



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Monday, April 2, 2018
7:00 pm
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

III. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

C. Maintenance Section Status Report (Page 5)

- Aptos Village County Park got new flags and a new LED flagpole light. Installed LED lights at Aptos Village County Park community building, built by the Cabrillo Host Lions
- Seacliff Village Neighborhood Park was over seeded with native wild flowers to germinate and have a colorful show for this spring and summer. Added some additional split rail fencing to help guide visitors
- Santa Cruz County Court House Annex has on-going landscape projects associated with construction of new HSA building
- Plumbing repairs @ Bert Scott Estate house

Facilities Section Status Report (Page 7)

- Rio Del Mar Esplanade Concessions Opportunity is located at 105 Esplanade in Aptos. Assessor's Parcel Numbers 042-151-21 and 042-151-22

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Minor correction to Parks and Recreation Commission 2016-2017 Biennial Report
- c. Addition of two maps to report on Harper Street Access to Jose Avenue Park

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Additional written correspondence included at the request of Barbara Knapp:

From: Terry Stockwell <tbsserv@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Re: Jose Avenue park bridge gates
Date: March 9, 2018 at 1:40:53 PM PST
To: Barbara Knapp <barbara.knapp@gmail.com>, Jeff Gaffney <jeff.gaffney@santacruzcounty.us>
Cc: Karen Nolan <karen.nolandesigns@gmail.com>, John Leopold <John.Leopold@santacruzcounty.us>, Lew Knapp <drknapp@corybantwest.com>, Eric Sturm <Eric.Sturm@santacruzcounty.us>, Claudia Caudle <claudiamarler@yahoo.com>, Jim Danaher <danaher@cruzio.com>, Jeanette Miller <durabug@netzero.com>, "Karen D. Nolan" <nolan@cruzio.com>, Michael Lesh <michae1lg123@yahoo.com>, Terry Welsh <terrywelsh100@comcast.net>, Eric Antonicic <eant1@comcast.net>, Lisa Litten <elizabeth@jsco.net>, Christina Dietrich <crisdietrich@comcast.net>, Jim Anastas <carolvb@earthlink.net>, Jean Brocklebank <jeanbean@baymoon.com>, Michael Lewis <malewis@calcentral.com>, Ron Williams <Hosounds@got.net>, Tanya Haberman <clovergiffen@yahoo.com>, Alice Stockwell <alstockwell@sbcglobal.net>, Kathy Jacobs <1360kathy@gmail.com>, Terri Ryan <Playtime@sbcglobal.net>
Reply-To: Terry Stockwell <tbsserv@sbcglobal.net>

Good Afternoon Mr. John Leopold and Mr. Jeff Gaffney,

My name is Terry Stockwell and I live at the end of Eddy Lane. I have worked with the county parks staff and the county police department since the park opened reporting illegal activity at Jose Avenue Park. The park opened in and around 2002. There are many great items about this park but there is some new disturbing news.

I recently learned that the Jose Ave Park gates allowing access from Harper Court are now being left unlocked and one of the expensive gates was removed by the park staff because of a broken gate hinge. This is amazing and troubling information as these gates have reduced the number of drug and gang activities in the park.

- **The Drug and Gang Problem:** The problem is that during drug and gang activity, the police would be called and the dealers or gang members could exit from the Harper Court Bridge when the police arrived from Eddy Lane and visa versus. This continually happened so no one was ever caught, until the gates were installed in 2007 to assist in policing the park. There was an abundant of illegal activity that occurred at dusk when the park is closed. We found that the gates stopped this activity in the dusk to dawn hours.
- **Noise problem:** It was noted in the past that this bridge is a noisy area caused by the bridge itself and the riparian below. There is a rubber mat that was installed to assist with the noise reduction. There was also the problem of people consuming and selling drugs. When people are on this bridge after dark it echoes into the riparian and into the adjacent homes. When the gates were installed it again stopped this noise problem.
- **The Approval:** Back in 2007 the Live Oak community worked with Jan Beautz, the County Supervisor and Barry Samuels, the County Parks Director and these set of gates were approved of along with the cost of locking and unlocking these gates. This took time to go through the process. This is already a pre - approved project.
- **The Cost:** The county parks pays **\$2,200.00 Per Year to First Alarm** to lock and unlock these gates. **That comes to \$6.27 per day.** It is well worth the cost for community security and safety along with assisting law enforcement.
- **The Costs Moving Forward:** This is already a pre - approved project. It is hard for the Live Oak community to think that the county parks system can not afford \$6.27 a day to take care of an existing park. The county parks has project improvements slated for the coming years and maybe they could scale those projects back so that the parks that exist today are taken care of properly. Here is the link for slated improvements - <http://www.scparks.com/Home/Parks/ParkProjects.aspx>

I along with other neighbors are requesting that the gates be reinstalled as we were never informed of the gate change. I spoke with Eric Sturm, the parks superintendent on 3/5 and it seems as though the decision was made to save \$2,200. First Alarm still locks and unlocks the public restrooms every day so it is not an additional trip for them. Eric and the Director of SC Parks, Jeff Gaffney, together decided that the gates didn't need to be locked without any research. This is not acceptable to the Live Oak Community as this was an approved of item by a past County Supervisor. Jan Beautz was very concerned about public safety. I am hoping Mr. Leopold would honor her legacy.

In conclusion, we all want to work with the county park system to make sure that we have a safe and secure park for everyone to use. The county should be working directly with the Live Oak

Community on issues such as this. It would be in the best interest of everyone in the Live Oak Community that the gate get reinstalled on the park side and that both gates remain locked during the dusk to dawn hours. It is rather odd that the county can not budget \$6.27 per day. If everyone has been watching the news cycle lately they will find that gang activity is on the rise with shootings nearby. I have personally seen a large gang party at Jose Avenue Park on 2/25/2018 at about 2:30PM. I feel that they are staking out their territory. I spoke with an officer on 3/8 and they are patrolling Jose Avenue Park daily for that reason and others as well.

I look forward to hearing from Mr. Leopold and Mr. Gaffney on this matter. I have already heard directly from Mr. Strum and I still feel this was a big mistake without any research.

Sincerely,

Terry B Stockwell and Alice L Stockwell - Residents at 872 Eddy Lane since 2000 - 18 Years

On Friday, March 9, 2018 11:40 AM, Barbara Knapp <barbara.knapp@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Director Gaffney and Supervisor Leopold,

My main concern about the Jose Avenue Park footpath is the noise at night.

The footpath goes between, and very close to, two house on Harper Court. All of the bedrooms in our house are 5 feet from the path; our neighbor has one bedroom close to the path. County code clearly restricts noise at night near buildings used for sleeping and any foot and bike traffic at night disturbs our sleep. The gates on the path decrease foot traffic at night and are necessary for us to get a good nights sleep.

I look forward to a meeting to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Barbara Knapp

On Mar 6, 2018, at 7:09 PM, Jeff Gaffney <jeff.gaffney@santacruzcounty.us> wrote:

Hello Ms. Nolan,

This was not going to be a Parks Commission item but we could look at it being put on their agenda. As for your request for a meeting date, I am out of the state and was not able to give a solid date because of that fact.

I will check schedules for all of the appropriate personnel when I come back to California and plan a meeting date.

Thank you,

Jeff

Jeff Gaffney

Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

On Mar 6, 2018, at 3:25 PM, Karen Nolan <karen.nolandesigns@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Mr. Leopold & Mr. Gaffney,

It saddens me to know the gate closing between Harper Court and Jose Park are scheduled to be terminated without proper notification to the Live Oak community. This is not a luxury, but rather a public safety that has deterred vandalism, rapes, stabbings, drug dealings, etc. since the gates were approved and installed around 2007. Mr. Leopold's previous predecessor, Jan Beautz, was very instrumental in approving of the gates for public safety! She held public hearings that were highly attended. She went the extra mile during her tenure.

In fact, here is Mr. Leopold's tribute to Jan Beautz.

“Jan was fiercely committed to the 1st district,” Leopold wrote in a tribute that he posted on Facebook. “She ensured that resources were there for the people who live here and fought bad development both before her tenure as supervisor and while on the board.”
“He added, “She leaves an impressive legacy and she will be missed.”

Mrs. Beautz even used her own money to sue the county and won! I admired this level of commitment and not saying you should do the same by any means.

The community of Live Oak is entitled to know the charges for locking these two gates. It is my understanding that First Alarm charges \$40/hour. Years of living next to the path, seeing First Alarm come and go from locking the gates, it takes approximately 10 minutes - 2 times a day to accomplish the task. We know this as First Alarm often parks in the court while locking the gates/public bathrooms to Jose Park before/after locking the bathrooms at Hestwood Park located on Harper Street, one block away from Harper Court.

