



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

### ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, June 5, 2017  
4:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

#### I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS

#### III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from April 3, 2017 ..... Pages 2-3
- B. Consider Reports:
  - 1. Maintenance Section – Status Report ..... Pages 4-5
  - 2. Facilities Section – Status Report ..... Page 6
  - 4. Planning Section – Status Report ..... Pages 7-8
  - 5. Aquatics Section – Status Report ..... Pages 9-11
  - 6. Recreation Section – Status Report ..... Pages 12-15
  - 7. Volunteer Section – Status Report ..... Pages 16-17

#### IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today's agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

#### V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### VI. STAFF REPORT

#### VII. REGULAR AGENDA

##### A. Action Items - none

##### B. Information Items

- 1. Arts Council – Annual Report and Budget Request
- 2. Museum of Art and History – Annual Report and Budget Request

#### VIII. AGENDA /MEETING FOR: TBD – 4:30 p.m. Simpkins Family Swim Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS

### ARTS COMMISSION

April 3, 2017, 4:30 PM

979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Santa Cruz, California

- I. Called to order at 4:40 PM Present: Gardner, Kilian, Stabile, L. Phillips, J. Phillips, Alberti  
Excused Absence: DeWorken, Nee, Steiner, Oslapas Unexcused Absence: none  
  
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Kathy DeWild
- II. Approved Agenda  
Motion/Second: Stabile/Gardner  
AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 4
- III. Approved Consent Agenda  
Motion/Second: Stabile/Alberti  
AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 4
- IV. Approved – Officer Elections – Chair, C. Kilian, Vice Chair, L. Phillips  
Motion/Second: Stabile /J. Phillips  
AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 4
- V. Approved – Commissioners to serve on Felton Library public art panel – L. Phillips, Steiner (Kilian)  
Motion/Second: Stabile /Gardner  
AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 4
- VI. Approved – Commissioners to serve on Behavioral Health office public art panel – Stabile, DeWorken (Gardner)  
Motion/Second: L. Phillips/J. Phillips  
AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 4

**VII.** Approved – Commission support of Parks Strategic Plan  
Motion/Second: Alberti/J. Phillips  
AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 4

**VIII.** Next meeting date: May 1, 4:30 p.m. Parks Conference Room.

**IX.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** June 5, 2017  
**TO:** PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
**FROM:** GRETCHEN ILIFF, MAINTENANCE DIVISION  
**RE:** STATUS REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

### **PARKS, BUILDING, AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

**NORTH COUNTY PARKS** (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Staff are getting bids to rebuild the restroom at Davenport Landing.

Ben Lomond Park is being repaired after the winter storms. Some repairs include: new chain link fencing, new wood fiber for the playground and the removal of mud and sand from the basketball court.

Staff have been performing high weed mowing at numerous County Parks sites, including the Graham Hill Showgrounds, Quail Hollow Ranch and Pinto Lake Park.

**MID-COUNTY PARKS** (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, Mid-County beach access areas)

Clean up, tree removals and assessments are continuing at Moran Lake Park. Staff is working with an arborist and butterfly specialists to further reduce any tree hazards.

A large scale clean up of homeless encampments occurred along Carbonera Creek, adjacent to the Emeline County Building site.

Staff completed some improvement to Rockview access that included a new bike rack, bench and signage.

New warning signs depicting ocean and shore hazards were installed at several mid-county beach stairways.

**SOUTH COUNTY PARKS** (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex, Seacliff Village Park)

Staff is replacing the irrigation and landscaping at the Freedom Governmental complex due to the installation of a new bus stop in front of the facility.

Park staff removed and replaced uneven paver stones and installed new split rail fencing at Aptos Park this month.

**SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER**

Simpkins water slide was repaired, new fencing added to prevent access to pool pumps and fire lanes curbs repainted this month.

All maintenance staff received training on the topic of completing playground safety inspections.



