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Minutes For November 17, 2005

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION GROUND FLOOR HEARING ROOM, LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET IN THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Commission Members Present: Leong, Alvarez, Hermsmeyer, Riddle and Laevastu

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Norris, Davis, Armstrong and Dolan

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Chairman Hermsmeyer.
2. Roll Call. All present, a quorum was confirmed.
3. Approval of Minutes: On call of Chair Hermsmeyer, Commissioner Laevastu made a motion to approve the the September 8, 2005 Regular Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and approved by unanimous vote.
4. Approval of Agenda. Agenda was approved without change.
5. Chair Announcements: Chair Hermsmeyer questioned Commissioners whether or not a special meeting should be scheduled to look more closely at the five grant requests before the January awards meeting, since the requests exceed more than the funds budgeted. Commissioners deferred deciding on a special meeting to later in the meeting.
6. Commissioner and Staff Comments.

Commissioner Laevastu updated the Commission on activities of the Trails Committee, which included a meeting with Commissioner Laevastu, Norris and D. Georges where future trails were discussed. The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for December 9th, at 2:30 PM at the County Airport Conference Room. Harry Englebright has been invited to the meeting to talk about the countywide Trails Master Plan. Staff Norris commended D. Georges on his active support of the Commission in committee work.

Staff Norris introduced the newly hired County Park Ranger Niall Dolan to the Commission. Norris briefly reviewed the selection process and highlighted Dolan's outstanding attributes. Commissioners welcomed Dolan to the County.

Staff Norris noted an upcoming BRBNA meeting, which is set for December 3 at 9:00 AM in the Three-Oaks Community Center in Vacaville. Commissioners were invited to attend.

Staff Norris updated the Commission on the Sky Valley- Cordelia Hills Resource Management Plan and mentioned that there were three public outreach meetings in Vallejo, Benicia and Fairfield dealing with the recreational access component of the plan. The Solano Land Trust preceded these meetings with presentations to the Commission and the County Agricultural Advisory Committee. Norris also explained that \$65,000 was authorized by the Solano County Board of Supervisors to use park funds to aid the Land Trust in this aspect of the Resource Management Plan. The Plan will deal with future management of the area.

of the 4,000 acres of open space property and what sort of funding will be necessary.

Staff Norris then updated Commissioners on the Pierce Lane property owned by the County. Staff shared a map with the Commission. Commissioners discussed potential uses of the property, including a future boat launching facility may include the purchase of additional property. Staff explained that a private neighboring fishing club had installed docks, boat slips and an access ramp off of the County property. Commissioner Alvarez questioned staff on whether the Pierce Lane property is listed in the County Park Parks & Recreation Element. Norris advised that it was not, but the Element has general guidance provisions for other future developments and partnerships (such as is occurring for the Child Disabled Fishing Pond) and suggested the Chair's appointed committee for south county parks provide further examination. Commissioners encouraged the Commissioners and staff to proceed with this site as a future park project. Commissioner Leong and Richard Crapuchettes briefed the Commission on the history of Pierce Lane facilities.

7. Public Comments. No public comments are received by the Chair.

8. PUBLIC HEARING: Presentations from applicants to the Fish & Wildlife Fund.

Five grant applications were submitted to the Commission and reviewed for compliance.

The Chair asked applicants before the Commission to limit the time of their presentations.

Applicant agencies with representatives in attendance were:

Solano Resource Conservation District (2 applications), Dave McConnell

Solano County Parks- Sandy Beach, Ted Armstrong

Solano County Parks- Lake Solano, Duane Davis

Suisun Marsh Natural History Association, Jerry Emanuelson

All four grant applicants delivered brief request breakdowns of their requests. The Chair then offered Commissioners to ask questions of each applicant.

Commissioner Riddle stated that he would not be commenting on the applications submitted by the Solano County Parks Committee and announced that Tacey Currey has taken another job and that is why Dave McConnell made the presentation instead. Commissioner Riddle discussed with the Sandy Beach Park Staff the method of Arundo control and the treatment within the park. Commissioner Riddle later discussed the long term survivability of fish being stocked at the Child Disabled Fishing Pond with Lake Solano Park staff. Commissioner Riddle then directed questions to Suisun Marsh Natural History Association, in reference to the proposed interpretive display materials being planned.

Commissioner Laevastu suggested that the existing grant application should have a separate paragraph that clearly describes the brief project description. Commissioner Laevastu sought clarification from the Solano Resource Conservation District representative how the proposed bird boxes would fit within the Fish and Game Code Section 13100 expenditure program. Commissioner Laevastu also checked for compliance of the Suisun Marsh Natural History Association request to pay for program office expenses.

Commissioner Leong stated that he would not comment on the application by the Suisun Marsh Natural History Association. In reviewing the applications he noted that the Solano Resource Conservation District proposed bird boxes will contribute to wildlife and that native plant program is also a worthy one.

Commissioner Alvarez questioned the Solano Resource Conservation District representative on the possible recipient native plants and the vendor sources of plant stock. Commissioner Alvarez also noted that one of the two applications submitted by the Solano Resource Conservation District representative exceeds the total amount available for all applications and pondered with the representative a workable bottom line reduced award amount of \$7-8,000.00. Commissioner Leong next questioned the Sandy Beach Park representative on tractor usage expenses. He emphasized that projects should be oriented to uses of public lands or public programs.

