

**SOLANO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
November 9, 2023**

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

Members Present: **Chair Mike Alvarez
Vice-Chair Michael Whited
Commissioner Robin Leong**

Members Unexcused: **Commissioner Donta Kendrick**

Staff Present: **Parks Manager Chris Drake
Clerk Melissa Catron**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Alvarez called the meeting to order at 10:02am. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The meeting minutes for September 14, 2023 were approved.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

There were no Commissioner comments.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. FWPF Applicant Presentation

Chair Alvarez called on the applicants present to give their presentations. Of the 8 applicants, 4 were in attendance to make a brief presentation to the Commission. The presenters are as follows: Mark Stevenson of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society, Jennifer Kaiser-Nelson of the Vallejo Watershed Alliance, Kathleen Catton of the California Native Plant Society (Jepson Chapter) and Tim Edmonds of the Suisun Resource Conservation District.

Chair Alvarez thanked Parks Staff and all of the applicants present for their presentations and all applicants for applying for the grant. As Commissioner Leong belongs to two of the organizations that applied for the FWPF grant, there were not enough Commissioners present to vote on the sub-committee recommendation for the FWPF grant award. There was discussion of a potential special meeting date between the November and January meeting

dates to speed the award process to bring the Commission recommendation to the Board of Supervisors before the close of 2023. Ultimately, Chair Alvarez advised that the sub-committee would be making their award recommendation to the Commission at the meeting on January 11, 2024; followed with the Commission's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for final award at a future date.

Commissioner Leong thanked the applicants for their time and for presenting; he further stated that in the past, grant applicants that did not come before the Commission and make a presentation were not scored highly.

At 10:49am, a recess was called for by the Commission so that attendees could exit the meeting room. At 10:55am the meeting resumed.

Vice Chair Whited objected to Commissioner Leong's comment. Commissioner Leong clarified that he was speaking to what the Committee had done in the past, prior to the creation of the scoring sheet for the sub-committee, not how the Commission is currently scoring the applications.

7. FWPF Evaluation Committee Recommendation for Award

There were not enough Commissioners present to vote on the sub-committee recommendation for the FWPF grant award, this action item has been continued to the next meeting.

8. Staff Report

A. Attendance & Revenue Summary

Chris Drake reported that as of 11/01/2023, Parks revenues are sitting at 49% of the 2023/24 budget goal. Attendance numbers reflect the transition from peak-season to off-season within the parks. YTD, there have been over 93,000 estimated visitors to the parks.

Changes coming in 2024: Beginning 1/1/24, there will be an increase to fees at Lake Solano Park, Sandy Beach Park and Belden's Landing Park. A new *Open-Space Annual Pass* will be available to purchase for visitors who want to visit both Lynch Canyon and Patwino Parks. A new *Regional Parks Annual Pass* will also be available for purchase, and allows access to all of the Solano Parks, including the open-space parks.

B. Status Updates

Public Access: There were red flag closures within Lynch Canyon park and campfire and BBQ restrictions in place at Lake Solano park on 10/28/23 and 10/29/23. Parks Manager Chris Drake also reported a death at Lake Solano park; originally reported as a missing person on 10/30/23, body recovered on 11/6/23. The deceased was not staying within the Park.

Projects and Initiatives: Parks Manager Chris Drake reported that they are starting the environmental review process on the ARPA funded projects at Lake Solano park and Sandy Beach park. Parks Staff are currently renewing agreements with property owners for the parks that Solano Parks operates; currently Belden's Landing and Lake Solano park.

9. Confirm date of next regular meeting on January 11, 2024 and Adjourn

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for January 11, 2024. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34am.