

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting (virtual)

April 5, 2021, 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 via Zoom using the info below:

Zoom Meeting link

<https://zoom.us/j/97673864103?pwd=UUpjYU4xdUdhSWpXVIU4cDhmaHA4QT09>

Meeting information

Meeting ID: 976 7386 4103
Passcode: 454475

Calling in – audio only

1 (669) 900 6833 US (San Jose)

- Once in the meeting, ensure your microphone is muted 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 & Recreation Commission in care of Jennifer Mead, County Parks Secretary, either by Email or U.S Mail. Please include the agenda item number.

Email: jennifer.mead@santacruzcounty.us
Call: (831) 454-7905

U.S. Mail:
Parks & Recreation Commission
c/o Jennifer Mead
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

(AGENDA to follow)



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 TDD/TTY: call 711

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, April 5, 2021

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Regular Meeting (virtual)

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 976 7386 4103

Passcode: 454475

Join Zoom Meeting – <https://zoom.us/j/97673864103?pwd=UUUjYU4xdUdhSWpXVIU4cDhmaHA4QT09>

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 February 8, 2021.....Page 4-5
- b. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Aquatics Section Report.....Page 6
 - 2. Maintenance Section Report.....Page 7-8
 - 3. Planning Section Report.....Page 9
 - 4. Recreation Section Report.....Page 10
 - 6. Volunteer Section Report.....Page 11-16

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Present Proclamation to Mariah Roberts (Page 17)
- b. Presentation from County Park Friends
- c. Park etiquette discussion, including COVID-19 impacts to parks across the County

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. 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
- b. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

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

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 18)

XI. ADJOURNMENT



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of Feb 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Special Meeting Virtual via Microsoft Teams

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Rapoza, Mariah Roberts, Maggie Duncan-Merrell, Kate Minott, Steven Bennett
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead, Will Fourt, Kim Namba
of public members present: three

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (none)

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Concern over Parks video with footage of unleashed dog; concern over no response from Director about press release suggestion.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Minutes & reports approved (Rapoza/Roberts 5/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Rapoza 5th District: Nothing to report.

Roberts 1st District: A lot going on – the new walkways are in at Heart Of Soquel. Brenda Guitierrez-Baeza who is a County Park Friends Advisor was invited to be part of the grand opening video.

Minott 2nd District: We talked about including an agenda item to allow for input on future agenda items. I wanted to check back in to see if that can be incorporated for next time and if Commissioners feel this item is helpful.

Bennett 4th District: Not much going on in South County, I haven't had a chance to meet with Supervisor Caput lately. To comment on what Kate said, we did have a spot on the agenda for Commissioners to give input on future items and it worked well.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: Santa Cruz City Parks is doing their Clam Chowder cook off but it will be reimagined to meet COVID guidelines, more info is online. The city parks will also be running their junior lifeguard programs this summer. I want to express concern about the homeless encampment at San Lorenzo Park and the amount of garbage and harm it is doing to the park and the community. I feel it is a misuse of public parks and is a violation of public code.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- We hired Jaime Jimenez as Recreation Supervisor, we are thrilled to have him.

- We have been making it through the storms and have a rotating schedule for Debris Flow response. We had 1 big tree go down across Soquel Ave, we are lucky no one got hurt.
- We are partnering with Human Services Dept on National Dislocated Worker Program and also partnering to get CalWorks participants into our programs.
- I want to address comments about rules being broken in the parks. There's been a significant increase in park visitation. The biggest complaint right now is about people not complying with COVID guidelines.
- The Heart Of Soquel pathway has been completed and it is very exciting.
- We are applying for a number of grants this year, one for Chanticleer, and one for The Farm park.
- The County has authorized use of Zoom, so we'll be moving to that format for next meeting.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Info Items

