that the Folger Stable renovation documents had been signed and the structure tented for fumigation. He said that the building would get a new roof, windows, walls and stable doors. Commissioner Vanden Bosch asked about the horses stabled at the site. Director Holland said that the horses were in temporary stables, and when the Stable was finished, horses would continue being stabled there. He said there would need to be an agreement related to management of the facility.

Director Holland said that the Crystal Springs and Dean Trails in Huddart Park were being rocked thanks to fundraising efforts by equestrians, notably Mr. Don Pugh and Ms. Faye Brophy. He said staff had received a number of emails from runners who were concerned that the trails had been paved. He said staff used the opportunity to provide the correspondents with information on trail maintenance best practices.

Director Holland noted that staff would prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors related to the collection of the Midcoast Development Fees and a request to increase the amount of the fees.

Director Holland described a collaborative partnership of parents, school staff, and parks staff that resulted in the construction of a playing field at El Granada School. He said initial estimates to reconstruct the field were \$500,000 but through the efforts of a group of citizens coordinated by Ms. Amy Broome, the cost to do the work was \$99,000. He thanked Park Superintendent Lockman for his efforts to get agreements prepared and signed quickly.

Director Holland said that staff had received a letter from Mr. Robert Susk, a resident on Greer Road, who expressed concern about the use of the gate for the service road into Huddart Park from Greer Road. Director Holland said that the County would monitor the traffic using Greer Road in December and again in June. He said a local citizen was donating an electronic gate that would be installed for the service road into Huddart Park.

8. Commission Action Items

A. Review and Approve Interpretive Exhibit Design for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Financial Services Manager Harris said a conceptual plan for interpretation at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve was developed in 2004. She said the County received a \$424,080 federal earmark for interpretive exhibits and tools with funds coming from the NOAA budget. She said with those funds the County hired Chiodo Art Development, a professional art studio, to develop an outdoor interpretive exhibit at the Reserve. She introduced Mr. Mario Chiodo. Mr. Chiodo talked about the various features of the proposed exhibit, a model of which was displayed in the Board Chambers for the Commissioners' review.

Commissioner Cooney asked about the supporting surface of the exhibit. Financial Services Manager Harris said that it was a rubberized, skid proof surface. She said the exhibit would meet all playground standards. Chair Pincus asked what the life expectancy of the exhibit would be, noting the impacts on it from wind, sunshine and spray from the ocean. Mr. Chiodo said that they used a process of tinting into the materials and adding detailed stain. He said touch up would be needed in five years or so. Commissioner Vanden Bosch asked if the exhibit was made of concrete. Mr. Chiodo said the exhibit was fabricated concrete with the animals, rocks, and plant life sculpted using a combination of materials. Commissioner Vanden Bosch asked if the exhibit would be bolted. Mr. Chiodo said the frame was. Commissioner Enriquez asked if this planned exhibit and other work proposed at the Reserve would be sited in the safest area of the Reserve in the instance of a tsunami, earthquake or other disaster. Director Holland said that the Reserve was completely in a tsunami zone but that features would be situated in the safest sites with ingress/egress; he noted that there would be public input as the project further developed.

Chair Pincus asked if there had been public comment. Financial Services Manager Harris said that the model had been displayed in the lobby of 455 County Center with surveys for people to complete; photos of the model were on the County Parks website, and 25 people attended a meeting in El Granada to look at the model and discuss the proposed exhibit. She said some of the comments related to slope and the size of the animals and plants on the exhibit.

Commissioner Enriquez said that he did not think many of the public were aware of the project and it was important for them to know what safety features and disaster planning had or would be done as the exhibit would be a public attraction. Financial Service Manager Harris said that the exhibit would meet all safety and accessibility standards of California playground specifications.

Chair Pincus asked if the exhibit would be situated so that the reefs would be visible. Financial Services Manager Harris said that the exhibit would be situated such that it would be the "gateway" to the reefs but there would not be a view of the reefs from it.

Chair Pincus said that Commissioner Smith, who was not able to attend the meeting, had forwarded his comments on the proposed exhibit. Commissioner Smith stated that he was familiar with the Reserve and the site proposed for the exhibit; he attended the public meeting in Princeton, and thought the exhibit would be a major improvement to the Reserve. He said concerns the public raised about the design specifics at the Princeton meeting had been adequately addressed, and the site for locating the exhibit would be addressed by the site survey. He recommended Commission approval of the exhibit.

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

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

9. Operations and Maintenance Activities

A. Superintendent's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

10. Support Services

A. Administrative Services Manager Report

1. Memorial Park Camping

Administrative Services Manager Medina reported that when the Board had considered changes to the reservation fees at the start of the year to enable use of an online reservation system there had been concern expressed by a resident that the reservation system would impact the availability of camping at Memorial Park for locals. The Board had directed staff to report back to them after the end of the season on the camping reservations. She directed the Commission's attention to the draft memo to the Board and said that it appeared that the online reservation system had not impacted camping for local residents at all and that camping figures were quite similar to the previous summer's figures.

2. Lehman Brothers Loss

Administrative Services Manager Medina reported on the loss of \$155 million in the County's investment pool as a result of the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy. She noted that the County was pursuing recovery of the funds through bankruptcy proceedings and the federal bailout package. She said that the County's portion of the \$155 million overall loss was approximately 20 percent or \$30 million.

11. Friends and Subcommittees

A. Parks Foundation Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bott reported that the Foundation had received a grant of \$250,000 designated for repair of Coyote Point Park, specifically for "improvements to the irrigation systems, lawns and landscaping, bathrooms, picnic and play areas, parking areas and pathways in the park. She said the Foundation was planning two events: a reception on January 31 at the Captain's House related to board member recruitment and keeping major donors updated; and a tidepool walk and reception at Fitzgerald on February 7 to cultivate donors for the tide pool sculpture and Seal Cove stairway improvements. She said the Foundation has raised \$45,000 towards the Green Conservation Corps.

12. Commissioner Reports

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.