My point. This is not just a park budget problem. Removing the gates and passing the buck to the sheriff ignores the historical effort put forth by the community and the supervisor to address the community's problem.

Mr. Gaffney, your recent email to Dr. Knapp mentions a meeting you plan on pulling together for all concerned...a ball park date would be appreciated! Will this be before the **7 pm - April 2 meeting of the Parks Commission?**

Kind Regards,

Karen D. Nolan, P.E.
Nolan Designs
karen.nolandesigns@gmail.com
[831-476-4197](tel:831-476-4197)

On Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 10:51 AM, Jeff Gaffney <Jeff.Gaffney@santacruzcounty.us> wrote:
Hello Mr. Knapp,

I was unaware you left our meeting with expectations that we had the resources to continue to open and close the gates (and repair them) in perpetuity. I shared with you that we have had to make significant cuts for the upcoming budget cycle and specifically said we did not have the resources to continue to pay for your gate services. We have many priorities throughout the county, both financially and physically when it comes to maintaining our parks for the entire community. I do appreciate that you noticed we committed as much of our limited resources for this budget cycle to repair and maintain Jose Park and your advocacy has been successful.

We will continue to work closely with the Sheriff's Office to increase and improve patrols in your community and cul de sac. I will also pull together a meeting with everyone on this email in the coming weeks and so we can discuss other creative options.

Thank you again for your interest and for trying to make our parks better for everyone.

Best regards,

Jeff

Jeff Gaffney

Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

> On Mar 5, 2018, at 9:21 AM, Lewis Knapp <drknapp@corybantwest.com> wrote:

>

>

> Gentlemen,

>

> Background:

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> After hearing that the gates closing access to Jose Avenue park from Harper Court at night were to be removed at the order of the Parks Director, Michael Lesh and I met with Parks Director Gaffney to provide historical information as to why the gates were installed and to request that they not be removed and the nightly locking/unlocking not be discontinued.

>

> A group of neighbors of Jose Avenue Park attended Supervisor Leopold's Constituent Meeting on Wednesday, February 14th and requested help from him with the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services to reconsider this abrupt termination of a practice which deterred vandalism and unauthorized use of the park when the park is closed.

>

> While there has been marked activity in repairing deferred maintenance on the bridge and path and removal of bushes which attract and hide unhealthy behavior in the park, there seems to be no change in the gate situation. The parkside gate which was removed is still gone and the Harper Court gate is sporadically attended to by First Alarm.

>

> The neighbors of the path would like the broken gate repaired and reinstalled and the gates to continue to be locked as they have been since 2007. The park is closed at night and we would like to continue to discourage traffic through the path to the closed park.

>

> My point:

>

> It has been over two weeks since this conversation was started and we have not heard from either of you about the situation. The neighbors of the park are still concerned about this issue and wonder what, if anything is happening or is going to happen.

>

> Would you please share your current thoughts on this subject with us?

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Lewis Knapp



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JEFF GAFFNEY
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, April 2, 2018
7:00 pm
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS

III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from February 5, 2018Pages 2-3
- B. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Maintenance Section – Status ReportPages 4-5
 - 2. Facilities Section – Status Report.....Pages 6-7
 - 3. Planning Section – Status Report.....Pages 8-9
 - 4. Aquatics Section – Status Report.....Pages 10-12
 - 5. Recreation Section – Status Report.....Pages 13-15
 - 6. Volunteer Program – Status Report.....Pages 16-19

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today's agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Informational Items

- a. Change of time and location for next Commission Meeting on June 4, 2018: 6-8p, Bear Creek Country Club, 15685 Forest Hill Drive, Boulder Creek, CA 95006
- b. Draft County Parks Strategic Plan available on the County Parks website at:
www.scparks.com/strategicplan

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Approve Parks and Recreation Commission 2016-2017 Biennial Report (Pages 20-24)
- b. Receive update and adopt Resolution in support of Proposition 68 on June 2018 Ballot (Pages 25-26)
- c. Receive report on Harper Street Access to Jose Avenue Park and discuss (Pages 27-31)
- d. Elect Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Pages 32-38)

X. ADJOURNMENT



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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of February 5, 2018, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Kate Minott, Jim Rapoza, Alexandra Sibille
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Lynna Hemeryck, Eric Sturm, Will Fourt

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:

Motion to add item (d) to VIII. Regular Agenda, requesting that Parks Commission Chair and staff collaborate on a letter to congratulate the 2018 chosen artist of the year, Cheryl Anderson. (Minott/Sibille 4/0)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved minutes from December 4, 2017. (Bennett/ Sibille 3/0/1)
Accept and file items and reports. (Bennett/ Sibille 3/0/1)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (None)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Sibille – Excited to see 30 volunteers from UCSC fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon come out to Scott Creek Beach to unearth three benches. Acknowledgement to staff for coordinating this volunteer effort on two separate occasions.
- Bennett – Pinto Lake Bike Pump Track meeting was successful. There were about 50 people from the public in attendance, all positive except for a few concerns. Received an invitation from the Rotary Club, facilitating a grass roots movement to get more soccer fields in Watsonville and an ultimate plan to get a sports complex out there.
- Minott – Nothing to report. Aptos is happy.
- Rapoza – Thanks to staff for all the work on the core of Fifth District Parks – Highlands, Quail Hollow, Felton Covered Bridge and Ben Lomond Dam. Also getting good reports back on the work being done with Boulder Creek Parks and Rec on Bear Creek Estates.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Jeff Gaffney gave his report to the Commission.

- AmeriCorps has been doing great volunteer work in the San Lorenzo Valley.
 - Santa Cruz County Parks is hoping to become a regular site for AmeriCorps volunteers.
- County Parks received another \$2,000 donation in addition to the \$10,000 received last year for improvements to Hidden Beach Park.
- The Parks Department has been developing an Encroachment Policy to provide better beach and coastal access in areas where private properties have encroached on public access points.

- Some encroachments will be removed and others may be subject to an encroachment fee, funds of which will be put back into the improvement of the access area.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Park Planner Will Fourn provided an update on the County Parks Strategic Plan.
- b. Copies of the Commission By-laws were available for review, revised with the date adopted and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Motion to adopt community and Commission input for revision of Parks and Recreation Commission 2016-2017 Biennial Report. (Bennett/Minott 4/0)
- b. Motion to support Proposition 68 and direct staff to provide a formal resolution at the April 2, 2018 Commission Meeting for full approval. (Sibille/Minott 3/0/1)
- c. Motion to change location and time of June 4, 2018 Commission Meeting to Bear Creek Country Club from 6-8p and staff to provide directions. (Minott/Bennett 4/0)
- d. Motion to direct Parks Staff and Commission Chair to write a letter of congratulations and send a card to Cheryl Anderson who was recently chosen as 2018 Artist of the Year. (Bennett/Sibille 4/0)

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 p.m. (Minott/Sibille 4/0)



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: February - March 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Eric Sturm, Park Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Status Report

OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE

- On January 31st CAO Carlos Palacios visited Parks staff, introduced himself, and shared parts of his vision for a better Santa Cruz County government
- Maintenance section was streamlined into two operational sections (previously three)

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Greyhound Rock, Davenport Landing, Bonny Doon, Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow, Scott Creek Beach)

- There was a large homeless camp at Greyhound Rock and multiple State and County agencies were involved in the removal
- For the TEAM maintenance day in March we went to Ben Lomond Park and installed split-rail fences, planter boxes and timber stairs
- UCSC Fraternity adopted Scott Creek Beach
- Felton Library site started removing invasive plants
- New paint and sheetrock for the Quail Hollow Office

MID-COUNTY PARKS (Government Center, Anna Jean, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, SC Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, and Mid-County beach access areas)

- Soquel Lions Park got small but nice facelift on TEAM project day: new fencing, removal of dead tree, vegetation cleared back and dilapidated playground equipment removed
- Santa Cruz Fire Academy came to Anna Jean and provided lots of free labor on several maintenance projects
- Tether ball at Jose Park lasted 2+ months!! Staff is fitting a new one
- CCC came to Anna Jean Cummings park for three days and helped cut brush from a buffer zone with nearby homes, as well as install 300 feet of split-rail fencing
- On-going homeless removals at Anna Jean Cummings Park occurred with assistance from the Sheriff's Department. These clean-ups are not cheap (time, \$, and labor...)
- New footbridge at Carmichael Trail

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex, Seacliff Village Park, and South-County Beach access areas)