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JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

DATE: June 5, 2017  
TO: Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission  
FROM: Mary Chavez, Program Coordinator  
RE: Facilities Division Status Report- May/June 2017

### Summary for reservations in the Parks for the month of May and June 2017, (excluding SFSC):

#### Attendance at Reserved Facilities:

The months of May and June have been very busy in the office and at the park sites. The public continues to enjoy the resources and recreational opportunities available within the County Parks system. There were approximately 1,030 bookings of the various Park sites, including reservations of picnic areas, meeting rooms, wedding and event locations, special events and athletic field rentals. Staff estimates that over 92,300 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities during the months of May and June.

#### Center and Meeting Room Rentals in May and June 2017:

Park Centers host a variety of events, including wedding receptions, family events and various non-profit events. May and June have hosted 40 weddings, receptions and events held at our various Park Centers with rental revenues totaling \$41,400. The number of center rentals, along with the revenues during these two months, has increased by 27% in comparison to May and June, 2016. These two months also included 50 meeting room rentals totaling \$2,500, which is a 35% increase in revenue in comparison to May and June, 2016.

#### Picnic Areas in May and June 2017:

Picnic area rentals have been filling up the monthly schedules with 80 picnic rentals taking place during these two months and revenues totaling \$12,000. This is a 20% increase in bookings and revenues as compared to May and June, 2016; 14 of these picnics (18%) are annual picnics for non-profits, end of the school year, and company parties.

#### Athletic Fields in May and June 2017:

The season for athletic field use has been in full swing, with baseball leagues finishing season play and soccer leagues maintaining full use in spring and summer. Over 625 individual field bookings in 18 athletic fields took place in May and June. Revenues totaled \$37,000.

#### Special Events in May and June 2017:

May special events include the annual **Daisy Chains Tournament** (Pinto Lake Disc Golf Club), a two-day all-women's tournament at Pinto Lake County Park, and the third annual **Never Forget Relay** (Fallen Officers Foundation) at Aptos Park. The **Santa Cruz American Music Festival** at Aptos Village Park (former Blues Fest) and **Felton Remembers** (Felton Business Association) at Felton Covered Bridge Park took place over Memorial Day weekend. Melissa Ethridge and The Devil Makes Three headlined the annual American Music Festival. June races at Aptos Park include the **Nisene Marks Marathon** (Santa Cruz Host Lions), the **Women's 5- Miler**, (Santa Cruz Track Club), and the **Superhero Run 5k & 10k** (Fleet Feet Sports), with proceeds benefitting the Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. The **Watsonville Music Festival** at Pinto Lake County Park is a crab and taco fest, also featuring a horse dancing Banda show. The Watsonville-Santa Cruz **JACL (Japanese American Cultural League)** will host its annual community picnic at Aptos Park, including drumming by Watsonville Taiko.



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**DATE:** JUNE 5, 2017

**TO:** PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** SHERYL BAILEY & WILL FOUNT, PLANNING SECTION

**SUBJECT:** PARKS PROJECT PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

### COUNTY-WIDE PROJECTS

County Parks Strategic Plan: Staff has continued progress on the development of a Strategic Plan for the County Parks Department. Staff has completed five public meetings in the last week of April through the second week of May. Outreach and publicity for these meetings was extensive and included individual letters to over 200 stakeholder groups, posted flyers, newspaper articles, social media and web postings, Next Door, and flyers to school districts. Staff developed an online survey as well, which was publicized through these outreach efforts. Over 190 people attended these meetings, and over 700 people completed the online survey. Staff is now compiling notes, drafting a community needs statement for the draft strategic plan, and will be collaborating with the Strategic Plan working group in the future on developing goals and actions for the department based on this needs statement.

### NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Quail Hollow/Pace Property Trail Planning: The adjacent property owner and the County Board of Supervisors have approved and recorded a trail easement allowing a proposed new trail from Quail Hollow Ranch to the Pace Property. A biologist has prepared a report on potential biological impacts of the trail, which identifies extensive permitting and regulatory requirements related to trail construction. Staff met with City of Santa Cruz Water Department staff regarding the potential for access to the Pace Property from Newell Creek Road, which would be challenging for security reasons and would be prohibitively expensive because of the need for a large bridge over Newell Creek.

