

**County of Santa Cruz** 

# **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

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JEFF GAFFNEY DIRECTOR

#### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of Oct 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

# I. ROLL CALL

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

### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Motion: Agenda approved. (Rapoza/Roberts 5/0)

# III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Adele Gardner Subject:

Seacliff public art. Suggestion for open discussion after Commission meeting.

2. Jean Brocklebank Subject:

Like the idea of Commissioners openly discussing ideas for future agenda topics.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes approved (Roberts/Roberts 5/0)
- b. Reports approved (Roberts/Bennet 5/0)

# V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Roberts 1st District: A lot going on in Dist 1. It is so heartening to see work continue on next phases of Chanticleer Park and glad to hear that staff is working towards grant opportunities. Excited to see paths going in at Heart of Soquel. The outdoors is one of the safest places during COVID, the more we improve these spaces, the more options people have for free & accessible activities.

Rapoza 5th District: Since the last meeting, the CZU Fire has consumed a lot of our time and energy. I was evacuated for almost two weeks and thankfully our house survived. It was heartening to see the cooperation between all the agencies in the 5<sup>th</sup> Dist. The 5<sup>th</sup> District parks are getting utilized again and are all looking good.

Minott 2nd District: The 2<sup>nd</sup> District has been nicely covered in the Maintenance, Planning & Volunteer reports on the consent agenda. Nothing more from me and I look forward to hearing more about encroachment and other issues.

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Bennett 4<sup>th</sup> District: Not a lot going on out here, all the excitement is in North County. Last couple months have been quiet. Looking forward to things starting to open again and getting people outside.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: Santa Cruz City staff are working more hours to keep the parks functioning despite the furloughs. Recreation staff is assisting maintenance to keep the parks clean & safe. Rec & Maint staff assisted with creating fire boundaries during CZU Fire and Rec staff helped setup an evacuation site at Santa Cruz Civic. Staff is still providing childcare for emergency workers and activities for youth despite cuts to hours and pay. Currently, all City park restrooms are closed due to staff cuts with a few exceptions. Civic Center and Louden Nelson will remain closed – both provide revenue stream that help fund parks. The City Park Ranger program will be defunded. Volunteer groups and park neighbors will be even more valuable as the budget rebounds.

# VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- I was called to help at Emergency Operations Center during the CZU Fire. I was helping with the Shelter & Care division. Thank you to Friends of County Parks for staffing the emergency resource center. Next thing we have to worry about is the debris flow, and where we can evacuate people again. Our Department has been doing a lot to respond to the fires. We've provided a shelter at Simpkins, helped set up spaces for animals, and helped setup PG&E base camp. Looking at grants to help us do repairs from fire damage.
- Our playgrounds opened!
- We have the restroom installed at Seacliff with beautiful mural.
- Construction is completed at Felton Discovery park.
- Heart of Soquel is making great progress.
- We received another \$35,000 from California Coastal Commission to do a planning permit at Hidden Beach.
- We have recruitments open for Lifeguard, Headguard, and Parks Cultural Workers, these are extra help positions. It is hard to find people who are willing to work in these capacities.
- Our movies in the park were a great success!
- VII. REGULAR AGENDA Action Items
  - a. Update on community outreach for Chanticleer Park Phase 2 Prop 68 grant

# VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Update on Coastal Encroachment program
- b. Discussion on how to reach out for more volunteers and utilize them more effectively during these financially challenging times
- c. Discussion on term limits for Commissioners and how to plan for Commissioners' succession that will allow for sharing institutional knowledge
- d. Discussion around what the Commission can do to help the Parks Department prepare for the recession we are entering

# IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m. (Roberts/Bennet 5/0)