



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, February 23, 2015
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
- II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS
- III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)
 - A. Approve minutes from December 15, 2014Pages1-2
 - B. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Maintenance Section – Status ReportPages 3-4
 - 2. Facilities Section – Status ReportPage 5
 - 3. Planning Section – Status ReportPages 6-10

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today's agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

- IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- V. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items
 - None
- VI. REGULAR AGENDA – Informational Items
 - None
- VII. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of December 15, 2014, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, California

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Kate Minott, Mariah Roberts, Dave Mercer*
Absent: Jim Lang
Staff: Betsey Lynberg, Gretchen Iliff
(*Commissioner Mercer arrived after Item III was approved)

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS: Directors report was moved to after Regular Agenda.

Motion/Second: Minott/Bennett

AYES: 3
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approved Minutes from October 20, 2014, meeting.
- B. Accepted and filed Reports.
- C. Approved nomination of Michael A. Lewis to serve on the Board of Directors of Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks.

Motion/Second: Minott/Bennett

AYES: 3
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Directors report was moved to after Regular Agenda.

V. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

1. Accepted and filed report, as presented, regarding off-leash dogs in County parks and beaches.

Motion/Second: Bennett/Minott

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

Additional motion made by Commissioner Mercer that the Board of Supervisors consider a Pilot Program for off-leash dog use on a County-owned beach.

Motion/Second: Mercer/Minott

AYES: 3

NOES: 1

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

2. Adopted and approved the proposed 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting calendar.

Motion/Second: Bennett/Minott

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

VI. REGULAR AGENDA – Informational Items

None

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

DATE:- February 12, 2015

TO: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: GRETCHEN ILIFF, MAINTENANCE DIVISION

RE: PARKS BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE STATUS REPORTS ON
CURRENT PROJECTS

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Athletic fields at Highlands Park and Michael Grey field were groomed for opening in early March.

Gutters, roofs and drainage way were cleared this month prior to heavy rains.

Two trees that fell were cut up and removed from Highlands Park.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Mid-County beach access areas)

A section of fence was replaced at Coffee Lane Park.

Playgrounds received a 'top off' of sand or fibar this month.

The Willowbrook Playground replacement project has begun and should be completed in the next 30 days.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex)

Base rock was added to several parking areas in south County.

New chips were added to the Polo Grounds dog Park this month.

A new drinking fountain was installed at Pinto Lake Park.

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

Staff received training on blood borne pathogens and spill prevention.

New fence screening material was replaced at Simpkins.

The water slide was washed and waxed.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

DATE: February 17, 2015
TO: Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission
FROM: Gretchen Iliff, Facilities Management Division
RE: Status Report on Current Projects

Summary for reservations in the Parks for the months of January and February 2015, (excluding SFSC):

Attendance at Reserved Facilities:

January and February have been typical for off season events with parties and a few weddings at park centers and picnic areas. Staff estimates that approximately 5,000 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks in these two months.

Center and Meeting Room Rentals in January and February 2015:

January and February hosted 9 weddings, receptions and family events held at our various Park Centers with rental revenues totaling \$4,350.00. December and January also included 41 meeting room rentals totaling \$1,000.00.

The Facilities office has been very busy with inquiries and bookings for weddings, receptions and special events in the park centers for 2015. The summer schedule is quickly filling up. The typical season of use is weekends (mainly Saturdays and some Sundays) May through October, with approximately 50 available dates (36 for Quail Hollow Ranch). At this time, Aptos Park is reserved 52% of all available dates (with only 9 Saturdays remaining available), Highlands Park is reserved at 62% (with only 4 Saturdays remaining available) and Quail Hollow is reserved at 72% (with only 3 Saturdays remaining available). Park centers continue to be popular wedding and event locations, with customers appreciating the picturesque and affordable venues for their special occasions.

Surf Contests:

We are in the midst of another successful surf season. Non-profit organizations, school surf leagues and for profit companies continue to hold contests at Pleasure Point Park, the Hook (41st Avenue) overlook and Moran Lake Beach, which are favorite surf and skimboard contest sites. The renovations and improvement along East Cliff Parkway have continued to provide added benefit for events hosted at these park sites. July 2014 through June 2015 have a total of 17 days of contests, with revenues totaling \$4400.00.

Garden Plots:

Garden plot renewals at Jose Avenue and Felt Street Parks have been taking place during the past month. Jose Avenue has 14 garden plots and Felt Street Park has 17 plus 2 ADA garden plots. All plots have either been renewed or new gardeners will be given an opportunity to access these plots due to a number recently released plots during the renewal process. Many of these new gardeners have been on waitlists for years and are excited about starting their gardening experience in County Parks. The Farm Park will feature 10 plus 2 ADA plots and it is anticipated that gardeners will be able to access the plots in March. A waitlist has been maintained for both future parks sites of The Farm and Chanticleer Park and it is anticipated that The Farm plots will fill up quickly.