Felton Library: Parks staff continues to work with County Public Works staff and Santa Cruz Public Libraries staff to develop the site plan for the new Felton Library grounds, which includes an outdoor discovery park area. Parks staff attended and presented at the public meeting in May, and is working with the Friends of Felton Library to further define the scope of the discovery park area, to develop a fundraising plan, and to apply for grant funding for design and construction.

Scotts Creek Beach: Parks staff has participated in the Technical Advisory Committee for the long-term restoration project at Scotts Creek Lagoon, with many other relevant agencies.

**MID-COUNTY PARKS** (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, Mid-County beach access areas)

Brommer Park: Parks planning staff is working with Parks maintenance staff who is managing the contractor installing four pickleball courts and resurfacing the courts at Brommer Park.

Chanticleer Park: Parks has worked with the geotechnical engineer to complete additional geotechnical borings to assess feasibility of a groundwater recharge drywell system at the park, and a geotechnical report will be complete by June of 2017. The County Planning Department has approved the development permit for Phase I improvements. The Santa Cruz Playground Project has continued their fundraising efforts. Staff submitted a grant application for the Tire-Derived Products grant program for resilient surfacing at LEO's Haven.

**SOUTH COUNTY PARKS** (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Seacliff Village Park, Freedom Government Annex)

Polo Grounds Restroom: After Parks maintenance staff assisted in completing all outstanding issues, the final inspection has been completed for the new restroom, concession, maintenance building, and accessible parking and pathways.

Pinto Lake: Staff is working with the Resource Conservation District and Parks maintenance staff on adaptive management of the CCC sediment catchment basin, and on a project to add rolling dips on the road near where the virgin tree used to be located for sediment and erosion control.



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Jeff Gaffney  
Director

DATE: June 5, 2017  
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission, Arts Commission  
FROM: Rebecca Hurley, Aquatics Supervisor  
RE: Aquatics Division Status Report

### AQUATIC PROGRAMS

**Our modified spring schedule runs May 20th through June 9th and is as follows:**

#### **Lap Pool Hours:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am to 7:30 pm  
Saturdays: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sundays: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

#### **Warm Water Pool Hours:**

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am – 9:30 am  
3:00 pm – 5:00pm  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Saturday: 9:00 – 10:30 am (Adults only)  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm (Adults and children 6 years and under)  
1:00 – 4:00 pm (All ages)

Sunday: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm – (All ages)

## Events

Join us on May 29th for a special Memorial Day Recreation Swim!  
Monday May 29th, 3:00 - 5:00PM



Including the warm water pool, water slide, 1<sup>st</sup> lane of the lap pool, climbing wall, inner tubes, and Wibit Inflatable!

In addition, all pools will be open regular hours on Memorial Day!

**Swim lessons** – Spring lessons are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am – 12:30pm until May 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 4:00 – 7:30 pm until June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Programs Begin June 10** – Summer swim lessons and our popular Junior and Little Guard programs begin June 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently both morning and afternoon Junior and Little Guard programs for all three summer sessions are full with long waiting lists.

**Water Polo** - Sundays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Participants must be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program.

**Aquatic Staff Hire** - The department hired 16 new extra-help Lifeguards and 2 new extra-help Head Lifeguards. We also filled a newly opened full time Aquatics Program Specialist to help manage the pool!

**Private Pool Parties** – Private Pool Parties are available on Saturdays & Sundays. A variety of aspects of the facility may be rented for Private Pool Parties, from just the warm pool to aspects accommodating up to 110 people. Private Pool Parties are scheduled on weekends, spring, summer and fall, after the facility has closed to the public.

