



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, April 5, 2012

4:00 PM

**Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center, Redwood City**

MINUTES

Chair Vanden Bosch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m...

Roll Call

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

Staff: Porter, Lockman, Lombardi, Harris, Herzberg, Schoof, Bennett

Oral Communications

None.

Agenda Amendments

None.

Consideration of the Minutes

Regular Meeting of February 2, 2012

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Pincus to approve the minutes of February 2, 2012.

Motion carried 4-0.

Correspondence and Presentations

Youth Commissioner Report

Item tabled as Youth Commission on vacation.

Parks Budget Update

Director Porter said that the County held preliminary budget hearings the week of March 26. He said this year departments were asked to maintain the current budget amounts but to report back on the impacts of a flat budget. He said the Parks Division was given \$205,000 to keep Flood Park open and an additional \$400,000 for revenue shortfalls in the prior fiscal year. He said for the upcoming fiscal year all parks would be kept open and minimal staffing levels would continue. He said the Board of Supervisors had several questions related to overall funding and operational levels within the parks, and were planning to hold a study session to talk about potential revenue sources, options for providing this service to the public, and use of volunteers and others to continue supporting the parks. He said currently the Parks' delivery service was a hybrid of parks service and open space management and delivery service was another topic the Board wanted discussed. He said there had been a workshop with the Board's Environmental Quality Committee earlier in the year at which they had asked about full funding for Parks, which is a need of \$14M. He said the Board would also discuss revenue creation to meet that need or different delivery service models. He said the Board had questions about the County's obligations to take over Devil's Slide when Caltrans relinquishes that right-of-way. He said staff was compiling all the information and documentation related to that. He said the Board also asked staff to look at the Capital Improvement Program, and as part of this year's program, staff had submitted a \$1.9M project for the capital needs on Devil's Slide. He said staff also submitted a number of projects based on the Environmental Quality Committee's request to do projects to keep Parks operating. He said the overall Capital Improvement Program for the County would be presented to the Board in June.

Director Porter said the Board of Supervisors had declined to accept a \$10.4M grant from Stanford University for the rehabilitation of Alpine Road. He said since then staff has developed a project to repair two areas of creek erosion and to make the trail consistently six-foot wide and where trail was six-foot but with broken asphalt to grind the asphalt and put a new layer of asphalt. He said this project was estimated at \$2.4 million, which he believed would be granted by the Board.

Superintendent Lockman said the Board was interested in revenue creation and staff would be reviewing fees and bring recommendations to the Commission at its June meeting. He said the Board was also interested in carbon sequestering at Memorial and Pescadero Parks. He said they were also very concerned about fuel reduction in the interface between urban and rural spaces. He said that there was a realization of more revenue in the Marina enterprise fund.

Director Porter said a flat budget was one in which expenditures were kept flat and revenue from County general fund was kept flat. He said that means a reduction in funds because the departments need to absorb costs of salary and benefit increases.

Commissioner Pincus asked what the differential would be. Director Porter said he did not have exact figures with him but it was around \$200,000.

Chair Vanden Bosch asked if there was a possibility that the County would not have to take over Devil's Slide. Director Porter said he had not read all of the documentation but understood from those who have that there was not much latitude for that. He said staff was compiling documents which will then be reviewed by County Counsel as to what latitude there was. He said the Board's main concern was timing as to whether the work would have to be done immediately by the County or if it could be delayed.

Presentation of \$5,000 Check in Support of Student Conservation Crews
Summer Program - Mr. Greg Young, Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank

Ms. Julia Bott, Executive Director of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, introduced Mr. Greg Young, Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank.

Mr. Young said he was Community Development Director for Wells Fargo Bank. He said he had the wonderful opportunity to work in the community with nonprofit partners in the community. He said he was delighted to present a check to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 to support the Conservations Corps' Summer Youth Program. He said last year he had the opportunity to visit the coast and see the youth in action on one of their park projects. He said they were pleased to be able to support a program that provides youth with life, job, and training skills they need to be successful.

Executive Director Bott noted in addition to financial contribution that Wells Fargo also provides financial literacy training for the Conservation Corps youth crew.

Report on March 26, 2012 Public Meeting on Proposed Green Parking Lot
Concept Plan for Fitzgerald Marine Reserve*

Planner Herzberg provided the Commission with a presentation updating them on the proposed parking lot improvements for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. He said the parking lot had reached the end of its usable life and needed replacement as well as storm drainage management improvements and improved accessibility. He said there were traffic congestion problems and that buses currently make three-point turns to exit onto California Avenue. He said there were safety concerns with large vehicles backing up in the lot. He said there were 39 parking stalls currently including one that is designated as ADA.

