



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of August 6, 2018, 7:00 p.m. meeting 85 Nielson Street Watsonville, CA 95076

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Jim Rapoza, Mariah Roberts, Kate Minott, Alex Sibille
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (none)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Accept agenda as presented (Roberts/ Minott 5/0)

Correction to June 4, 2018 minutes: Under Commissioner Reports Section V. first bullet should read "Minott". (Roberts/ Minott 5/0)

Accept and file reports. (Minott/ Rapoza 5/0)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (none)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Rapoza – commend staff on Ben Lomond park, it looks great. The basketball courts were resurfaced, there's new fencing; too bad we can't renovate the dam for a swimming area. Want to thank Mark Stone for the additional \$1 million that will go to the Felton Library and Discovery Park. Will Fournier was able to get another grant from the CCC for a trail in the Discovery Park.
- Minott – The Seacliff neighbors were asking about Phase 2 of Seacliff Village Park. Part of Phase 2 is putting in a "skateable dot" which is a small skate site that would be accessible by wheelchair, skateboard and tricycle. The Seacliff neighbors are requesting that the campaign "toilet for tots" be started for SVP, which is something Supervisor Friend would support.
- Bennett – Most of my report will be part of the presentations tonight.
- Sibille – The Downtown Streets Team was working on cleaning up North County beaches. I've been talking about them for awhile and it's great to see they are putting in work up the coast.
- Roberts – We are \$300,000 from meeting the goal for LEO's Haven at Chanticleer Park. We are excited to start looking at programming and transportation for kids from all over the County to be able to get there – this is an essential part of the next stage and we have been in conversation with a number of partners and will definitely be working with the school district and other partners in South County to make sure that any kiddo that wants to take part in the inclusive programming (anti bias, anti bullying) will be able to, and the programming will be offered in English and in Spanish.

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

- July was a busy month for staff!

Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of August 6, 2018

- Friday Night Recess was a lot of fun – over 4,500 people in attendance throughout the night.
- Family Fun Day – amazing event – really smooth for our first time, 2,000 attendees! It was a collaboration of Watsonville City Parks, Santa Cruz City Parks, County Parks, and The Boys and Girls Club.
- There was a nice ribbon cutting ceremony for Twin Lakes Beach on July 27th. Parks will begin to maintain the parkway once it is officially completed.
- Next two big events:
 - Parks and Rex, August 25th, and Family Fun Run on Sept 22nd.
 - Chanticleer Ground breaking planned for October 13th – we will keep you posted as details unfold.
 - The Animal Shelter will be occupying our Felt St. building with their Benefit Shop and will have a soft grand opening on August 16th.
- Pinto Lake Bike Pump Track – going to Board tomorrow 8/7 to ratify contract – we are still expecting construction to be completed by end of October.
- Half cent Sales tax increase being proposed at BOS meeting tomorrow. If approved – the sales tax measure will go on November ballot.
 - This sales tax increase will greatly benefit Parks! Provide funding for Chanticleer, Simpkins, HOS Linear Parkway, The Farm, Felton Nature Park, Aptos Village Park, South County Parks.
- Held interviews for two Maintenance worker positions – the interview team did a great job and will be making their final decisions on the candidates.
- Having problems at Moran – homeless people loitering in the parks
- We are implementing the new Active Net software to replace our antiquated software system and will ‘go live’ Sept 4th - admin staff is really working hard on this – I think we will see it pay off.
- Gretchen is retiring soon! We are going to miss her. We’re hoping she will come back and volunteer.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. John Skinner gave a status update about the Pajaro Valley Sports Foundation
- b. Dave Kegebein gave a status update about the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. The Commission accepted and filed the Parks Department Strategic Plan (Minott/ Sibille 5/0)
- b. The Commission recommended that an interim bike pump track be pursued for The Farm Park and Directing the Parks Director to take all related and necessary actions to proceed with obtaining funding, an MOU with Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz, and permit approvals to allow Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz to construct and maintain bike pump tracks at the Farm Park. (Roberts/ Rapoza 5/0)

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. (Minott/Sibille 5/0)