



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of April 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Accept agenda as presented (Minott/Roberts 4/0)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approved minutes from February 4, 2018 (Minott/Roberts 3/0) (Duncan-Merrell abstained)

B. Accept and file reports as presented (Minott/Roberts 4/0)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (none)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Roberts 1st District – The fences are up at Chanticleer! My other hat is with Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks, and I want to encourage everyone to spread the word about County Parks Friends. We are trying to build on what we've learned with Chanticleer by creating partnerships to support other projects.

Minott 2nd District – Things are going well in 2nd district. Park Staff is working with SSA Landscape Architects to install a flushing toilet at Seacliff Village Park. Parents are excited for the Sycamore Concessions at Polo Grounds. I did a check-in with the Hidden Beach Park volunteers and everyone loves the new drinking fountain. They are building there membership and would like to raise funds for the playground.

Bennett 4th District – Pajaro Valley Sports Foundation meeting at the end of this month. They are making progress with Freedom school with the pilot program to get two soccer fields out there that can turn into a sports complex down the line. I will have more info for you as that unfolds.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District – My name is Maggie Duncan-Merrell, I was on the City Parks Commission for four years. I was born and raised in Santa Cruz, my daughter has done junior lifeguard for the last 9 years and this is the first year I won't have to worry about weather or not she will be getting into the program! The summer registration for City Parks will open this Saturday for programs and classes. I'm also a landscape designer and firmly believe in keeping maintenance in our parks updated and planting wildlife appropriate foliage that can withstand use from the animals and people that visit parks.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Welcome Maggie, we are happy to have you on the Commission!
- We hired a new Parks Superintendent – Rebecca Hurley! She’s been working at Parks for a long time, she started as a recreation volunteer, and before that she was a participant in the summer camps and afterschool programs.
- We’re contracting with a grant writer, Kristina Tierney, to help us apply for grants. She’s worked as a Park Planner and we are fortunate to have her. We’ll be submitting grant applications for the Farm, Heart Of Soquel, and Moran Lake.
- I talked to Capitola-Aptos Rotary to see if they are interested in helping out at Hidden Beach. We are in need of \$100,000 to make the playground renovation possible.
- A few staff members attended the CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society) conference in Sacramento. The conference always activates and engages staff. I was able to attend one day as well and got a lot out of it and found out how I can save the department more money!
- Chanticleer Park Phase 1 construction started last week. Commissioner Roberts and Tricia Potts have done so much for the project and they were recently honored at the Jefferson Awards for all their work. We were able to honor them at a CPRS Volunteer Awards breakfast as well. We can’t thank them enough. We are trying to get a time lapse camera in place so people can watch the construction phases online.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Presentation on the Pure Water Projects was given by Ron Duncan
- b. Presentation on the Youth Violence Task Force was given by Julie Burr
- c. Presentation on the County Strategic & Operation Plan status was given by Jeff Gaffney
- d. Jeff Gaffney discussed upcoming grant opportunities for the Farm Park and Moran Lake. Commissioners had the opportunity to prioritize park features that were important to their constituents and provide additional suggestions.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Mariah Roberts was elected Chair, and Kate Minott was elected Vice-Chair.
(Minott/Duncan 4/0)

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. (Roberts/ Minott 4/0)