

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
November 12, 2015**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room
675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Commissioners Riddle, Whited, Leong, Alvarez and Chairman Hermsmeyer

Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Bill Emlen, Director, Resource Management, Chris Drake, Parks Services Manager, Resource Management, Diane Gilliland, Resource Management

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of September 10, 2015 were approved as prepared (motion by Commissioner Riddle, second by Commissioner Whited).

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as prepared (motion by Commissioner Whited, second by Commissioner Riddle)

4. Comments and Outreach Reports from Commissioners

Chairman Hermsmeyer noted that there seemed to be a lack of signage directing visitors to the Belden's Landing site.

Commissioner Alvarez suggested that the agenda for the January meeting include an item regarding adding parking spaces at Pierce Harbor.

Commissioner Whited asked if the officer elections were going to be held in December or January. Mr. Drake said that they will be held in January.

Commissioner Leong reported that in October he led a hike up to the border between Newell Preserve and Lynch Canyon and that the signage was up and in good condition.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Discuss Activating the 2015-16 FWPF Grant Cycle

Mr. Drake noted that the 2015-16 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant cycle was postponed due to staff changes. He suggested beginning the grant cycle in December with a 30 day noticing period. An ad hoc committee will be formed to review the applications. At the March meeting the Commission will review and approve the ad hoc committee's recommendations for the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Awards. Sometime after June 2016 the next grant cycle would begin in order to get the cycle back on its normal track. After Commission discussion of the proposed grant cycle timetable Commissioner Whited made a motion to activate the 2015-16 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Award grant

cycle in December. Commissioner Leong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approve 2016 Meeting Dates (on 2nd Thursday, every other month) (Action Item)

On a motion by Commissioner Leong and a second by Chairman Hermsmeyer the following 2016 meeting dates were approved:

January 14, 2016 (special meeting at 5:30 p.m.); March 10, 2016 (regular meeting); May 12, 2016 (regular meeting); July 14, 2016 (regular meeting); September 8, 2016 (regular meeting); November 10, 2016 (regular meeting).

8. Staff Report – Updates on the Following:

A. Attendance and Revenue Summary

Other than the lack of revenue from Belden's Landing the parks are doing very well for that first quarter. Revenue is almost at 42% of the total projection for the year. The fires had a negative effect on income for September 2015. At present revenues are on track to reach the projected year end goal.

B. Update of Regional Park System Discussion

The consultants have completed the initial stakeholder interviews and are moving forward with the public opinion survey. Adjustments have been made to the first draft and a second draft is now in review. The survey is being reviewed by the over site committee which includes Supervisors Seifert and Vasquez, Bill Emlen, two CAO analysts, Chris Drake and other county staff. Mr. Drake stated that he would ask if the Park and Recreation Commission could have a copy of the final draft survey.

C. Smoking Ban Update

Signs and literature for the parks are in the process of being produced. Locations for the signs have been determined and their installation will be done by the signage contractor. There is a continual process of press releases that are put out by the County public information officer on the non-smoking campaign. The Parks website will also have information for the public. The non-smoking campaign will be implemented at the parks with a phased approach. For the first year (present to 7/1/16) there will be a public education campaign with signage and literature distribution points. Beginning July 1, 2016 there will be no smoking in the day use area as well as portions of the campgrounds. There will be maps available that locate those areas. The final phase, beginning July 1, 2017, will ban all smoking in the parks.

D. Park Project Updates

At Belden's Landing they are ready to install the security cameras. Once they are installed the payment machine will be installed as well. The payment machine will also be in a security cage. A pay tube will be installed as a back up to the payment machine. The County website will have a notice of when fees will begin to be collected again. There will also be signage at the site of when fees will begin to be collected.

At Lake Solano there is a walking bridge along the shoreline trail between the nature center and Pleasants Valley Rd. The bridge has been repaired and replaced several times over the years. Recently a tree fell on the bridge railing and needs to be repaired again. After exploring various options it was decided to replace the bridge by installing two culverts and placing a decomposed granite pathway on top of it. The culverts are

able to maintain the same amount of water flow for drainage. Manipulative displays for the nature center have been ordered using Prop 84 grant funds. There are fish tanks stocked with local fish so the public can see what types of fish swim in Putah Creek. They also have a kiosk that will be installed and are working on the literature for the signs. Diana Paradis is training assistant rangers to create positive and appropriate interpretative displays.

There are also plans for kiosks (possibly with rotatable displays) at Sandy Beach, Belden's Landing and Lynch Canyon.

At Sandy Beach the fish cleaning station has been signed off as operational. They are looking at either replacement of the existing rope and pole fence or new options to segment off the section between the campground and the day use area. They wish to slow the traffic that cuts through four campsites. One option is a direct replacement of the existing fence going with rope and post, only with a smaller diameter rope held in place with lag bolts. Another option is a low, two rail fence. It could be made with driftwood gathered from the beach and held together with cable. Signage could be placed on existing fence posts. The windbreaks in the campground have been updated and completed.

For Belden's Landing they hope to have the installation of the payment machine and cage, back up payment tube, security camera and ADA accessible walkways done by the end of the year.

A three sided kiosk will be installed at Lynch Canyon by an assistant ranger and a Boy Scout who is working with him to earn his Eagle Scout award. It will be placed at the junction of Prairie Ridge and the Newell property. The Land Trust and the ranger assistant have been working extensively on the south valley trail trying to make it usable for hikers and equestrians. The trail has a seep that makes it very boggy and inaccessible. They are also installing a solar powered security camera system with a cell signal which will address security concerns at the cul-de-sac.

9. Confirm Date of Next Regular Meeting, and Adjourn (Action Item)

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a special Commission meeting on January 14, 2016 in its regular location, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.