



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mel Pincus, 1st District
Marico C. Enriquez, 2nd District
Neil Merrilees, 3rd District
Marian Vanden Bosch, 4th District
Michael J. Cooney, 5th District
Robert Sukhovitsky, Youth Commissioner

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Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Thursday, June 2, 2011

4:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center, Redwood City

MINUTES

Chair Enriquez called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Commission: Cooney, Enriquez (Chair), Luva (Youth Commissioner), Merrilees, Pincus, Vanden Bosch (Vice Chair)

Staff: Bennett, Herzberg, Lockman, Lombardi, Porter, Scott

3. Oral Communications

There was none.

4. Agenda Amendments

Superintendent Lockman requested that item 8.A be held until the arrival of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation Director Bott, which was supported by the Chair.

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

A. Regular Meeting of April 7, 2011

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Merrilees to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 7, 2011 as presented.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Pincus abstaining.

6. Correspondence and Presentations

A. Introduction of Park Ranger IV Kevin Scott

Superintendent Lombardi introduced Kevin Scott, who was recently promoted to a Park Ranger IV position for District IV, which includes San Pedro Valley and Quarry Parks, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Pillar Point and the Mirada Surf Coastal Trail. Ranger Scott thanked the County for selecting him for the promotional opportunity and indicated he was very excited for the opportunity and pledged to do his best to keep the midcoast parks safe and enjoyable.

B. Project Presentation: Youth Commissioner Ruben Luva

Youth Commissioner Luva said he had conducted a survey of 96 youth regarding youth involvement in parks and recreational activities within parks. The survey which was maintained completely anonymously asked the respondent's age, sex, ethnic background and a series of questions. The survey questions are attached to these minutes for reference. Youth Commissioner Luva said the survey demonstrated that the majority of youth (95%) use the parks and the youth who did not use the parks said they were too busy. He said 72.5% of the youth surveyed participate in park events or activities and that there was more involvement in activities such as running, camping and picnicking than events. He said comments about events indicated the youth wanted more exciting and more fun events and suggested free food and refreshments as a way to make park events more appealing to youth. He said only 15% of the youth surveyed volunteer at parks and those who volunteered pointed out that they did so to meet community service requirements. He said those who volunteered expressed a desire for some sort of reward for volunteering or to be provided food. The 85% who do not volunteer indicated their reason was they were not interested or they were busy with other things and their perception was that volunteering seemed "unappealing," lacked "excitement," and was "exhausting." He said it seemed that the offering of food and refreshments could increase youth volunteerism in the parks.

Youth Commissioner Luva, who will begin engineering studies at Santa Clara University in the fall, said that serving on the Parks Commission had been a great experience for him and thanked the Commissioners and staff for openly accepting him to the Commission and offering a memorable experience in volunteer public service.

Superintendent Lockman thanked Mr. Luva for his hard work on the survey and the valuable information it provided. The Commissioners all expressed their thanks to Mr. Luva for his service on the Commission and the survey he conducted.

C. Administrative Services Manager Budget Report

Superintendent Lockman said that he would make the report for Ms. Medina. He said Parks had to make a 10 percent reduction to its net county cost and that was being achieved by the elimination of the Director position, some increased revenue, elimination of a vacant gardener position, and closure, hopefully temporarily, of Flood Park. He noted that the County and the City of Menlo Park were discussing the

possibility of the City taking over the park. He said the Board of Supervisors had approved six months of funding for Flood Park to allow for options and solutions to be explored.

Commissioner Cooney asked if the SFPUC was providing any remuneration to the County for the loss of revenue at Flood Park. Superintendent Lockman said that the SFPUC owns the property where the ball field is located and the County operates the field through a permit. He said the agreement between the SFPUC and County was that the SFPUC would replace and repair the ball field and possibly other extra work.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the City of Menlo Park's interest in the Park. Director Porter said that Assistant County Manager Holland and he had met with City representatives and that the City was interested but had no 2011-12 budget funding to do anything. He said also the City was waiting to see what the State will do regarding redevelopment agencies.

Chair Enriquez expressed concern that the Foundation office was located in Flood Park and how its closure might impact the Foundation's operations. Director Porter assured the Chair that the Foundation would continue to have office space and that staff would update the Commission once the SFPUC work was completed.

Superintendent Lockman continued the budget update noting that the Marina budget was an enterprise fund. He said the Marina had a 72% occupancy which meant a drop in revenue but there was loan funding to replace Dock 29 which berths larger boats and would bring in more revenue.

Commissioner Cooney commented on the need to eliminate Porta-potties and replace with sewer. Superintendent Lockman agreed noting that that sewer was being installed and that center berm restroom needed either replacement or renovation and the addition of ADA compliance features.