**School Parties** – Once again local schools will be renting the facility for their end of the year parties starting May 24<sup>th</sup> and continuing until June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Fitness Swimming** - Adult Fitness Swimming is very popular at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The best-attended workouts are Tuesday and Saturday mornings; up to 35 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Fitness swimmers may choose from several

different workout times: Monday's 6:00 am; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday workouts are at 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

For the past four months we have been offering an Introduction to Lap Swimming Class and an Introduction to Adult Fitness class on Wednesday and Thursday mornings which have continually gained attendance numbers.

**Adult Fitness Swim Meet** - Adult Fitness swimmers are organizing a mini-swim meet on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 11 am. It will feature 25, 50, and 100 yard races of all four strokes and will occur with regularly scheduled programming.

**Water Aerobics & Exercise** - The water exercise classes this year continue to reach their highest capacity to date. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including, healthy, pre-natal, seniors, and rehabilitating or cross training fitness enthusiasts. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times and instructors names. Previous swimming or water-exercise experience is not required for participation in any of the water exercise classes.

**Lifeguard Training Exercises** – The lifeguard in-service in May was a swim condition check; shallow water spinal rescues, and a swim lesson review.

For June we will have two very large in-service trainings with all staff included in preparation for the busy summer season.

**Swim Teams** - The Aptos Cabrillo Swim Club and Santa Cruz County Aquatics – CRUZ - swim teams continue to rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00-7:30 p.m.

#### **Pool Closures and Holiday Schedule**

There are no scheduled pool closures in May, June, or July.

**Live Oak Community Rooms** - The Live Oak Community Rooms at the swim center are rented out regularly throughout the year for meetings, small events and classes.



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Jeff Gaffney  
Director

DATE: June 5, 2017  
TO: Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission  
FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator  
RE: Recreation & Cultural Services Division Status Report

### ARTS AND CULTURAL

#### Art Exhibitions

Irene Reti's photographs are on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office through June 2. The week of June 5, Irene's photos will come down and Ken Zaremba will install his wildlife photographs.

#### Felton Library

Felton Library Friends installed the temporary art exhibit, Fantastic Figures, at the site of the library. The sculptures were unveiled at an event on May 20, and people are invited to bid on their favorite in the online auction, which continues through June 16. It is hoped that Fantastic Figures will bring the long-awaited new library to the consciousness of the community, to publicize the fact that the library project is moving forward, and to raise funds for the new Felton Branch.

The "Call to Artists" for the Felton Library public art project will be released soon to the public. The selection panel will convene in late summer to select an artist for the project to move forward in the process. The panel's recommendation will go to the Arts Commission for approval, and finally to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration in the fall.

#### Farm Park

The public artist for the Farm Park continues to refine his concept plans for artwork on the bridge and bridge approach/landing.

### ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

The rainy winter prompted staff to create a trip to see the area's wildflowers at the Pinnacles. We began with a lovely tour at the national park, followed by a guided tour and tasting at Pietra Santa, and concluded with lunch and browsing in San Juan Bautista. It was a lovely day!

May featured a trip to learn about Rosie the Riveter by land and water. We began investigating the Port of Richmond by boat, which features the old Kaiser shipyards and the Ford Motor Plant, used as a tank assembly during WWII. On land we toured the newly renovated visitor center at the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park, which does a fantastic job commemorating a significant chapter in America's history when lives of American women and minorities were deeply transformed.

In June, Senior Mall Walk program participants will have their hard work acknowledged at the Mall Walkers 28<sup>th</sup> annual awards ceremony. Many walkers will receive awards for attaining their goals and reaching new mileage categories. Volunteers for the program will also be honored and recognized for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, we will raffle off great prizes donated by generous area merchants. June will also feature three trips: Summer Love 'n San Francisco, Discover Petaluma and a San Francisco Giants game.

