

**SOLANO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
January 12, 2023**

**County Administration Center – MP Rooms 1600-1620,
1st Floor, 675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Chair Robin Leong
Vice-Chair Michael Whited
Commissioner Mike Alvarez

Members Excused:

Members Unexcused: Commissioner Terry Riddle
Commissioner Donte Kendrick

Staff Present: Parks Manager Chris Drake
Clerk Melissa Catron

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chair Whited called the meeting to order at 10:03am. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting were approved as prepared.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Mike Alvarez was elected as Chair and Commissioner Michael Whited was elected as Vice-Chair.

5. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Alvarez thanked Commissioner Robin Leong for his time as Chair and his time with the Commission.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund 2022/23 Applicant Presentations

The Napa-Solano Audubon Society were the sole applicants of this grant for the 2022/23 grant cycle. Tom Slyker from the Napa-Solano Audubon Society gave an oral presentation about the Napa-Solano Audubon Society and detailed how they would apply the 2022/23 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant monies to their program, if awarded.

Commissioner Alvarez stated, for the benefit of the Commission, that as a member of the subcommittee reviewing this application, he had a question for the applicant regarding having a signed agreement or contract in place with Napa/Solano schools. The applicant responded to his question, they have an agreement in place with a school in Benicia and they are in the process of obtaining an agreement with a school in Vallejo.

Commissioner Riddle is the other member of the subcommittee reviewing the FWPF applications, as of the January 12, 2023 meeting, he has not provided Chris Drake with his scoring for the Napa-Solano Audubon Society's application for the FWPF grant.

Commissioner Alvarez clarified with Chris Drake that the subcommittee's review and recommendation vote is for the *recommendation* of funding to go before the Board of Supervisors, who will then have the official vote to fund the award. Commissioner Alvarez further stated, for clarification, that the Commission, based on reviewing the scores by the subcommittee, has agreed to recommend funding for the Napa-Solano Audubon Society.

Commissioner Whited made a motion to vote for approval of the scores received to date for the FWPF subcommittee's review of the FWPF applicant, the Napa-Solano Audubon Society; and to accept the proposal from the subcommittee to recommend funding the Napa-Solano Audubon Society to the Board of Supervisors for the 2022/23 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant cycle. Chair Leong recused himself from the vote, the motion was passed.

8. FWPF Background

Parks Manager Chris Drake provided a handout to the Commissioners citing the different code sections of the California Government Code as it pertains to the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund. He also discussed the grant application, the funding source for the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, the current balance of the fund, and the funding cap per cycle. Advertising of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund utilizing both print and digital media was also discussed.

The Commission requested Parks staff provide a graph or spreadsheet of the fund balance for the past 10 years at a future meeting.

Commissioner Alvarez suggested that the grant application be revamped and simplified. Chris Drake responded that he will investigate other counties' application programs, and how their funds are being dispensed. He will bring the information forward at a future meeting.

Chris Drake proposed starting the process earlier, with selection of the subcommittee in July, followed with advertising in August and presentations in September, with recommendations for funding to follow in November. Chris also proposed the addition of advertising the FWPF grant with press releases.

Chair Leong requested Parks Staff put together ideas for shovel-ready projects for future FWPF grant cycles.

9. Staff Report

A. Attendance & Revenue Summary

Chris Drake provided the Commission with an attendance and revenue summary for the first six months of the 2022/23 fiscal year for all 4 parks; July 2022 through December 2022. Parks attendance and revenues are strong for the first six months.

Chair Leong asked if Solano Parks was still waiting on LNU repairs or replacements. Chris responded that they are still waiting on a number of items (including structures) to be installed at LSP to replace those items that were damaged or destroyed by the LNU fire in August of 2020.

B. Project and Activity Updates

Off-season project and maintenance work is on-going; including tree maintenance, minor plumbing system repairs, and informational sign kiosk upgrades/updates. Campsite maintenance is also taking place, on a site by site basis. Public Works is also assisting with replacing the entrance signs within the parks to bring the signage up to date.

The winter storm impacts (soil saturation + high winds) have resulted in multiple downed trees at LSP with no significant damages. Parks staff reported that the parks are not in danger of major flooding, despite the large amount of precipitation received recently; there has been some spot flooding, resulting in campsite closures in the lower part of LSP. There were hard closures in LSP due to the high wind event on January 4th and 5th. The day-use was also closed as a precaution on January 9th and 10th due to weather events.

SBP did not experience any closures but has had significant storm debris wash up into the boat launch area. Lynch Canyon has been closed since December 30th due to saturated soils and the on-going precipitation.

10. Confirm date of next regular meeting on March 9, 2023 and Adjourn

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for March 9, 2023. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42am.