

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 2, 2016

4:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors' Chambers

400 County Center, Redwood City

MINUTES

Chair Marico Enriquez called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Oath of Office

County Supervisor Dave Pine administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Parks and Recreation Commissioner Barbara Bonilla representing Supervisorial District I.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Barbara Bonilla, Michael Cooney, Marico Enriquez (Chair), Neil Merrilees, Meda Okelo (Vice Chair)

Commissioners Absent: Cailan Cumming, Kevin Huo (Youth Commissioners)

Staff and Consultants Present: Sarah Birkeland, Assistant Parks Director; Brenda Bennett, Executive Secretary; Marlene Finley, Parks Director; Ed Hallett, Harbormaster; Cecily Harris, Development Consultant; Sam Herzberg, Senior Parks Planner; Michele Laskowski, Park Ranger III – Natural Resource Specialist; Scott Lombardi, Parks Superintendent; Carla Schoof, Community Programs; Manjit Singh, Management Fellow

Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Amendments

There were none.

Presentation

Introduction of Newly Hired Staff

Director Finley introduced new Parks employees Sarah Birkeland, Assistant Parks Director, and Manjit Singh, Management Fellow.

Presentation on Pending Legislation in San Francisco, What's Implied by It, and What Increased Watershed Access Could Mean for San Mateo County Residents

Mr. Charlie Krenz said he was representing OpentheWatershed.org, a group that is advocating for increased access to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) watershed. He relayed information regarding a San Francisco Board of Supervisor's resolution that proposed expanded access to the watershed.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Mr. Krenz said his organization was a virtual group with 15 active members. He noted they had Facebook presence and following.

Public Comment: Mr. Mike Ferreira, Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, said his Chapter has 16,500 members. He said access to the watershed was available currently through a docent-led program. He said the Sierra Club supported expansion of the docent-led program.

Mr. Joel Cortland, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, said his organization supported more liberal access to the watershed.

Ms. Lennie Roberts, Committee for Green Foothills, said her organization was opposed to uncontrolled access to remote areas of the Peninsula Watershed lands and supported upgrading and expanding the existing docent program, currently limited to three days per week. She provided the Commissioners with a written statement.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Bonilla requested more information about Mr. Krenz' organization and who in the County was represented by it. Commissioner Okelo requested that staff bring back a report and recommendation at a future meeting.

Presentation on Mini-Park Proposal – Kyle Barriger, Fair Oaks Beautification Association

Mr. Kyle Barriger, Fair Oaks Beautification Association (FOBA), made a PowerPoint presentation on FOBA and its mini-park proposal. He said their proposal was a request for \$10,000 annually for five years toward maintenance support of the North Fair Oaks Community Playground and a pocket park at the intersection of Bay Road and 18th Street and a one-time grant of \$15,000 to upgrade a basketball court at the referenced playground. He said they were also in dialogue with SFPUC about potential recreational / park use of additional areas along the Hetch-hetchy right-of-way.

Public Comment: Laura Caplan, FOBA, said their nonprofit was looking at a new model to support the maintenance cost of the facilities and amenities the group has created.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Cooney said this had to be reviewed carefully as he had concerns with funding projects for some groups in unincorporated County and not in other unincorporated County areas that do not have groups creating pocket parks and seeking funds to support.

Director Finley said the mini-park proposal would be agendaized for the Commission's consideration at its next meeting.

Action Items

Review and Approve the Minutes of the April 7, 2016 Regular Meeting

Action: M/S Cooney/Merrilees to approve the minutes as submitted.

Motion carried 5-0.

Review Coyote Point Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project 90% Plans and Authorize the Parks Director to Submit the Project's Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum to Regulatory Agencies (Continued from the April 7, 2016 Commission meeting)

Cecily Harris provided a presentation on the 90% plans for the Coyote Point Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation project and the project's Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum. She said the parking would be increased from 176 to 191 spaces. She said regarding the need for the Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum that the project has since been designed to accommodate projected 2050 sea level rise and potential erosion, sand would be delivered by truck and not barge, remaining wooden pylons would be removed.

