



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of December 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Rapoza, Mariah Roberts, Maggie Duncan-Merrell, Kate Minott, Steven Bennett
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Accept agenda as presented (Bennett/Rapoza 5/0)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Kate Minott: Move Consent item 6.b to be considered under Regular agenda item VII.c

Modification to October 7, 2019 minutes:

- Change motion VII.b to read "Parks Director work with appropriate stakeholders to develop strategy for management of Snowy Plover habitat at Scott Creek Beach"
- Add Katherine Sweet to oral communications, Subject: Anna Jean Cummings
- Minutes approved as modified. Reports accepted and filed. (Rapoza/Duncan-Merrell 5/0)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Supervisor Zach Friend Subject: Thank you to Parks Department and Parks Commission
2. Katherine Sweet Subject: Commission agenda item process and Anna Jean Cummings Park
3. Vivian Fetter-Evan: Subject: Anna Jean Cummings trails
4. Lisa Sheridan Subject: Anna Jean Cummings trails
5. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Thank you to Parks Department and Parks Commission
6. Kane Silverberg: Subject: Illegal camping at Anna Jean Cummings Park
7. Bert Pool: Subject: Volunteer Day & trash pickup at Anna Jean Cummings Park

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: Thank you to Leslie Keedy for her work at University Terrace Park in Santa Cruz City.

Bennett 4th District: I attended the Arts & Craft Fair at the Vets Memorial Hall – it was a nice event.

Rapoza 5th District: The 5th District is blessed with great parks and staff does a great job. Felton Discovery Park is progressing despite the rain – hope to have the commission up there after it opens. The homeless issues at Felton Covered Bridge Park is improving. Highlands, Quail and Ben Lomond all look great.

Minott 2nd District: I want to acknowledge all the volunteers that came out to Aldridge Lane Park on National Volunteer Day. The neighborhood around Seacliff is so excited to see a flushable toilet coming to the park. A panel has selected a muralist to pain the bathroom. The Lions are working to create a Vet Memorial area somewhere in Aptos Village Area. I'm disappointed the vaping item wasn't included in the agenda – State Parks recently passed an ordinance. Thank you to everybody for the good work.

Roberts 1st District: LEO's Haven is coming along – look for the park opening happening in the first 3 weeks of January. We have neighbors interested in support something at Felt St. Park.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- We will be amending the smoking ordinance to include vaping as we review changes to our County Code
- Mary Chavez is leaving us, she is moving to Health Services Agency as a Senior Department Analyst. Big loss for us, but happy for her promotion.
- Process for Commission items: The Chair surveys Commissioners, then the Chair and I discuss what items seem appropriate for the agenda. Important for the public to reach out to their appointed commissioner. We will continue to streamline and improve the process.
- Art and Craft Faire last weekend, it was well attended and always a fun event here at Simpkins.
- Two successful Volunteer Days at Anna Jean Cummings and Aldridge Lane Park.
- I'm participating in the Resource Conservation District Strategic Plan process and some other Parks staff members have given input as well.
- There was a Legislative Roundtable put together by County Board of Supervisors that included local state and federal representatives. The most important thing for us was the Land Water Conservation Fund, we are looking to advocate for the permanent funding of that. The money comes from taxes and services from oil wells off the coast of California. A lot of park land was purchase with these dollars. The legislation is permanent, but ensuring the funding is permanent with be the next step.
- Tomorrow is the BOS meeting tomorrow, three Parks items on the agenda: 1) Felton Park Naming 2) Approving Grant Application for Whale Tail 3) Approving lease for Seacliff park to build skate feature.
- With the Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission - Looking to get underserved youth and at-risk youth who do not have easy coastal access to Greyhound Rock area. We want to create programs / overnight accommodations for field trips.
- I'm now the Vice President of the Youth Resource Bank. Commissioner Rapoza is also on the Youth Resource Bank board and has been there a few years longer. It is a great non-profit that wants to provide services to youth that may not be address. i.e. retainer replacement or getting kids out to sporting/arts/cultural events.
- Mountain biking is allowed at all county parks except Quail Hollow Ranch. We have an awesome trail crew at Quail, maybe that is something we should create for Anna Jean Cummings Park.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Update was given by Terry Corwin of County Park Friends
- b. Director Gaffney gave update on Scott Creek Beach
- c. Director Gaffney and Margaret Ingraham answered questions from the Commission about the VIP program

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. The 2020 meeting dates were accepted by the Commission (Minott/Bennet 5/0)
- b. The Commission reviewed the Biennial Report and accepted with amendments (Rapoza/Bennett 5/0)

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 22)

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (Minott/Duncan-Merrell 5/0)