

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting (virtual)

August 3, 2020, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Public Participation Guidelines

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health, the California Governor's Office, and Santa Cruz County Health Officer, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, please do the following:

- The public may conference into the meeting to listen & participate during Oral Communications & comment on other agenda items by calling: *82 1 (916) 318-9542 and enter conference ID 721 348 934.
 - Once in the conference line, please mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
 - If disruptive sound is coming from your device/phone line, the moderator will mute your device and you will have to unmute yourself to participate.
- You will NOT be able to attend the meeting in person as per Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 and N-25-20.
- RELATED CORRESPONDENCE: Written comments may also be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission in care of Jennifer Mead, County Parks Secretary, either by Email or U.S Mail. Please include the agenda item number. Agenda comments received by 5:00pm the Monday before the meeting will be included with agenda materials; such comments received after 5:00pm Monday and before meeting adjournment will be included with the minutes record.

Email: jennifer.mead@santacruzcounty.us

U.S. Mail:

Parks & Recreation Commission
c/o Jennifer Mead
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

(AGENDA on following page)



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, August 3, 2020
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Regular Meeting (virtual)

Simpkins Swim Center
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission or on today's Agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public communications presented regarding topics not on the Agenda but may choose to follow up later, either later, or on a subsequent Commission Agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve minutes from June 8, 2020.....Page 3-5
- b. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Aquatics Section Report.....Page 6
 - 2. Maintenance Section Report.....Page 7-8
 - 3. Planning Section Report.....Page 9-10
 - 4. Recreation Section Report.....Page 11
 - 5. Reservations Section ReportPage 12
 - 6. Volunteer Section Report.....Page 13-17

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Zero Waste presentation by Christina Horvat of Public Works
- b. Slow Streets Santa Cruz presentation, and County Park Friends update by Terry Corwin of County Park Friends
- c. Develop more diversity for Commission positions and policies

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Approve the Veterans Memorial Bench project at Aptos Village Park and direct the Parks Department to work with the Cabrillo Host Lions to fund & implement the project. (Page 18-19)
- b. Review Budget and make recommendations as needed. Revised budget available online: https://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/supplemental_budget_2020-21/2020-2021_revised_budget.pdf

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

X. ADJOURNMENT



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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of June 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Motion: Move Budget information item to action item so Commissioners can make a recommendation to staff and/or the Board of Supervisors. (Minott/Bennett 4/0; 1 Abstention, Roberts)

- At 7:50pm, Commissioner Rapoza and Chair Roberts, along with Director Gaffney brought up that moving an information item to an action item could be a Brown Act violation so item was moved to end of information items to allow for discussion and not risk a Brown Act violation.

Motion: Agenda approved. (Duncan-Merrell/Minott 5/0)

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Vivian Fetter-Evans Subject: Habitat Restoration signage at Anna Jean Cummings
2. Tricia Potts Subject: Friends of County Parks update

IV. CONSENT AGENDA Consent Agenda was approved. (Rapoza/Duncan-Merrell 5/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Roberts 1st District: There is a lot going on in the world. A lot of news and reports every day. I've seen a lot of beach and park use. People really have used these spaces during this difficult time. I want to thank everyone in the Parks Department for all their work with opening and closing parks spaces and facilities.

Minott 2nd District: Always exciting in the 2nd District. The skate parks at Seacliff was an issue, the second issue was the Polo Grounds dog park. After Director Gaffney re-opened the skate park Never a dull moment.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: The City of Santa Cruz will be offering a 3 week summer camp for 72 participants. Educational camps and weeklong classes will also be offered. The camps will stay within the confines of the Public Health Order. Many virtual classes being offered through the Parks and Rec webpage. Online Senior Programs have been in high demand and are also being offered; they continue to enrich the lives of seniors.

