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Minutes For January 12, 2006

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, January 12, 2006 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER GROUND FLOOR HEARING ROOM, LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET IN THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Commission Members Present: Leong, Alvarez, Hermsmeyer & Riddle

Commission Members Excused: Laevastu

Staff Present: Norris

1. Chair Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.
2. Roll Call. A quorum was confirmed.
3. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Leong made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 8, 2005 Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and was approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Leong made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alvarez and was approved unanimously.
5. Selection of Officers: Commissioner Alvarez nominated Commissioner Riddle for Vice Chair with a second from Commissioner Leong and was approved unanimously. Commissioner Leong nominated Commissioner Hermsmeyer for Chair with a second from Commissioner Riddle and was approved unanimously.
6. Chair Announcements: None.
7. Commissioner and Staff Comments: Norris updated the Commission on the extent of the New Year's storm damage in County parks and how areas were shut down due to flooding and related hazards. Belden's Landing was least affected. The other two parks had an assortment of shoreline, creek and dock damages.
8. Public Comments. On behalf of the City of Rio Vista Jim Ball announced a community recreational outreach event to be held at Sandy Beach Regional Park on May 20th and 21st. Recreational interest groups are being invited to attend and set up displays. Chair Hermsmeyer indicated the importance of Commission support for this event and the opportunity to publicize the County regional park system to this growing community. Commissioner Riddle agreed to support the event.
9. Update from the Trails Committee: Norris reviewed the e-mail memo by Commissioner Laevastu included in the Commissioners' packets.
10. Consideration of proposed changes in Chapter 19 of the County Code: Norris reviewed the necessity and the proposed changes, a process which has had considerable input from Park Rangers, several Deputy County Commissioners and Commissioner Riddle. Research and comparisons to the language of other codes had been made. He gave special

efforts of Steve Ingram to help finalize what is presented. Felicia Flores-Workman spoke about the importance of ordinance amendment process as it relates to smoking in parks. She noted how guidelines and safety plans for them be supported by the proposed changes. She indicated the agreement the Smoke-Free Parks committee has with them and proposed changes. Alvarez wanted to be sure of the follow-up process and how guidelines can be brought before the Commission for prohibited acts in each park. He noted that current staff exhibit good professional judgment for their follow-up but expressed concern where future staff may be able to abuse the intent of the ordinance and shut down parks. Riddle wanted to be sure the document is clear on when and where the authority would come from for shutting down major programs and park areas. Norris noted that the existing Code already gives appropriate guidance for shutting down that recently portions of or whole park sites had to be closed to prevent risk to the public from flooding or the spilled chemicals adjacent to Sandy Beach Regional Park. Agreements with the other partner agencies also enhance their ability. This type of authority would remain unchanged. Correct references to other Codes do need to be made as they are for law enforcement purposes. Though he is not an attorney himself Norris reminded the Commission of the risk of them in overstating in detail all situations where authority is to be applied in the ordinance. It is better to be able to follow the guidelines and details of safety plans custom crafted for each park site. At some point implementation has to be through administrative acts to be effective. The Commissioners were more concerned with the potential for permanent closure to perceived violations of prohibited acts. Riddle suggested that they go to a special meeting in February and have Steve Ingram present to aid them on review and recommendations. Hermsmeyer then proposed passing on any further action and asked that a special meeting be set up in February that can also be attended by the Deputy County Counsel to conclude recommended changes.

11. Future Agenda Items:

- A. Staff report on ADA policy for campsite reservations.
- B. Hear report on Mare Island Regional Park.
- C. Consider new park sites.
- D. Consider new funding sources for County Parks.
- E. Joint parks planning with the Yolo County committee.
- F. Consider appropriate memorial at Sandy Beach Park.
- G. Consider next steps for recreational reuse of the Mount Vaca property through public hearings (one held jointly with Napa County committee).
- H. Consider and recommend adjustments in the recreational fee schedule (for the special meeting in February).
- I. Consider and recommend proposed changes in Chapter 19 of the County Code (for the special meeting in February).
- J. Consider rating methodology for Fish & Wildlife Fund (March meeting).
- K. Consider revision of the Commission By-Laws (March meeting).

The Commission confirmed the next regular meeting of March 9, 2006 at 5:30 PM and confirmed that a special meeting be held in February, probably on the 9th. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

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