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## Minutes For October 20, 2004

### SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF A SECIAL MEETING, HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2004  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE RIO VISTA CITY HALL LOCATED AT ONE MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Chair Leong
2. A quorum was observed, with Commissioners Alvarez, Garrison, Leong, Hermsmeyer and Riddle present. Also staff Norris, Armstrong and Fust.
- 3 The Minutes for September 9, 2004 (Regular Meeting) were approved.
4. Agenda was approved with the modification requested by Norris to comment on support services provided and the National Park Service during item 6.
5. Chair Leong announced that he had attended the Board meeting of October 12 and observed that the Board su the staff recommendations in the report on regional parks, which he thinks the Commission would also have endc things went well enough that he did not need to speak. He also noted the Board supported the recommendation r Supervisor Kondylis for staff to research legislation to form a Park District which he thinks the Commission should support. Alvarez noted that there were mixed messages in the recommendation and disagreed with Chair Leong t Commission could provide support like he had stated. Alvarez felt that this could be discussed further under item
6. Norris reported that the National Park Service has agreed to assist the County and Rio Vista on planning f connecting trail system between Sandy Beach County Park and the downtown/waterfront area of Rio Vista. They l first scope of work meeting where it was discovered that a significant range of services can be mobilized dependir the partner agencies envision. National Parks can host a public workshop for this effort in January. Norris said the program of the National Park Service has approached him with the suggestion that they aid County Parks with a t acres of surplus federal land at Mount Vaca. Commissioners generally felt this would be worth looking into. Herms spoke about the opportunities for the Rio Vista community with all the planning efforts underway for the trails, w Sandy Beach County Park.
7. Chief Allen of the U.S. Coast Guard commented that their site would have to be closed to any through trail traf national security reasons. Norris said that he has already told National Parks and Rio Vista that this would very w be the case while planning the trail connection in the area of the Coast Guard station.
- 8.A. Fust spoke about the existing Master Plan for Sandy Beach County Park and now it needs to be updated that the updated master plan will set the vision for the park for the next 20 years. He then turned to Linda Gates the public outreach session. The goal is to estimate what is needed for the park. Gates asked for introductions fro attendance. A review was made of results from the previous public outreach. She then reviewed overhead images had prepared of the park and invited comments as she progressed through improvement concepts.

Some of the observations and questions by Commissioners were:

- Need to include as many user groups as possible for the plan.
- The park is not set up to accommodate large craft because they cannot be taken up onto adjacent roadway special preparation and permits.
- There is a trend in regional parks to install more permanent cabins. Look at the example of cabins at Lake They have sinks and small stoves and could be providing good revenue. Canvas tent type of cabins may not be a for this site (especially in winter).
- Provide parking areas for buses.
- How many new camp sites should there be?
- Concerned for the safety of children at or over the river's edge. Best to keep their activity towards the interior park.
- A lot can be done with replanting of native species for wind breaks, separators and erosion control.
- We should be able to fulfill the needs of the Army as well as the park for eventual reuse of the areas to the extended river walk or other purposes.
- A river walk along the edge of the Coast Guard station would also be desirable in some long range plan.
- The park trails should be connected to the outside and set up for pedestrian and bike users leading to an environmental education center.
- It would be a good idea to include a middle courtesy dock or protected area for boaters to put in on a temporary

Others in attendance at the meeting had these comments or questions:

- There should be room made for container ships. Gates observed that the park is not set up for this kind of operation.
- Docking of large craft could be difficult and would require Army approval.
- Concern was raised for priority uses of the boat ramp by the Coast Guard. Can the Coast Guard experience cause delays of recreational boaters with increased uses of the ramp? It was observed by Chief Allen that the Coast Guard can respond quickly, especially with the courtesy dock design included. The current flows twice a day with the tides as big of a problem as expected.
- The park is mostly a destination for people fishing. Will there be quiet areas left along the shoreline for the
- It will be best to survey where the good fishing spots are located now and plan to keep them.
- A fishing jetty with a 'T' head would improve fishing access.
- Confirm that the courtesy dock is for day use purposes.
- The design can be changed without including permanent looking individual slips.
- Kayak and other small boating tie-off zones in the water would be desirable.
- A building in this area is needed to serve as a store and possible youth hostel.
- Security put-in and storage needs can also be considered for this area.
- Need a rental area for kayaks and bikes.
- Need a set-up area for small craft and wind surfers.
- An information/visitor center should be provided. A training center for Scouts and other groups would be a include.
- More space should be created for bike-in campers.
- Full camping cabin facilities are a good idea.
- More separation for cabin campers from other campers should be provided.
- Alternative cabins on stilts over the water could be considered as a high end use.
- Yurts can also be utilized for diversity of camping choices.
- A separate children's wading area is a good idea.
- Need more restrooms for campers.
- Lighting for evening camping activities and to find the restrooms is needed. Low impact lighting can be placed at site where it is needed.
- Solar energy should be provided for the restrooms and lights.
- A walking area on the west side of the campgrounds should be provided which connects to either end of the
- A river walk should be extended into the southern areas. People go in there anyway.
- The corner in the southwest end of the park needs more windbreak protection.
- Windbreaks are needed for picnic tables. Trellises could serve this purpose in a more attractive fashion.
- Need more open areas for California wildflowers.

8.B.Norris briefed the Commission about the staff report that was given the Board of Supervisors October 12 concerning

status of County Parks, open spaces, funding and a future Park District. He noted the report was brought about a 'Friends' inquiry made to the Board several days before a regular meeting of the Commission. He said that the Board unanimously proceeded with staff recommendations as well as the additional motion of Supervisor Kondylis. The Board supports working with the 'Friends' as well as the Commission as topics are developed. Alvarez observed that more clarification is needed on the intent of what work is expected as a result of the motion by Supervisor Kondylis. "Regardless of the legislation to create a Park District is the work that is needed.

9. Hermsmeyer noted his concern that the list of 'Future Agenda Items' remains a long one. Discussion followed concerning the work load of a limited staff and time of Commissioners. Holding more special meetings was suggested. Chair Leong stated that more committees could deal with listed items and report back to the Commission for recommended actions. The Board agreed that this work load process should be included as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

- A. Fish and Wildlife Fund Grant Awards.
- B. Hear report on Mare Island Regional Park
- C. Consider new park sites.
- D. Consider new funding sources for County Parks.
- E. Consider a naming policy for parks and park facilities.
- F. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict smoking in the Parks (beyond fire safety).
- G. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict alcoholic beverages in the Parks.
- H. Staff report on ADA policy for campsite reservations.
- I. Recommendation to secure legislation to place the question of creating a Park District on the Solano County ballot.
- J. Updated on the surplus Mount Vaca federal property.
- K. Election of Officers.

Brent Schoradt of the Greenbelt Alliance requested that the 'Friends' be able to make another presentation to the Board at their next meeting in November. Chair Leong said that this can be put on the Agenda, but cautioned that it could take up fifteen minutes of time because of the heavy schedule.

The next regular meeting of the commission will be November 18, 2004 starting at 5:30 pm which will lead off with the regular business of the Commission (including a public hearing of the Fish and Wildlife fund applications) in Vacaville. A Planning Session will be conducted by Gates and Associates for the Lake Solano Regional Park master plan update on November 18 in Vacaville promptly at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment was made at 9:35 pm

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