

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2009**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room,
675 Texas Street, Fairfield, California**

Commission Members Present: Riddle, Hermismeyer, and Whited
Commissioner Members Excused: Alvarez and Leong

Staff Present: Sykes, Tanner-Linné

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hermismeyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Tanner-Linne called roll. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of Minutes for June 3, 2009 Meeting

Motion to approve (Whitted), with second (Riddle). June 3, 2009 minutes approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda (Riddle), with second (Whitted). Approved unanimously.

4. Chair Announcements and Commissioner Comments

Hermismeyer said he had traveled State Route 160 across the Sacramento River from Sandy Beach Park. He said there must have been 20 different colored and size umbrellas and pop up covers on the beach. People are attending and enjoying the park.

5. Parks and Recreation Division Staff Report (Informational Only)

A. Parks Activities Report

Staff stated as of June 30th the Parks' revenue is down 7%. The revenue from Sandy Beach is up but the revenue from Lake Solano is down. Part of this may be to the construction of the new Nature Center. Due to the cut of extra help staffing we are unable to staff the boat rentals at Lake Solano and looking for a concessionaire to work with them. On July 4th Lake Solano Park was not full but the week after on Thursday, they are completed full.

An Eagle Scout project to build a dock at the Youth Area at Lake Solano Park is underway, and an "EcoRanger" Program will be run by the City of Vacaville at the park, with the first week-long camp later this month.

Solano County is also working with two artists who will create a sculpture in front of the Nature Center as part of the County's Art in Public Places program. It will be completed by late summer or early fall.

B. FY2009/10 Budget Impacts on Parks Services and Lynch Canyon Open Space

The Board voted July 1, 2009 to approve the FY2009/10 County Budget. The Parks Division budget had a reduction of about 10%, or a reduction from \$1.57 million down to \$1.42 million. This included the loss of two ranger positions along with the three Park Ranger Assistants hired last year. However, with the Board's approval of leaving Lynch Canyon open three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, we were allowed to reinstate one of the Park Ranger positions on a limited-term basis, through June 30, 2010.

C. Review of FY2008/09 Suisun Marsh Specific Fund Grant Program

The FY2008/09 Suisun Marsh Specific Fund Grant recommendations were submitted to the Board for approval on June 23, 2009, but the agenda item was pulled by the County Administrator's office. Two Board members were looking for additional information on the process, based on some concerns expressed by some of the applicants. Supervisor Seifert is looking to set a meeting with staff and the CAO's office regarding her concerns.

The concerns expressed were the length of the application (54 pages), that the evaluators were not technical experts, that the scoring system was flawed, and that the criteria used to award the funds were not consistent with the Kinder Morgan Settlement Agreement.

Staff is recommending at this time that the Commission not proceed with further grant processes until we resolve these concerns. Staff will be meeting with the Board members and the CAO's office in the next few weeks to discuss.

Hermesmeyer asked if the Putah Creek Discovery Corridor Cooperative was still helping out at Lake Solano. Staff said in the past they had presented the "Water Ways" Program at Lake Solano that was handled through grant funds they received. They are also working with County Parks to develop interpretive signs for the Nature Center aquariums. They are also helping out with developing the program for the EcoRanger Program with the City of Vacaville.

Hermesmeyer asked if other organizations were active at the parks. Staff stated the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs were both active, and each split one of the free fishing days and had their fishing derbies.

Hermesmeyer also asked about Lynch Canyon. Staff said the park would be open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Riddle asked if the park could be open the other days for the public using the honor system to keep it open. Staff said that this was not possible because the management agreement with the Land Trust states that the County is responsible for ensuring public safety and ranger services. An amendment to the management agreement, with the new 3-day schedule, will go to the Land Trust Board in early August and then to the Board

of Supervisors for approval. Riddle asked if the public been notified of the change of park hours. Staff said a press release is being sent to local newspapers, and will be posted on the County Parks' and Land Trust's websites and brochures.

6. Discussion of Future Commission Agenda Items (Action Item)

Staff suggested the following potential discussion items for future Commission agendas. The order listed here is also the order of priority.

- A. Resolve issues with grant processes and procedures.
- B. Monitoring and determining Commission responses to notices on proposed rulemaking from California Department of Fish and Game.
- C. Review and approval of resolution to State Parks about reduced park hours.
- D. Alcohol Use and Permit Policy
- E. Facility Rental and Use Policy (includes rental of Nature Center, and use of public facilities for religious and political functions.)
- F. Review of wind turbine next to Sandy Beach.

Riddle asked if State Parks could request back grant funds used on park improvements if the parks were not left open for a certain amount of hours. Staff said that that is the County's understanding, but that we currently were able to keep the parks open to the public. Further cuts to park operational budgets, however, could mean we would need to review this again.

Hermesmyer said he would work with Staff to schedule these items for future agendas.

7. Committee Reports

No committee reports were presented.

8. Public Comments

Jerry Emmanuelson of the Suisun Marsh Natural History Association asked if there had been a date set for the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant? Staff said that we were waiting until the Board of Supervisors took action on the Suisun Marsh grant awards and gave direction to staff on reviewing the grant processes. Then Staff could set a timeline. Staff will report on the grant review and timing at a future meeting.

9. Confirm next regular meeting of September 10, 2009 at 5:30 pm, and adjourn at 6:02 p.m.