Public Comment: Jane Cormier, co-owner of Boardsports, the concessionaire at Coyote Point Recreation Area, said they worked previously with the Foundation to raise about \$10,000 for the temporary sandbags while the West Promenade improvements were being designed. She said in response to an eight-story project being requested for development on Airport Boulevard, windsports enthusiasts brought their concerns about impacts to wind to the City of Burlingame Council meetings. As a result the San Francisco Board Sailing Association was awarded a mitigation fee of \$300,000. She said County Parks received a portion of that to help pay for the improvements on the Western Promenade. She said they liked the design and that there was no kids play area on the beach. She requested that woodchips in part of the parking lot would be welcomed for use by windsurfers to put their equipment together noting that doing that on sand was problematic.

Chair Enriquez closed the public comment period.

Action: M/S Cooney/Merrilees to authorize the Parks Director to submit the Coyote Point Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project's Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum to regulatory agencies.

Motion carried 5-0.

Review and Approve Parks Director's Proposal to Prepare One Consolidated Staff Report for the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda, Summarizing Key Department Projects, Events, Budget and Other Highlights (Continued from the April 7, 2016 Commission meeting)

Staff Comment: Director Finley said that staff prepares a number of individual division reports containing a great deal of information for the Commission meetings. She recommended changing that to a single report, the Director's Report, which would summarize key department projects, events, budget and other highlights. She said reducing the division reports placed less of a burden on Commissioner and staff time, and would allow for more focus on the weightier action items.

Several Commissioners commented favorably on the Director's recommendation. A formal motion was not made. The Secretary confirmed there was unanimous Commission consensus to implement the new reporting structure for future Commission agendas.

San Mateo County Parks Foundation

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michele Beasley said she expected the Foundation would make a donation to the Board of Supervisors in July. She said this would include \$15,000 from REI for trail signage in Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. She said other donations would be toward the Student Conservation Association crews for summer work, Bicycle Sunday, and the Parks Explorer Shuttle Program.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Director Finley made a presentation with photos on the Department's activities including the first Visitors' Survey that was conducted over the past six weeks in partnership with San Francisco State University, the Park and Recreational Tourism Department. She also reported on bluff erosion at Pillar Point Bluff trail and actions to cure; the County and Assistant County Managers' visit to recently formed District Park VII; the new restroom at Wunderlich Park; the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network and its tour of the San Vicente Redwoods and management practices learned there; visits to other park systems related to the future improvements at the Coyote Point Eastern Promenade; the Volunteer Horse Patrol's work day at Jack Brook Horse Camp; and the removal of the sailboat that wrecked on the reef at Seal Cove.

Harbormaster's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

Parks Superintendent's Report

There were no additions to the written report. Commissioner Bonilla noted that the Movie Night at Flood Park was in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office.

Natural Resource Manager's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

Fiscal Officer's Budget Report

There were no additions to the written report.

Park Planner's Report

Senior Planner Herzberg said he had no additions to the written report. Commissioner Okelo asked for more information on the status of the Flood Park project. Senior Planner Herzberg said that staff would prepare a request for proposals for a program environmental impact report to be prepared. Commissioner Okelo asked about keeping the public informed about the status of the project. Director Finley asked Carla Schoof, the Re-imagine Flood Park project manager, to respond to the Commissioner's question.

Ms. Schoof said throughout the project they have tried to keep all interested parties engaged with a webpage dedicated to the project and its updates. She said Ms. Birkeland and she recently met with some Flood Park neighbors and had a good discussion about what their concerns were and shared with them the next steps. Noting Commissioner Okelo's observation that not all people were technologically savvy, Ms. Schoof indicated other outreach to update would occur.

Community Program Specialist's Report

There were no additions to the written report. Commissioner Okelo noted the information booth Parks hosted at the Facebook Farmer's Market and suggested doing something similar at other community events. He said he could provide information on such activities. Ms. Schoof said she welcomed the contact information.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Merrilees recognized Youth Commissioner Cailan Cumming with a Certificate of Appreciation. He reported she had graduated and would be attending UC Santa Barbara in the fall. He reported that the Youth Commission at its last meeting recognized the County Parks and Recreation Commission as the most outstanding Commission for its engagement with its youth commissioners.

Adjournment

Chair Enriquez adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.