



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of April 2, 2018, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Jim Rapoza, Mariah Roberts, Alexandra Sibille
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Lynna Hemeryck, Eric Sturm, Jessica Wolf

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (None)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved minutes from February 5, 2018. (Bennett/ Sibille 4/0)
Accept and file items and reports. (Roberts/ Sibille 4/0)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Jean Brocklebank wanted to confirm that the word 'natural' was added to Section II under the Role of the Parks and Recreation Commission in the 2016-2017 Biennial Report.
- Becky Steinbruner, resident of Aptos, wanted to urge the Commission to consider the addition of community gardens to parks. She would also like to see more bicycle jumps included in neighborhood parks.

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Roberts – This past weekend, Twin Lakes Church in Aptos hosted an adaptive egg hunt designed for kids with disabilities. The funds collected for the event were donated to fundraising efforts for LEO's Haven at Chanticleer Park. Tricia Potts displayed a video of the event created by the multimedia department at Twin Lakes Church. The Lions Club International Foundation recently awarded a \$100,000 grant toward LEO's Haven.
- Bennett – Had another good meeting with the Rotary Club in Pajaro Valley. Looking forward to setting up a trust and starting a Pajaro Valley Sports Foundation. Still looking for places but there is a group of about 30 people that meets every month with the target of a sports complex with 8-10 soccer fields and softball fields.
- Sibille – It was exciting to see that Tau Kappa Epsilon from UCSC felt compelled to formally adopt and regularly maintain Scott Creek Beach after spending time volunteering there.
- Rapoza – Attended the County Parks Draft Strategic Plan presentation at Highlands and met with the fundraising coordinator for the Nature Discovery Park being developed next to the new Felton Library.

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

- The County Parks Draft Strategic plan was rolled out in three locations with Community Meetings at Simpkins, Watsonville and at Highlands Park. It received a lot of positive feedback.

- There will be opportunities to comment on the draft on the County Parks website for months to come.
- Former County Parks employee Nick Calubaquib has been hired as the new Director for Watsonville City Parks.
- July is Parks and Recreation Month! In the newly released activity guide there is a list of events offered free to the community throughout the month of July. County Parks is partnering with all of the Parks Departments in Santa Cruz County to host Family Fun Day at Simpkins Family Swim Center on July 28th from 3-7 p.m.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Announcement that the next Parks and Recreation Commission on June 4, 2018 will be held at Bear Creek Country Club from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- b. (Item was moved to after Action Items)

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Approved Parks and Recreation Commission 2016-2017 Biennial Report. (Sibille/Roberts 4/0)
- b. Adopted Resolution in support of Proposition 68 on June 2018 Ballot. (Roberts/Sibille 3/0/1)
- c. Advised further conversation about Harper Street access to Jose Avenue Park between Supervisor Leopold, Director Gaffney, a member of the community and the Sheriff. (Sibille/Bennett 4/0)
- d. Nominated Steven Bennett for Commission Chair (Roberts/Sibille 4/0) and nominated Alexandra Sibille for Commission Vice-Chair. (Roberts/Bennett 4/0)

Regular Agenda – Information Item b.

- b. Jessica Wolf provided an update on the Draft County Parks Strategic Plan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. (Roberts/Sibille 4/0)