



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of February 3, 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, Jennifer Mead

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS None

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Katherine Sweet Subject: Anna Jean Cummings Park
2. Michael Lewis Subject: Protecting natural resources
3. Jean Brocklebank Subject: Powers and Duties of Commission

IV. CONSENT AGENDA The Consent Agenda was approved. (Bennett/Rapoza 5/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Bennett 4th District: Pajaro Valley Sports Foundation had a positive breakthrough with Freedom Schools. I want to send a shout out to Oscar and his team – my kids are on the team and they do a great job with the La Selva Afterschool program.

Minott 2nd District: Sadly, we lost Ed Manning recently. He has done a lot for County Parks and we think of him with great fondness. Big thanks to his family for everything they have done. He will be greatly missed.

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: The Clam Chowder Cook Off will be held Sat & Sun, Feb 22 & 23. Two day event, rain or shine. Tasting kits are \$10 each - tasting kit sales benefit Santa Cruz City Parks & Recreation.

Rapoza 5th District: We have a big event coming up in the 5th District, on Feb 22nd – the Felton Library grand opening. Speeches start at 9 o'clock and at 10 people can check out the library. The park won't be open yet, but it is coming along!

Roberts 1st District: There has been incredible collaboration between the Cradle to Career initiative and the school district. Current leadership is defining what is important for the children and the number one thing they said was access to parks and recreation. It is so exciting that families and healthcare groups are identifying parks as an important part of people's lives.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- I want to acknowledge our speakers earlier. We are far behind in natural resource management and we are challenged with the resources we have. I have been aware of this since starting in the Department and I'm working hard to get us more resources to protect what we have. We are hiring a Park Planner who has a strong natural resources background.
- Superintendent Hurley and I have been in conversation with Bill Cummings, the husband of Anna Jean Cummings. We were very much trying to honor the idea behind AJC. He seemed very cognizant of his wife's desires for the park and felt that they were being honored by the County Parks Dept. The AmeriCorp Team is doing restoration work at AJC and I think a volunteer trail crew would be most effective in managing the trails there since it has worked so well at Quail Hollow.
- It's a new year. The LEO's Haven grand opening was a wonderful event.
- We have another opening coming up this Saturday, Feb 8th from 1-3pm – opening the skate feature at Seacliff Village Park. County Parks Friends is helping to get a fundraiser for the next phase. Felton Discovery Park is right behind the library opening. We are planning an official opening in May.
- We are hoping to start construction on the Heart of Soquel and The Farm park.
- Continuing discussions with Supervisor Coonerty about increasing access to programs for Medi-Cal qualifying youth, this is to build on the Park Rx program that is already out there.
- Segments of the Rail Trail are being built some of them on County land and County Parks will be responsible for maintaining those segments. We are hoping to recoup some funding for maintenance.
- Superintendent Sturm has been working on our department emergency response plan. It will be the first plan the department has had. If there was a disaster or emergency, staff will have an idea of how to respond.
- We are working with a muralist to paint the bathroom at Seacliff Village Park, that is going to the Board for approval on Feb 25th.
- I was on Good Morning Monterey Bay, the last time I was on the show we were starting the department Strategic Plan – it was great to be able to hand Rosie the finished product.
- Regarding Scott Creek, I did communicate with the deputy director of Fish & Wildlife, Alex Pitts. We had a long conversation about the biological opinion and its connection to construction projects. I'm going to have another conversation with our attorney. It's all quite convoluted, but I am following up and trying to get it straightened out.
- The County is doing a Long Range Facilities Plan to make better use of County facilities and identify the needs for deferred maintenance, this will affect County Parks so we are trying to be involved as much as possible.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Youth Resource Bank Annual Cabaret was announced
- b. Rebecca Hurley presented on the Parks PRIMO! project
- c. The Commission reviewed Communication Strategies developed from previous workshop
- d. Jeff Gaffney reviewed Roberts Rules of Order

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

IX. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

X. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. (Rapoza/Bennett 5/0)