- At Polo Grounds all turf renovations are complete (some temporary field closures due to weather)
- Installed shelving and cabinets in the concession stand at Polo Grounds Park
- Valencia Hall is prepped and ready for spring and summer events
- Finished tall hedge work and getting bids on fencing at Seascape

- Aptos Park got new flags and a new LED flagpole light. Installed LED lights at Aptos Park Community building
- Seacliff Beach Park was over seeded with native wild flowers to germinate and have a colorful show for this spring and summer. Added some additional split rail fencing to help guide visitors
- Pinto Lake turf fields have been renovated and are ready to go for the new season. New flags and a new LED flag illumination kit was installed as well
- Aldridge Lane had some dirt road and landscape improvements
- Freedom Annex has on-going landscape projects associated with construction of new HSA building
- Plumbing repairs @ Burt Scott studio

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

- There is now a large projector in the auditorium capable of visual presentations for large audiences
- Several large events were recently booked
- On-going meetings taking place to discuss efficient operations of the building
- Several broken theatre lights were replaced and the lighting looks great now
- Homeless are camping on the front door again. Requested more foot patrols from City Rangers. Had to hire a private vendor to clean human waste from exterior walls and sidewalks
- Working with General Services Department, with the hopes of adding lights to the exterior of the building
- Reconfiguring sump pumps to work more efficiently

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

- County Health did an unannounced inspection of pool water quality and we passed
- The pool Capstone co-generators were off-line for 10 days in February for repair. With a little nudging, our one old gas heater kept the 50 mtr pool warm for some very cold winter nights!
- Parking lot solar panels were tied-in to our electric system and we are now generating electricity. Yay
- New electric car charging stations have been added to the parking lot
- Cal-OSHA has been invited in to inspect our water slide before the busy season begins
- Adding deck lights to the deep end of the 50m pool to accommodate night aquatic programs



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: March - April 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Mary Chavez, Program Coordinator
Subject: Facilities Section Status Report

Summary for Reservations in the Parks:

*Please note that the Facilities section status report includes reservation information for the Live Oak Community Rooms, which was previously excluded.

Attendance at Reserved Facilities

March and April have seen an increase in use of reservable areas with parties, weddings, memorial services and sports taking place at park centers, picnic areas and athletic fields. Staff estimates that approximately 68,000 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks in these two months.

Center and Meeting Room Rentals in March and April 2018:

March and April hosted 25 weddings, receptions, family and community events held at various Park Centers with rental revenues totaling \$14,000. 10 meeting room rentals also took place during these two months, with revenues totaling \$3,170.

Picnic Area Rentals in March and April 2018:

Use of the reservable picnic areas have increased during the months of March and April, with 51 rentals for parties and family events taking place so far, as compared to 30 rentals that took place in January and February. Anna Jean Cummings picnic areas continue to book months in advance and typically rent to capacity on weekends each month. Revenues for March and April total \$8,000.

Athletic Fields in March and April 2018 (includes February info for baseball fields):

The season for athletic field use began late February for baseball and softball fields, while soccer fields were opened between the end of March and beginning of April in an effort to provide a longer renovation period. The athletic season is now in full swing and has become very busy, for both baseball and soccer fields, with 640 individual field bookings in 18 athletic fields (480 bookings in baseball fields and 160 bookings in soccer fields). Revenues totaled \$35,800.

Special Events

The special event season has kicked off during these past few months with a number of events having already successfully taken place.

March events include: Music in May hosted the **Music and Auction for Mim** fundraiser event on March 17th at the Live Community Center. Team House Hunter hosted the **Aptos Egg-stravaganza** on March 25th, benefitting Leo's Haven and Live Like Coco Foundation. The event featured an Egg Hunt, Photos with Bunny, Bunny Hop, Petting Zoo, Bounce House, Golden Eggs with Special Prizes, Spring Craft Booths,

DJ, Face Painting, Balloon Animals and Food Trucks. New Hope Church hosted the third annual free **Easter Egg Hunt** for the community at Brommer Street Park on March 31st.

April events include: Team in Training/Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will host the **Spring Fun Run for Team Coco** at Pinto Lake County Park on April 16th. **Earth Day** on April 23rd will take place at the San Lorenzo Park and include use of the back and south lawns of the Government Center as well as the parking lot for festival parking. The Santa Cruz VW Air Cooled Car Show will host **Santa Cruz by the Bay VW Car Show** at the Government Center parking lot on April 28th, benefitting Live Oak Schools. Aptos Park will host fourth annual **Never Forget Relay** (Fallen Officers Foundation) on April 26th and Mar Vista Elementary's third annual **Move For Mar Vista** on April 29th. The Big Stick Surfing Association will host the annual **Big Stick Log Jam** retro surf board contest at Pleasure Point Park on April 28th and 29th, which fundraises for the community and ocean-focused non-profits. 2018 is proving to be another busy year of special events.

County Parks Special Events, Administration:

- Parks staff has been busy planning co-sponsored special events for the 2018 season. Many details have been determined in order to provide the information for the annual activity pamphlet. The Department will co-sponsor events with the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department (**Friday Night Recess** on July 9th and **Family Fun Day- Get Your Play On!** on July 28th), the Boulder Creek Recreation & Park District (**Founding Families Picnic & Pool Party** on June 23rd), the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (**Parks & Rex Pool Party** on August 25th), and the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Cruz County (**Live Oak 10k/5k and Family Fun Run** on September 22nd).
- An RFP for the Rio Del Mar Concessions Opportunity will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors on April 10th. The Rio Del Mar Esplanade site provides an opportunity for enhancement to the current business environment, recreation opportunities, and economic development of the area. Proposals are being solicited for concession sales that may include components such as: food service with outdoor seating, beach and ocean-related supplies and equipment rentals and/or sales and/or other proposals that meet the enhancement goals.
- The Department has confirmed the implementation timeline and details for the new recreation management software, Active Net. The plan is for full development and implementation of the new system by the beginning of September. With this all-in-one software solution system, customers will have enhanced online and mobile access to program and class registration, an easy to use facility reservation system, online access to membership management, private swim lesson capabilities, and many other features which will improve the customer experience. Parks staff will also be able to utilize the many advancements in marketing, communication and training tools.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: January 2018- March 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Sheryl Bailey & Will Fourt, Planning Section
Subject: Planning Section Status Report

COUNTY-WIDE PROJECTS

County Parks Strategic Plan

The Department posted a draft County Parks Strategic Plan and is holding three community meetings to get feedback.

ParkScore

Trust for Public Land completed the Park Score analysis, which has been posted as an appendix to the Strategic Plan.

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Quail Hollow/Pace Property Trail Planning

The County Planning Department is reviewing the development permit application for the trail network additions to the Pace Property.

Quail Hollow

Planning, Recreation and Programming staff work on the interpretive signage is currently on-hold as other work is taking priority.

Felton Library

The Board of Supervisors approved the design contract and staff will be kicking off the design process for the discovery park area next to the new Felton Library this spring.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, Mid-County beach access areas)

Chanticleer Park: The Santa Cruz Playground Project has continued their fundraising efforts. The County's consultants have prepared a first draft of the 75% construction documents. Staff submitted a grant to the Partners for Places Grant Program and is working on a Prop 1 Coastal Conservancy grant for the stormwater improvements associated with Phase I development.

Heart of Soquel Phase 2 & 3

The Heart of Soquel Phase 3 conceptual plans were presented to the Soquel Elementary School Board of Trustees on March 21st and an appraisal for the proposed easement is underway. Acquisition of the other remaining privately-owned property is anticipated to be complete and approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 10th. Concurrently, Parks Planning staff is working on completing two grant applications that will help pay for development and construction costs. Two other grant applications are pending approval.

Farm Phase 2

Currently, the consultant's work on completing the 90% plans is on-hold until a response to the Planning Department is finalized. The Farm Park Project was not invited to apply for the People For Bikes grant. Parks Planning staff is working to establish two purchase order contracts that will be necessary to complete in advance of construction, including native plant collection and growing for habitat restoration planting work.

