



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/TTY: call 711

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, August 14, 2023
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regular Meeting

Alternate Meeting Location:
Board of Supervisors Chambers (5th Floor)
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- a. Commissioners Present: Katherine Lee (District 1), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Martha Vega (District 4), Monica Martinez (District 5)
- b. Staff Present: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Anissa Childers, Frankie Farr

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, Closed Session Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

- a. Mariah Roberts of County Park Friends expressed gratitude for work done with such limited funding, especially in comparison to other counties.
- b. Comments on the Felton Covered Bridge Pump Track Project from Steve Halmon, Phyllis Tveit, Angela Kelly, and Blair Zehm

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve minutes from June 12, 2023..... page 4-5
- b. Consider Reports:
 - i. Aquatics Section Report.....page 6
 - ii. Maintenance Section Report.....page 7
 - iii. Planning Section Report..... page 9-10
 - iv. Recreation Section Report.....page 11
 - v. Reservations Section Report.....page 12
 - vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 13-18

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- a. District 1: Anna Jean Cummings County Park has a good volunteer, LEO's Haven in Chanticleer County Park is updated and good, some parks are a little overgrown.
- b. District 2: Absent / No report
- c. District 3: No report
- d. District 4: National Night Out event at Mesa Village County Park, will encourage her students to participate in volunteer opportunities at Pinto Lake County Park

- e. District 5: Beautify Felton Event to clean up downtown area, Valley Women's Club Plant and Rummage Sale at Highlands County Park

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Expressed gratitude for public engagement. Encouraged attendance at upcoming events: Family Fun Day and Parks and Rex Dog Pool Party. Update on Volunteer Program and Park Host opportunities at Pinto Lake County Park and Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. Updates on upcoming projects: a new shade structure to be installed at Chanticleer County Park, Green Valley Pathway and Park. Ben Lomond County Park is now open.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS (None)

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Parks Strategic Plan Update Draft presented by Mariana Colibri-Urgo, Planner III
 - i. Questions and Comments from Commissioners
 - 1. Katherine: clarification on core and stretch objectives
 - 2. Jeremy: inquired about survey process, survey results availability, and equity in relation to athletic facilities.
 - 3. Martha: expressed gratitude to those who worked on this project. Inquired about the working group, representation from District 4 within the working group and surveyed individuals, and staffing.
 - 4. Monica: expressed gratitude.
 - ii. Questions and Comments from Public
 - 1. Erica Schwanbeck: asked for clarification on survey outreach in District 5
 - 2. Working Group Member: highlighted the equity within working group and emphasized funding limitations.
 - 3. Tom Fredericks: expressed concerns for District 5, especially Felton.
 - 4. Mariah Roberts: echoed needs for funding and systemic approach to funding
- b. Deputy Director Rebecca Hurley will discuss potential pump track at Felton Covered Bridge County Park.
 - i. Questions and Comments from Commissioners
 - 1. Martha: clarification on Commission's role
 - 2. Katherine and Martha: inquired about public informational processes and feedback
 - 3. Jeremy: inquired about impact and if projections can be made from similar parks in the county
 - 4. Monica: commented on public input, highlighting an estimate 85% are in support of the project. Inquired about process, maintenance, operational, and budgetary implications.
 - ii. Questions and Comments from Public
 - 1. Support and opposition for project. Concerns for process, oversight, and impacts to the environment and local community.
 - 2. Bridget, Richard Zen, Virginia Rite, Erica Schwanbeck, Dave, Cory Otsborg, Tom Fredericks, Joan Morgan, Brian Largardy, Mary Sullivan
 - iii. Comments from Staff
 - 1. Jeff: provided clarification on Commission's role, the process for developing this project. Provided information on maintenance, operational, and budgetary implications and improvements.

2. Rebecca: provided clarification on park improvement project processes, rationale for this project.

iv. Questions and Comments from Commissioners

c. Discuss possible workshop retreat date and times.

i. Date, time, and location to be determined by survey to Commissioners.

ii. Topics to include Brown Act, Bylaws, Commission roles and responsibilities, Commission goals, Parks Department goals, onboarding with County Staff, and ways to get involved with the community.

d. Community attendance: 25 members present.

IX. NEXT MEETING: December 11, 2023 Location to be announced in public notice.

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

XI. ADJOURNMENT