Commissioner Hermsmeyer lastly questioned the Solano Resource Conservation District representative on the type of bird boxes planned.

The Chair moved past the questioning of current applicants to a staff announcement that related to future Fish and Wildlife Fund awards.

Staff Norris advised the Commission that he had been in contact with the Solano County Counsel, the Solano District

and the Solano County Auditor regarding case settlement directed mitigation funds that would be arriving soon in accounts of the Fish & Wildlife Fund. They would arrive in two separate funds. One fund amount is \$233,310.00 and will be used within the Fish and Game Code Section 13100 guidelines on a countywide basis. The other fund amount of \$233,310.00 must be used in the Suisun Marsh area and again must fall within the Fish and Game Code Guidelines. Staff Norris noted that some or all of the funds could be available for public awards and that the Commission should provide further guidance on how to administer both of the new funds.

Chair Hermsmeyer asked for Commissioner comments. Commissioner Alvarez suggested that the funds be used for other purposes by County Parks, such as the purchase of additional park property, the development of additional resources or be used to leverage matching project funds that will extend beyond a short term or one time award. Commissioners decided to defer discussions to a future agenda item on the mitigation funds, which would encompass the type of expenditures and organized method of management. The Commission would like this to occur sooner than the January regular meetings, preferably in a special meeting if additional use guidelines are learned by staff or the funds arrive. Existing applicant representatives were invited to follow the process and possibly apply if the funds are set up in a specific type of distribution and not used just for Regional Parks.

Chair Hermsmeyer appointed Commissioner Laevastu to the Fish and Wildlife Fund Award Committee to work with Commissioner Alvarez and committee member D. Georges on guidelines for the two mitigation funds prior to the meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Laevastu noted that she would only be available in December for this.

9. The Commission heard an update from Felicia Flores-Workman of the Solano County Smoke-Free Parks Committee (a subcommittee of the Tobacco Education Coalition) on the development of Recommendations and the Criteria for the Guidelines to create Smoke-Free areas in parks. These were done in coordination with a Park Commission coordinator appointed by the Chair. A handout was distributed reflecting the recommendations and criteria.

Staff Norris, who assisted with the recommendations, advised the Commission that along with the recommendations, running on a parallel course, is an amendment to the existing Solano County Park Ordinance Chapter 19 Section 19.04. It would include general language allowing restriction of smoking within the County parks beyond purposes of fire safety. Smoking restriction is part of a larger effort to update and amend areas within the entire Park Ordinance like restriction on use of alcoholic beverages. Norris explained that this is being done with the assistance of the Solano County Court. A discussion between Commissioners, staff and the Committee representative followed on regulation enforcement areas of the drafted Recommendation and Criteria handout. Staff Davis suggested that the smoking section and code violation offense sections of the park ordinance be amended and bailed as infractions, and not as misdemeanors under current Ordinance. This would ease enforcement by staff and reduce staff court time. Staff Norris agreed. Chair Hermsmeyer noted that the Manager and Rangers would want to use the Criteria to administer the parks on a case by case basis. Ted Norris noted his understanding that restrictions could apply to common areas and not necessarily to the park as a whole. Staff next addressed the issue of recreational vehicles and tents being legally deemed as temporary residences as it relates to the smoking restrictions. A discussion followed between Commissioners. Staff Norris noted the flexibility of the guidelines would give staff to customize restrictions within each park and even within particular use circumstances. Emanuelson observed that the recommendations and criteria appear to support staff administrative discretion once they are set up. After further discussion Commissioner Alvarez stated that he is torn between enforcement and practical application of the criteria and could not support the creation of regulations without enforcement. Commissioner Rasmussen suggested that lines #10 and #11 of the Criteria be merged to give clarity for administration and enforcement. Chair Hermsmeyer noted the importance of the Commission staying involved in the process and providing future guidance on regulations.

On a motion by Commissioner Laevastu and a second by Commissioner Leong the Recommendations and Criteria were approved as written, with the exception that Criteria lines #10 and #11 be merged into one line. With a vote of five in favor and one against, the motion was approved. The Chair gave direction for staff to go ahead and craft the merger of lines #10 and #11 as based on what had been discussed.

10. Future Agenda Items:

- A. Staff report on ADA policy for campsite reservations.
- B. Hear report on Mare Island Regional Park
- C. Consider new park sites.
- D. Consider new funding sources for County Parks.
- E. Recommendation to the Board on Fish and Wildlife Fund Awards.
- F. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict alcoholic beverages in the Parks.

- G. Joint Parks Planning with Yolo County.
- H. Mount Vaca Property, next step for public hearings for recreational reuse.
- I. Consider a naming policy for parks and appropriate memorial at Sandy Beach Park.

Staff Norris advised the Commission that Solano County Counsel had suggested that there needs to be a further review of existing Commission By-Laws. It was placed on the list of future agenda items by the Commission.

A special Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was discussed and scheduled for Thursday December 8th at 8:00 PM at 675 Texas Street by the Commission. The meeting is intended to work on grant requests before the scheduled 12th award date and talk more about the two new mitigation funds with recommendations by the committee.

The next regular meeting of January 12, 2006 at 5:30 PM was confirmed.

Adjournment was at 8:15 PM.

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