SeaCliff Village

Park Planning and the Planning Department are coordinating efforts to evaluate the potential planning process and permit requirements for implementing alternative skate feature designs.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Seacliff Village Park, Freedom Government Annex)

Pinto Lake

Staff and consultants have prepared a grading permit application to submit to Environmental Planning for the proposed pump track. The People For Bikes grant program asked for a full proposal for the project and staff has submitted another grant application for a grant from the Disney Foundation through NRPA. Staff is also working with partners at the Resource Conservation District, City of Watsonville and Watsonville Wetlands Watch on stormwater system and increased erosion control design for the track feature.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

Jeff Gaffney
Director

DATE: April 2, 2018
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Rebecca Hurley, Aquatics Supervisor
RE: Aquatics Division Status Report

AQUATIC PROGRAMS

Our spring schedule runs through June 9th and is as follows:

Lap Pool Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am to 7:30 pm

Saturdays: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sundays: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Warm Water Pool: (Hours will vary May 28th – June 9th due to School Parties)

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 6:00 am – 10:30 am
3:00 pm – 5:00pm
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 6:00 am – 5:00 pm
6:30 pm - 7:30pm

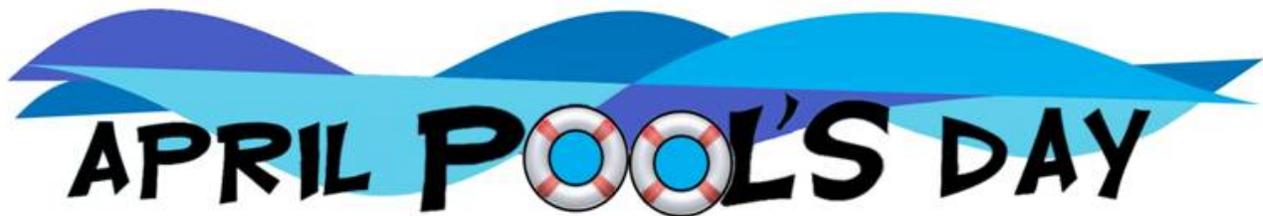
Saturday: 9:00 – 10:30 am (Adults only)
10:30 am – 12:30 pm
(Adults and children 6 years and under)
1:00 – 4:00 pm (All ages)

Sunday: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm – (All ages)

Events

Join us on April 1st for our third annual April Pool's Day!
Sunday April 1, 12:30 - 4:00PM

FREE entry for Recreation Swim on April Pool's Day when you register for any summer youth program!



Also FREE on April Pool's Day for all who enter:
FREE Treading Water Clinics for Kids
FREE Swim Lesson Assessments

Swim lessons

Spring lessons are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30am – 12:30pm; Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

Summer Program Registration started **March 26th at 9am** and the Junior Guard and Little Guard programs are anticipated to fill up quickly!

Water Polo

Sundays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Participants must be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program.

Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program

The Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program will be running April 2 - 6 at Simpkins Family Swim Center, Mon – Fri from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm with the option for participants to stay for Recreation swim from 2:00 – 5:00 pm free of charge. The spring program follows similar schedules and activities as our very popular Summer Pool Junior Lifeguard Program and has a special activity day on the last day.

Lifeguard Training Classes

Lifeguard Training Classes are being offered and will continue through the end of April. Most classes will be held on Friday evenings and Saturdays; fees are \$310 for residents and \$341 for non-residents. As well, Simpkins Family Swim Center will also be offering limited courses in First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (CA Title 22). Interested candidates can find more information on the parks website at www.scparks.com. All course materials are included in the course fees.

Aquatic Staff Recruitment

The following positions are currently open: Lifeguard, Head Lifeguard, Aquatic Specialist. The recruitment ends April 20th.

Private Pool Parties

Private Pool Parties are available on Saturdays & Sundays. A variety of aspects of the facility may be rented for Private Pool Parties, from just the warm pool to aspects accommodating up to 110 people. Private Pool Parties are scheduled on weekends, spring, summer and fall, after the facility has closed to the public.

School Parties

Once again local schools will be renting the facility for their end of the year parties starting the last week in May and continuing into June.

Adult Fitness Swimming

Adult Fitness Swimming is very popular at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The best-attended workouts are Tuesday and Saturday mornings; up to 35 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Fitness swimmers may choose from several different workout times: Mondays 6:00 am; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday workouts are at 6:00 am and 12:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 am. Starting in March we also have begun to offer a Saturday afternoon class every other Saturday which has so far been well attended.

For the past two months we have been offering an Introduction to Lap Swimming Class and an Introduction to Adult Fitness class on Wednesday and Thursday mornings which have continually gained attendance numbers. Beginning in April we will be offering an Introduction to Lap Swimming Class on Saturdays so swimmers that work during the week can take advantage of this great class.

Water Aerobics & Exercise

The water exercise classes this year continue to reach their highest capacity to date. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including healthy, pre-natal, seniors, and rehabilitating or cross training fitness enthusiasts. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times and instructors' names. Previous swimming or water-exercise experience is not required for participation in any of the water exercise classes.

Lifeguard Training Exercises

The lifeguard in-service in March was a swim condition check; shallow water spinal rescues, and a swim lesson review.

In April, the topic scheduled to be covered is 'emergency action plans.' In May, the topics scheduled to be covered are: victim recognition, skills review and pool rules discussion.

Swim Teams

The Aptos Cabrillo Swim Club and Quicksilver Swimming swim teams continue to rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00-7:30 pm.

Pool Closures and Holiday Schedule

There are no scheduled pool closures in April, June, or July.

Live Oak Community Rooms

The Live Oak Community Rooms at the swim center are now rented out regularly throughout the year for meetings, small events and classes.



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(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

DATE: March 2018
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator
RE: Recreation & Cultural Services Division Status Report

ARTS AND CULTURAL

Art Exhibitions

Michael Singer's photographs are on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office through May 24.

Twin Lakes Public Art Project

Local artist Kirk McNeill is working with the construction team to coordinate installation of his sculpture, *Pelican Dreams*, in a planting area adjacent to the new pathway at Twin Lakes.

Artist of the Year

Conductor Cheryl Anderson has been named the 2018 Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1 at Samper Recital Hall at Cabrillo College for a Profile Performance - a concert featuring members of Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus, Cabrillo Chorale, Cantiamo!, Cabrillo Youth Choruses, Il Dolce Suono, and Peace Chancel Choir. Admission is FREE to the public; seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis the night of the event.

Cheryl is in her 26th year as Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at Cabrillo College. During her time at Cabrillo she has taught a variety of music, as well as serving as Conductor of Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus, Cantiamo!, Cabrillo Chorale, and Cabrillo Opera, which she founded. She is also Founder/Artistic Director of the Cabrillo Youth Choir Project. She also serves on the Music Education Faculty at San Jose State University. The various choirs under Cheryl's direction have sung concert tours all over the world, including the Vatican in Italy, Carnegie Hall in New York, and tours through California performing with Lou Harrison his masterwork *La Koro Sutro* and the internationally famous Incheon City Chorale from South Korea at Davies Symphony Hall.

ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

Staff have spoken with many trip-goers all abuzz about this year's lineup of trips. Registration opened Monday, March 26th and we had a busy week of sign-ups!

In April, we will go to the Monterey Zoo (formerly Wild Things) to see the progress they are making in their transition to becoming a full-fledged zoo. While there, participants will have an

opportunity to feed carrots to Butch, the elephant. Next, we will travel to the National Steinbeck Center to peruse the various exhibits on Steinbeck's work and philosophy. There is also a wing dedicated to the experiences of agriculture workers in the United States, a topic that Steinbeck was passionate about.

YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS

Mar Vista ACE

February began with Olympics Week and consisted of games like Olympic Nation, Speed Skating and hockey. Projects included team banners, Olympic bracelets, hockey stick art and medal making. Since we don't have a frozen pond to skate on, we took participants to the Santa Cruz Roller Palladium and pretended we were ice skating! During Heart's and President's Week, participants made valentines, had a Valentine's Day potluck party and played games of Battle Royale, Cut the Cake and Capture the Flag. World Week offered activities such as World Tag, Year of the Dog art activities, Toss the Globe and South American pancake-making.

March began with Theme Week, featuring the following daily themes: Balloons, Super Hero/Villains, Sports and Dr. Seuss. Next was Panda Week, a theme suggested by program participants a few years ago and still a favorite, with activities like: panda plate faces, giant coffee filter pandas, panda treats, Free the Panda and Kung Fu Tag. A special guest also joined us from the SPCA to teach the kids about animal safety and care. Not to be outdone, current participants requested Pokémon Week. One of the highlights for the kids was being allowed to bring their Pokémon cards from home for the day to play each other. Spring Time Week featured tissue paper gardens, bee art, edible "caterpillars," and impromptu boat-making to float in the puddles accumulated around the playground. Also, some of the older kids decided to organize their own potluck party they dubbed Cringe Fest. They asked for towels to clean off the table, set the table and put cones out for the other kids in the program to line up behind while waiting to get their food. They also made a pledge and a cheer! Staff were very proud of them and it was clear they were very proud of themselves. We also had Jim Griener conduct a drumming workshop.