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Jeff Gaffney
Director

DATE: February 11, 2015
TO: Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator
RE: Recreation and Cultural Services Division Status Report – February 2015

YOUTH PROGRAMS

In the spotlight this month – Mar Vista ACE and Kinder Enrichment

Mar Vista ACE - After returning from Winter Break, we began January with the theme of A Warm Winter Welcome at ACE. Projects included gooey snow-people, marshmallow snowmen, and recycled CD art. We played games such as Candy Cane Hand Relay, Kickball, Capture the Penguin, Clean Your Room, Minute to Win It, Disc Golf and more. Monster Week featured activities such as Alien Nation, Monsters vs. Humans, Belly Bumpers, Monster Royale, squish paint art, candy corn monsters & borax monster crystals. We concluded the month with a focus on Fun With Science. Projects included fizzing rocks, homemade bouncy balls, cartesian divers, Alka-Seltzer rockets and paper engineering. Participants also played games such as Fire in the Laboratory, Hot Lava Monster, Hockey and joined in a scavenger hunt.

Monday, Feb. 2 was Groundhog Day, during which we made groundhog-shaped treats and played Shadow Tag & How Many Weeks of Winter, Mr. Groundhog? Music was the theme for the rest of the week. Participants made harmonicas, glove-a-phones and cup instruments, all with ordinary items. We also played Limbo, Garbage Ball, Human Pinball, Wax Museum, Beckon, dressed like rock stars on Feb. 4 and experimented with rhythm sticks. Next was Happy Hearts Week, during which participants made projects such as Love Bugs, faux stained-glass hearts and cards. We also played games such as Breathless, Barnyard, Battle Royale, Chaos and had team scavenger hunts for puzzle pieces that, once found, were assembled into heart shapes. We also had a Valentine's-themed potluck party. The highlight of Mardi Gras Week will be a field trip to the Roller Palladium. We'll conclude February with Into the Future week, which is always a blast!

March will offer activities that correlate with themes such Dr. Seuss, Insects, Leaping Leprechauns and Spring. Participants are looking forward to a field trip to San Lorenzo Park to try the new disc golf course and then to the Tannery Arts center to help create a collaborative public art piece!

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Kinder Enrichment - After In January we celebrated winter polar animals with fantastic books from the library and made circular polar bear faces. For Dream Week we created a hand rainbow to show unity and togetherness. We also talked about our dreams for the world.

The first week of February we covered sports and the famous groundhog. We designed groundhog puppets with lunch sacks. The second week was Big Hearts Prep week. The children did several craft to get the room ready for our Pot Luck party on Valentine's Day. The party had a red and pink theme. The children created beaded hearts to give to a loved one. In the third week the topic of Mardi Gras let us visit the kid's version of wacky traditions of New Orleans. The big hit of the week was making ball masks. The final week of the month, "Zoom, zoom, zoom," focused on different modes of travel. The kids had fun playing Red Light, Green Light!

For March we will welcome springtime with the focus of the green around us. The week of Leaping Leprechauns we will have stories of the folklore of the wee people and marble painted shamrocks in order to gear up to St. Patrick's Day.

ARTS AND CULTURAL

Public Art Program – An artist will soon be chosen to continue in the selection process for the Seacliff Village Park public art project.

Art Exhibitions – João de Brito will show his paintings at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office from now until mid-March, 2015.

Eloise Pickard Smith Award – The Santa Cruz County Arts Commission awarded Tim Jackson the prestigious Eloise Pickard Smith Award for his extraordinary and sustained level of commitment of time, leadership, and financial support of the arts. Mr. Jackson was presented the award on February 9, 2015 at a performance by the *Billy Childs All-Star Quartet* at Kuumbwa Jazz.

ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

February will be a very exciting month for Senior Mall Walk program participants, as their hard work will be acknowledged at the Mall Walkers 26th annual awards ceremony. Many walkers will receive awards for attaining their goals and reaching new mileage categories. Volunteers for the program will also be honored and recognized for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, we will raffle prizes donated by generous area merchants.

March features a trip to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, which features dramatic display gardens and a unique shopping experience for garden enthusiasts.

Staff is busy preparing trips for June 2015 – May 2016. Stay tuned for April's announcement of many new and exciting excursions!

AQUATIC PROGRAMS

Winter Schedule runs through December 1, 2014 – February 28, 2015

(This year, the Swim Center is open on Mondays during the Winter Schedule, closed only on Sundays; the Swim Center will resume a seven-days-a-week schedule in the spring)

The winter pool schedule is as follows:

Lap Swimming - The lap pool is open for lap swimming Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Warm Water Swim - The warm water pool is available for general use on:

Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays 6:00 – 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
(Shared with swim lessons on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

Tuesdays / Thursdays 6:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Shared with swim lessons 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (all ages)

Winter Swim Lessons - Swim lessons are being held again throughout the winter months this year. Lessons are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration for Spring Swim Lessons began on January 1st at 9:00 a.m.

