



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Vivian Fenner-Evans, Kate Minott, Maggie Duncan-Merrell, Steven Bennett,
Jim Rapoza
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Jennifer Mead

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (none)

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Jessica Ayala Subject: Would like to know more information about land being purchased near the Fairgrounds for Parks and Rec. I have a lot of questions around this.
2. Becky Steinbruner Subject: Request for Commission review if County purchases land next to fairgrounds and request for Commission discussion about the drainage easement in Aptos Park with Aptos Village Project

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Minutes of April 5, 2021 were approved (Rapoza/Minott 5/0)

Motion: Reports were considered and accepted (Minott/Duncan-Merrell 5/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Minott 2nd District: There is brand new shade structures at Seacliff Village Park and also new oak trees planted. Phase 2 is progressing nicely.

Rapoza 5th District: The fence at Ben Lomond parks looks really good, the park is getting a lot of use. Felton Covered Bridge looks great. The volunteers at Felton Discovery and Quail Hollow are doing a great job.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: The city parks are booming, both with positive and negative use. The beaches are extremely crowded again. It is exciting but a little concerning since the city Park Rangers have been laid off. There is so much garbage everywhere. I would like to see more funding to stop misuse of parks and fund up stream maintenance and enforcement of laws.

Fenner-Evans 1st District: I'm honored to attend my first meeting. On July 9th, there's a movie night at Anna Jean Cummings and July 18th there is a birding walk. On July 4th, Simpkins will host a free swim. At Heart of Soquel, the mallards are about to have babies. The Zumba class is growing at Brommer Park. I would like to honor the memory of Katherine Sweet who passed away on Saturday. She supported Anna Jean Cummings park as a multi-use park for everyone.

Bennett 4th District: Pajaro Valley Sports Foundation got approval to move forward with renovations of the soccer field at Freedom School. They are in a fundraising phase. There will be a field renovation with new lights and parking. I also attended a Zoom call with Thrive Outside with County Park Friends, Kaiser and the Warriors – it was great to talk about the value of parks.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- I am very sorry to hear about Katherine Sweet. She was a great advocate for parks.
- I'd like to welcome our new 1st District Commissioner, Vivian Fenner-Evans.
- The Ben Lomond Dam is seasonal to discourage people from jumping off the wall and also to help with erosion control.
- We are in Yellow Tier status, but there are still questions with OSHA about workplace guidelines.
- We said goodbye to 3 staff members. They are moving onto better things, and we are hoping to get those positions filled.
- Things are busy again at the aquatics center, if you come by you will notice lots of activity. Our summer swim programs are in full swing and we are hiring lifeguards.
- AmeriCorp is at Pinto Lake Park for a month helping with habitat restoration and other special projects.
- The Park Impact Fees Public Hearing is tomorrow at the Board of Supervisors. Will Fourn has done so much work on this. It will be very important for our department to make changes to the fee structure.
- We are continuing to update our website.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Will Fourn gave presentation on mitigation plantings at Anna Jean Cummings
- b. Sven Stafford gave presentation on the County Operational Plan
- c. Mariah Roberts shared updates about County Park Friends
- d. Todd Marco gave presentation about Nisene Rio Gateway
- e. Jeff Gaffney gave update on outreach to the public regarding County Park rules

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

IX. NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 2, 2021, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. (Minott/ Duncan-Merrel 5/0)