April will feature activities based on the following themes: Crawling and Flying Creatures, Technology and Nature. Special events will include a carnival and petting zoo and field trips to Marianne's Ice Cream/Seacliff Village Park and the Sanctuary Exploration Center/Neary Lagoon.

GIRLS Paving the Way

GIRLS Paving the Way experienced a staffing shake up in February that took some adjusting for some program participants, particularly the idea that a male staff person is now implementing their workshops. Under the leadership of Dan Lazarus, each Wednesday will feature art projects and each Friday they will be cooking. Early in March, they created ME Collages and participants had a chance to present their finished product to their classmates. It was great to see them giving each other their attention, a feat not always easily accomplished by adults! This month they also made delicious and nutritious no-bake energy treats and had fun getting messy and creating together. This past week we cooked and ate sweet potato tacos. The students had a chance to learn techniques for cutting different vegetables, how to spice to taste, and how to use one pan to cook a large meal for friends and family.

In weeks to come, we will continue to learn about one another while creating projects and preparing delicious meals. Within each activity is the underlying goal at getting students to communicate with one another, and with staff. Simply putting different ingredients at different tables and pushing students to ask classmates for something they want to borrow helps to reinforce this narrative!

La Selva Beach ACE Program

La Selva Beach ACE is off to a super start of the new spring season. Recent weekly themes include Leaping Leprechauns & Super Spring Week. Highlights for Leaping Leprechauns week included making Shamrock Shakes, a Shamrock Window Craft, a Green Slime Experiment, an Ultimate Sports Challenge, musical chairs and a cake walk. Leaping Leprechauns week also included a Pajama & Movie day. Super Spring Week followed with fun activities such as Clay Bugs & Butterflies figures, a Tie Dye art project, Flower Planters & a Coffee Filter Flowers craft, a Water Color Spring Scene art activity and several exciting high-energy running games & sports. The highlight for Super Spring Week was our Spring Dance Potluck Party in which the children participated in a dance competition. We also had our first ever ACE talent show in which the children performed dances, sang songs and demonstrated their awesome talents! We recently ended Lego Class on Thursday afternoons at the La Selva Beach Library and look forward to starting up Mine Craft Classes at the library in April. Local youth from Aptos Junior and Aptos High School continue to volunteer their time helping staff supervise the children and lead activities at La Selva Beach ACE. We are currently starting to recruit & promote for our summer youth volunteer program for teens which include volunteering at La Selva Beach Summer Camp as well as other county youth programs. We look forward to taking field trips to Manresa Beach and the Simpkins Swim Center in the month of April. We have an always adventures Wheels Day coming up very soon in which the children can bring in their wheels to ride. We also look forward to more Dance Parties & Talent Shows later this spring and to a super spring season!

Spring Camp

Spring Camp will take place April 2-6 at Aptos Village Park. Participants will enjoy a variety of arts, crafts, cooking projects, nature exploration, sports and games. Additionally, they will take a field trip to the Boardwalk for rides and fun!

QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Recent Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- Eric Feuss led a birding walk from 8-10 a.m. on Sunday, March 4.
- Dan Lazarus ran a Mad Scientist themed birthday party for a 7-year-old named Kain. It was a BLAST!
- Terris Kasteen of CA Fish and Wildlife was at Quail Hollow Ranch on Sunday, March 11, educating folks on cougars and other predators that live in the area.
- Sue Procter and a team of Master Gardeners were at the Ranch on March 18 to lead a well-attended workshop on Wildlife Pest Management.
- Dan attended the Green Schools Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 20, to talk about Quail Hollow Ranch field trips and summer camps.

Upcoming Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- Sean Wharton will be leading hikes to the forbidden sandhills habitat each Sunday in April from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Richard James will be leading his famed history tour of the QHR House on April 15 from 1-3 p.m.
- SC Dept. of Public works and Jeffrey Smedberg will be leading a composting workshop from 2-4 p.m. on Earth Day, April 22.
- Renee Shepherd, famous for her seed company, will be leading a seed class on April 29 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.



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(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: February 2018 – March 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Program Status Report

North County

Scott Creek Beach



We have our first park that has been adopted! The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity have adopted Scott Creek Beach. The adoption commitment is thus: To finish removing the sand from the ADA platform and surrounding area, and then routinely maintain the walkway and platform to

keep it accessible. They will also routinely work at keeping the park graffiti free, maintaining the bulletin board, picking up trash and removing invasive ice plant from the dunes so that the Snowy Plover will thrive. After the fraternity spent two mornings (9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.) at Scott Creek Beach, shoveling and hauling sand, they felt compelled to commit to the park and adopt it.



Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity hard at work shoveling and removing over 3 feet of sand from the ADA platform at Scott Creek Beach!

Also on the North Coast, our solo volunteer, Jay Todd, regularly picks up trash in the parking lots and beach access points.

Quail Hollow Ranch

A San Lorenzo Valley Charter School brought 25 children and adults to Quail Hollow Ranch and volunteered their time to paint fence rails. All their hours combined equaled 57.

In February and March, the Trail Crew Volunteers put in over 155 hours of trail maintenance and new construction on the trails to keep them accessible for hikers and equestrians. Two of our dedicated volunteers trained and worked with the AmeriCorps Volunteer group.

The Broom Bash volunteers logged 167 hours in February and March removing French Broom.

The February Stellar Experience hosted by volunteers with the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club (SCAC) engaged just 2 community members in February due to cloud cover. The SCAC volunteers logged 9 hours. The March stellar experience was canceled due to inclement weather.

The Bird Nest Box Volunteers have officially begun their season of monitoring the nest boxes and documenting the bird activity, and they have logged 37 hours thus far in February and March.

Miller Property

The Miller Property volunteers have logged over 65 hours in February and March picking up trash, removing French Broom, reporting illegal motorcycle use and keeping signage visible.

Mid County

The Alpha Kappa Delta Phi sorority volunteered their time at **The Farm Park** in Soquel. The group of young women weeded around plants in the restoration area and then applied coconut weed abatement sheets and mulch around the plants. The group of 20 logged approximately 50 combined hours on a Sunday morning.





A volunteer at **Anna Jean Cummings Park** has been instrumental in locating and assisting the maintenance crew with cleaning up abandoned homeless camps. He logged over 40 hours in February and March, and together with maintenance, has removed over 2000 pounds of debris.

The **Parks office** has a new volunteer who will be assisting at the front desk on Monday and Friday afternoons.

South County

Polo Grounds Park

Two dedicated Bike Pump Track Volunteers spent most of a day applying a soil stabilizer to the jumps. In addition, volunteers constructed covers for the jumps out of tarps and wood; all these efforts are to prevent the jumps from deteriorating during the rainy season.

Pinto Lake Park

Pinto Lake volunteers have logged over 80 hours in graffiti abatement and Disc Golf Course maintenance.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2016-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT

ROLE OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Assess the needs and resources of the County for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and recommend programs to satisfy those needs.

- I. Advise the Board of Supervisors on matters regarding parks, recreation and open space plans for the County.
- II. Advise the Board of Supervisors on the preservation of historic, cultural and natural resources in the County.
- III. Review the annual budget for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

MEETINGS AND STRUCTURE

The Commission meets on Mondays six times a year at 7:00 p.m., on dates determined by the Commission. Meetings are held at a park site or the Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Office, 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz.

The Commission is made up of five members, one nominated by each Supervisor, which operates using the Sturgis Rules of Order and a structure that includes a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. Staff support is provided by the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services.

COMMISSION STAFF

Jeff Gaffney, Director; Gretchen Iliff, Park Superintendent; Eric Sturm, Park Superintendent; Will Fourt, Park Planner; Jennifer Mead, Secretary; Lynna Hemeryck, Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Attachment A displays the attendance of the Commissioners for the past twenty-four months.

2016-2017 Commission Activities and Accomplishments

Considered proposals brought forward by members of the community:

- Proposal to add permanent pickleball facilities at Brommer Street Park
- Proposal for a Santa Cruz County Parks Ranger Program

Received reports on the status of various park improvement projects including:

LEO's Haven Playground at Chanticleer Park
Pickleball courts at Brommer Street Park
Highlands County Park Facility
Felton Library Project
Pinto Lake Bike Pump Track
Sediment Catchment Basin at Pinto Lake

Made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed addendum to the Quail Hollow Ranch County Master Plan.

Held two offsite meetings with informative presentations, one at Highlands County Park and the other at Muzzio Community Center in Watsonville.

Received regular reports regarding participation in and revenues received for various recreation programs and facility rentals.

