



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of August 2, 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 Approved agenda as presented. (Rapoza/Minott 5/0)

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Barry Scott Subject: Cabrillo Lions are thankful for access to Aptos Park Center. Todd Marco of Nisene Rio Gateway is interested in having parcels surveyed for Nisene Rio project.
2. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Concern about riparian corridors and wildlife habitat, and the need for more protection.
3. Larry Corridon Subject: Concern about bird habitat being removed during invasive plant removal. The disc golf course eats away at the park habitat. Staff should watch what volunteers do.
4. Aniko Millan Subject: 50 Art Frames are up throughout the County. Planninh Corozon de Muejer event on Aug 22 at Felt Street park with local artists, music, and vaccination booth. Also planning a fundraiser to auction off the art frames in September.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Minutes of June 7, 2021 were approved (Duncan-Merrell/Rapoza 5/0)

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

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Minott 2nd District: Deep regret for the loss of Pepper Golesh, we will miss her. Aptos Park will host a concert on Aug 14 to raise funds for teens recovering from drug addiction. I took a hike with Todd Marco and Barry Scott to discuss the Nisen Rio project. I visited Pinto Lake park with Chair Bennet, we found answers to questions we had. We were pleased by the politeness of the disc golf players and the multi-use of the park.

Rapoza 5th District: Went to Quail Hollow, it is looking good. I continue to see a lot of use of Ben Lomond dam, it's too bad they can't put the dam in. The parks are looking good in the 5th district.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: The 3rd District continues to be used heavily. There was a beautiful note from the Santa Cruz City Mayor in the Santa Cruz Sentinel about parks and open spaces. It's exciting to have a good advocate sitting in the mayor's seat.

Fenner-Evans 1st District: I took a couple field trips - I visited Leo's Haven and had to play on the playground, the community gardens are full of food. I visited Felt St. park and the garden has amazing sunflowers. I went to Brommer park and watched the Foklorico which is traditional dance, there were 19 children dancing. From early spring to present, many parks have had baby owls. A baby owl can eat 13-17 mice in one night!

Bennett 4th District: I've had a busy last two weeks. We had a good Brown Act training, just Rapoza and I, we covered the basics. Kate and I walked around Pinto Lake, it was nice, right after hole 14 there is a shed, behind that there are fence posts buried and possibly became a growing spot. I had a good conversation with Jean and Michael and discussed a letter they had submitted. Vival and I talked about Anna Jean Cummings. I swung my Mesa Village park, all looks good in District 4.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- We are holding drop-in public meetings on Aug 19 and Aug 22 to get input on the Moran Lake Restoration and Public Access Plan
- The Park Impact Fees were approved by Board of Supervisors
 - It started at Parks Commission, then went to Planning Commission, then BOS and will go to Coastal Commission next.
 - It is great for Parks, we probably won't notice for first 5 years but it will start to help with deferred maintenance and repair current infrastructure.
- We finished the public service announcement about dogs off leash. It was a collaboration with City of Watsonville and City of Santa Cruz.
- Upcoming site visits with grant administrator for Chanticleer and Farm Park
- Following up on the mysterious tree survey, it was done by developer. They worked with drainage division of DPW and was signed off years ago that I did not have any knowledge of.
- I wanted to echo appreciation of Donna Meyers. We are lucky to have her influence.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Kat Palermo gave a preview of the new County Parks website
- b. Jeff Gaffney reviewed the role of an Ad-hoc Committee for the Commission

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

- a. Jeff Gaffney reviewed the FY 21/22 Parks Budget. Motion: Accept and file Director's review of FY 21/22 Parks Budget (Rapoza/ Duncan-Merrell 5/0)
- b. The Commission discussed possible formation of an ad-hoc committee for mitigation plantings at Anna Jean Cummings park. Motion: Instead of ad-hoc committee, the Parks Commission recommends staff to hold a public meeting by April 2022 for the public to offer input on mitigation plantings at Anna Jean Cummings park. (Fenner-Evans/Minott 4/0) (1 Nay, Duncan-Merrell)

IX. NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 4, 2021, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 29)

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. (Duncan-Merrel/Rapoza 5/0)