



# County of Santa Cruz

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JOE SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, March 9, 2009

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 7:16 p.m.

Members: Janet Doten, Dave Mercer, Katharine Minott, Michael Rosenberg and Francisco Serna

Present: Dave Mercer, Katharine Minott, Michael Rosenberg, Francisco Serna

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

### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as written (Minott/Mercer 4/0)

### III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of February 9, 2009 were approved as presented (Minott/Mercer 4/0)

B. Information and Reports (Accept and File)

- 1) Facilities Division – Status Report
- 2) Maintenance Division – Status Report
- 3) Planning Division – Status Report
- 4) Recreation & Cultural Services Division – Status Report
- 5) Arts Commission Agenda February 2, 2009

The Information and Reports were accepted and filed. (Minott/Serna 4/0).

### IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

### V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Schultz stated that the Fourth Annual Pooches in the Park event was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> and was very well-attended. The General Fund budget was submitted on March 7<sup>th</sup> showing 20% cuts to the department. The Custodial budget will be submitted this week. The adult/senior program had 55 people attend a play in Berkeley yesterday, and that program's events are almost completely booked for the entire year, with some wait lists as well. Swimming lessons will begin in April with pools being used and adjusted due to the

*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*

renovation. The grand opening for Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course was held on March 1<sup>st</sup> and approximately 70 people were in attendance. Reminder that the April meeting is when the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair need to be selected.

## **VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)**

### **A. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. Freedom Lake**

Director Schultz stated that this was an Information Item from the February meeting and Parks staff stated they would continue to seek all grants and stimulus options. On the Board of Supervisors' Consent Agenda tomorrow is a letter from the Parks Department asking for approval to submit grants and to pursue all future funding opportunities, notifying the Board when an application has been submitted. Parks staff also sent an appropriations request to Congresswoman Eshoo, and a copy of that request is being sent to Sam Farr.

Cristina James stated that she will meet with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Coastal Conservancy to learn how Parks can improve our application to the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Program. She added that Parks is researching other Contractor options in light of current construction climate. Also adding more information on the species that would be protected and/or harmed depending on our action or lack thereof to the application. An aquatic harvesting machine would be used, which floats on the surface and will not touch the bottom of the lake.

Nita Hertel spoke to inform Parks staff that there is a NOAA grant due in April and will provide the information to Cristina James. She also stated that Friends of Freedom Lake has received a letter of support from the Watsonville Wetlands Watch and the group will submit that as well.

Bill Kane spoke and stated that Mr. Chandler is working to create a flood history document and feels that the risk of multi-million dollar lawsuits if the homes in the area flood should be stressed to the Board. He also said that his neighbor received a letter from Supervisor Coonerty stating that the clean-up was too costly without grant funds. An informal property appraisal on the Scott Estate is being done and he feels that the County expecting grant funds to pay for this project is "all a bit weak."

Commissioner Minott inquired as to the timeline before we know if any grants are approved and the project can move forward. Cristina stated that it depends on the grant, and that our permit states we can only perform removal operations between July and October.

Director Schultz will provide an update in the Director's Report at the April meeting.

### **B. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **1. Budget Update**

Director Schultz said that when the state budget was passed, the County's deficit actually rose to almost \$26 million. Until the County has a chance to work with the Union, there is no other update to provide.

## **2. Parks Project Update from Parks Planners**

Bob Olson presented on Anna Jean Cummings parking lot and slide replacement projects, as well as Moran Lake. The parking lot project will provide an additional 30 spaces within the same "foot print," new landscaping, and fix ramps that were non-ADA compliant. Permits have been issued and the project will be going out to bid soon. There will be a meeting with Parks staff and neighbors at the park tomorrow to discuss the project. The slides at Anna Jean Cummings will be replaced with one-piece steel slides, covered by a fabric canopy with a 10-year warranty. The public meeting for Moran was held on February 25<sup>th</sup> with approximately 30 people attending. The main concerns were sanitation, water level (overflow to beach), sediment, and dogs off-leash.

Cristina James presented an update for Floral Park, Jose Avenue, and Chanticleer Parks. The permit submittal for Floral Park should be done this week and RDA hopes to present again to the Commission in June, begin compiling construction documents in July, and begin building in early 2010. In 2008 an estimate cost for the project was \$900,000 and a time frame of 117 days was given for completion. The skate fence project at Jose Avenue Park is complete and the Board of Supervisors approved the Notice of Completion at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The project was completed under budget and on-time, with the lower cost allowing the use of porous concrete to be installed at the site. There have been two community meetings for Chanticleer Park and two concept plans were presented in November of 2008. A third concept was presented at a meeting held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> (copy provided to Commissioners) and was well-received by the attendees. Staff from RDA will give a presentation at the April Commission meeting.

**VII. AGENDA/MEETING FOR: Parks Commission, April 13, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. at the Board Chambers, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (Government Center).**

### **A. ACTION ITEMS**

### **B. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Presentation by RDA on Chanticleer Park

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. (Minott/Mercer 4/0)