Received regular reports on the activities of the Parks Maintenance, Planning, Aquatics and Volunteers sections.

Received updates regarding the Boulder Creek Recreational District.

Received updates from the Land Trust of Santa Cruz.

Received a presentation from the City of Watsonville Parks and Recreation Department.

Received a presentation from Watsonville Wetlands Watch.

Reviewed proposed Parks Division Budgets for Fiscal Years 2016/2017.

Nominated two members to the Board of Directors of the non-profit Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks (FSCCoP).

Participated in a series of workshops to determine Commission vision, values, goals, strategies, and develop a mission statement and Team Charter for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Issued a letter of proclamation declaring July Parks & Recreation Month.

Updated and revised Parks and Recreation Commission By-laws.

Proposed 2018-2019 Commission Goals

Park Facilities

Review and make recommendations regarding proposed park improvements for Felton Library Park.

Continue working with Boulder Creek Parks and Recreation on Bear Creek Estates Park and facilities.

Recreation Programs

Continue to consider and support public requests for programs.

Community Proposals

Review empirical data regarding off-leash dogs on County Beaches and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

General

Complete work on vision, goals and strategies with Commission working group.

Review the FY 2018/2019 Proposed Budgets and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Prepare letter of support as necessary for various grant opportunities.

Support efforts to collaborate with volunteers and other partners to provide parks, recreation and cultural opportunities.

Support, collaborate and advise staff regarding community outreach opportunities, including, marketing and branding, for county parks and recreation programs.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE 2016

P = Present E = Excused Absence U = Un-Excused Absence V = Vacant R = Resigned C = Canceled Meeting

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
DISTRICT 1	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May		No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Mariah Roberts		P		P		P		P		P		P
DISTRICT 2	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May		No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Katharine Minott		P		P		P		P		P		
DISTRICT 3	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May		No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Jim Lang / Alex Sibille (May 2016)		E		V		P		P		P		
DISTRICT 4	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May		No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Steven Bennett		P		P		E		P		P		
DISTRICT 5	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May		No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Jim Rapoza		V		P		P		P		P		

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE 2017

P = Present E = Excused Absence U = Un-Excused Absence V = Vacant R = Resigned C = Canceled Meeting

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
DISTRICT 1	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May	Meeting Canceled	No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Mariah Roberts		P		E				P		E		P
DISTRICT 2	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May	Meeting Canceled	No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Katharine Minott		P		P				P		P		
DISTRICT 3	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May	Meeting Canceled	No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Alexandra Sibille		U		P				P		E		
DISTRICT 4	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May	Meeting Canceled	No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Steven Bennett		P		E				P		P		
DISTRICT 5	No Meeting held in January		No Meeting held in March		No Meeting held in May	Meeting Canceled	No Meeting held in July		No Meeting held in September		No Meeting held in November	
Jim Rapoza		P		P				P		E		P

BEFORE THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 68, THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT,
WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS
FOR ALL ACT OF 2018

WHEREAS, last fall, the Legislature adopted and the Governor signed Senate Bill 5 (SB 5), a \$4 Billion General Obligation Bond to be placed on the June 2018 ballot entitled the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal, Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, or Proposition 68; and

WHEREAS, SB 5 represents the first legislatively authorized debt instrument for parks, resources and environmental improvements since 2002; and

WHEREAS, investments in California's urban, suburban and rural park and resources-related landscapes promote the notion of community and provide health, environmental and aesthetic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County residents as well as every resident in the state will benefit from the passage of this bond through a per capita allocation of at least \$200,000 for our parks; and

WHEREAS, SB 5 includes \$200 million in per capita funding to assist all of California's communities in underwriting priority park-related improvements; and

WHEREAS, SB 5 includes \$200 million on California's State Park system, addressing a greater than \$1 billion backlog in deferred maintenance which will translate into greater tourism and visitor opportunities in adjacent communities; and

WHEREAS, SB 5 invests \$30 million in trail network improvements promoting non-motorized recreational and commuter opportunities throughout the state

WHEREAS, SB 5 includes hundreds of millions on other important investments in resource-related infrastructure including California's rivers, coast, and other waterways; and

WHEREAS, SB 5 invests hundreds of millions toward combatting global warming through investments in urban greening projects, promoting healthy forests and carbon farming applications; and

Page2

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 68, THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT,
WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR
ALL ACT OF 2018

WHEREAS, passage of this bond would provide new opportunities for the County of Santa Cruz to obtain much needed additional resources for our Parks, Water and Climate Action programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission does hereby support SB 5, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 and any subsequent iteration titled otherwise by the Secretary of State that is scheduled to appear on the June 2018 statewide ballot.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 2nd day of APRIL, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

JIM RAPOZA, CHAIR
Parks and Recreation Commission



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: April 2, 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jeff Gaffney, Director
Subject: Harper Street Access to Jose Avenue Park Report

Recommended Action

- Accept this report and take discussion from the community

Background

Jose Avenue Park's Master Plan was adopted in 1998 by the Board of Supervisors and the park officially opened in 1999. The Master Plan specifically discusses the pedestrian bridge and path on pages 16 and 17 of the adopted Master Plan.

According to the Master Plan, the bridge/pedestrian access was added to make the park more accessible to all communities; reduce vehicle trips; reduce the cost of operation and maintenance for the Parks Department; and provide more recreational opportunities to as many residents as possible.

Jose Avenue Park opened in 1999, and the pedestrian bridge connecting Harper Street to the park opened in 2000. Although gates were not included in the Master Plan or original construction of the bridge, there is no formal record of the decision, and CEQA was not completed, staff recall that sometime around 2006 gates were added to the Harper Street bridge access. According to residents of Harper Street, several felonious activities were happening in the neighborhood around El Dorado and Harper Streets and the gates were installed to improve safety at the park.

Due to the considerable costs of repairing, maintaining and operating the gates and a recent complete failure of one of the gates, the decision to discontinue the use of the gates was made in January of this year. During the process of removing them, a neighbor became verbally abusive to Parks staff and interfered so much that they abandoned their work and did not finish removing them. The issue was brought to management and after several meetings with the neighbors on Harper Street it was decided to bring this item before the Parks Commission for discussion.

Fiscal Impact

Maintaining and repairing the gates, combined with closing and opening them for the last 12 years, has cost the County approximately \$54,000 and on average costs the department over \$4,000 annually. These costs will only continue to escalate in the coming years. By removing the gates and terminating the contract for opening and closing them 365 days a year, the County will save approximately \$4,000 a year. This savings has been memorialized into the 2018-19 budget.

Analysis

As a result of the attention and thought brought to Jose Avenue Park by the community and especially the surrounding neighborhood, the Parks Department has recently invested several hundred hours of staff time, volunteer time and over \$5,000 in deferred maintenance to improve (clean up, revitalize) the park. This is a good start for making long-lasting improvements to the park as a whole.

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission assist the Parks Department in continuing to work with the Harper Street neighbors as well as the entire community surrounding Jose Avenue Park to improve amenities, access and safety for all visitors.