Bennett 4th District: A lot going on in Watsonville. One bright note is City of Watsonville approved the sale of fireworks to go on this year. That's a major fundraiser for a lot of non-profits. I know we'll discuss COVID later, but I do have some comments relating to parks. The Health Department's decision to close parks during Easter seemed wrong since it forced people to go inside where it is more difficult to social distance. Also, the 11-5 beach closure is a similar issue where more crowding will occur during the open hours. I do not understand the motive and wanted to bring this up.

Rapoza 5th District: I've been gratified to see Parks staff take the opportunity to do a lot of work in the parks. I've been sheltering in place because of age. When I do drive around the Valley to get out, everything is looking good in the parks. Yesterday's news was sad for the entire 5th district and the entire County.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Thank you all for your kind words and consideration for our lost Peace Officer.
- So many things to share. We were gearing up for summer at the start of all this, we printed our Activity Pamphlets and lost \$10,000 in printing costs.
- Staff has been resilient and stepped up. I am so proud of what our staff was able to do and continues to do. Maintenance staff never stopped working, they've been in the field every day.
- A lot of opening and closures, and purchasing additional signage to put at parks.
- Simpkins was going to be an Alternate Care Site and then quickly became a youth shelter.
- We hired two new full time employees: Michael Hettenhausen, Park Planner and Anissa Childers, Aquatics Coordinator.
- We've been strengthening our partnerships with the city park agencies and State Parks.
- Kat Palermo, our consultant has helped to track everything regarding the opening and closures
- Will Fourt, our Park Planner continues to work park projects and get bids done.
- The Heart of Soquel bid came in under at 1.1M, it was estimated at 1.3M.
- The Rail Trail planning and Library Annex projects are moving forward. We'll start construction for the Annex in fall 2021.
- We are party to the Temporary Permit Program that came along recently to help restaurants open up and give them more space on public land adjacent to their restaurants.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Parks COVID response – we've deployed a lot of staff to the Emergency Operations Center. Our Maintenance Staff continues to work in the field and respond to the daily changes regarding COVID. A majority of our office staff is working remotely and we are changing our services to be in compliance with the health orders.
- b. Status on staff
 - i. Eric Sturm is the Emergency Operation Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Manger, Kathy DeWild is managing three hotel shelters, Margaret Ingraham is our Disaster Service Worker liaison for the department and is working on contact tracing projects for HSA, Anna Tobar has been managing the call center, several lifeguards are working the call center, Rec staff has been working at the disaster service worker childcare sites.
- c. Summer Camp updates – Our revised Summer Camp started today. We are collaborating with Boulder Creek Rec district and City of Watsonville to share resources and staffing. It will bring in a little revenue and provide relief for parents. We wanted it to be available for underserved families to participate. 33% of participants are low income.
- d. Simpkins Community Center update – The public is very enthusiastic about wanting to come back to swim. We are working with Health Officer and planning to open for lap swim and therapy swim by reservation only. I commend the Aquatic staff and Superintendent Hurley for making this happen.
 - i. I do want to address one of the speakers earlier. We have been putting in a lot of

planning at Anna Jean Cummings. We've been doing tree planting and we'll be doing trial work. I know there was a question around the restoration signs. Restoration is a technical and scientific term. Restoration has a specific meaning in the park world and I think it may have been misleading. It was appropriate to remove the signage.

- ii. If people want to share idea about revenue generating ideas or different service, we can provide in the post-COVID world, please email me.
- e. Status of budget – It is a status quo budget because the County had enough reserves to bridge the fiscal gap for the remainder of the fiscal year. They are predicting a 40M shortfall, next fiscal year the budget will be much tighter. There will be a revised budget meetings in August and towards end of September budget should be finalized. Ultimately, they've been talking about a 10% furlough for staff and 5% for Sheriff's staff, there is talk of layoffs. As a Department, we are looking how we can trim 20% since that is what the CAO's is asking. We are working with CAO's office to put together a proposed budget. We're still looking at the CARE's Act money and how that will come down. We don't know what will be reimbursed, a lot of it may not be reimbursed. We should have a better idea of the outlook in August.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