- a. Presentation from Aniko Millan of County Park Friends – presentation was giving later in the meeting after action items.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. The Commission approved Chanticleer Park Phase 2 Conceptual Site Plan (Page 14-17)
Motion: (Roberts, Rapoza 5/0)
- b. The Commission reviewed Park Dedication Fees and Ordinance Updates (Page 18-27), and recommended the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:
 - i. Consider and approve in concept the attached ordinance including Park Land Dedication or Fees In Lieu Therof; Parks and Recreation Development Impact Fees; and Trails and Beach Access Dedication, Standards and Review; amending Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 15.01 and adding Chapters 15.03 and 15.05
 - ii. Schedule Second reading and final adoption of the ordinances
 - iii. Hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Unified Fee Schedule
 - iv. Adopt Unified Fee Schedule updates

Motion: (Minott, Roberts 4/0, Commissioner Bennett abstained)

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 28)

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. (Rapoza/ Bennett 5/0)



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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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Date: March 30, 2021
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Max Friedmann, Aquatics Supervisor
Subject: Aquatics Section Report

Lap Lane and Pool Space Reservations

- 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.
- Pool space reservations can now be shared by family members or members of the same household with a maximum of two individuals per lane.
- 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.

Swim Lessons and Red Cross Lifeguard Training Courses

- Private and semi-private swim lessons are now being held at the swim center with a total of three, three week sessions being offered this spring.
- A total of four Red Cross lifeguard training courses will be offer this spring. These courses will be a mix of virtual lectures as well as in person training with modifications for COVID safety.

Scholarships and Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks Partnership

- Through our partnership with Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks the Swim Center has made scholarships available for swim reservations as well as our Summer Aquatics Camps. Folks involved with local groups such as Cradle to Carrier and Black Health Matters have been given the opportunity to use these scholarships.



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Date: March 30, 2021
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Rebecca Hurley, Parks Superintendent
Subject: Maintenance Section Report

North County

- North county did sports field renovations at Highland Park and Michael Gray.
- Tree work was completed at Highland Park and Felton Covered Bridge.
- The beach access trail at Greyhound Rock was cleaned up.
- Field renovations and bathroom remodels were completed at Anna Jean Cummings.
- Fencing along E. Cliff Parkway was fixed.
- Parking lot was cleared at Moran way and split rail fencing was reinstalled.
- Installed multiple memorial benches, boulders and trees in North County Parks.
- Facilities maintenance was done at Highlands main house, Highlands cottage rental, Park and Quail Hollow Ranch House.
- New hitching posts were built at Quail Hollow Ranch, and the apple orchard was re-planted with new irrigation.
- Areas around 701 Ocean St. were fenced off.

South County

- Sports field renovations were completed at Polo Grounds and Pinto Lake park in preparation for the return of organized sports.
- High weed mowing and cleaning was done behind the Freedom Annex building to accommodate for a COVID vaccination site.
- Vegetation was cleared along the beach access path at Hidden Beach.
- The front fence at Aldridge Lane was repaired.
- Concrete picnic tables were installed at the Heart of Soquel.
- Part of a fallen fence at Mesa Village Park was repaired after the February storm.
- Fallen limbs and branches were removed from Soquel Lions Park.

Mid County / Swim Center

- The 50 meter pool boiler was replaced with two Raypak boilers.
- The Recreation Pool covers were replaced.
- The pool lift was replaced for the warm water pool.
- The capstone turbines were overhauled – new turbines were installed.
- Staff cleaned out a warehouse space at Holohan Yard for the County General Services Department to use the space as storage for evacuation site supplies.
- Staff has been working on mechanical repairs for the large mower and tractor.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: March 30, 2021
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Will Fourt and Michael Hettenhausen, Park Planners
Subject: Planning Section Status Report

Chanticleer Park: Staff submitted the application for Prop 68 Statewide Park Program grant application for Chanticleer Park Expansion and development of Phase 2 at the park.

Heart of Soquel Phase 2 & 3

Construction of the new trail and restoration landscaping is complete and the trail is open.

Hidden Beach

Parks Department Planning staff are working with County Procurement staff to facilitate purchasing a new play structure to replace the existing play structure. Also, the Parks Department has entered into a contract with a consultant to prepare a conceptual plan, produce 30% design drawings, and host one public meeting for the siting and design of the new permanent restroom. The public meeting was held on Saturday, March 13th, at the park; staff and our consultant received valuable input from attendees.

