

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular (Virtual) Meeting

June 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Public Participation Guidelines

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health, the California Governor's Office, and Santa Cruz County Health Officer, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, please do the following:

- The public may conference into the meeting to listen to the meeting, & participate during Oral Communications & comment on other agenda items by calling: *82 1 (831) 454-2222 and enter conference ID 601776.
 - Once in the conference line, the moderator will instruct you to *virtually* raise & lower your hand when you wish to speak.
 - Dial *41 to virtually raise hand
 - Dial *42 to virtually lower hand
- You will NOT be able to attend the meeting in person as per Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 and N-25-20.
- RELATED CORRESPONDENCE: Written comments may also be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission in care of Jennifer Mead, County Parks Secretary, either by Email or U.S Mail. Please include the agenda item number. Agenda comments received by 5:00pm the Monday before the meeting will be included with agenda materials; such comments received after 5:00pm Monday and before meeting adjournment will be included with the minutes record.

Email: jennifer.mead@santacruzcounty.us

U.S. Mail:
Parks & Recreation Commission
c/o Jennifer Mead
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

(AGENDA on following page)



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

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

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, June 8, 2020

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Regular (Virtual) Meeting

Simpkins Swim Center

979 17th Avenue

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission or on today's Agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public communications presented regarding topics not on the Agenda but may choose to follow up later, either later, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve minutes from February 3, 2020.....Page 3-4
- b. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Aquatics Section Report.....Page 5
 - 2. Maintenance Section Report.....Page 6-7
 - 3. Planning Section Report.....Page 8
 - 4. Recreation Section Report.....Page 9
 - 5. Reservations Section ReportPage 10
 - 6. Volunteer Section Report.....Page 11-18

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Parks COVID response
- b. Status on staff
- c. Status of budget
- d. Summer Camp updates
- e. Simpkins Community Center update

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Elect Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 19)

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community



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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of February 3, 2020, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Rapoza, Mariah Roberts, Maggie Duncan-Merrell, Kate Minott, Steven Bennett
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS None

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Katherine Sweet Subject: Anna Jean Cummings Park
2. Michael Lewis Subject: Protecting natural resources
3. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Powers and Duties of Commission

IV. CONSENT AGENDA The Consent Agenda was approved. (Bennett/Rapoza 5/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Bennett 4th District: Pajaro Valley Sports Foundation had a positive breakthrough with Freedom Schools. I want to send a shout out to Oscar and his team – my kids are on the team and they do a great job with the La Selva Afterschool program.

Minott 2nd District: Sadly, we lost Ed Manning recently. He has done a lot for County Parks and we think of him with great fondness. Big thanks to his family for everything they have done. He will be greatly missed.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: The Clam Chowder Cook Off will be held Sat & Sun, Feb 22 & 23. Two day event, rain or shine. Tasting kits are \$10 each - tasting kit sales benefit Santa Cruz City Parks & Recreation.

Rapoza 5th District: We have a big event coming up in the 5th District, on Feb 22nd – the Felton Library grand opening. Speeches start at 9 o'clock and at 10 people can check out the library. The park won't be open yet, but it is coming along!

