



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of February 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Virtual via Zoom

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Monica Martinez, Maggie Duncan-Merrell, Martha Victoria Vega, Tricia Wiltshire
Potts, Katherine Lee
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Noah Ross, Rebecca Hurley

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

1. Motion to move regular item a to beginning of meeting (Duncan-Merrell/Lee 5/0)
 - a. Commissioner Duncan-Merrell resigned from the commission and left the meeting.
2. Move agenda forward as modified (Wiltshire/Lee 4/0)

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Vivian Fenner-Evans Subject: Expressed concerns of disc golf safety at Pinto Lake County Park
2. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Expressed concerns over pruning of trees in 1st district parks.
3. Mariah Roberts Subject: Spoke on County Park Friends programming updates, specifically ParksRx. Spoke on fundraising accomplishments for Floral and Willowbrook Parks. County Park Friends is hiring a Director of Healthy Places position.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Approve Minutes of December 5, 2022 (Lee/Wiltshire 4/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Lee 1st District: Reported on progress of Anna Jean Cummings Park tree plantings. Discussed recent storms.

Wiltshire 2nd District: Mentioned stargazing club. Noted recent storms. Tree down at Hidden Beach Park. Thanked partners for recent County Park Friends fundraising recent park projects.

Vega 4th District: Spoke on storms and damage. Noted incoming federal funding. Talked of recent visits from state and federal officials. Noted constituents have raised questions about how to inquire about park maintenance.

Martinez 5th District: Thanked commissioners for detailed reports. Noted recent north county community events. Discussed how storms impacted parks and community, specifically Felton Covered Bridge.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Noted desire to improve public outreach options on department website

The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community

Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of February 6, 2023

- Spoke of recent storms and Parks staff's roles in response and recovery
- Discussed that FEMA process will take time and that we will provide updates throughout the year
- Thanked Park Maintenance staff specifically for their work in storm response
- Ben Lomond, Moran Lake, and Heart of Soquel Parks were hit the hardest by recent storms and will take the longest to recover.
- Over \$8,000,000 in County Park damages alone
- Swim Center slated to reopen fully by June 2023
- Poet Laureate appointed
- Willowbrook Memorial construction underway

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Motion: Appoint Commissioner Monica Martinez to chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission (Duncan-Merrell/Vega 5/0)
- b. Motion: Appoint Commissioner Martha Victoria-Vega to vicechair of the Parks and Recreation Commission (Martinez/Lee 5/0)
- c. Motion to approve draft schedule as modified - to meet quarterly only, removing April and October 2023 meeting dates (Martinez/Lee 4/0)

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Info Items

- a. Introduction of Mariana Colibri-Urgo, Park Planner III
 - i. Discussed strategic plan updates and working group

IX. NEXT MEETING: Monday April 10th 5:00-7:00 p.m.

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. (Vega/Lee 5/0)