## **YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS**

### Mar Vista ACE

Participants were welcomed back from their spring break in April with Creatures Week, during which they made pipe cleaner creatures, flying creatures, Peeps' homes and more. They also enjoyed games such as Hot Lava Creature, Jester's Court, Reptiles and Amphibians and Beckon. The highlight of the week was a field trip to Jump-N-Around for bouncy fun. During Mad Science Week we played games such as Jump the River, Medic, Target Practice and SPUD. We also had a presentation from Greenwaste Recovery which included an educational refuse and recycling sorting activity. Participants also joined a team to develop safe landing materials during an egg drop activity. Last was Nature's Wonders Week, which featured games such as Fire in the Forest, Steal the Stick, Hawk & Mouse and Squirrel Uprising. Art projects included portraying names with found materials and nature prints.

May rings in the winding down of the school year, which means the kids get wound up in anticipation of summer! We began with Wheels Week, which is always highly anticipated by the kids. On Wednesday of that week, participants brought bikes, scooters, skateboards and more to use in obstacles courses, relays and general play. They also made their own license plates and played a new game to ACE called Indy 500. During Appreciation Week we made thank you gifts for teachers, decorated pots and planted succulents for moms and more. We also took a field trip to the Boardwalk for bowling and laser tag fun. Next was Survivor Week, which is always a favorite among staff and kids. The kids were divided into teams and each team's goal was to earn a certain number of points by having good sportsmanship, trying their best, etc. Teams made tribal names and team banners, coded and decoded messages, made obstacle courses and challenged the opposing team to compete in them, had a tiki hunt, went to the beach and more. During Emoji Week, participants made mosaic, shrinky-dink and edible emojis. We also took a trip to Felt Street Park and Simpkins Family Swim Center. May ended with Water Week and the highlight was Water Day, complete with Slip-N-Slides, a wading pool and water balloons!

We'll end the school year with Kids' Favorites Week and plan to do a plethora of fun things to celebrate another wonderful year of ACE and a great group of kids! Meanwhile, staff are gearing up for summer camp!

## La Selva Beach ACE

La Selva Beach After-school Childhood Enrichment is wrapping up the school year with lots of fun and exciting special events, including Manresa Beach Days, Potluck Parties, and Simpkins Swim Center field trips. Recent themes include: Fiesta Week, with festive activities such as musical chairs and cake walk, a wax museum drama game, a quesadilla cooking activity, piñata breaking, a tag game of arco iris, a maracas craft, beckon at Triangle Park, world cup soccer and an Aztec pottery paper plate craft; followed by Outdoor Appreciation, with activities such as a dotted spring tree craft, Neptune's Obstacle Course Challenge, a caterpillar stick craft, a tag game of octopus and a children's favorite, melty beads; All Time Favorites is also a recent theme, with favorite activities such as a fruit loop necklaces, a game of scavenger hunt, mini pizza making, kick ball, capture the flag, shrink-dink art, sculpt clay, flag football, and star wars. The children continue to go to the local La Selva Beach library each Tuesday for additional homework help, and each Thursday for an hour-long Lego session. Overall, we have had a wonderful school year and look forward to an always fun and exciting summer camp at La Selva Beach!

## **QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS – February-May**

### **Recent Interpretive Programs and Activities:**

- Santa Cruz Astronomy Club - A Stellar Experience Stargazing was offered three Fridays – February 3, March 17, and April 28.
- Interpreter Jeremy Lin led an interpretive hike with Big Basin Redwoods State Park Docents on February 5.
- Quail Hollow Ranch Volunteers worked on various QHR Restoration Projects on February 11 and 18, and March 4.
- Quail Hollow Ranch House Tour with Docent Richard James was offered Saturday, February 19 and Saturday, April 30.
- Trek to the Forbidden Sandhills Hike was led by Docent Sean Warton every Sunday in April.
- Major trail work efforts to repair storm damage happened routinely throughout February-April.
- Ace Trail Crew worked on restoration projects inside the Ranch House and along the Discovery Loop Trail.
- Continuing work acquiring and integrating Pace property adjacent to QHR occurred during these months.