- a. Elect Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion: Commissioner Duncan-Merrell was nominated for Chair. (Rapoza/Bennett 4/0; 1 Opposed, Minott)

Motion: Commissioner Rapoza was nominated for Vice Chair. (Duncan-Merrell/Bennett 4/0)

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

- X. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. (Duncan-Merrell/Bennett 5/0)



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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
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Date: July 24, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Max Friedmann, Aquatics Supervisor
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

Swim Center Reopening

- On June 13th, the Swim Center resumed operations in a limited capacity after being closed for nearly 3 months.
- The Swim Center is offering pool use by reservation only at this time in order to restrict the amount of people using the facility and maintain a safe environment in light of COVID-19.
- Many other additional safety measures have been adopted such as frequent cleaning of touched surfaces and the pool layout has been modified to allow for social distancing.

Summer 2020 Aquatic Camp

- The Swim center is offering Aquatic Camps for children aged 5 to 13 years old.
- These camps are feature programing similar to our typical Junior Guard and Little Guard programs.
- The Aquatic Camp is operating with the safety restrictions and COVID related protocols devolved for the 9-week summer camps offered by the County.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: July 24, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Rebecca Hurley, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

COVID Response

- On June 24, 2020, beach restrictions were lifted: staff opened all beach parking lots and removed beach closure signage.
- On July 7, 2020, the County Parks Director issued an order to keep all County playgrounds closed. Staff distributed signage to all playground areas.
- The open/closed status of park facilities/agencies across the region can be found online through the *County Park Friends* website.
- Staff continues to work closely with other park jurisdictions and law enforcement to determine open/closed status of park facilities.

COVID Response Swim Center

- Simpkins Family Swim Center opened on Saturday, June 13th on a limited basis for adult lap swim and pool use only. Use of the pool by reservation only.

Regular Maintenance Updates

North

- Shade sails were installed at Felton Discovery Park, funded by the American Academy of Dermatology Shade Structure grant program.
- The bathroom was remodeled at Highlands Park for ADA access.
- Staff worked with Friends of Quail Hollow volunteers to renovate the garden at the front of the ranch house.
- Trees and bushes were cleared and pruned at Jose Avenue Park and Emeline complex.
- Several leaks were repaired at Anna Jean Cummings Park.
- The infield was cleared at Brommer Street Park.

- The stairs were repaired at The Hook.
- Staff held a team cleanup day at the Heart of Soquel Plaza to prep for the Heart of Soquel Parkway phase 2 groundbreaking on July 16th.

Mini-Mid

- Tree work was completed around the Simpkins Family Swim Center parking lot.
- Staff poured cement pad by the water slide.
- Graffiti was cleaned at Felt Sreet park.
- Building Maintenance staff renovated and repaired the Pinto Lake 'back House' to get it ready for youth programming.
- Building Maintenance staff repaired the Bert Scott studio bathroom flooring to get the building ready to rent.
- Staff is working to update the pool pumps at Swim Center.

South

- Tables were added to Heart of Soquel Plaza for the use by Soquel village restaurants.
- A horseshoe pit was built at Heart of Soquel Park to replace the underutilized bocce ball court.
- A team day was held to weed whip the Farm Park riparian area.
- The pickleball courts at Willowbrook park were repainted.
- Staff worked with Live Like Coco to install little libraries at Pinto Lake Park and Willowbrook park.
- The oak trees along the road at Aptos Village Park were trimmed.
- Several leaks were repaired at Pinto Lake park and Polo Grounds park.
- Staff held a welding training day, caught up on storm damage and completed high weed mowing.
- A team day was held at Hidden Beach to clear brush and do tree trimming.
- The stairs at Beer Can beach were repaired.
- The Seascape bluff area was beautified to get it ready for wedding reservations.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: July 24, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Will Fourt and Michael Hettenhausen, Park Planners
Subject: Planning Section Status Report

Felton Discovery Park

The contractor has completed maintaining the planted areas through the plant establishment period and construction is now complete at Felton Discovery Park.