Moran Lake

The Coastal Conservancy's Board of Directors awarded a grant for \$360,000 for the preparation of a Restoration and Public Access Plan for Moran Lake County Park. The planning grant scope includes detailing water quality improvements (e.g., native plant installations, creation of bioswales, and trail improvements), completing the state environmental review, and developing materials for development permit submission.

Greyhound Rock

Parks Department staff continues to work with the state Coastal Conservancy and state Department of Fish and Wildlife staff on a grant application for planning and development of minimalist overnight accommodations and indoor programming facilities at the park.

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 interior and exterior 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

Parks 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. The MPAA will be submitted to the County Planning for review and consideration. Planning staff submitted a grant application for the Statewide Park Program for funding to complete implementation of Phase 2.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: March 30, 2021
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Jaime Jimenez, Recreation Supervisor
Subject: Recreation Section Report

Learning and Enrichment Camps

- We have continued to offer our Learning and Enrichment Camps at various sites throughout the County.
- At these sites, Recreation Staff aid with remote learning as well as various active games, arts and crafts, outdoor nature, and science enrichment activities for stable groups of up to 12 elementary school aged children.

Partnerships with Local Recreation Departments

- We have formed partnerships with the City of Watsonville, City of Capitola, Pajaro Valley Unified School District and Boulder Creek Recreation District. The recreation team is assisting the partners mentioned above with their remote learning programs.
- With our support they have been able to open and operate multiple distance learning programs similar to our Learning and Enrichment Camps offered at Highlands Park, Aptos Village Park, Mar Vista Elementary and La Selva Beach Clubhouse.

Recreation Programs & Contractual Agreements

- The recreation team is currently seeking out potential contractual agreements with groups and individuals in the community to offer positive recreational programs in our county.
- During the month of March, a total of three 'free masks giveaways' were held in the Santa Cruz County by the team member of the recreation team.
- We make strides in fostering human development opportunities and providing a safe place for the community to recreate. This St. Patrick's Day, the recreation team conducted a scavenger hunt at different county parks in hopes to increase park attendance and to create an opportunity to have the community go outdoors and explore with their friends and loved ones. The recreation team scattered 250 gold rocks that leprechauns had left behind for the community to test their good fortune near playgrounds and frequently visited park trails. The scavenger hunt was a success. The recreation team decided to offer two more scavenger hunts. This time 475 Spring rocks & another 475 Earth Day rocks will compose the next scavenger hunts. Both are scheduled to take place in the month of April.

Marketing Efforts

- The Department marketing efforts this month consist of working on updating the website and creating a summer activity guide to inform the community of upcoming recreational opportunities and to help navigate their interest in our reservations and registrations system and opportunities on the Web.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Date: March 30, 2021
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Subject: Volunteer Program Report

Anna Jean Cummings Park

Meta Rhodes, one of our independent volunteers finished with painting the upper restrooms and maintenance shop. She also installed new rain gutters. Meta is excited to do a similar renovation to the lower restroom building and she has already begun.



Before



Before



After



After



After



After

Felton Discovery Park

The San Lorenzo Valley Rotary showed up with 10 members to join members from the Friends of Felton Library to do some much needed weeding at the park.



The next community volunteer day at the park will be Saturday April 3rd from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Independent volunteers at the park regularly spend time pulling invasive plants.

Quail Hollow Ranch

The Bird Nest Box volunteers have started their season of checking and recording the bird population at Quail and have recruited 3 new volunteers so far this year.

The Broom (French Broom removal) volunteers lead by Linda Brodeman have started their season as well.

Maintenance Supervisor, Jesse Williams worked closely with the Friends of Quail Hollow group and the Volunteer Trail Crew on improving the apple orchard at the park.

Maintenance staff installed irrigation, the Friends group donated the trees and hardware. The Friends group also solicited a generous discount from the Mountain Feed store in Ben Lomond on the trees they bought from them.

The Volunteer Trail Crew, members of the Friends group and Recreation Program Specialist Dan Lazarus all planted the trees.