Quail Hollow Ranch volunteers were recognized for their outstanding efforts on Sunday, May 21. Supervisor McPherson, Parks Director Jeff Gaffney, and Parks staff Kathy DeWild presented quail pins to new volunteers, and awarded special pins to those who had reached hours milestones.

While everyone enjoyed ice cream provided by Friends of Quail Hollow Ranch (Friends), a variety of updates were given by Parks staff and various volunteer groups. Jim Williams spoke about Friends, and encouraged everyone to attend the Redwood Mountain Faire as QHR is one of the event beneficiaries. Jeremy Lin reported on recent and upcoming QHR programs. Kathy updated the group on staffing plans for a full-time Park Naturalist position at QHR in the new

budget year, as well as Lee's bench status (\$300 more needed to fully fund the project). Linda Brodman reported on efforts to eradicate broom at the park. Tim Jolly gave an update on the state of the park trails, detailing work done so far and what's still needed to repair the damage done by winter storms. Christina Floyd spoke about the nest box program, noting the increase of Western Bluebirds – a welcome sight at the park. Finally, Richard James summarized QHR projects and spoke about his history tours of the ranch house, featured recently in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

**Upcoming Interpretive Programs and Activities:**

- Santa Cruz Astronomy Club - A Stellar Experience Stargazing will be offered Friday, June 30.
- Beginning Birding with Eric Feuss will be offered June 4.
- House Tours with Richard James will be offered June 4.
- Nature Adventure Camp will be offered June 26-30.
- Birding through the Habitats with Alex Rinkert will be offered July 9.
- QHR and community look forward to the hiring of a new Park Interpreter.



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Jeff Gaffney  
Director

DATE: June 5, 2017  
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission  
FROM: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator  
RE: Recreation & Cultural Services Division Status Report – June 2017

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

During National Volunteer Week (April 24 – 28) the Parks Department had 3 volunteers recognized by the Board of Supervisors at the Outstanding Volunteer Recognition ceremony. Sonia Byington was recognized for volunteering over 640 hours at our La Selva Beach after school program; Myrtle Brabant (over 2500 hours), and Glenn Swanson (over 100 hours), were recognized for their volunteer efforts helping to facilitate the Capitola Mall Walking Program.

#### **North County**

Our north coast volunteer has been regularly picking up trash and most recently hauled 2 mattresses to a location for maintenance staff to haul away to the Buena Vista landfill site.

#### **Quail Hollow Ranch**

Volunteers spent a second day at Quail Hollow Ranch painting. The volunteers were able to paint 3 barn walls, and over 60 yards of fence line. The paint efforts have helped to make the ranch look fresh and clean for the wedding season.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> Quail Hollow Ranch volunteers were recognized for their efforts with an Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Friends of Quail Hollow Ranch. Supervisor Bruce McPherson, Parks Director Jeff Gaffney, and Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator, presented special Quail Hollow Ranch pins to volunteers who had reached hours milestones.

#### **Mid County**

Staff has reached out to interested neighbors of Moran Lake to organize a group to help with maintenance and cleanliness of the trail.

#### **South County**

During National Volunteer Week (April 24 – 28), Crown Castle, a San Jose company, brought 50 of their employees to Hidden Beach Park in Aptos.

The 50 volunteers worked very hard and accomplished the following projects at the park: removed over 40 yards of unwanted invasive plants (mostly ivy); cleaned/scraped/sanded and repainted the children's play structure which was in desperate need; weeded several planter box areas; helped maintenance staff build and fill platform boxes underneath four memorial benches; raked and hauled debris off of a trail; hauled giant logs and branches off a hillside; dug out and moved a memorial plaque; painted two utility boxes and a metal gate; walked the entire creek and removed garbage and a tire; cleaned up trash on the beach; repainted park signs; and cut Pampus grass away from signs and railings. Needless to say it was a very productive, rewarding, and fun day!

We had an Aptos High School student volunteer time to pick up trash at Polo Grounds. She spent several weeks after school and on weekends helping to keep the park looking beautiful.