



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JOE SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2010

Government Center, Board Chambers

7:15 p.m.

701 Ocean Street

Regular Meeting

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:21 p.m.

Members: Dave Mercer, Katharine Minott, Michael Rosenberg, Francisco Serna and Barbie Gomez

Present: Dave Mercer, Katharine Minott, Michael Rosenberg, and Barbie Gomez

Staff: Joe Schultz, Christine Bennett, Cristina James and Bob Olson

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as presented (Mercer/ Rosenberg 4/0).

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of November 9, 2009 were amended to clarify the last sentence regarding the Farm Park on Page 2 and then approved (Rosenberg/Mercer 4/0)

B. Information and Reports (Accept and File)

1) Facilities Division – Status Report

2) Planning Division – Status Report

3) Arts Commission Agenda November 2, 2009

The Information and Reports were accepted and filed. (Rosenberg/Gomez 4/0).

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Schultz stated that the department has been exploring potential project funding through Proposition 84, a State Proposition with top criteria to fund location with a scarcity of parks. It is a competitive grant with no match required. Ben Lomond Park located by Wilder Hall has been selected, and by having five community meetings you get "maximum points" for the grant. The first meeting was last week with Kreative Kids participants. A second meeting is set for tomorrow at the Highlands Senior Center, and a third at the Ben Lomond Fire Station on January 14th. An update will be provided at the February Commission

The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Department of 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

meeting. The Board of Supervisors should approve applying for the grant at their meeting tomorrow, and the application deadline is March 1, 2010. We are hoping to get \$350K-\$400K in funding. Also planning for Proposition 40 as a "Plan B" to help with community gardens, playground, and horseshoe pits.

Director Schultz stated that the first community meeting regarding the soccer field renovation project at Anna Jean Cummings Park will be held on January 27th at the Congregational Church in Soquel, and high attendance is anticipated. (An outline was distributed to all Commissioners) Director Schultz also mentioned that the Pooches in the Park event will be held on March 7th at the Polo Grounds in Aptos. Commissioner Rosenberg asked if there are plans to put a dog park in at Anna Jean Cummings Park and Director Schultz stated that it would be considered in the future because it requires a revision to the Master Plan.

The Pinto Lake Park children's playground build will begin with a work party in May (or earlier). The topic goes to the Board of Supervisors for approval in February. The Stewardship Grant we received was \$95K to pay for the playground, and then there is funding in Parks' ADA retrofit budget to cover the access path.

Director Schultz invited the Commissioners to join the Arts Commission at their retreat and potluck on January 23rd. The Poet Laureate and the Artist of the Year will also be in attendance. He also said that in the 09-10 budget Simpkins Family Swim Center was closed during Thanksgiving, which did happen, and also for two weeks at Christmas/New Year with people lobbying to keep it open. Bill Simpkins donated \$5,000 which came close to covering costs and the center was kept open. He will be nominated for an award with the California Parks & Recreation Society District 6. Commissioner Minott asked for it to go on the record that Bill Delaney stated "Simpkins Swim Center should not be shut down and that it is the jewel in the crown of County parks."

VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)

A. ACTION ITEMS

None.

B INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Consider Commission Meeting Schedule

Director Schultz suggested that the Commission continue with their schedule as is, and that should it be determined at the end of a meeting that if there are no action items scheduled for the following month, then that meeting would be canceled. All Commissioners agreed.

2. McGregor Park Status Update

Cristina James distributed a Staff Report and stated that the engineering documents created in-house are close to being submitted to the Design Review Group (DRG). Staff is refining the landscape portion of the drawings now. The civil portion is complete. South County Housing hopes to go before the Board of Supervisors on February 2nd to get approval for the Easement and Partnership Resolution with the County.

3. Felt Street Park Status Update

Bob Olson distributed a Staff Report and stated that he has been working with Planning and the consultants, and are currently waiting to hear from Planning about the demolition of the structures. Drainage will be done in the “5-year rate” of escape method.

4. Pinto Lake Disc Golf Tournament Update

Cristina James stated that since the November 9, 2009 Commission meeting, they have met at Pinto Lake with John Gilchrist, Environmentalist, and Matt Johnston of County Environmental Planning. We have received a letter from Gilchrist containing his recommendations. A meeting has been set up for January 29th with Tom Schott, Matt Johnston, and Parks Staff to physically map out all nine holes, ensuring they are within guidelines of Exemption from Environmental Planning. The tournament held in November was done with temporary baskets, and it was well-attended. Commissioner Gomez stated that the course is very popular with the residents of Watsonville.

5. Ben Lomond Park Improvements Prop 84 Grant Application

Covered in Director’s Report.

6. Budget Update

Director Schultz distributed a Financial Summary Report and stated that our Estimated Actuals for this year are OK in the Department and the County. Internally a memo will go out tomorrow about pre-approved purchasing only because we are out-spending revenue. For 10-11 budget, a 20% cut is necessary and figures are due to CAO at the end of the month. The budget situation will be just like last year, approximately \$650K cut in our department, which means we will have to cut more positions. The County is negotiating with SEIU about increasing the amount of furlough hours for staff. We are also considering a pay schedule for the Swim Center with a “prime time” rate.

VII. AGENDA/MEETING FOR: Parks Commission, February 8, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. at the Board Chambers, 5th floor, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (Government Center).

A. ACTION ITEMS

B. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Anna Jean Cummings Park Soccer Field Renovation Update
2. Proposition 84 Update
3. Pinto Lake Disc Golf Update (with map)
4. Farm Park Update

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. (Rosenberg/Mercer 4/0)