



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of December 6, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Virtual via Zoom

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (Minott/Duncan-Merrell 4/0)

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Jean Brocklebank Subject: I'm referencing a report sent to staff & commissioners, I found all documents about signage at Scott Creek beach. I'm asking for the commissioners to review and that this item be placed on the agenda. I'm disappointed that it did not get on the agenda this time. It's been over 2 and half years that we've been trying to do this, we feel stone walled.
2. Michael Lewis Subject: I am disappointed, I've spent a lot of time on this to bring these documents out to the public. I want a commitment that this will be on the agenda for the next meeting. We shouldn't have any more foot dragging. This is a specific item and it should not fall under the North Coast Facilities & Mgmt plan.
3. Linda Brown Subject: I want to echo what Jean and Michael talked about. I am all for signage on the beach, especially at Scott Creek Beach. I dislike dog owners violating the leash laws. I've had confrontation with other owners. The signage is the only power that we have when at the beach. We need signs to show that it is the law to leash dogs. Dog owners have no fear. I hope to discuss this more at the February meeting.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Minutes of October 4, 2021 were approved; reports considered and accepted
(Minott/Duncan-Merrell 4/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Minott 2nd District: I'm taking a series of workshops on diversity, equity and inclusion. Thank you Rebecca for the fast response to Seascape Park and the horrible damage that was done to the public restroom. Tomorrow, Seacliff park is getting grass.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: I had the opportunity to visit city parks including Pogonip, I've never seen so many crowds of people using the parks. It's lovely to see the parks getting used. The Civic Auditorium is open again and has several events coming up: The Nutcracker, Al Franken, The Symphony, and David Sedaris. The Winter Spring Activity guide is being mailed out; recreation after school programming will be offered.

Fenner-Evans 1st District: I visited 5 parks in the 1st district. The area at Heart of Soquel with tables and chairs are full at lunch time. I went to Winkle and talked with some neighbors there. I went to

Santa Cruz Gardens and a dog jumped up on me so I had to leave. The neighbors have placed plastic chairs near the play structure because there is only one table and chairs. I went to the Farm Park, the neighbors feel the bridge is unsightly and dangerous and think the addition of the pump track would benefit the neighborhood. The community gardens are thriving at the Farm. It would be great to have a status update about the grant application for Farm Park. I also visited AJC and was told a unique bird was seen called the Grey Ghost, it was exciting to hear.

Rapoza 5th District: Thank you for the volunteers at Felton Discovery Park and Quail Hollow Ranch; and thank you to staff who take very good care of all the parks in the 5th district.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Regarding the Farm Park, the bridge is appropriately sized per engineer/soil reports and for ADA access. We've put in for several grants and are hopeful. We will continue to work toward getting the development done there, it is a beautiful piece of land.
- We lost Will Fourt, he is going to work for State Parks to reimagine Big Basin. It will be hard for us, but is a great opportunity for Will.
- We also lost Jessica Beebe who was promoted to a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Watsonville.
- We hired six permanent Maintenance Workers and are recruiting for a Resource Planner.
- Hidden Beach Playground was renovated and opened; it was a special project to honor Jett Ramsey who died very young.
- I wanted to address the concerns around Scott Creek; I have spoken with Fish & Wildlife, Point Blue, and Planning Department. I have not found anything to prohibit dogs permanently at that beach. I will continue to look into this.
- We are looking to proceed with North Coast Facilities & Management Plan and will be working with the State to contract with a consultant.
- We have a number of items on the Board of Supervisor's agenda tomorrow.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. Motion: The commission approved the Biennial Report with request that staff review for typos. (Minott/Fenner-Evans, 4/0)
- b. Motion: Approved meeting dates for 2022 (Minott/Fenner-Evans, 4/0)
- c. The commission discussed continuing virtual meetings in 2022 in compliance with AB 361
- d. Motion: Adopt resolution approving the commission's findings under AB 361 (Minott/Duncan-Merrell, 4/0)

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Info Items

- a. Director Gaffney gave update on Opal Cliffs Recreation District Reorganization status
- b. Director Gaffney gave update on possible South County Parkland Acquisition & Development project

IX. NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 7, 2022, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 34)

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. (Minott/Fenner-Evans 4/0)