

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
January 14, 2016**

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

Members Present: Commissioners Alvarez, Riddle, Whited, Leong
Members Excused: Chairman Hermsmeyer
Staff Present: Bill Emlen, Director, Resource Management, Chris Drake, Parks Services Manager, Resource Management, Eva Rivera, Resource Management

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of November 12, 2015 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 Whited, second by Commissioner Leong)

4. Comments and Outreach Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Leong noted that he visited Belden's Landing where the improvement work is still ongoing and Lynch Canyon. Mr. Drake noted that Belden's Landing is generating revenue now.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Action Item)

There was a motion by Commissioner Alvarez and a second by Commissioner Leong to nominate Commissioner Hermsmeyer as Chairman. Vice-Chair Riddle asked the Commission if there were any other nominations for Chair. There being no other nominations for Chair a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Riddle asked if there was a motion for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Leong made a motion to nominate Commissioner Riddle. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Chair appointment of ad hoc committee for FWPF Grant Evaluation (Action Item)

Vice-Chair Riddle noted that only one grant application had been received. Commissioner Alvarez and Commissioner Whited volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee. The third member of the ad hoc committee will be John Takekawa. The committee will bring their comments on the application back to the Commission's March meeting.

8. Presentations by Applicants, for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF)

No applicants were present.

9. Staff Report – Updates on the following:

A. Update of Regional Parks District Discussion

Mr. Drake thanked Commissioners Alvarez and Riddle for attending the meeting. He believed that their report and recommendation received a good reception by the Board of Supervisors. Their submittal was approved by the Board on a vote of 5 to 0.

The consultant team of SRI/Obrian Consulting has conducted a number of stakeholder interviews and a telephone survey attempting to gauge the level of general public knowledge of existing regional parks and gauge public support for an integrated regional system of parks and open spaces in Solano County. In the process, the Board subcommittee and the Consultant team conducted two field trips to visit various parks/open space assets in the County and conducted several meetings to discuss issues and progress. Excerpts of the Consultant's report and recommendations are:

- Public telephone survey and stakeholder interviews indicate a high level of public support for an integrated regional park system.
- Public support of new or additional funding measures (either sales or property tax) for an integrated regional park system is not high at this time when compared to other public needs.
- The general level of public support (other than for funding) for an integrated regional system is high enough to warrant continued exploratory efforts and expanded public outreach to move towards a dependent district.
- There is a reasonable range of properties (owned by public and quasi-public agencies) that could form the backbone of a regional parks and open space system.

A potential early action suggested by the consultant team is the development of a Dependent Parks District (using the existing County parks) governed by the Board of Supervisors. Such a step would build upon the general public support reflected in the telephone survey/interviews and would create a foundation for future expansion to add properties such as those deemed suitable and owned by the Solano Land Trust or as other opportunities arise.

The Commission asked to be notified of any next steps towards forming a Park District and what the role of the Park and Recreation Commission will be. They also requested that a presentation be given to the Commission on the scope of work when it is established.

B. Attendance and Revenue Summary

Parks is currently at 54% of projected earnings. Belden's Landing is at 9%. The pay tube has been installed but the pay machine has not. The security system is scheduled to be installed in 1 one week. The revenue goal has been adjusted down from \$44,000 to \$23,000 in an effort to be more representative of current conditions.

Revenue for Lake Solano is at 52% despite the Wragg fire. Lynch Canyon is at 34%. The revenue for Sandy Beach is at 61%. Most of the campsites at Sandy Beach on the weekends were at capacity through November.

C. Report Pierce Harbor Finding

Mr. Drake commented that the site looks like it would have good access from an aerial view. But research by the Resource Management Planning Division revealed that the County didn't own any land at the end of Pierce Lane. Nor did it have any access easements. The site also seemed remote with no other parks or open spaces in that area. Mr. Drake noted that he would double check the Planning Division's findings. The Commission thought that there was value for a launch ramp facility in that area.

Mr. Drake stated that there was another area that looked like it had potential as a launch ramp facility. It was near Parrish Rd where there are access points to the Moth Ball Fleet. He did note that the County doesn't own any of the land there.

D. Resource Damage Report

Mr. Drake reported that they have been doing a lot of work in the parks. Much of the work has been tree removal. At Lake Solano they have been identifying trees that were in need of removal before the storms came through. This preventative maintenance will reduce the amount of post storm repair work. So far runoff damage to the burn area and local streams has not been observed from recent rain events. At Sandy Beach the Mousehole trees that have been planted between campsites are being damaged by a bark beetle. An arborist assessed the trees and told park staff that they trees could not be saved. Seven different species of replacement trees are being studied. The long term goal is to replace all of the eucalyptus trees as well and replace them with native species.

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

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a regular Commission meeting on March 10, 2016 in its regular location, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.