



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
Henry Ruehl, Youth Commissioner

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Brenda Bennett, Clerk
www.eparks.net
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Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 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

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by the Chair.

2. **Roll Call**

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

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

3. **Oral Communications**

Ms. Brook Costello, Star Vista, said there would be an Adult Ally training workshop "How to Engage with Youth on Boards/Commissions" on October 25 in the Board Chambers. She invited the Commissioners to register for the free "San Mateo County Youth Town Hall" on October 27 at the College of San Mateo.

Mr. Tom Ciotti, President, Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Board, said that their docents would have to discontinue giving tours at the Reserve if there were not changes to the conditions the County were imposing. He said that the County had dropped correspondence about meeting with the Department of Fish and Game to resolve the issues.

Commissioner Merrilees said that the Reserve was not the only Marine area that has been designated as an “Area of Special Biological Significance” and that there were ramifications of that designation that needed to be reviewed and resolved.

4. Agenda Amendments

There were none.

5. Consideration of the Minutes

A. Meeting of July 12, 2012

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to approve the minutes of July 12, 2012 as submitted.

Motion carried 5-0.

6. Correspondence and Presentations

A. Introduction of Youth Commissioner

The Commission welcomed Mr. Henry Ruehl, recently appointed Youth Commissioner.

B. Five Year Strategic Plan Project

Director Porter said the Board of Supervisors held a workshop on July 31, 2012 on alternative funding for Parks and subsequently directed preparation of a Five Year Strategic Plan. He noted that there were a number of mandated programs for Parks such as the Devil’s Slide Trail, fuel reduction, and meeting health and safety requirements. He said that Parks’ existing Five Year Strategic Plan was five years old. He said Management Analyst Deanna Haskell, County Manager’s Budget Office, would work with staff in the preparation of a Five Year Strategic Plan for Parks. He said the draft plan would be available in December after four weeks of information gathering and then would be taken to the community and stakeholders for review and comment.

Commissioner Pincus asked whether after five years the Plan would be reviewed for effectiveness. Superintendent Lockman said the strategic plan developed in 2008 had been ambitious and there had been high hopes to implement it but the economy downturn had impacted implementation. He said that Plan was being reviewed as part of the preparation of a new Five Year Strategic Plan.

Director Porter said that they would look at the assumptions made for past unsuccessful tax measures and revenue requirements for the Five Year Strategic Plan. He said the Board of Supervisors was interested in building up the County parks and that the Plan would also be a budgeting tool.

7. Director's Report

Director Porter said that the Board would be asked to approve agreements for On-Call Park Professional Services to address the backlog of capital projects. He said staff was working with PG&E on a plan to manage cleanup from the tree cutting near transmission lines in Huddart Park.

8. Marina

A. Harbor Master's Report

Harbor Master Hallett said that a system was being installed to keep racoons from going aboard boats; he noted it seemed to be working but was not yet quite complete. He said a Request for Proposals would be issued for engineering services for the Fuel Dock Replacement project.

9. Operations and Maintenance Activities

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lombardi said in addition to the written report that staff, CalFire and CDC crews had cleared a 50-foot buffer along the service roads in Wunderlich Park. He said the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve had been designated as the most highly protected type of State Marine Reserve and in the 2012 Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Codebook such an area is considered a "no-take" area. He said on July 2, staff, the Assistant County Manager Dave Holland, met with Mr. Ciotti, Mr. Centoni and Commissioner Merrilees regarding compliance with DFG regulations. He said that Mr. Holland conferred with DFG on July 17 as to specifically how to comply with the more stringent regulations and continue to offer educational tours. He said on August 3 Mr. Ciotti received correspondence from him that a scientific collection permit was needed from DFG and that it would cover a small number of people who could provide tours. He said staff planned to schedule a meeting with Ms. Becky Oda of DFG to proceed with getting a scientific collection permit covering staff.

Commissioner Pincus asked if there could be lobbying efforts on Sacramento to lessen the stringency of the requirements. Superintendent Lombardi said that in fact there had been a great deal of lobbying to get the regulations stricter and greater protection for the Marine Reserve.

Planner Herzberg said that the Reserve has historically high periods of visitors because of the low tides and many people over many years have feared that the Reserve was being “loved to death” and there was a concerted effort by staff, the Friends and other agencies to get greater protection for the Reserve, which succeeded. He said the Reserve was now “no-take.”

Superintendent Lombardi said that the goal was to meet as soon as possible to move forward on defining the scope of the docent led tours and permitting related to scientific collection and water monitoring. He said importantly there needed to be education of docents and park visitors and more communication so there was no need to write citations.

Commissioner Merrilees said that in Orange County a MPA Council of stakeholders and DFG was created to decide what is the policy for this protected reserves relating to “touching” species. He said the thought that policy would probably be applied along the coast. He suggested that the MPA Council might be the first step. He noted that if “no-touching” was to be enforce there was a lot of material that would need to be revised.

B. Volunteer Programs and Activities Report

Staff had no additions to the written report.

10. Support Services

A. Bi-monthly Alternative Funding and Programs Reports

Staff had no additions to the written report.

B. Park Planning Report

Commissioner Pincus asked about Dock 29. Planner Herzberg said that with the Department of Boating and Waterways loan process the project plans needed to be reviewed by them. He said that it was anticipated the project would go out to bid in Spring 2013.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the Green Valley Trail. Planner Herzberg said the Coastal Conservancy was providing funds for design work. Director Porter said there was funding only for design and none for construction at this time.

11. Friends and Subcommittees

A. Parks and Recreation Foundation

Ms. Julia Bott, Executive Director, said that the Foundation Board had approved \$25,000 to support the Volunteer Program and funds for next year's Student Conservation Association crews. She reported that the staging for the Tour de Peninsula for the third year was at Coyote Point Recreation Area and noted that the route provided an introduction to the parks within the County system. She said that the Foundation would fund \$10,000 for Bicycle Sunday but from different sources other than the Tour revenues.

12. Commissioner Reports

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.