

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
September 13, 2012**

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

Members Present:	Commissioners Alvarez, Leong, Riddle and Whited
Members Excused:	Commissioner Hermsmeyer
Staff Present:	Dan Sykes and Kristine Letterman

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Whited called the meeting to order. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of July 12, 2012 were approved (motion by Riddle, second by Leong) with a correction to Item No. 2 to indicate that the time period for the position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman is for the remainder of 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

A. General Comments

There were no commissioner comments.

B. Comments by Commissioner Alvarez on activities of new County/City committee reviewing State Park closures in Southern Solano County.

Commissioner Alvarez provided some background with regard to budget cuts surrounding the closure of 70 state parks. He noted that 2 of those parks are in Solano County and they are the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park and the Benicia State Recreation Area (BSRA). The City of Benicia has been in negotiations with the State regarding the two parks and entered into an agreement for opening and maintaining the State Capitol site, but conversation regarding the BSRA has stalled due to some liability issues. The City of Benicia has agreed to pay \$15,000 a year for water and utilities and for garbage receptacles and portable toilets at the BSRA. The agreement has been executed but has not yet been implemented. The reason is due to a recent audit where the State discovered that the Department of Parks and Recreation had an unreported \$50 million in their budget.

Commissioner Alvarez submitted into the record a letter that was sent to several legislators asking them to support AB1478. The letter was signed by the City of Benicia, Solano County, City of Vallejo, and the Bay Trail Organization. AB1478 provides for \$30

million of the newly discovered \$50 million to be used to keep the 70 parks open for two years, and also sets up an oversight committee to oversee policies and procedures established by the staff of the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Alvarez also submitted a news bulletin that indicated that the Senate had passed AB1478. The Bill is currently sitting on the Governor's desk to be executed. If executed, approximately \$30 million will be set aside to ensure that the state parks remain open.

Commissioner Alvarez commented that these closures affect county residents and it is important that these parks remain open. He said that he would be interested in participating in the continuing process of discussions and negotiations with regard to keeping the parks open.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Chair to Consider Appointment of Commissioner Alvarez to State Parks Review Committee

Vice-Chairman Whited appointed Commissioner Alvarez to the review committee.

7. Chair to Appoint ad hoc Evaluation Committee for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF) FY2012/13 grant cycle

Dan Sykes noted that there were three people who expressed interest in helping with the evaluation effort: Commissioner Whited; Laureen Barthman-Thompson with the Department of Fish and Game; and Steve Foreman a biologist with LSA Associates. Staff recommended that these three individuals be appointed to serve as the evaluation committee.

Vice-Chairman Whited appointed the three volunteers recommended by staff to serve as the Evaluation Committee for the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund FY2012/13 grant cycle.

8. Presentations by applicants for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF) FY2012/13 grant cycle

A representative for each applicant made a presentation supporting their grant request. The commission asked several clarifying questions.

An amendment was made to the grant request for the Van Sickle Island Water Quality Enhancement Project to include only Phases I & II. The amendment revised the grant amount to \$35,200 with matching funds of \$14,000 for a total in grant funds of \$282,912.

9. Confirm date of next regular meeting and adjournment

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.