Chanticleer Park: The construction is complete at Chanticleer Park for the Phase 1 development including LEO's Haven, and staff is working on minor enhancements and modifications to the playground before it reopens.

Heart of Soquel Phase 2 & 3

The County awarded a construction contract to Granite Construction Company and construction of the trail and parkway is underway. The California Conservation Corps have completed some additional invasive plant removal on the site.

Hidden Beach

Parks Department Planning staff submitted a state Coastal Conservancy grant application for installation of a new restroom facility and is currently collecting Letters of Support from the community to add to the grant application. Staff is coordinating with play structure manufacturer representatives about proposals to replace the existing play structure.

Moran Lake

Parks Department Planning staff is drafting a state Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 grant application for the Moran Lake Restoration Plan for Water Quality Improvements. The planning grant application requests funding to identify water quality improvements (e.g., native plant installations, creation of bioswales, and trail improvements), complete the state environmental review, and develop materials for development permit submission.

Live Oak Library Annex

Parks Department staff is participating on the Technical Advisory Group with County Department of Public Works and Library staff as well as an architectural firm to produce design plans for the Live Oak Library Annex, proposed for construction along the north wall of the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The TAC is currently incorporating historical references of the Live Oak community into the draft designs.

Farm Future Phase 2

Park Department Planning Staff and Consultants are working on preparing a Master Plan Amendment Application to include a bike pump/jump track as an additional alternative feature and revise the development permit expiration date.

Seacliff Village Park Phase 2

The County awarded a contract for site preparation and installation of a new water meter for the installation of the new pre-fabricated restroom to Durden Construction. Construction is anticipated to start around August 4th, and the building is anticipated to arrive and be set around September 10th.

All Parks

County Parks staff and an intern are collecting data of all storm water facilities, including drain inlets and catch basins, in County parks. This data will be included in the County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database to improve permitting and maintenance efficiency.



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Date: July 24, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Max Friedmann, Interim Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Recreation Section Report

Recreation Programs

- Recreation programming resumed on June 15th with the start of 9-week summer enrichment camps. Along with our partners in Boulder Creek and Watsonville we have been operating camps in 9 separate sites throughout the County.
- In addition to the 9-week summer camp we are running Science Sleuths and Zombie Camp at Qual Hollow Ranch and GIRLS Paving the Way Renaissance and Art Camp at Pinto Lake County Park.

Fall Planning

- The Recreation team is currently planning Fall programming for 2020.
- Programming is being developed to meet the needs of our community and to support local school aged youth who will be continuing remote learning at the start of the school year.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: July 24, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Shawna Hatch, Reservations Specialist
Subject: Reservations Section Report

Reservations during COVID:

- Staff is now able to book for limited park use for outdoor wedding ceremonies, youth sports camps, and outdoor fitness classes.
- Reservations has booked 4 outdoor ceremonies, 5 youth sports camps, and 5 fitness groups with multiple inquires for the allowed booking options.
- Parks staff co-sponsored a free wedding ceremony day with the County Clerk's office on July 19th at Valencia Hall that saw 11 happy couples wed.
- We continue to actively keep in touch with future reservations as the Health Order gets modified through the phases of re-opening.
- We continue to work on new policies for the public for future rentals during COVID.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: July 24, 2020
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Program Report

The Felton Discovery Park has been receiving a lot of volunteer attention as of late. On June 6th we held our first Volunteer Day and had 8 volunteers show up to weed, prune, weed whack, and remove wire cages from the plants that were outgrowing the cages.

Then, on July 18th the SLV Rotary showed up for a volunteer day to do more of the same.

In addition, we have signed up two volunteers who will be working independently in the park, to remove invasive plants.



Community members volunteering at Felton Discovery Park



Community members volunteering at Felton Discovery Park



SLV Rotarians volunteering at Felton Discovery Park



SLV Rotarians volunteering at Felton Discovery Park



One of our new volunteers working independently to remove thistle.