Roberts 1st District: There has been incredible collaboration between the Cradle to Career initiative and the school district. Current leadership is defining what is important for the children and the number one thing they said was access to parks and recreation. It is so exciting that families and healthcare groups are identifying parks as an important part of people's lives.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- I want to acknowledge our speakers earlier. We are far behind in natural resource management and we are challenged with the resources we have. I have been aware of this since starting in the Department and I'm working hard to get us more resources to protect what we have. We are hiring a Park Planner who has a strong natural resources background.
- Superintendent Hurley and I have been in conversation with Bill Cummings, the husband of Anna Jean Cummings. We were very much trying to honor the idea behind AJC. He seemed very cognizant of his wife's desires for the park and felt that they were being honored by the County Parks Dept. The AmeriCorp Team is doing restoration work at AJC and I think a volunteer trail crew would be most effective in managing the trails there since it has worked so well at Quail Hollow.
- It's a new year. The LEO's Haven grand opening was a wonderful event.
- We have another opening coming up this Saturday, Feb 8th from 1-3pm – opening the skate feature at Seacliff Village Park. County Parks Friends is helping to get a fundraiser for the next phase. Felton Discovery Park is right behind the library opening. We are planning an official opening in May.
- We are hoping to start construction on the Heart of Soquel and The Farm park.
- Continuing discussions with Supervisor Coonerty about increasing access to programs for Medi-Cal qualifying youth, this is to build on the Park Rx program that is already out there.
- Segments of the Rail Trail are being built some of them on County land and County Parks will be responsible for maintaining those segments. We are hoping to recoup some funding for maintenance.
- Superintendent Sturm has been working on our department emergency response plan. It will be the first plan the department has had. If there was a disaster or emergency, staff will have an idea of how to respond.
- We are working with a muralist to paint the bathroom at Seacliff Village Park, that is going to the Board for approval on Feb 25th.
- I was on Good Morning Monterey Bay, the last time I was on the show we were starting the department Strategic Plan – it was great to be able to hand Rosie the finished product.
- Regarding Scott Creek, I did communicate with the deputy director of Fish & Wildlife, Alex Pitts. We had a long conversation about the biological opinion and its connection to construction projects. I'm going to have another conversation with our attorney. It's all quite convoluted, but I am following up and trying to get it straightened out.
- The County is doing a Long Range Facilities Plan to make better use of County facilities and identify the needs for deferred maintenance, this will affect County Parks so we are trying to be involved as much as possible.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Youth Resource Bank Annual Cabaret was announced
- b. Rebecca Hurley presented on the Parks PRIMO! project
- c. The Commission reviewed Communication Strategies developed from previous workshop
- d. Jeff Gaffney reviewed Roberts Rules of Order

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. (Rapoza/Bennett 5/0)



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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
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Date: May 27, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Max Friedmann, Aquatics Supervisor
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

Aquatics Closure Due to COVID-19

- On March 17th, the Simpkins Family Swim Center ceased all normal operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In response to the closure, aquatics staff has been working on canceling all programs and processing refunds for cancelled programs.

Disaster Service Work

- Many members of the Simpkins staff have been reassigned to disaster service work.
- Members of the Simpkins staff have taken on DSW roles as donations coordinators for the EOC, receptionists for the emergency call center, childcare workers for the various EW/DSW childcare sites, warehouse employees, clerks for IHSS, and have assisted with the set up of emergency care centers and shelters.

Re-Opening Team and Future Planning

- The Re-Opening Team was formed in mid-April to help plan the gradual re-opening of parks programs. The Team focused primarily on providing programming this summer for ages 5-12.
- Members of the Aquatics staff have been a part of this team and have helped with the planning of the 9-Week Summer Camp that is set to launch on June 8th.
- Aquatics staff is also working on plans for the eventual re-opening of the Swim Center and resumption of aquatics programming.
- Staff is working closely with County Health Officer to ensure compliance with CDC Guidelines for the summer camp program as well as the re-opening of the Swim Center.

Transition Age Youth Shelter

- Since mid-April Simpkins Family Swim Center has hosted a Transition Age Youth shelter in our Community Rooms.
- This shelter has successfully housed up to 25 young adults at a time.



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Date: May 27, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Rebecca Hurley & Eric Sturm, Parks Superintendents
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

