

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
July 11th, 2019**

**Lake Solano Nature Center
8685 Pleasants Valley Rd. Winters, CA 95694
Tour at 9:00 A.M. / Meeting at 10:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Commissioners Riddle, Hermsmeyer, and Whited,
Chairman Alvarez
Members Excused: Commissioner Leong
Staff Present: Chris Drake, Parks Services Manager, Kelsey Brannigan,
Resource Management

1. Tour of Lake Solano

2. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Alvarez called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

3. Report Out from Tour

Commissioner Riddle enjoyed the park tour stated it was very informative. Chairman Alvarez added that it was a very interesting tour, and he hopes to get a presentation from Putah Creek Counsel on the next park tour. Staff suggested that the next tour be at a different time of year, so everyone can see the park in different seasons.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 9th, 2019 were approved (motion by Chairman Alvarez, second by Commissioners Whited and Hermsmeyer).

5. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved. (Motion by Chairman Alvarez, second by Commissioner Riddle and Hermsmeyer).

6. Chair and Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Whited commented that the facility and staff at Sandy Beach are excellent.
- Commissioner Hermsmeyer inquired if Lake Solano was a part of the CAL Fire district. Staff replied that it is in the CAL Fire district. If the campgrounds get evacuated due to fire activity in the area, staff accommodates the CAL Fire crews. There are two fire spickets at different ends of the park. Part of the new paving plan is to install another fire spicket by the dump stations.
- Chairman Alvarez inquired about the parking lots by the dam and if they belong to Lake Solano. Staff advised that Yolo County operates fishing accesses along Putah Creek and that the accesses near the dam are not operated by the Solano County.
- Commissioner Hermsmeyer inquired about the land west of Lake Solano and if Solano County will be taking it over. Staff advised that no plans currently exist for Solano County operate the seven-acre parcel west of Lake Solano.
- Chairman Alvarez stated that staff and himself have been attending meetings with a committee of Park and Recreation experts including: Solano Resource Conservation District, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Solano Land Trust, Solano Transportation Authority, and all cities in Solano County were invited. The group is trying to come up with a plan to get kids and schools more involved with parks and recreation around Solano County. Chairman Alvarez feels they have made progress with this project, and that Staff and himself will give updates at future meetings. Commissioner Whited suggested coming up with a presentation to present to the schools in Solano County.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Staff Report (Updates: Information and Possible Discussions)

A. Regional Parks Update:

Draft version of Administration and Finance Plan was received from SCI consultants and has been reviewed. The commission has also looked it over. Bill Emlen and Staff met with the consultants to get the plan solidified. Once staff receives the final draft they will take the plan to the subcommittee, and then if approved it will be presented at the August 6th Board of Supervisors meeting. When the agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting is set, staff will send an advisory email to the Commissioners.

Chairman Alvarez stated he would like Staff to make a formal request to the Subcommittee to have two Commissioners in attendance during the meeting between the Subcommittee and Staff when they review the final draft of the Admin. and Finance plan. The Commissioners agreed by consensus and would like to be informed of the answer.

B. Attendance and Revenue Summary

When all the revenue for June 2019 is accounted for, Staff believes parks will exceed the annual revenue goal.

Belden's Landing was closed for about a week when Staff was doing clean up after the fire. The fishing pier is still closed, but the primary revenue source from Belden's Landing comes from the boat launch. Belden's Landing has a payment machine that collects the fees for the park and it has an iron ranger payment tube as a backup source. Lynch Canyon still operates with a payment tube, but all locations are patrolled and enforced.

Lynch Canyon is meeting revenue goals. The Trail Run revenue has not been accounted for in this report. Once it's included it will be very close to the annual revenue goal.

Lake Solano is exceeding expectations, and it had a great recovery from recent years with days that had been lost due to fire activity and recently the flooding that shut down a portion of the campground. Staff was still able to accommodate the visitors who had reservations during the wet season. Lake Solano is also seeing revenue coming in from the Kayak and Canoe Rentals.

Sandy Beach is still the number one performer for parks. All the campsites have utility hookups which produces a higher revenue per campsite, and it is a very popular day use location. Doing major maintenance in the park is sometimes a challenge because of the guest presence year-round. The RV and Boat storage is also bringing in revenue.

The Park Ranger Supervisor position is in open recruitment until fall so Staff can have more applicants to interview. An Extra-Help Ranger Assistant position is in the process for recruitment. This position is so Staff can have help until the Park Ranger Supervisor position is filled.

Staff explained the three sources of revenue for parks which include tax revenue, parks revenue, and general fund contribution. Parks operation are currently reliant upon general funding contributions to offset expenditures. The offering of the parks to the public is a service, and the County is motivated to promote Parks as an affordable recreation opportunity for the public and continues to show that support through general fund contributions.

There have been spikes in revenue for different months over the past few years due to weather and general park user trends.

C. Project Updates

Belden's Landing: Routine Maintenance. Coordinating efforts are underway to get the fishing pier damaged in the Branscombe Fire repaired and open to the public. Staff is attempting to keep the scope of work off the water and to be done from the parking lot. Assets are being purchased for the wildlife and habitat restoration project. The plan is to have an elevated pathway along the far natural side of the park for people to be able to birdwatch and nature watch. A bait cutting table and compost bins have been purchased for installation.

Lake Solano: Routine Maintenance. Emergency Hazard Tree removal is underway. Staff is continuing to identify the hazardous trees in the area. Staff continues working with Reclamation to update the managing agreement at Lake Solano well in advance of the existing expiration date. This will allow for increased ability to apply for grant funding to offset future project costs such as facility improvements, paving, etc. Park staff and Reclamation staff have applied for paving repairs in the campground as part of the Federal Lands Transportation Program project. In future programs Staff will work on paving and updating trails on the day use side.

Lynch Canyon: Routine trail and staging area maintenance.

Sandy Beach: Routine maintenance. The ride-on mower had a major failure and a replacement is on order. The cost to fix the mower has exceeded the value so a new mower is on order. Maintenance mowing has been impacted, but staff is adapting to the temporary loss of the mower by using a weed eater and the walk behind mower.

D. Park Closures

Lake Solano was in the first PG&E Public Safety Power Outage of the season; impacts included revenue loss for refunds due to facility limitations. Without electricity the well does not run which impacts the restrooms. Staff is working on alternatives to prevent future refund scenarios related to this new program. Ideas include a backup generator for the well, increasing the holding tank size, or possibly renting portable toilets.

Commissioner Hermsmeyer inquired about the fire water storage tank. Staff replied that Lake Solano does have a fire water storage tank for the nature center, it is about 5,000 gallons.

Lynch Canyon was in Red Flag Closure on June 7th, 8th, 9th, 21st and 22nd.

9. **Confirm Date of Next Regular Meeting and Adjourn**

The Commissioners agreed by consensus that a meeting will be held September 12th, 2019 at in its regular location, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Commissioner Whited stated he will not be able to attend the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am.