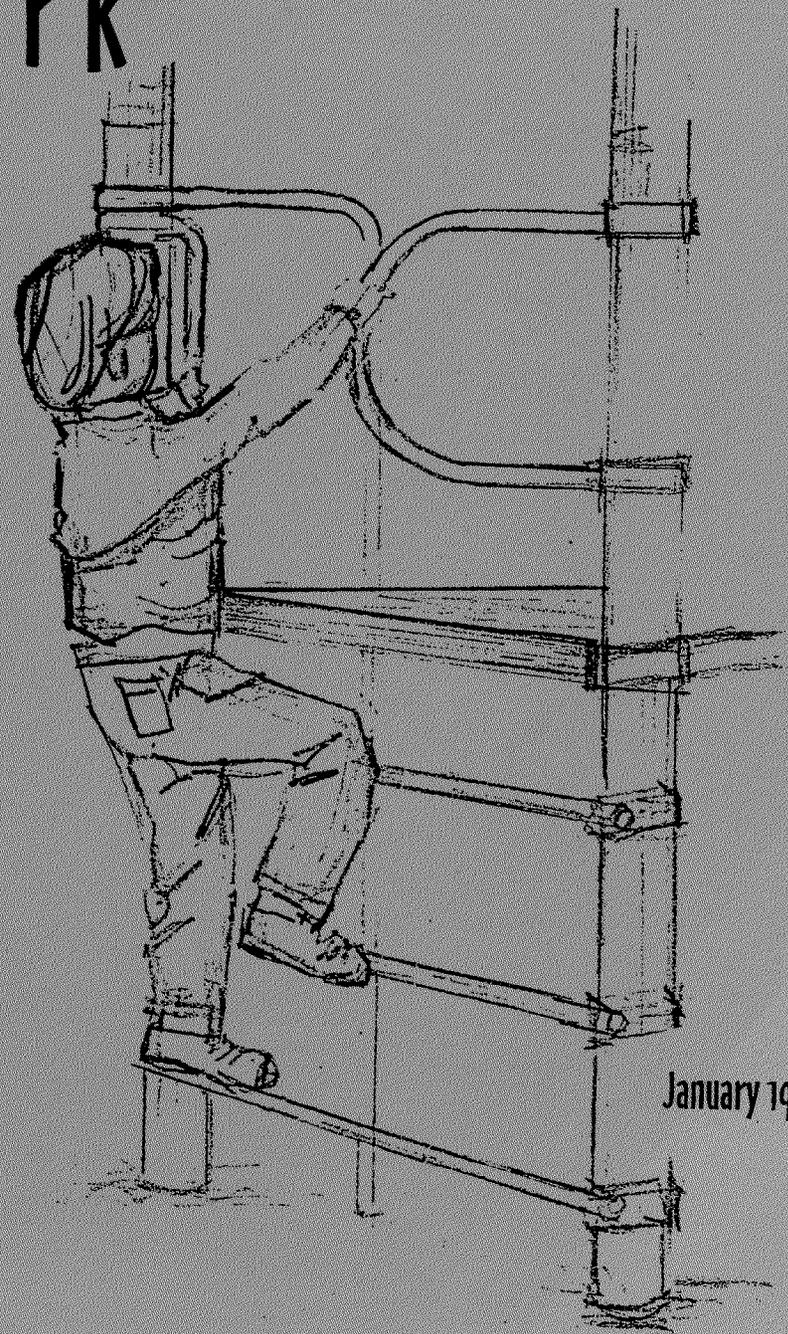
Specifically, the Parks Volunteer Coordinator will work with local neighbors to develop a core of long-term volunteers that can steward the park and surrounding resources. The Department will work with the Sheriff's Office to use enforcement of new ordinances and community policing to monitor, deter and prevent crime and after-hours activities. This will allow maximum access for all, including underserved and disadvantaged communities. It will also encourage more legitimate usage as recommended by law enforcement and park professionals.

Jose Avenue Park

County of Santa Cruz

Draft Master Plan Report

Prepared By
County of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency



January 1998

Activities for younger age kids are located in the center of the park away from parking and traffic. Also the arrangement of these elements in the vicinity of the Elizabeth Oaks parking area allows the sheriff and other security personnel direct visibility of the restroom, play area, basketball, and skateboard areas from patrol vehicles.

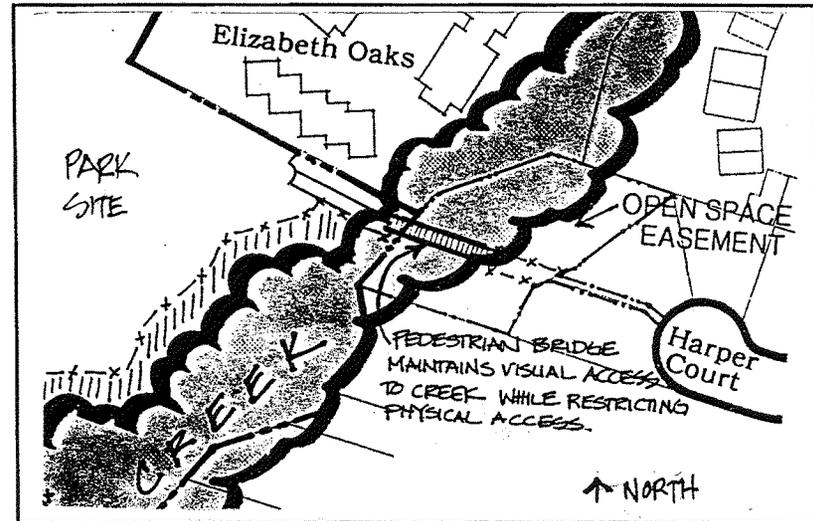
- Public Art - a public art component will be included in the development of the park. Two percent of the construction cost is budgeted to cover the cost of the artist and art component. The art selection process will occur after approval of the preliminary master plan by the Board of Supervisors.

Pedestrian Bridge

A pedestrian bridge is proposed to span the steep riparian corridor from the park to Harper Court to the east. Pedestrians and bicyclists would access the bridge from park pathways at the northeastern corner of the park site near the restrooms and picnic area, or from the opposite side by pathways in an existing pedestrian easement connecting to the end of Harper Court, an improved cul-de-sac off El Dorado Avenue. The easement was dedicated to the County by the developer of the residences there for the purpose of developing such a pedestrian access connection.

The bridge is proposed to be constructed using a rust colored metal pre-fabricated structure that can be installed quickly with a minimum disturbance to the

riparian habitat. Similar bridges have been installed in Soquel connecting Soquel Elementary School to Main Street, and at Bridge Street off upper Main Street improving access from residential neighborhoods to Soquel High School and Soquel Village businesses.



The purpose of the Jose Avenue Park bridge is to make the variety of recreational uses that will be available at Jose Avenue Park more accessible to the El Dorado Avenue and Harper Street neighborhoods, thus eliminating the need for the purchase, construction and maintenance of additional park facilities to serve those neighborhoods. Without this bridge, pedestrians and bicyclists will be forced to use

Capitola Road, Brommer Street and Seventh Avenue, major arterial streets currently without full roadside improvements, to access Jose Avenue Park.

The bridge was discussed during the community design workshop process. While the opportunity to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections was recognized by the larger community, residents immediately adjacent to the bridge have not been supportive of the proposal. Based upon this input and good design practices staff has prepared the following criteria to help guide the design of the bridge.

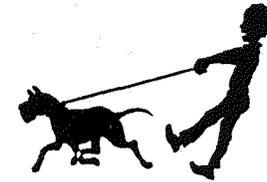
- ✓ Locate pathways and fencing to direct park users to the bridge discouraging access to the riparian corridor.
- ✓ Install low level lighting on the bridge railing and pathway for security and safety.
- ✓ Replant trees and shrubs to mitigate the loss of vegetation removed to construct the improvements.
- ✓ Locate improvements to minimize visual impacts to surrounding residences.
- ✓ Design the bridge to include an all weather surface and rustic metal design that blends with the riparian area.

The pedestrian bridge is a separate project funded by the Redevelopment Agency and, while it would greatly improve accessibility to the park and eliminate the need for other park facilities in the area, it is not a requirement for construction of Jose Avenue Park.

Alternative Park Features

Space is available for locating many other park elements, but budget constraints and overall consensus of what features were most desirable to be constructed first, leaves these elements for later phases of the park development.

- Dog Run - a fenced area for dogs to run unleashed while supervised by their owner.
- Par-Course - multiple exercise stations usually located along a pathway throughout the park.
- Shrub Maze - A maze made out of screening shrubs with a surprise in the middle. The 5th grade class really likes this element, an example can be found at Dennis the Menace park in Monterey, however the idea was not as well supported by the general community and long term maintenance is a concern.
- Horseshoe Pit - tossing the horseshoes back and forth at a metal post, can be noisy and should be located away from housing.
- Community Gardens - open spaces throughout the parks



Written Correspondence Listing

The Written Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Commission as a whole, but may also include items requested for inclusion by individual Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Commission at this time:

1. Email from Eric Antonicic, dated March 24, 2018, with information regarding Leona Creek bridge access gates to Jose Avenue Park.

*Please note that previous emails on the thread were included in the correspondence from Eric Antonicic.



Sat 3/24/2018 10:23 AM

Eric Antonicic <eant1@comcast.net>

Leona creek bridge access gates to Jose Avenue Park

To Jeff Gaffney; John Leopold

Cc Jean Brocklebank; Christina Dietrich; Lisa Litten; Terry Welsh; Terry Stockwell; Michael Lesh; Nolan; Jeanette Miller; Danaher, James; Barbara Knapp; Claudia Caudle; Karen Nolan; Eric Sturm; Elissa Benson; Gretchen Iliff; Lynna Hemeryck; Angela Chesnut; Michael Lewis

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the pathway between Harper Court and Jose Avenue Park. I have been hearing recent dialog regarding the gates. I think restricting access is contrary to why we have any parks or open space, especially in an urban environment. Neighborhood parks and access to them are a precious commodity. It is one ingredient in what makes a community special and binds it together. I do not believe reducing access to our parks, beaches and open space is an answer.