We were able to start Spring Swim Lesson registration a month earlier than last year, and lessons are already beginning to fill up! Spring Swim Lessons begin March 2, 2015.

Spring Junior Guard Camp - Last year we held a very successful Spring Pool Junior Lifeguard Camp serving 28 children; this popular program will be offered again this year from March 30 – April 4. There are already 10 children enrolled in this highly-anticipated program!

Adult Fitness Swimming - Adult Fitness Swimming is very popular at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The most well-attended workouts are Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Up to 49 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Workouts are held at 6:00 a.m. on Mondays: 6:00 a.m. and 12 noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 6:00 a.m., 12 noon and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays; and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

Water Aerobics & Exercise - The Water exercise classes this year reached their highest capacity so far. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including, healthy, pre-natal, seniors, arthritic, and rehabilitating or cross training fitness enthusiasts. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times and instructors names. Previous swimming or water exercise experience is not required for participation in the water exercise classes.

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Saturday Water Polo - With the pools closed on Sundays, drop-in water polo has moved to Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. One must be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program.

Pool Rentals - The Santa Cruz Aquatics and the Cabrillo Threshers swim teams continue to rent the lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Recent Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- Two Broom Bashes took place on Saturday, January 10 and 31 and Monday, January 19 all from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They were co-led by Linda Brodman from CNPS Habitat Restoration and Chuck Baughman, Quail Hollow volunteer. A total of 39 enthusiastic volunteers attended the three work parties: nine of the 10th, 15 on the 19th and 15 on the 31st.
- The Santa Cruz Astronomy Club hosted a star gazing program on Friday, January 16 called A Stellar Experience. A total of 32 visitors including a Scotts Valley elementary class with their families attended the program.
- If Houses Could Talk – a ranch house tour was offered by Lee Summers, Park Interpreter, on Sunday, January 18 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- A Creepy Crawly bug hunt birthday party was hosted by Lee Summers on Sunday, January 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A total of 29 kids and parents enjoyed hunting for insects and spiders at the pond.
- It's a Small World – Lee Summers led program, which included microscope viewing, on Sunday, January 25 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- On Friday, February 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Lee Summers led a home school on a Creepy Crawly field trip learning about the difference between insects and spiders. A total of 25 kids and about 12 parents attended the program.
- Two Broom Bashes have been scheduled for Saturdays, February 14 and 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Linda Brodman and Chuck Baughman will co-lead both work parties.
- Lee Summers led a program called Treasures of Quail Hollow Ranch on Sunday, February 15 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in which participants learned about the unique aspects of the park visiting on and off-trail sites.

Nest box volunteers have been diligently working on box maintenance throughout the winter, as they installed excluder rings to the box openings, making it more difficult for House Wrens to harass occupants. This work culminated in a Nest Box Maintenance installation work party on Saturday, January 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in which all the boxes were put up for the upcoming season.

Quail Hollow Ranch was invited to have an information table at the Migration Festival at Natural Bridges State Park on Saturday, February 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers and staff taught visitors about bird migration and specifically why some birds migrate while others don't.

San Jose State University's interpretation class with Elizabeth Hammack visited the park on Monday, February 16 from 3:00 to 5:45 p.m. Lee Summers led the group on a model guided walk of the habitats of Quail Hollow, followed by a discussion of planning and performing an interpretive guided walk.

Staff has been scheduling the 2015 interpretive programs starting this month, including outlines for the Wisdom in Nature (WIN) program and summer day camps.

Upcoming Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- The Santa Cruz Astronomy Club will be back for one of their monthly star gazing programs on Friday, February 20 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight.
- Mad Scientist Experiments will be offered with Lee Summers on Sunday, February 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Tierra Pacifica will bring out a 1st/2nd combination class to learn about the park's habitats on Monday, February 23 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Eric Feuss will return for a Beginning Birding program on Sunday, March 1 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- In Search of Herps will take place on Sunday, March 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- An Orienteering field trip for Son Seers Homeschool will be offered by Lee Summers on Friday, March 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Ponderosa High School will come out to the park on three successive Fridays, March 13, 20, and 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for community service work ranging from trail maintenance to broom removal.
- Lee Summers will lead a habitat hike called "Have to Have a Habitat" on Sunday, March 15 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- On Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz will be out for a Fungus Foray.
- Star and Moon Gazing will be offered on Friday, March 27 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight by the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club.

This year's Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will take place on Saturday, February 21 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. We will have a chance to honor the volunteers who donated over 2400 hours of service in 2014. Updates on various projects will be given by lead volunteers.

The Nest Box Monitoring program will have its kick off meeting and potluck on Sunday, March 7 from 10:30 a.m. We will confirm groups and roles as well as do a first check of boxes.