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Minutes For March 13, 2008

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - FIRST FLOOR HEARING ROOM,
675 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Commission Members Present: Riddle, Alvarez, Hermismeyer, and Leong

Commissioner Members Excused: None.

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 January 10, 2008 Meeting

No changes were made to the minutes. Riddle moved to approve the minutes and Leong seconded. The minutes for January 10, 2008 were approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as is was made by Alvarez; second by Riddle. Agenda approved unanimously.

4. Chair Announcements and Commissioner Comments

Leong reported the bird boxes were cleaned out at Lynch Canyon Open Space and some birds were already nesting in the boxes. He also stated he had gone to Lake Solano and noticed the bathrooms looked great. Leong also stated he had seen a counter on the website. This would let everyone know how many times the Park's Division site was seen.

Alvarez commented on receiving a letter from Staff Sykes that had been sent to all city park managers to introduce the County Parks Division. He applauded Dan for getting the word out.

5. Provide Staff Direction on Forming Evaluation Committee for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Program for 2008/09 (Action Item)

Staff Sykes – stated the FY 08/09 Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund application needed to be revised to reflect the the Commission had approved earlier this fiscal year. He recommended a four person committee including himself as a voting member to provide staff support.

Leong, stated that was kind of tricky. In the past a lot of people say the County should budget for items they need and grant money should be for the populace. When the parks have asked for grants before it was not taken kindly by the community.

Alvarez stated it would be better if the commission approved the committee before it started meeting. Riddle stated he would support the committee.

thought there should be a five member board. Sykes suggested scheduling was easier with three members. Herm stated he knew a professor at Solano Community College, who was well rounded and knowledgeable in the field of Biology/Science.

Staff Sykes recommended that the Commission direct Staff to solicit three voting members for the committee who are unaffiliated with potential applicants, from among the following categories: A Park and Recreation or Fish and Wildlife Commissioner; individuals with expertise or particular interest in fish and wildlife issues, habitat restoration, or environmental education; and/or an objective third party from a neighboring County.

Alvarez thought it would be better if the committee were approved by the commission, to avoid concerns of a conflict of interest.

Hermesmeyer stated he would volunteer to be the Commissioner on the committee.

Sykes restated the Commissioner comments into a recommendation: that there be four members on the FY 08/09 Wildlife Propagation Fund evaluation committee, with Sykes as a non-voting member, at least two other members from Solano County, and one of the members being a commissioner. Leong made the motion to approve. Hermesmeyer seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

6. Approve Proposed Success Criteria for Lynch Canyon Open Space (Action Item)

Hermesmeyer read the Lynch Canyon Open Space Public Access Success Criteria.

Sykes stated this is a work product from the Lynch Canyon Working Committee and that County Parks is working with Solano Land Trust to meet these success criteria.

Riddle stated he thought the criteria should state that volunteer work parties should be focused on a particular task and volunteers interested in that activity (e.g. trail-building).

Riddle made a motion that this be approved. Hermesmeyer said he thought it was a well done and the commission should support it. He thought it was a good foundation and has his support, and he seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Parks and Recreation Division Staff Reports (Informational Only)

A. Receive report on recent County Parks activities:

Staff Sykes reported the attendance has been growing at Lynch Canyon. A list of ongoing activities is posted on the County Parks and Solano Land Trust's websites.

Sykes showed the commissioners an article regarding Lynch Canyon in Sunset magazine. Hermesmeyer stated the article was wonderful but the County should have been mentioned. He felt a letter should be written to Sunset magazine on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission to let them know how much we appreciate them identifying the natural resource here in Solano County and the hard work the County staff and the dedicated employees of Solano County have put into it.

Staff Sykes said there was an increase in attendance at Lynch Canyon. There were 87 cars on the Sunday afternoon. Leong stated the Parks should contact other media such as newspapers and VIA magazine. Hermesmeyer said the County had a public relation person, who may be able to help also.

Sandy Beach Park – Has two new employees Dae Kim is a new Park Ranger and Brie Williams is a new Park Ranger. The Board approved a waiver for the camping fees at Sandy Beach to support Rio Vista Community Campout. Staff Sykes reported that, due to storm damage, the boat launch is closed. Staff Sykes told how he is trying to find money to fix the dock but also need to fix the breakwater so the dock will not be damaged again.

Alvarez stated the California Department of Boating and Waterways has emergency funds that may be available each year.

Sykes reported there is a new park office, picnic tables, and fire rings that have just been installed at Sandy Beach.

B. Receive project status report on Lake Solano Nature Center construction:

At the February 5th meeting of the Board of Supervisors, they approved a mid-year budget that funds a \$1 million shortfall for the Lake Solano Nature Center. The 95% design plans are complete and bids will be solicited in March hopefully award a contract in May. They hope to start in July and finish in February 2009.

C. Receive status report on transition in public safety responsibilities of Ranger Staff:

The Parks will be starting a transition to limited law enforcement duties. There will be more Sheriff's deputy support in the parks. The rangers will be attending special public safety training in April and May 2008.

We have hired a criminal justice consultant who will be helping to write use-of-force policies and procedures.

D. Receive report on researching potential alcohol restrictions:

Staff Sykes reported that Parks are going to research possible alcohol restrictions in the parks. He will check with agencies regarding alcohol restrictions and maybe use an alcohol permit system.

8. Committee Reports (none scheduled)

There were no committee reports.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Confirm next regular meeting of May 8, 2008 at 5:30 pm, and Adjourn at 6:48

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