For all the people who enjoy and use the park; I think the problems are negligible. The incidences and problems that are brought up are no different than what occurs county wide on all our streets, neighborhoods and parks at any time of the day or night. Some of the incidences and issues brought up regarding the bridge pathway are not related to the pathway at all; they are simply issues that happened at the park. Should we gate off the whole park, every street and every neighborhood? You cannot totally isolate yourself from public areas. Let me rephrase that; you can attempt to isolate yourself from the public and its society; but then you would choose to isolate yourself in a house, a private gated community or private road away from public areas and its accessibility. Still; that is no guarantee of no disturbances. Every resident of Harper Court was fully aware of the park access when they purchased their homes. Direct access to a neighborhood park is a plus for most people; it is for me. I voted against gate before they were installed. I believe the negative issues were exaggerated then as they are now. While I can sympathize with the two homes that are on either side of the path, the gates have not been a total deterrent. People would climb over, or throw their skateboards or bike over and then climb each gate with words to go with it. That created more nuisance noise and possible sleep disturbance than any walk down an open path. In all these years; I can count on my hands the events that affected myself. My bedrooms and property front all of Harper Court and also the bridge and park. Other disturbances are simply neighbor related and part of the process of living.

I am out on the streets at random times day and night with my dog and have always found Harper street and the Jose Park access to be a more quiet respite from the busier parts of our county. At night there is hardly anyone out except by car. The neighborhood and Parks are very popular with walkers, dog walkers, strollers, school kids, sky gazers and bicyclists. We have peace officers to help with public nuisances, disturbances of the peace and more. It has been my experience that they are ready

and willing to help. It is the responsibility of all neighbors to monitor and report issues and problems. We are the stewards of our land.

The main problem that I have with the bridge gates are that they restrict access from one neighborhood and is wide open to other neighborhoods. It is a segregation issue. The Leona Creek Bridge access to Jose Park is not unique. There are many dozens of special access paths to and from neighborhoods, parks, beach and commercial areas throughout the county. I know of none that are gated. We have endured the inconvenience of locked gates for many years now. I would like to give the open access a try. I understand that the Sheriff's Department is willing also.

For the record: I am For gates on both sides of the bridge. I am For leaving them Locked Open 24/7 and only locked for Rare very temporary occasions for safety or enforcement.

If for some reason it is decided that restricting our neighborhood from the park is necessary, please install 7' tall gates built of vertical steel bars that extend beyond the top horizontal bar so as to provide no toe holds for climbing. In other words; a true security gate. Protect us from ourselves.

Sincerely,

Eric Antonicic

On March 21, 2018 at 9:25 PM Jeff Gaffney <Jeff.Gaffney@santacruzcounty.us> wrote:

Hi Jean,

Thank you for the suggestion. I met with the Commission Chair today and he agreed with you that the gates at Jose Park should be placed on the April 2nd agenda. For the benefit of everyone on this email chain here is the link to the commission (the final agenda should be out next week).

The meeting will be at 7pm at Simpkins Family Center on April 2nd.

<http://www.scparks.com/Home/AdvisoryBodiesCommunityPartners/ParksRecreationCommission.aspx>

Thank you again for your advocacy and support.

Best regards,

Jeff

Jeff Gaffney

Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

On Mar 6, 2018, at 8:32 PM, Jean Brocklebank <jeanbean@baymoon.com> wrote:

Hello Jeff ~

I am glad to read you suggesting the addition of the Jose Park Gates to a Parks Commission agenda.

In fact, this should have been done months ago, so management decision to remove the gates, which affects a lot of park users, not just those who live on Harper Street, could have had a good airing in public via the Parks Commission. At his February 14 constituent meeting, John Leopold was asked to mention such to you and he said he would be in touch with you. The **public process** is the proper way to deal with controversial issues of parks management. Since the Commission meeting after the April 2nd meeting is set for June 4 in Boulder Creek, the April 2nd meeting seems the appropriate one for this to be on the agenda.

All the best,
Jean

On Mar 6, 2018, at 7:09 PM, Jeff Gaffney wrote:

Hello Ms. Nolan,

This was not going to be a Parks Commission item but we could look at it being put on their agenda. As for your request for a meeting date, I am out of the state and was not able to give a solid date because of that fact.

I will check schedules for all of the appropriate personnel when I come back to California and plan a meeting date.

Thank you,

Jeff

Jeff Gaffney

Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

On Mar 6, 2018, at 3:25 PM, Karen Nolan <karen.nolandesigns@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Mr. Leopold & Mr. Gaffney,

It saddens me to know the gate closing between Harper Court and Jose Park are scheduled to be terminated without proper notification to the Live Oak community. This is not a luxury, but rather a public safety that has deterred vandalism, rapes, stabbings, drug dealings, etc. since the gates were approved and installed around 2007. Mr. Leopold's previous predecessor, Jan Beautz, was very instrumental in approving of the gates for public safety! She held public hearings that were highly attended. She went the extra mile during her tenure.

In fact, here is Mr. Leopold's tribute to Jan Beautz.

“Jan was fiercely committed to the 1st district,” Leopold wrote in a tribute that he posted on Facebook. “She ensured that resources were there for the people who live here and fought bad development both before her tenure as supervisor and while on the board.”

“He added, “She leaves an impressive legacy and she will be missed.”

Mrs. Beautz even used her own money to sue the county and won! I admired this level of commitment and not saying you should do the same by any means.

The community of Live Oak is entitled to know the charges for locking these two gates. It is my understanding that First Alarm charges \$40/hour. Years of living next to the path, seeing First Alarm come and go from locking the gates, it takes approximately 10 minutes - 2 times a day to accomplish the task. We know this as First Alarm often parks in the court while locking the gates/public bathrooms to Jose Park before/after locking the bathrooms at Hestwood Park located on Harper Street, one block away from Harper Court.

My point. This is not just a park budget problem. Removing the gates and passing the buck to the sheriff ignores the historical effort put forth by the community and the supervisor to address the community's problem.

Mr. Gaffney, your recent email to Dr. Knapp mentions a meeting you plan on pulling together for all concerned...a ball park date would be appreciated! Will this be before the **7 pm - April 2 meeting of the Parks Commission?**

Kind Regards,

Karen D. Nolan, P.E.

Nolan Designs

karen.nolandesigns@gmail.com

831-476-4197

On Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 10:51 AM, Jeff Gaffney <Jeff.Gaffney@santacruzcounty.us> wrote:
Hello Mr. Knapp,

I was unaware you left our meeting with expectations that we had the resources to continue to open and close the gates (and repair them) in perpetuity. I shared with you that we have had to make significant cuts for the upcoming budget cycle and specifically said we did not have the resources to continue to pay for your gate services. We have many priorities throughout the county, both financially and physically when it comes to maintaining our parks for the entire community. I do appreciate that you noticed we committed as much of our limited resources for this budget cycle to repair and maintain Jose Park and your advocacy has been successful.

We will continue to work closely with the Sheriff's Office to increase and improve patrols in your community and cul de sac. I will also pull together a meeting with everyone on this email in the coming weeks and so we can discuss other creative options.

Thank you again for your interest and for trying to make our parks better for everyone.

Best regards,

Jeff

Jeff Gaffney

Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

> On Mar 5, 2018, at 9:21 AM, Lewis Knapp <drknapp@corybantwest.com> wrote:

>

>

> Gentlemen,

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> Background:

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> After hearing that the gates closing access to Jose Avenue park from Harper Court at night were to be removed at the order of the Parks Director, Michael Lesh and I met with Parks Director Gaffney to provide historical information as to why the gates were installed and to request that they not be removed and the nightly locking/unlocking not be discontinued.

>

> A group of neighbors of Jose Avenue Park attended Supervisor Leopold's Constituent Meeting on Wednesday, February 14th and requested help from him with the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services to reconsider this abrupt termination of a practice which deterred vandalism and unauthorized use of the park when the park is closed.

>

> While there has been marked activity in repairing deferred maintenance on the bridge and path and removal of bushes which attract and hide unhealthy behavior in the park, there seems to be no change in the gate situation. The parkside gate which was removed is still gone and the

Harper Court gate is sporadically attended to by First Alarm.

>

> The neighbors of the path would like the broken gate repaired and reinstalled and the gates to continue to be locked as they have been since 2007. The park is closed at night and we would like to continue to discourage traffic through the path to the closed park.

>

> My point:

>

> It has been over two weeks since this conversation was started and we have not heard from either of you about the situation. The neighbors of the park are still concerned about this issue and wonder what, if anything is happening or is going to happen.

>

> Would you please share your current thoughts on this subject with us?

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Lewis Knapp