The apple orchard now has 9 new trees complete with gopher baskets and protective cages.



Picture compliments of Jim Bahn, Volunteer and board member of Friends of Quail Hollow

The volunteer trail crew continues to maintain the trails throughout the park which is getting increased use during the pandemic. The crew changed their group days to individual days during the latest SIP order change. This crew is dedicated to keeping the trails at Quail Hollow safe and accessible!

Volunteer Ralph Miljanich is busy beautifying the front of the Quail Hollow ranch house. He created some walkways where there were weeds, improved the rain gutter drainage, pruned some low hanging trees, and still has more projects in mind. Below are some pictures thus far.



Before



Almost done



Before



Almost done



Rain gutter enhancements in Progress

Volunteers, Richard and Kathy James have started volunteering again back at the park after a long break due to covid restrictions. Richard and Kathy had been our main volunteers opening the visitor center and greeting guests. Richard is also our historian and conducted the history talks we offered to the public in the past. Both Richard and Kathy also walk the trails to be available to answer questions for guests. Since the visitor center is not open to the public yet they are getting the house ready for when it will be. They are doing deep cleaning and rodent abatement.



Richard deep cleaning the iconic brick kitchen floor

Polo Grounds Park

Alex Fowler with Action Sports Construction and other volunteers are donating hundreds of hours and equipment to do a complete re-build of the bike pump track at the park.





Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services Proclamation



HONORING MARIAH ROBERTS
FOR HER SERVICE WITH THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Mariah Roberts has served on the County of Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation Commission facilitating improvements to parks and recreation in the 1st Supervisor district and throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Mariah began serving on the Commission in 2013 and immediately began engaging the Commission, the Parks Department and the community on what changes can be implemented in the County Parks system and County Parks programs to better serve the community; and

WHEREAS, Mariah created the Chanticleer Park Neighbors Association to fundraise and advocate for parks and programs in Live Oak; and

WHEREAS, Mariah was instrumental in the fundraising campaign for the LEO's Haven playground at Chanticleer Park, the first All-Inclusive playground in the County of Santa Cruz and raised \$1.5 million dollars with partners to fund the project; and

WHEREAS, Mariah has been a leader for the County Park Friends non-profit agency and now serves as the Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Mariah helped coordinate & implement virtual recreation classes, Learning & Enrichments Camps, and a Covengers Superhero Virtual 5&10k Run during the 2020 COVID pandemic to provide families with fun & healthy activities while sheltering in place; and

WHEREAS, Mariah is engaged with the OFF/BY/FOR ALL Change Network and continues to share her knowledge with agency partners to uphold accountability, strengthen communities and support radical inclusion where people feel safe, welcome and connected; and

WHEREAS, Mariah has developed strong connections throughout the county to advance access and equity to County Parks and related programs for all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, Mariah's calm and professional demeanor, accompanied by her diligence and thoughtfulness have enabled the Parks & Recreation Commission to be an effective and efficient representation of the public; and

WHEREAS, although she will continue her service with County Park Friends, her precedent on the Parks & Recreation Commission has been of the highest value; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeff Gaffney, Director of the Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services Department, hereby recognize Mariah Roberts for her years of exceptional service to the residents of Santa Cruz County and honor her significant contributions while serving on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

March 31, 2021

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING:

The Written Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Commission as a whole, but may also include items requested for inclusion by individual Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Commission at this time:

1. Email with letter from Lynda Lewit, dated February 19, 2021 regarding concern for lack of bathrooms and handwashing facilities at Heart of Soquel Park
2. Email from Becky Steinbruner, dated March 26, 2021 requesting the Parks Commission to consider recreation uses for the 0.74 acre parcel dedicated to the County near Aptos Village Park
3. Email from Becky Steinbruner, dated March 28, 2021 asking consideration of the Conditions of Approval for the 0.74 acre parcel dedicated to the County near Aptos Village Park
4. Email from Becky Steinbruner, dated March 29, 2021 requesting public discussion of tree surveys at Aptos Village Parks and stormwater effluent from Aptos Village Project Ph 2