

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
March 12, 2015**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room
675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 A.M.**

Members Present:	Commissioners Riddle, Whited, Leong, Alvarez
Members Excused:	Chairman Hermsmeyer
Staff Present:	Dan Sykes and Shelia Hearon

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of January 8, 2015 were approved as prepared (motion by Commissioner Whited, second by Commissioner Riddle).

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Comments and Outreach Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Riddle stated that Dan Sykes has been a tremendous asset to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and on behalf of the entire Commission, presented him with a plaque thanking him for his professionalism, dedication and service to Solano County Parks. Commissioner Alvarez stated that it had been a pleasure working with Dan thanked him for his efforts to move Solano County Parks forward. Commissioners Leong and Whited also thanked him for his dedication to Solano County Parks and wished him well.

Mr. Sykes expressed his thanks to the Commission and noted that it had been a pleasure working with such a dedicated Commission. He introduced Bill Emlen, Director of Resource Management who stated that Dan shows great professionalism in his work. He also commended the Parks staff who with Dan, got thru the lean budget times a few years ago. He noted that Dan's focus has always been to keep the County Parks relevant and to continue to grow the program. The fruits of those efforts are now being seen. His overall administration of the Parks Division has been a huge step forward for the Parks Division.

5. Public Comments

Mr. Sykes introduced the Parks staff and presented them with new park ranger badges. Dan also gave each ranger a challenge coin that was created in 2008.

Commissioner Alvarez stated that at the January meeting the Commission was made aware that staff had been requested prepare a study of the possible cost and issues related to the formation of a Park District. It was the first time the Commission was publicly made aware of the study. At that meeting the Commission passed a motion that a letter be sent to the

County Administrator expressing the Commission's desire to participate in the study. Since the January Parks Commission meeting the Board of Supervisors has taken action by appropriating \$25,000 for staff to conduct a study on formation of a Park District. After consulting with Mr. Sykes, he and Chairman Hermsmeyer agreed that a letter should now go to the Board of Supervisors because it is an action that will be taken by the Board and the Commission serves at the pleasure of the Board. Commissioner Alvarez felt that the Board should be made aware that the Park and Recreation Commission would like to participate in any decision regarding the formation of a Park District.

6. Update on Public Events at Lynch Canyon Open Space

Mr. Sykes noted that since 2007 when Solano County formed a partnership with Solano Land Trust (SLT) to operate Lynch Canyon Open Space one of the original agreements called for a volunteer coordinator to make sure there was public outreach and public investment in Lynch Canyon Open Space. Mr. Sykes introduced Natalie DuMont who is the volunteer coordinator for SLT. Ms. DuMont noted that beginning last October Lynch Canyon is now open year round. She stated that the SLT appreciated the support from Solano County Supervisors, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and Solano County Parks staff to make that happen. She gave a PowerPoint presentation of Lynch Canyon and noted that the open space area is just over 1,000 acres of grassland, oak woodlands and riparian habitat. Since October, over 100 volunteers have donated 700-plus volunteer hours. Also since October there have been over 1000 visitors including over 100 student field trips, 40 athletes, 60 visitors on tours and over 800 "other" visitors. Lynch Canyon also hosts a Kite Festival in April and the Lynch Canyon Trail run in June.

7. Recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors, for the Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule Update for FY2015/16

Mr. Sykes summarized a staff report that advocates that the Commission recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors for a Fee Schedule Update for Parks and Recreation for FY2015/16. The aim over the last few years has been to try to remain affordable for people to come out and enjoy the parks. The Department of Boating and Waterways has very stringent policies for determining fees based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is a good gauge for looking at what things cost. Since 2000 the CPI has increased by 35.3%. Based on the amount of time since the last fee increase there have been significant cost increases for services and supplies. Another gauge was to look at fees of comparable park agencies in our region. The two measures indicated that some fee increases would make good sense and would provide a good revenue offset for the increase in operating expenses. Since 2007 the CPI has increased by 12.4%. Depending on when the fees were last increased the methodology used was to look at a fee increase that was commensurate with the market rate and also verifiable against CPI recent increases. Other park agencies used for analysis of the new fee rates included Yolo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Sonoma and Sacramento Counties. Some of the more notable fee increases include increasing the Auto Parking Fee by \$1, from \$5/day to \$6/day. This increase is based on Comparable market rates in nearby County park systems and a 35.3% change in CPI since 2000. The Auto Parking Fee was last increased in 2000. Parks will also be introducing discounts for county residents as suggested by the Board of Supervisors. Two, new discounted fees would be introduced for County Residents who purchase an Annual Parking/Launch Pass. The discounted Resident fee for an Annual Pass would be \$75/year compared to the standard non-resident fee of \$89/year. Also the Annual Pass senior/disabled fee for a County resident would be \$42/year compared to the non-resident fee of \$49/year. This represents a discount of 15% for county residents. Other fee increases have been proposed for rental of group

picnic sites, group campsites, individual campsites, non-camper shower fee, and non-camper RV dump fee. The proposed boat launch fee will combine the boat launch and daily parking fees into a single \$10 fee. The net effect will be no change in the cost to launch a trailered boat and park a trailer. The Enroute/Overflow Parking Lot fee will no longer be charged due to a parking lot redesign at Lake Solano Park. He noted that the definition of "senior/disabled" is defined in the fee schedule as *65 years of age or older and any disabled citizen*.

Commissioner Leong made a motion to accept the Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule Update for FY2015/16. Commissioner Whited seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

8. Staff Report – Updates on the Following:

A. Commission Work Plan

Mr. Sykes referred to item 5d where in January 2015 the Park and Recreation Commission voted to request an opportunity for input on the County's Regional Park District issue. In the spring and summer of 2015 staff will be working to implement the County's Smoke-free policy in the parks. The Board of Supervisors has asked for direction on a timeline, implementation strategy and public noticing strategy for all the County facilities. A transition team has been formed with representatives from all County departments. Within the next month public information literature will be released and temporary signage put up at County facilities. Permanent signage will follow.

The Commission Work Plan is a two year plan. We are currently in FY2014/15 which ends June 30th. FY2015/16 begins July 1, 2015 and is the second year of the Work Plan which will end on June 30, 2016. The plan has helped to keep the Commission focused and working towards the accomplishment of milestones.

B. Attendance and Revenue Summary

Revenues received so far are at 68% for the year. Revenues for January and February were up due to unseasonably good weather. Revenue is about \$2000 down from the high projection hoped for this year. This included the fact that fees have not been able to be collected at Belden's Landing due to serious vandalism and theft several months ago. A contractor has been hired to replace the pay station with a more substantial structure and install a security camera system. Another possible change is to recommend that no cash be collected at the pay station at Belden's Landing.

C. Status of FWPF Grant Projects

Mr. Sykes reviewed the status of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Projects for FY2013/14. There is only one project left that has not submitted the paperwork to close out their contract. All the other projects have been completed or are close to completion.

The status of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Projects for FY2014/15 were reviewed. The projects are ongoing and of the five projects none have requested reimbursement yet.

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

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a regular Commission meeting on May 14, 2015 in its regular location, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.