COVID Response

- On March 20, 2020, Eric Sturm was re-assigned to work as a Disaster Service Worker. He is Managing recruitment of DSW's for the Emergency Operations Center.
- Maintenance closed all County Park restrooms on March 23, 2020.
- All playgrounds were closed week of March 30, 2020, per the Public Health Order.
- All parks & beaches were closed from April 16, 2020 to April 22, 2020 in compliance with the modified Health order.
- Chanticleer Dog Parks, Polo Grounds Dog Park, Seacliff Skate Park and reservable picnic and BBQ areas were also closed on April 16, 2020.
- Barricades were deployed to block the parking along East Cliff Parkway during the park & beach closures.
- Moran Lake Parking lot was closed on April 26, 2020 due to ongoing vandalism of the of the barricades set in place to increase social distancing in the parking lot.
- The Hook parking lot on East Cliff Parkway has partial closure to encourage better physical distancing.
- Starting May 1, 2020: Beaches are closed from 11am-5pm except for water sport activity. Only active recreation is permitted during open hours.
- When beach access become more limited, Parks closed all of the parking lots on the North Coast on May 1, 2020.
- The Chanticleer Dog Park and Polo Grounds Dog Park opened on May 1, 2020.
- County Parks started opening restrooms the week of May 8, 2020.
- North Coast beach parking lots reopened on May 21, 2020.
- The Seacliff Skate Park opened on May 26, 2020. Staff installed signage at all County Park skate parks to inform the users about social distancing and recommending wearing face coverings while using the park.

- Staff has been busy developing and deploying signage to manage all the changes in the parks, to promote social distancing and to inform the public of current health department recommendations.
- The open/closed status of park facilities/agencies across the region can be found online through the *County Park Friends* website.
- Staff continues to work closely with other park jurisdictions and law enforcement to determine open/closed status of park facilities.

COVID Response Swim Center

- The Simpkins Swim Center was being considered as an Alternate Care Site to house patients if local hospitals reached capacity.
- On April 17, 2020, the Swim Center became a Transition Aged Youth (TAY) housing center to house youth/families ages 15-21 during the Shelter in Place Order.
- The TAY will be moved out of the Swim Center by the middle of June 2020.

Regular Maintenance Updates

North

- There was a lot of vandalisms to the restrooms after the closures.
- Staff removed roofing and laid plywood at the Quail Hollow Ranch house in preparation for the roof replacement project; 225 sheets of plywood were laid for the Quail roof. The roof was completed and the permit signed off on May 27.
- Drywall was replaced on the inside of the Qual Ranch house due to damage from previous roof leaks.
- The parking lot stripes at Highlands were repainted.
- Tree & brush cleanup at Emeline, Anna Jean Cummings, and Jose Ave park.
- Mowed and irrigated sports fields.

Mini-Mid

- Though the Swim Center closed, staff must check the pool chemicals daily and verify all pool equipment is working properly.
- The parking lot stripes at Simpkins were repainted.

South

- The inside of the CCC house was painted at Pinto.
- Collaborated with General Services Department to complete tree trimming at Watsonville Vets Hall.
- Irrigation issues were fixed at Heart of Soquel park.
- Fixed irrigation issues at Heart of Soquel
- Completed updates at Scott Park including re-grading the parking lot.
- Completed high weed mowing and sports field renovations.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: May 27, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Will Fourt and Michael Hettenhausen, Park Planners
Subject: Planning Section Status Report

Felton Discovery Park

Construction is complete at Felton Discovery Park, including walkways, bridge, planting areas, play areas and signage. Shade sails were installed as funded by the AAD Shade Structure grant program, and the contractor is maintaining the planted areas through the plant establishment period.

Chanticleer Park: The construction is complete at Chanticleer Park for the Phase 1 development including LEO's Haven. Discussions have been initiated with County Park Friends on installation of the skate feature.

Heart of Soquel Phase 2 & 3

The County's design consultants have revised plans and completed a second re-submittal to the County Planning Department. The General Services Department solicited bids from contractors, and two bids were submitted on May 20th, with the low bidder being Granite Construction Company. The California Conservation Corps have completed some limited invasive plant removal on the site. The primary construction of the trail is anticipated to begin in the late summer.

Hidden Beach

Parks Department staff is completing a state Coastal Conservancy grant application for installation of a new restroom facility.

Farm Future Phase 2

Consultants are working on preparing a Master Plan Amendment Application to include a bike pump/jump track as an additional alternative feature and revise the development permit expiration date.

