



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

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

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of April 20, 2015, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Santa Cruz, California

#### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Mariah Roberts, Kate Minott, Jim Lang, Steven Bennett

Absent: Dave Mercer

Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS - NONE

#### III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. The minutes from February 23, 2015 were approved.

Motion/Second: Minott/Lang

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

B. The reports were accepted and filed.

Motion/Second: Minott/Bennett

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

#### IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Tricia Potts spoke about the need for an all-inclusive playground in Santa Cruz County. Palo Alto just opened their all-inclusive playground and it is very popular. She is meeting with the CAO and Shane's Inspiration to find out what needs to happen to implement this project. Chanticleer Park is the perfect location for the playground. Potts is working with POSCS to take this project to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Commissioner Roberts noted that Chanticleer is a central location of Santa Cruz County.

#### V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The junior and little guard registration this year was handled very efficiently. Commissioner Minott asked if everyone who wanted to participate got registered. Director Gaffney responded that everyone who stood in line got registered. The bike pump and jump track location is being discussed. POSCS is working with members of the community to see what the best option is.

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Director Gaffney attended the Watsonville Trails Committee meeting in April. The Committee works on trails in Santa Cruz and Monterey. Questions that Director Gaffney has for the WTC are "Who is going to construct, and who is going to operate?" POSCS is getting support from FSCCoP and Lions Club in building the Polo Grounds restroom and concession stands. Director Gaffney would like to start construction this fall, but the project may have to wait until next Spring.

The Heart of Soquel ribbon ceremony will be in late May, early June. The Farm Park will be completed in June; however, a 100 ft. tall pine tree fell at the Farm. There were no injuries but the temporary irrigation system is damaged. Recruitment for the Park Planner and Development Manager positions will start soon. POSCS is eager to have these positions filled. Commissioner Lang asked if Director Gaffney likes his position as Director. Director Gaffney responded that he likes the position, and stated that it is challenging, just as he expected. Commissioner Lang said he did a ride along with Gretchen Iliff that was very eye opening. Director Gaffney agreed that there is a lot of maintenance to be done.

Commissioner Roberts asked what would be helpful in creating the commission agenda for future meetings. Director Gaffney thinks the Commissioners should communicate what they would like to bring forward to the Chair, and the Chair will bring that to the Director for the agenda. Commissioner Roberts suggested having commission meetings at different locations, i.e. a South County park in order to engage the public and also be more hands on with Park issues. Director Gaffney agreed that keeping the public involved and meeting out at location will be helpful in addressing items for parks.

Commissioner Minott suggested outreach to the Sheriff's office be made to figure out how to best handle Park issues. Director Gaffney responded that having a Chief Ranger for Parks would be ideal along with a robust volunteer program. Jeff is meeting regularly with Sherriff Hart to talk about what resources are available for POSCS and if there are grants for special patrol units.

The Volunteer Coordinator position will go to budget hearings and Director Gaffney anticipates this position will have exponential benefits. Fred Keely was unable to attend because he is busy preparing for the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 21st. The Coastal Commission is having issues with people contacting First Alarm to regulate beach areas. This action is prohibited, the property owners have no tasks of approval and POSCS is not supportive.

**VI. REGULAR AGENDA**

**A. Action Items**

1. The Commission nominated Mariah Roberts as Chair (Lang/Bennett), and Dave Mercer as Vice Chair (Minott/Lang).

AYES: 4  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 1

**B. Informational Items**

1. Fred was absent and did not give his presentation on the Parks, Recreation, Agricultural Conservation, and Open Space Project Status Report.

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**VII.** Meeting Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Motion/Second: Lang/Bennett

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1