Superintendent Lockman said the Off Highway Vehicle Fund was money from State DMV licensing fees and was used for restoration of areas damaged by off road vehicles. He said the Acquisition and Development funds were being used for water improvements for Coyote Point Recreation Area and Crystal Springs Regional Trail, for the Trails Master Plan, the development of the last segment of the Mirada Surf coastal trail, and the San Bruno Mountain day camp renovation.

7. Director's Report*

Director Porter congratulated Superintendent Lockman and Planner Herzberg for their successful appearance before the Coastal Commission and that Commission's denial of the claim against and the approval of the planned trail project on the bluff at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. He noted that the County had acquired Pillar Point Bluff from POST through grant funding. He said he had met with former Congressman Pete McCloskey who was interested in fundraising for Parks.

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Commissioner Cooney suggested placing a telescope at Pillar Point Bluff to create revenue.

Commissioner Pincus asked about additional responsibility with the acquisition of Pillar Point Bluff related to the Maverick's Big Wave Event.

Superintendent Lombardi said that County Parks has always had responsibility for Maverick's jointly with all state and local agencies having jurisdiction and the County's Office of Emergency services. He said the County has been managing the area for the last three years under an agreement with POST. He said that a decision was made the past year to close areas during the Maverick's event and not allow access for public safety.

8. Action Items

A. Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Acceptance of 2010-2011 Donation from the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation Executive Director reported on the donations and in-kind gifts to Parks for FY 2010-11. She noted that the volunteer program, the use of Student Conservation Association crews and school groups were promoting future stewardship of the parks systems, and the Foundation would continue to support the volunteer program.

Commission Action: M/S Pincus/Cooney to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they accept the 2010-2011 donations in the amount of \$339,672 and in-kind gifts in the amount of \$390,793 from the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Motion carried 5-0.

B. Review and Approve Proposed "Online Donation and Acknowledgement Update" to the "Guidelines for Donation, Memorials and Sponsorship"

Superintendent Lockman said he was reporting for Ms. Harris. He said that staff was proposing one change and two additions to the donation policy as outlined in the staff report noting that when the donation policy was originally adopted there were only minimal websites. He said the intent of the proposed changes was online recognition for donors and sponsors and expanding the outreach for donations, including a "donate now" button on the website.

Commission Action: M/S Vanden Bosch/Pincus to approve the proposed "Online Donation and Acknowledgement Update" to the "Guidelines for Donation, Memorials and Sponsorship."

Motion carried 5-0.

C. Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Certain Changes to Park and Marina Fees

Superintendent Lockman said the proposed Park fee changes were expected to increase revenue about \$97,000 but some of that increase would not be immediately realized as increases would not apply to reservations already made. He said the Marina as part of their loan agreement with the California Department of Boating and Waterways based fee increases on the US Consumer Price Index for Cost of Living which was a 1.7% change from the previous year. He said the Marina was requesting a waiver from that requirement this year as a survey indicated that the Marina's public fees were already somewhat high for this side of the bay and occupancy was down.

Commission Action: M/S Vanden Bosch/Merrilees to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the proposed changes to Park and Marina fees.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. Marina

A. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Hallett reported that a meeting was held with Marina berthers on July 25 and their only concern was a potential fee increase and the replacement of Dock 29. He said that the Marina's survey results were 97% good to excellent.

10. Operations and Maintenance Activities

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lombardi said that he had no additions to his written report.

Commissioner Cooney said that the Earth Day event at Coyote Point Recreation Area was great and thanked staff for all the work accomplished that day.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the vandalism at the Sanchez Adobe. Superintendent Lombardi said broke into the Adobe, damaged the historical door, and stole some historical books and clothing.

B. Volunteer Programs Coordinator's Report

Ms. Schoof said she had no additions to her written report. Commissioner Pincus suggested in her future reports that she compare events to past year events in terms of decreases or increases.

11. Support Services

A. Financial Services Manager Quarterly Grants and Programs Report

Superintendent Lockman reported for Ms. Harris adding to her written report that the Wildlife Conservation Board had approved a \$3 million grant for the acquisition of Pillar Point Bluff by the County.

B. Park Planner Quarterly Report

Planner Herzberg reported briefly on acquisition of Pillar Point Bluff and development of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Coastal Trail.

12. Friends and Subcommittees

A. Parks Foundation*

Executive Officer Bott said that there had been strong response to fund raising letters. She said the Foundation newsletter was entered into a competition and won first place. She said that the Tour de Peninsula was scheduled for August 7 and invited the Commissioners to participate or volunteer. She said that Mr. McCloskey was an honorary Foundation board member and was focusing on identifying funding to help with Devil's Slide and was generally interested in fundraising for parks.

13. Commissioner Reports

Chair Enriquez reported that "A Day in the Park" had been very successful and brought local civic leaders out to Coyote Point Recreation Area to learn about parks and to meet Supervisor Groom, Assemblyman Hill, Director Porter and Assistant County Manager Holland.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.