Seacliff Village Park Phase 2

The General Services Department solicited bids for installation of the new pre-fabricated restroom building, and three bids were received on May 26, with the low bid being from Durden Construction. The County Planning Department has approved the building permit for the restroom installation. Installation of the restroom is anticipated in late summer of 2020.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: May 27, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator
Subject: Recreation Section Report

Recreation Programs

- All Recreation Programs were cancelled March 16, 2020 in response to the County Health order of March 16, 2020.
- Staff has been busy processing refunds for programs and responding to concerns of parents.

Emergency Essential Childcare

- On April 9th, Staff opened Emergency Essential Childcare Programs at 3 facilities: Highlands Park, La Selva Beach Clubhouse and Holy Cross School.

Re-Opening Team / 2020 Summer Camp

- The Re-Opening Team was formed in mid-April to help plan the gradual re-opening of parks programs. The Team focused primarily on providing programming this summer for ages 5-12.
- On May 20th the Re-Opening Team announced their plans for 2020 Summer Camp!
- County Parks is providing enrichment programming for 8 stable groups of 12 children for a 9 week period.
- Staff is working closely with County Health Officer to ensure compliance with CDC Guidelines for the program.
- Each stable group will rotate through themed activities including: Aquatics and Jr. Guard programming, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), Nature Science, Sports, Water-focused programs with field trips to local watersheds and beaches.
- The application period opened on May 21st. The 2020 Summer Camp program can only accommodate 96 participants at this time. As resources become available, there is potential to expand the program; funding and staff are the biggest obstacles for expansion.
- A partnership with Watsonville City Parks is in the works. Watsonville has several facilities in South County that can be utilized along with their staffing. They are considering using the 2020 Summer Camp model to serve 72 participants.



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Date: May 27, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Shawna Hatch, Reservations Specialist
Subject: Reservations Section Report

COVID Response

- Staff has been cancelling all reservations for meeting rooms, center rentals, sports organizations and more from March 13th onward.
- We have been actively keeping in touch with future reservations as the Health Order gets modified through the phases of re-opening.
- We have been working on new policies for the public for when rentals are once again allowed during COVID.
- Reservations is looking into new options for revenue and/or creative use of parks for the public when the Health Order restrictions are lifted for group use.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: May 27, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Program Report

The AmeriCorps Gold 7 Team were scheduled to be here through April 10th but due to the Covid-19 situation they had to leave prematurely on March 20th. They all made it home healthy and safe. They were sad to go and are hoping once they are able to gather they will finish their commitment as a team to the AmeriCorps program.

During their time here they accomplished and experienced so much! Some of their accomplishments are outlined below.

Pinto Lake County Park:

During their days at Pinto the team split up and half the team focused on removing invasive ivy in an overgrown area down by the lake and the other half the team focused in and around the house.

Inside the house they prepped and painted many of the rooms and outside did landscaping, clearing of downed trees and weed eating.



Bert Scott Estate:

The Bert Scott Estate received a major clean up from the team. They spent over a week around the property weed eating, pruning, power washing, raking, cleaning, painting, removing fallen trees, fences and arbors and they built a new fence.



Merk Rd.:

While in South County some of the team built a new split rail fence along a County property line. The team had learned the technique from the Volunteer Trail Crew up at Quail Hollow.



Hidden Beach Park:

The team removed invasive ivy and did some pruning to spruce up the park.

Anna Jean Cummings Park:

The team focused on French Broom removal and trail clean up.



Highlands Park:

The team spent quite a bit of time at Highlands removing invasive plants from in and around the Nature Trail. They spread tons of chip around the park and playground area. They also engaged with a group of volunteers from the Boulder Creek YMCA and taught them the importance of native habitat restoration and how to remove invasive plants.



Ben Lomond Senior Center:

The team removed invasive plants from around the parking lot, prepared the front garden beds with drip irrigation for a Native Plant Pollinator Garden and did general clean up around the grounds.



