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Minutes For January 10, 2008

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - FIRST FLOOR HEARING ROOM,
675 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Commission Members Present: Riddle, Alvarez, Hermsmeyer, & Leong

Commissioner Members Excused: Former Laevastu has moved out of the area and position is vacant at the p

Staff Present: Sykes, Tanner-Linné

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Tanner-Linne called roll. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of Minutes for November 1, 2007 Meeting:

No changes were made. Leong moved to approve the minutes and Alvarez seconded. The minutes from the November 2007 were approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda as is by Riddle; second by Hermsmeyer. Agenda approved unanimously.

4. Chair Announcements and Commissioner Comments (Informational Only):

Alvarez stated the governor news and has stated they will close 9 state parks in the San Francisco bay area and t Benicia. He stated there probably will be some dialogue between Benicia/ County/ City of Vallejo and the Greater Recreation District to look at an agreement of some sort where they may make a proposal to the state that they i sites. Maybe the County would be able to obtain a park in the South County. The Benicia State Recreation Area and Capital parks are designated to be closed.

5. Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair (Action Item)

Riddle made a recommendation that Steve Hermsmeyer continue as Chair of the Park & Recreation Commission. seconded the recommendation and after a vote it was approved.

Alvarez made a recommendation that Terry Riddle be Vice Chair. Hermsmeyer seconded the motion and it was ap

6. Set Calendar of Commission Meetings for 2008 (Action Item)

Hermsmeyer stated they would set the dates as listed for future Commission meetings.

7. Parks and Recreation Division Staff Reports (Informational Only)

Receive status report from Staff on the following:

A. Fish and Wildlife Propagation Funds Awards for FY06/07 and FY07/08

Sykes stated he had made site visits to all the FY06/07 Fish & Wildlife Propagation Funds Awards recipients. All the awards were underway or completed. The FY07/08 awards were presented to the Board on December 4, 2007 and approval checks for the awards have been mailed out to the different organizations.

Leong asked if they had spent all their monies or if some was left over. Sykes said they had spent all their money.

a. Kinder Morgan Settlement Funds

Sykes stated the Kinder-Morgan Settlement Fund agenda will be presented before the Board of Supervisors on January 14, 2008. Several of the Commissioners stated they would like to attend the Board meeting in case there were questions concerning the Kinder-Morgan Settlement funding process.

B. Receive report from Staff on project status of Lake Solano Nature Center

Staff Sykes introduced John Baker, Project Manager for Swinerton Contractors for an update on the Lake Solano Nature Center. Sykes stated they have experienced several challenges with the environmental process and now funding. The project was to be a two phase project. Phase I was going to be the site work that would accommodate the Prop 12, March 2008 deadline. Then Phase II would complete the building. The funds from Prop 12 (\$321,000) have to be spent by March 2008. Due to Nature Center Project delays, staff is using the funds for projects at Sandy Beach. New picnic tables and grills were purchased for Sandy Beach Park and the park office will be replaced. Since that time Dan has been communicating on a weekly basis with the staff at the Bureau of Reclamation who owns the land at Lake Solano to get their NEPA approval on the site. In October 2007 a bid process was put out to contractors for Phase I and was cancelled due to lack of approval. An endangered species issue needs to be addressed. The endangered species is the Valley Elderberry Longhorn beetle. We are awaiting resolution of NEPA issue, which we anticipate by the end of February.

Several commissioners mentioned different funding avenues which may be available to Parks. Leong asked if they were looking at private funding not from the state or feds but private organizations. Many organizations will have grants for education. Look at foundations or companies even in Solano County. Leong stated there are a lot of large companies in the County and we should ask them to help.

Alvarez asked what the short fall would be on the Nature Center. Sykes said it would be about \$1 million dollars.

Alvarez asked if there was any money other than the Prop money. Is the County contributing any of their money? Sykes said no, there was Prop 12, Prop 40, Prop 12 RZH, Prop 40 RZH.

Baker stated we could re-program the building from 5,000 square foot building to a 2,500 square foot building. Sykes said he has resisted scaling back because there is no place in the County parks that has an indoor exhibit space, display area and educational center.

Leong asked if the County could fund some of the items like paving.

C. Receive report from Staff on status of Lake Solano Master Plan

The ADA restrooms and shower facilities have been completed along with the ranger residence. We have applied for a Lowes grant to help furnish new campground fire rings and barbeque pits for Lake Solano. The proposed land swap with Solano Irrigation District (Orchard Property) has been removed from the table. Solano Resource Conservation District they had about \$10,000 mitigation money for planting at Lake Solano. That will be a good opportunity for a partnership project.

D. Receive report from Staff on status of Sandy Beach Master Plan

The ADA restroom and shower facility projects have been completed. There are several other ADA projects that are completed. Some are access for picnic area and campsites. Sidewalks will be installed for the picnic area, and two will have ADA accessible facilities in place so they will have access to the campsites and the restrooms. The range has been replaced. Improving the irrigation system has not all been completed. Several years ago the sprinkler head was replaced. The giant weed (Arundo) all along the shore line has been sprayed twice to kill it and we are working on it. Have also been contacted with Fish & Game about doing planting out there. The day use area is receiving new tables and grills. The campground is receiving campground rings. The money for this is coming out of the Prop 13.

Hermesmeyer asked if the wind breaks will be replaced. Sykes said yes but not at this stage, but they are in the money to be replaced.

Riddle suggested using the prison crews/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire).

Sykes stated the Parks is working with Facilities regarding replacement of the toll booth and ranger office building at Beach which were pretty old. We have budget a small amount of money to waterproof the small buildings. Hopefully in the summer of this year we will have a new building there.

E. Receive report on attendance and event planning for Lynch Canyon Open Space

Attendees using Lynch Canyon is averaging about 160/month plus special events and tours (total of about 2,000 in 2007). He reported there will be a Half Marathon, a 10K run and a Community hike on June 21, 2008. The California Horseman Association is interested in using Lynch Canyon for a "trail trial". They will bring their horses up and go through a set of obstacles and get graded on their skills. Also the NorCal Mountain Bike League, a high school league is looking at Lynch Canyon for a biking course. There are the regular hikes with the docents and ongoing docent training. Sykes will be placing a fire gauge at the front gate. Leong stated in the first week of February there will be several bird sightings on February 1, 2, and 3.

8. Committee Reports (none scheduled)
There were no committee reports.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments

10. The next regular meeting was confirmed for March 13, 2008 at 5:30 pm, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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