



# County of Santa Cruz

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## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of April 5, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Virtual via Zoom

#### I. ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Rapoza, Maggie Duncan-Merrell, Kate Minott, Steven Bennett  
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Jennifer Mead  
Members of the public present: 5

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (none)

#### III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Becky Steinbruner Subject: Expressed concerned over drainage easement for Aptos Village project in Aptos Village Park.
2. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Suggestion to allow for more time for people to speak if there are only 1 or 2 people that have public comment.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Minutes & reports approved (Rapoza/Bennett 4/0)

#### V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Rapoza 5th District: Compliment staff on Felton Covered Bridge parks, it looks good and is getting a lot of use. The area down by the river has been cleaned up and is helping with homeless issues down there. I want to thank the SLV Rotary and Friends of the Felton Library for their work at the Felton Discovery park. I encourage everyone to visit the park, it's a short walk and it is very nice.

Minott 2nd District: People are very excited about the sports fields that are getting ready for organized sports again. Director Gaffney and Supervisor Friend had a great meeting with the Seacliff Improvement Association about Seacliff Village park, and informed the group about possible fundraising goals for the park. I wanted to check in about Jean Andersen at Seascape who's family built doggie bag kiosks. It would be nice for the department to send a thank you letter. Would like Aptos Village park discussion to be an agenda item in June.

Bennett 4th District: The fence was fixed at Mesa, thank you. The fence at Aldridge looks good, not in my district but close. The City is getting back to opening their programs.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: West Cliff Food Truck summer series has begun. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at Steamer Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in October. Also, West Cliff outdoor market at Steamers happening throughout the summer. Summer registration starts on May 1<sup>st</sup> and mailer will go as well. Many of the parks in the city limits are used by people in the entire county and I will continue to update on city parks to keep everyone informed.

## **VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- We are in Orange Tier status – in person meetings will be allowed soon with restrictions.
- Digital Activity Guide will be ready by the end of April.
- Launched a social distanced St. Patrick's Day event and staff is planning a Spring Rock Scavenger hunt.
- Updating our website – please check it out.
- Bringing back Junior and Little Guards programs this summer.
- Staff & consultants started planning for Hidden Beach restroom construction.
- Prop 68 grant for Chanticleer was submitted.
- Park Impact fees changes we discussed in February will be heading to the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and Coastal Commission.

## **VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Info Items**

- a. Director Gaffney presented a Proclamation to Mariah Roberts thanking her for years of service on the Commission and in the community
- b. Presentation was given from County Park Friends
- c. Commissioners discussed changes in park etiquette and the need for rule enforcement and a public service announcement restating the rules in parks
  - i. Director Gaffney is meeting regularly with city park Directors to discuss issues within the park systems. Items to be addressed: Unpermitted encampment, trash on beaches, dogs, fire pits, sound violations, increased visitation beyond park capacity, homelessness, and natural resource damage.

## **VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items**

- a. The Cabrillo Host Lions shared stories of Aptos Village Park and the inception of the community building at the park.

Motion: Direct Commission Chair to work with staff to issue a Certificate of Appreciation for the Cabrillo Host Lions in recognition of their 60 Years Of Service to the community (Bennett/Rapoza 4/0)
- b. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Rapoza nominated Commissioner Bennett for Chair (Rapoza/ Duncan-Merrell 3/0)

Commissioner Duncan-Merrell nominated Commissioner Rapoza for Vice Chair (Duncan-Merrell/Bennett 4/0)

## **IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING**

- X. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.