Quail Hollow Ranch:

One day a week 3 team members rotated to work with our Volunteer Trail Crew. The Volunteer Trail Crew taught the team how to build a split rail fence that was needed on the Discovery Trail. The team also learned various trail building and maintenance skills from our talented and dedicated Volunteer Trail Crew.

They also repaired, replaced, and painted fences around the grounds.



Ben Lomond Park:

One of the projects at this park was to improve on a restoration project that was started by last year's team. The restoration project is a Native Plant Pollinator Garden and the team improved the garden by weeding and chipping. In the rest of the park they removed lots of invasive plants, pruned and did some major chipping.



Scott Creek Beach:

Team members worked up at Scott Creek twice removing ice plant.



Other projects and activities:

Team members worked with Program Specialist, Dan Lazarus on a science curriculum about Butterfly Pollinator Gardens.

The team also spent time at the Boulder Creek Library, Boulder Creek Community Center and the riparian area behind Mill St. in Ben Lomond, monitoring for invasive plants in areas which had been restored by previous teams.

The Team helped with food distribution at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Felton.

They worked alongside members of the Downtown Street Team on the San Lorenzo Estuary Re-vegetation Restoration Project.

They engaged in volunteer events with Shared Adventures, Homeless Garden Project, Food Not Bombs, Pacific Cultural Center, Henry Cowell, and the UCSC Arboretum.

Quail Hollow Ranch

Our volunteers that open the visitor center, greet park visitors, and conduct classes and presentations for the public have been sheltering at home, but once they get the approval and feel safe they will be back to volunteering in full force.

The Volunteer Trail Crew have recently returned and are applying the Social Distancing guidelines while they volunteer.

Friends of Quail Hollow (FQH) have teamed up with County staff and a landscape architect to completely redesign the front garden area at Quail Hollow Ranch. The process started about a year ago. FQH approached a landscape architect, and she was quick to waive her fee and get to work. The architect met with Quail Hollow's Program Specialist, Dan Lazarus and developed an amazing and comprehensive plan for the area. County maintenance staff gave input and approved the final plan. Recently maintenance staff completed their part of plan of installing drip irrigation and the hardscape. Next, FQH will purchase the plants and volunteers will install them.

Friends of Quail Hollow also funded a large portion of the split rail fence on the Discovery Loop.



New hardscape design.

The Nest Box Program started on March 1st. They are continuing to record activity but have changed their procedures to adopt to the Social Distancing guidelines.



A pair of Western Bluebirds have made box 37 their home to raise their chicks. Left picture is the female and on the right is the male, both feeding their chicks. Photos courtesy of Volunteer, Jim Bahn.

Pinto Lake County Park

Thanks to Dave Suno and Santos Gomez, two dedicated volunteers at Pinto Lake County Park, the Disc Golf volunteers have been increasing. The volunteers stopped for some time due to Covid but are now back in the park and following social distancing guidelines. The volunteers also designed some signs to help keep players safe.



Junior Recreation Volunteers

Junior volunteers were helping to support staff in our afterschool programs and now are waiting for approval to get back to volunteering for the upcoming summer programs.

Volunteers

Volunteer, Jay Todd stopped his litter patrol in our parking lots and beach access trails along the North Coast, but is ready to get back to it once it is safe.

Volunteer, David Kwan is staying at home for now but misses his volunteer work in the office.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING:

The Written Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Commission as a whole, but may also include items requested for inclusion by individual Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Commission at this time:

1. Email from Katherine Sweet, dated February 3, 2020, regarding trails at Anna Jean Cummings park.
2. Email from Vivian Fenner-Evans, dated May 22, 2020, regarding habitat restoration at Anna Jean Cummings park.
3. Email from Vivian Fenner-Evans, dated May 22, 2020, with pictures of habitat restoration signage at Anna Jean Cummings park.
4. Email from Vivian Fenner-Evans, dated May 22, 2020, with pictures of damaged habitat restoration signage at Anna Jean Cummings park.
5. Email from Deborah Turner, dated May 27, 2020, about her book *Sweating It Out*