

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
July 13, 2017**

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

**Members Present:** Commissioners Alvarez, Leong, Riddle, and Whited

**Members Excused:** Chairman Hermsmeyer

**Staff Present:** Chris Drake, Parks Services Manager,  
Resource Management, Diane Gilliland, Resource  
Management

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Vice-Chair Whited called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of March 9, 2017 were approved (motion by Commissioner Riddle, second by Commissioner Alvarez).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved (motion by Commissioner Leong, second by Commissioner Riddle).

**4. Chair and Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Alvarez noted that he will not be able to attend the September meeting due to vacation plans. He also suggested there be an agenda item for the next meeting to consider forming a permanent committee for the Regional Park and Open Space District. Commissioner Alvarez expressed his desire to serve on that committee.

Commissioner Leong suggested that the Commission have a presence at the next Visions of the Wild event in Vallejo and offered to man an information table on Friday if someone else could be available for Saturday. Parks will provide their mobile booth display and flyers with interpretative signage. Mr. Drake noted that the Solano Land Trust is also participating by offering a hike at Lynch Canyon.

**5. Public Comments**

There were no comments.

**6. Commissioner Outreach Reports**

There were no comments.

**7. Status reports by Staff**

**A. Attendance and Revenue Summary FY2016/17**

Attendance and revenue has exceeded most projections and the others are on target. The Solano Land Trust Kite Festival at Lynch Canyon was a very successful event. The Parks Division is still waiting for some revenues to come in from the Lynch Canyon Trail Run which should put it right about at the projection of \$8,000 in revenues.

For all parks, at this time last year there were approximately 180,000 visitors and this year the number is approximately 191,000 park visitors. Lake Solano has seen an increase in visitor numbers for FY16/17. The demand for kayak rentals has grown to the point that they

will be increasing their kayak inventory. Sandy Beach may have reached its visitor capacity during summertime peak use.

**B. Project Updates**

The improvements at Belden's Landing are complete. Pictures of the improvements were shown to the Commissioners. Parks will be looking into grant opportunities as they are developing the wetlands rehabilitation fund. They want to educate the public that Belden's Landing is more than a boat launch and fishing area. Parks will pursue grants thru Fish and Wildlife and the Conservation Corps for development of a path and viewing area for wetlands interpretation at Belden's Landing. The Wetlands Rehabilitation Plan was begun by Diana Paradis, Park Ranger Assistant.

At Lake Solano the Nature Center interpretive grant is complete. The repairs at the campground waste lift station are also complete. In response to an ageing forest surrounding Lake Solano, and partially due to drought conditions combined with heavy spring rains, Parks is looking at a Cal Fire Prevention Fund grant to help with tree maintenance. As part of the preparation for applying for the grant an arborist will be conducting a survey to assess the health of the trees.

During the storm events Lynch Canyon experienced some issues with the hydraulic pressure of the water under the topsoil. In the staging area water breached the uphill side of the seal under the waste vault. There was no contamination but the vault was compromised. The groundwater in the vault was pumped out and the leak repaired.

At Sandy Beach the RV Waste Dump Station Project was completed. The existing leach field was abandoned and an additional overflow tank was installed. Monitoring systems will be installed check the waste water levels of the waste vault. Some of the major potholes have also been repaired at Sandy Beach. Marissa Medders, Park Ranger, pursued a grant for recycling bins for both Sandy Beach and Lake Solano. The bins have been installed at both parks and meet State recycling requirements to launch a recycling program.

**C. Park Closure Status and Storm Event Updates**

Lynch Canyon was closed April 7 and 8 due to heavy rain. On June 23 and 24 Lynch Canyon was closed due to red flag closure days.

Sandy Beach has reached capacity closure almost every weekend since mid-April. The capacity closures ranged from 1 to 6 hours in duration. The majority of the closures were about 4 hours long. There have been some issues with dogs and glass containers at the beach and Day Use area. There have been some injuries including cuts from glass on the beach and one fatality from drowning. Parks has contracted to have Sheriff Security personnel on site during weekends and holidays.

Lake Solano was closed due to the Winter Fire. During the closure the Park was used as a rest area for fire fighters.

Lake Solano has had a few events. They hosted a kids fishing event on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Docent-in-Residence event was held over the weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. On Friday evening there was a campfire at the Docents campsite. Saturday included a guided nature walk, a canoe tour and stargazing after dark. Sunday offered a Roving Docents cart with wildlife artifacts.

**D. Parks and Open Space District Update**

The Commission was sent an update on the proposed District in May indicating that it was approved by the State Senate and had been moved to the State Assembly. It has now made it thru the Assembly with an amendment that identified the need to specify the sources of funding that would be made available immediately by the County of Solano upon formation of the regional district and describe any other methods by which the regional district will be financed. Currently staff is considering whether or not there is enough momentum to put the proposed District on the 2018 ballot or whether they should wait for

the 2020 ballot. Staff is also reaching out to consultants to help them create draft versions of an administration finance plan for the initial servicing and financing of the Regional District.

The results from public polling will help the Board of Supervisors Parks Subcommittee to determine if there is substantial support to have a vote for the creation of the District and a vote for a District funding mechanism on one ballot. If there is not support for both then the County might proceed with a vote on the creation of a dependent district and at a later date vote on a funding mechanism when there is more public support. The benefit of a dependent district is that all of the administrative costs to run the Regional District would be paid by the County.

The Commission asked to receive more information about the progress of the Regional District planning process. Mr. Drake noted that staff has recently reached out to consultants to ask them for input towards the creation of an administrative plan for the District. He also noted that the Subcommittee has been in a holding pattern while they have been waiting for the Regional District legislation make its way through the State approval process. Once the approval process is complete the Subcommittee can move forward once again. One of their first tasks will be the creation of a Steering Committee. Two members of the Parks Commission will be asked to join that committee. The Committee will be working on an education outreach plan and an administrative and finance plan. Having a place on the Steering Committee will give the Commission an opportunity to voice their concerns and recommendations. It is anticipated that the Committee will convene within the next two months.

**8. Confirm Date of Next Meeting, and Adjourn (Action Item)**

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a regular Commission meeting on September 14, 2017 in its regular location, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.