Planner Herzberg provided the Commission an overview of Conceptual Plan A and Conceptual Plan B that had been developed. He said that a public workshop had been held on March 26, 2012 at which considerable public comment had been received. He said today's presentation was an opportunity for the public to again comment and to

receive Commission feedback. He said those comments would be considered and the concept plans updated and brought back to the Commission at a later date.

Commissioner Cooney referred to the nine spaces that would not be paved and asked if those could be paved now rather than later as he was concerned people would park in the dirt and create sediment runoff. Planner Herzberg said this area would be a drainage swale and there would be no parking. Director Porter said that both of the plans provide for one to two more parking spaces even though the existing overflow dirt parking area will be removed.

Commissioner Cooney asked whether the proposed Education Center could be situated above so there was a view and it did not eliminate parking spaces. Planner Herzberg said there were homes on the Nevada Avenue side so there would not be ocean view. He said that the best location for an interpretive center seemed to be on the right side of the site and would be surrounded by trees, noting that over the years the proposed size of the center has been suggested from 2,000 to 3,000 square foot. Commissioner Cooney suggested a structure that could also be used by the public and for meeting rentals.

Director Porter said there had been much discussion about this plan, and they had decided not to show a footprint for an education center. He said it was not known what size the center would be as there was no funding for it yet and it was not yet determined where it would be located. He said there were a number of options for the education center.

Commissioner Merrilees said he liked the plans and the incremental process to get the public's buy-in. He said currently there was no place at the Reserve for people to meet. He said he thought there would be community buy-in for thinking about a structure perhaps as small as possible while still meeting goals and to have the ability to have a space for 20 to 30 people to meet. He noted that the Jean and Bill Lane Education Center was a good example of such a structure.

Commissioner Cooney said it would be good to know where the center would be located so that street/lot improvements did not have to be dug up later to install a sewer line.

Commissioner Pincus said that there was discussion of changing the location of bus parking. He said one thing to address was buses parked with engines idling noting the carbon monoxide and people walking near them. Planner Herzberg said there were state requirements regarding the amount of time allowed for engine idling and that signage could be used to control.

Commissioner Merrilees said another consideration for where the buses would park was the proximity to residences.

Director's Report

Director Porter said that PG&E was planning to do line clearance for about two miles of electrical lines in Huddart Park. He said Parks staff met with their staff to get more

details on how many trees would be removed, what they would do for erosion control, and site restoration. He said PG&E would provide more information.

Director Porter said that Superintendents Lombardi and Lockman negotiated an extension of the SFPUC's lease at Flood Park for use of the parking lot as a staging area for their pipeline work for an additional \$18,000 in revenue.

Director Porter said there would be a meeting with SFPUC regarding the south of dam and south of Highway 92 Crystal Springs Trail extension projects related to a grant condition requiring the County to receive from SFPUC a perpetual permanent easement across those lands. He said Financial Services Manager Harris had done a good job getting legislative delegates to speak with SFPUC on the County's behalf.

Action Items

None.

Marina

Harbor Master's Report

There was no additional information or questions.

Operations and Maintenance Activities

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lockman thanked Commissioner Merrilees for his input on the Moss Beach bathroom design.

Commissioner Merrilees suggested Parks might want to have a booth at the Maverick's opening festival next year. Superintendent Lombardi said staff could do that at the festival if there was no actual surfing event.

Volunteer Activities Report

Community Programs Specialist Schoof said there were no additions to her written report.

Support Services

Bi-monthly Alternative Funding and Program Development Report

Financial Services Manager Harris said a request for proposals was released for the Cosco Busco oil spill that occurred in 2008 and had affected San Mateo County. She said applications for this funding were being made for the Coyote Point Recreation Area promenade, a retaining wall and beach access at Surfer's Beach, and 1.3 miles of cyclone fence on eastern side of Devil's Slide trail. She said that it looked favorable that the Department of Boating and Waterways would be able to fund \$500,000 for the promenade as well. She noted she had accomplished \$10.4M in grant funding since working for the County.

Planning Projects Update

Planner Herzberg said there was one update to his written report and that was a successful Bay Checkerspot release at Edgewood Park on April 3rd.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the success of the release. Planner Herzberg said that when the conditions are wetter, the butterflies seem to do better than in dry years.

Friends and Subcommittees

Ms. Julia Bott, Executive Director, San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, reported on the Green Building Award and noted there was a video on the Parks website of this event. She said as outreach to the community noting REI's support of the Foundation there would be volunteers from the Foundation at REI to provide information on County Parks.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Merrilees said he learned that butterflies disappeared and had to be reintroduced because of catalytic converters on vehicles that take in smog and release ammonia that then turns into nitrogen. Along freeways, plants that like nitrogen benefit and some of those were invasive, non-native thrive and take away habitat from plants that support butterflies.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.