Polo Grounds Park

We have a new group of volunteers at our Polo Grounds Park. Their interest is to remove the invasive English Ivy that is growing up into the trees around the perimeter of the park. We are working with them as individuals and they are also going to try and organize some group volunteer days with other members of the community.

Quail Hollow Ranch

The front garden at Quail is now finished. Volunteers planted, mulched, and caged the new plants, then additional volunteers installed the drip irrigation tubes and emitters to them. Come to the park to check it out!



Volunteers finishing the front garden project at Quail

Our dedicated Volunteer Trail Crew are being highlighted on the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center website. Please check it out at <https://scvolunteercenter.org/>

Here is the article which was written by Donna Patters:

As our community has faced so many challenges these past few months, many folks have taken to hiking and strolling along our local mountain trails, such as those at Quail Hollow Ranch, to retreat and rejuvenate.

Thanks to a small group of volunteers who dedicate time each week to maintaining these trails, hikers and equestrians are able to enjoy the peaceful serenity of Quail Hollow Ranch and feel safe while doing so.

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park has more than 5 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. These trails take you through redwoods, chaparral, sandhills parkland, and a variety of other habitats. The rocky and sandy earth make upkeep and construction of the trails a strenuous job. With the increased volume of visitors, the trails at the park need more maintenance to make sure that all visitors are safe.

This group of essential volunteers is special because they take pride in their performance and operate as a team. Each Tuesday they meet at 9 o'clock at the park to work on or scout new projects, clear brush, dig trenches, build up deteriorating parts of trails, and much more. They also act as ambassadors to the park and share knowledge with all who encounter them.

The park's newest and most scenic trail was envisioned by Al Keuter. Al worked tirelessly to cut the beginnings of the trail. He was joined later by Tim Jolly and together the two of them did 90% of the work with nothing but hand tools. Jon Hudson came in towards the end and helped to really finesse some of the more difficult terrain, and began to beautify and get the trail ready for the public.

Meet The Crew:

Al Keuter has been known as the lead for the trail crew. Al records all the hours and acts as the main liaison between the park and the trail crew. Not only does he work on the crew, but he has consulted with parks maintenance on a variety of projects throughout the years. Al has been volunteering with the county since 2002.

Tim Jolly is the trail “engineer” He started working with Al and the trail crew in 2007. Tim retired from a 29 year position with the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Resource. He came to the Santa Cruz area to be close to family and started as a Docent at Quail Hollow.

Jon Hudson has been part of the Quail Hollow Ranch trail crew since 2014. He is gifted in plant ID and trail maintenance and engineering. Jon also stands about a head taller than the other members of the trail crew and his height advantage helps to reveal troublesome overhanging branches that others generally miss.

Tom Davey is a longtime Sierra Club member with a very worthy attitude toward conservation and nature. Tom volunteers for other groups within Quail Hollow Ranch and his extensive knowledge of our trail system and bird species makes him an integral part of our trail crew.

Lee Summer was park interpreter at Quail Hollow Ranch for over 15 years. Since retirement, she has been volunteering in a variety of different ways. Lee knows the park better than anyone and is an incredible asset to the team. Lee is an amazing naturalist and understands completely the ins and outs of volunteering for a Government organization and engaging with the public. This relationship is nuanced, and her expertise is intrinsic to the success of this team.

Jim Bahn not only works on the trail crew but takes care of projects around the park on his own as well. When Jim first began in May of 2019, he made it a priority to update the trail map and make it more user friendly. He spent solo time hiking all the trails, getting acquainted and measuring mileage and elevation gain for all our trails. With the combined talents of these amazing volunteers, the trails at Quail Hollow Ranch are in good hands.



Cabrillo Host Lions
Veterans Memorial Bench project
Site location



Cabrillo Host Lions
Veterans Memorial Bench project
Rendering

