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Minutes For July 14, 2005

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, July 14, 2005 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER FLOOR HEARING ROOM, LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET IN THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Commission members present: Alvarez, Hermsmeyer, Leong, Riddle

Commission members absent: None (one vacancy)

Staff present: Norris

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Chair Hermsmeyer.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was confirmed. Commission member Alvarez arrived after item 3.
3. Approval of Minutes: On call of Chair Hermsmeyer, Commissioner Leong made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 12, 2005 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and approved by a unanimous vote.
4. Approval of Agenda: No changes were noted, however Chair Hermsmeyer reserved the option to adjust the order of items on the agenda to accommodate time restraints of those present as the meeting progressed. Item 8. A. was subsequently addressed after item 4.
5. Chair Announcements: Chair Hermsmeyer described the recent "Bridge to Beach; A Path with a View" workshop and the tremendous planning contribution by the volunteer efforts of design professionals and community members. Courtyard at Rio Vista have made good progress on their planning goals as a result. Norris noted that Commissioners can join the Board of Supervisors scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2005 starting at 11:30 am. Commissioners Leong and Riddle said they would attend and Eva Laevastu said she would also attend.
6. Commissioner and Staff Comments: Norris informed the Commission that Master Plan updates for Lake Solano and Sandy Beach Parks have been approved by the appropriate Federal landowner agencies (with a letter of confirmation from the Army and another letter pending from the Bureau of Reclamation). Norris stated that the National Park Service is in the process of the title transfer for the Mt. Vaca property. He advised the Commission that they can expect to have a lead in conducting public hearings for planning the recreational reuse of the site. Adjacent property owners and stakeholder agencies and organizations will be invited to actively participate. Environmental reviews will coincide with the site planning. Norris reported to the Commission on the inclusion of \$65,000 in the 2005-2006 FY Parks budget by the Board of Supervisors to aid in the master planning for the three properties acquired by the Solano Land Trust from P.G. & E. What further County action can be made to the management of the Lynch Canyon property is still being negotiated.
7. Public Comments: No comments were provided.
8. Presentations/Updates/Actions:
 - A. On a motion of Leong and a second from Alvarez the Commission unanimously authorized distribution of a

for the next cycle of the Fish & Wildlife grant awards consistent with the following adopted Schedule:

- July 14, 2005 – Authorize distribution of applications.
- September 1, 2005 -- Closing date for applications to be submitted.
- September 8, 2005 – Confirm acceptance of applications/initial review of qualified applicants.
- October 2005 – Either a Special meeting or subcommittee for further review of applications, as needed.
- November 17, 2005 – Presentations by qualified applicants to the Commission as a public hearing.
- January 12, 2006 – Recommendations by the Commission to the Board

Norris noted that there is no timeline established yet for deposit of additional amounts to the Fish and Wildlife Fur mitigation from the Kinder/Morgan case settlement. County Council advice seems to indicate that statutory authority dispensing of the mitigation pay out will be pretty straightforward when the time comes. It is appropriate that the Commission keeps the existing program on schedule. Another schedule can be devised for awards of the mitigation.

B. Beverly Heintz and Valerie Williams of the Tobacco Prevention & Education Program updated the Commission on outreach efforts the coalition have made to restrict tobacco use in public parks. They noted the example of Vacaville where they encountered no real public opposition. They are still building a committee on a County-wide basis and conducted initial litter surveys in the regional parks. It was noted that most cigarette litter is deposited around fire pits. This survey will set a baseline to compare to in six months after an ordinance has been passed to see how effectively restriction has become. Alvarez asked about model ordinances and available funding for the program. Ordinance is still under consideration. Proposition 99 funds are down, so there is a greater reliance on the work of volunteers to do and conduct surveys. Hermsmeyer wanted to confirm that there are still Proposition 99 funds available for classroom education. It was noted that a 100% restriction on smoking in campsites may not be realistic. Riddle agrees that fire pits locations could be the stumbling block to effective enforcement by the Rangers. Many campers regard their camp as home away from home and expect to be able to light up. Further talk followed regarding the baseline data collection and appropriate fitting of an ordinance and guidelines to the situation. Once their committee work is further along Beverly and Valerie will come back to the Commission with a fuller presentation.

9. 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. Consider a naming policy for parks and park facilities.
- F. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict smoking in the Parks (beyond fire safety).
- G. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict alcoholic beverages in the Parks.
- H. Joint parks planning with Yolo County.
- I. Presentation with the Suisun Resource Conservation District and Fish & Game on a possible boat ramp development on Pierce Road.
- J. Visitor Center development update.
- K. Commissioner committee reassignments.

Leong noted the presence of Eva Laevastu who had served with him and Alvarez on the Commission before and is an apparent replacement for the current vacancy. The Commissioners spoke positively about this prospect. Hermsmeyer feels good about the accomplishments of the Commission and how things are happening for the future of County Parks.

The Commissioners confirmed that the next regular meeting will be on September 8, 2005 at 5:30 PM. The following meeting will then be on November 17, 2005.

Adjournment: Commissioner Hermsmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:53 PM.

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