

**SOLANO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
July 14, 2022**

**County Administration Center – Multipurpose Rooms 1600-1620,
1st Floor, 675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 a.m.**

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| Members Present: | Chair Robin Leong Commissioner Donta Kendrick Commissioner Terry Riddle |
| Members Excused: | Commissioner Mike Alvarez Vice-Chair Michael Whited |
| Members Unexcused: | |
| Staff Present: | Parks Manager Chris Drake Clerk Melissa Catron |

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Leong called the meeting to order at 10:06am. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 12, 2022 were approved as prepared.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

There were no Chair or Commissioner comments.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Staff Report

A. Attendance & Revenue Summary

Chris Drake reported that Parks set a record year with revenues for fiscal year 2021/22. For fiscal year 2021/22, parks-generated revenues were projected to be \$623,500, actual revenues are in excess of \$700,000. Attendance numbers also set a record, coming in at approximately 200,000 users visiting the parks. At approximately 28,000 visitors per each full-time parks staff member, this has put a strain on and in many cases exceeded the operational limits of the Parks and Parks staff. Chris shared that a permanent full-time Park Ranger position has been added for fiscal year 2022-23, operating as a “floating” Park Ranger; they will be based at LSP but cross-trained to be able to work in all of the Parks in the event

of any staffing issues. Chris is also looking into staffing solutions pertaining to filling the seasonal Parks Aide (EH) positions.

B. Updates

All County Parks are in full Peak Season Operations, with registration for campsites tracking to reach campground capacity levels most weekends. The new CAMAVA reservation system, CAMAVA 5, is now live; there are still a few issues, patches are being created and deployed to fix the issues as they are discovered.

Chris also shared that Solano Land Trust has asked Solano Parks to assist with creating an operations plan for the new Patwino Worrta Kodoi Dihi Park (formerly Rockville Trails Preserve). The Patwino Park features a 0.5-mile all-access loop recreational trail with resting areas, interpretive signage, and ADA compliant picnic tables. This area is not fully open to the public, it is only available via Docent-led activities. Work is underway to open the park to the public before the end of 2022.

Chris is exploring options for increasing internet speeds at Lake Solano and Sandy Beach, not for public access. The current internet speeds and availability severely affects operations at both parks. Access to WIFI and greater internet speeds will also allow for educational outreach from the Nature Center at LSP and grant opportunities for those outreach programs.

Chris stated the he FY2022/23 budget included a staffing increase and adjustments, as well as equipment purchases. The equipment purchases are addressing some of the dated infrastructure items in the parks.

C. Parks and Recreation Month / Parks and Recreation Professionals Day

The Solano County Board of Supervisors designated July to be Parks and Recreation Month, and July 15th to be Parks and Recreation Professionals Day as part of an annual campaign to acknowledge and support the essential role that Solano County Parks have in improving public health and the quality of life of residents and visitors by connecting them with nature through outdoor recreational opportunities and youth development activities, improving business by benefitting tourism, and improving the environment through protecting and restoring habitat within the parks.

Chair Leong stated that he would like Parks Staff to put forth ideas for a 50th anniversary public event celebration for LSP. Chris responded that he had already broached the idea with staff and wanted ideas and input from field staff for the celebration; he will bring a list of ideas forward at a future meeting.

7. Confirm date of next regular meeting on September 8, 2022 and Adjourn

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for September 8, 2022, with a potential alternate meeting date of September 15, 2022. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13am.