

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
September 11, 2014**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room
675 Texas Street, Fairfield
5:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Commissioners Riddle, Whited, Leong and
Chairman Hermsmeyer
Members Excused: Commissioner Alvarez
Staff Present: Dan Sykes and Diane Gilliland

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of July 10, 2014 were approved as prepared (motion by Commissioner Whited, second by Commissioner Leong).

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as prepared (motion by Commissioner Leong, second by Commissioner Riddle)

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Chairman Hermsmeyer commented that the Solano County Parks could be featured in public service announcements shown at local theaters. Staff will look into the matter and report back to the Commission. The Chair also asked about the effect of the drought on the Suisun Marsh. Commissioner Leong thought that California Department of Fish and Wildlife would have that information and offered to provide contact information of a biologist who works in the Stockton office.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Chair appointment of ad hoc committee for FWPF Grant Evaluation

Chairman Hermsmeyer appointed Mr. Steve Foreman, Dr. John Takekawa, Commissioner Alvarez and himself to serve on the ad hoc Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant evaluation committee. Staff will provide the committee with copies of the grant applications and assist with coordinating meeting dates.

7. Presentations by applicants, for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF)

The "Trout in the Classroom" grant application was presented by Doug Darling, Friends of Lake Chabot, for the Greater Vallejo Recreation District who is the applicant. Mr. Darling stated that, through a classroom experience of hatching fish eggs, raising the baby trout and releasing them into Lake Chabot, students will experience first-hand the value of aquatic environments, the balance that must be met to maintain and preserve California's fisheries and aquatic habitats, and how their personal actions affect our natural resources. The grant will provide needed equipment for up to 5 new classrooms wishing to enter the program.

The classroom equipment is reusable. The program is coordinated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Last year was the first time Solano County participated in the program.

Michelle Bellizzi of International Bird Rescue stated that they were requesting funding to purchase a refurbished autoclave sterilizer to replace an old one that is failing. Autoclave-sterilized instruments are used in surgeries to repair broken wings and other bones; to remove embedded or swallowed fishing hooks; to suture wounds; to treat fishing line injury sites and to provide bacteria-free tools that allow staff to feed hatchlings and other small baby birds.

Three additional groups have applied for grant funds but did not make presentations. They are California Waterfowl Association (Suisun Marsh Education Programs); Putah Creek Council (Putah Creek Stewardship Team/Lake Solano docent training); and Grizzly West Reclamation District (island fish screen).

Staff noted that the applications will be reviewed by the evaluation committee. The committee will report their recommendations to the Commission at the November meeting.

8. Commissioner Outreach Reports

Commissioner Whited reported that he volunteered at the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station, next to the Vallejo Farmer's Market, in early August. It is a visitor center where the public can find information about public lands. Public lands include local parks, such as those managed by the Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Solano County and Cities, regional parks, California State Parks, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the National Wildlife Refuge System. Land managed by the Solano Land Trust and other local land trusts is also highlighted. The station is hosted and staffed by the U.S. Forest Service in addition to several partnering land management agencies and non-profit organizations. After the August 24th earthquake, the Farmer's Market had to be relocated one block away for safety reasons. The ranger station had to be moved to a new location as well, and is no longer adjacent to the Farmer's Market. Commissioner Leong also staffed a booth at the Solano County Fair and "Visions of the Wild" event. Mr. Sykes stated that Solano County Parks and the Solano Land Trust partnered to staff a booth at the "Visions of the Wild" event, and Solano County Parks also provided information for booths at the Solano County Fair and California State Fair.

9. Status Reports by Staff

Mr. Sykes gave a report on the Work Plan and noted that the Commission and staff have completed Items 1a and 1b of the Outreach and Networking task by attending meetings of organizations whose missions are related to Solano County Parks, and creating a new County Parks logo and brochure. Work on Item 2c of Natural Resource Management has begun by starting the FY2014/15 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant process. Item 5a regarding Park Improvement Projects was begun in July when an ad hoc committee was appointed to review the park master plans.

The FY2013/14 Attendance and Revenue Summary revealed that the attendance for the last fiscal year increased from the previous year, and revenues have increased as well. Over the last decade there is also a trend of increasing revenue; in FY 2004/05 the total revenues for Solano County Parks were \$397,937, and in FY2013/14, they were \$520,797.

The FY2012/13 cycle of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund projects is closing out. There are only two projects left that need to be closed out with California Waterfowl Association. The FY2013/14 grant fund projects are underway.

10. Confirm Date of Next Regular Meeting, and Adjourn (Action Item)

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a regular Commission meeting on November 13, 2014 at 5:30 pm in its regular location at the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.