



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, January 22, 2007

7:15 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Government Center, Board Chambers

701 Ocean St., 5th Floor

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members: Janet Doten, Dave Mercer, Katharine Minott, Michael Rosenberg
Francisco Serna

Present: Janet Doten, Dave Mercer, Katharine Minott, Michael Rosenberg,
Francisco Serna

Staff: Barry Samuel, Clark Beattie, Gretchen Iliff, Beth Porter

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as written. (Minott/Mercer 5/0).

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of November 13, 2006 were approved as amended (Page 2, Item A, 1) Michael Rosenberg did not say cigarette butts are causing maintenance problems in the parks). (Minott/Serna 5/0)

B. Information and Reports (Accept and File)

- 1) Facilities Division – Status Report
- 2) Maintenance Division – Status Report
- 3) Planning Division – Status Report
- 4) Recreation & Cultural Services Division – Status Report
- 5) Arts Commission Agenda January 8, 2007

The Information and reports were accepted and filed as written (Minott/Mercer 5/0).

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Seventeen speakers gave their opinions on the issue of allowing dogs off leash at County parks and other open spaces in the county. Various ideas were presented including time limits for dogs off leash to specific hours, ticketing owners for dogs not on leash at the appropriate times, fees to owners for allowing off leash use of parks, signage for off leash areas and leash only use. There were many passionate speakers on both sides of the issue. The proponents of off leash use of parks cited the exercise provided by walking dogs, the company and

companionship of dogs creating a healthy, happy community, dogs being happy and well behaved when allowed off leash. The opponents of dogs off leash told of aggressive behavior including attacks and bites, the scarcity of wildlife in areas where dogs are allowed off leash, the ill behaved dogs who have frightened and harmed people and dog waste spoiling the environment. All who wished to speak were allowed time to present their views and when it was noted that all had a chance at the microphone, the oral communications were closed by Chair Rosenberg at 8:00 p.m.

The Commissioners determined that this topic would be placed on the February agenda for discussion.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Samuel informed Commissioners that Margaret (Peggy) W. Nielson named the Parks Department in her will, specifically \$75,000 for capital improvements at the Swim Center and \$75,000 for scholarships for senior trips. Guidelines will be established to administer the funds for scholarships as well as to determine ways to generate additional money for this fund. An endowment has been established by Bill and Jean Lane for Quail Hollow County Park. The Lane's have donated \$100,000 for the fund to be administered by The Santa Cruz Community Foundation. The maintenance staff has installed a new memorial picnic table at Rockview in Ms. Nielson's name and two new dog water fountains along with a new shade structure have been installed at Polo Grounds Dog Park.

No grant funds for use at Polo Grounds were received from the Soquel Water District.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

B. ACTION ITEMS

1) Smoking Ban in County Parks

There is a consolidation of some of the smoking ordinances from other cities and counties in the January Parks Commission packet. Dena Joijs, MPH, Senior Health Educator of the Santa Cruz County Health Service Agency, made a presentation and answer any questions of the Commissioners.

Co Chairs of the Santa Cruz County Tobacco Education Coalition, Bob Correa and Denise Gannon, distributed Coalition materials to Commissioners and spoke briefly on the benefits of tobacco free parks and the hazards of second hand smoke and exposure to tobacco use. No smoking policies have multiple benefits including a change in public attitudes and showing smoking as less accessible and desirable. After Commissioners discussion, a motion was made and passed (Serna/Minott 4/1) to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that a smoking ban be placed in County Parks. County Counsel will prepare the appropriate language and statement to indicate there is a no smoking policy in County Parks. Mr. Samuel will keep Commissioners informed of the Board agenda date for this item.

2) Commissioner Attendance at Commission Meetings

Mr. Samuel conducted a yearend review of both Arts and Parks Commissions by-laws. Both commissions do not use the same language for Commissioner absences. Staff recommends to the Parks Commission that the language used by the Arts Commission be adopted by the Parks Commission. A motion was made and passed (Mercer/Minott 5/0) to adopt the new language to reflect the same language for Commissioner absences that the Arts Commission uses and for staff to make the recommended by-law change to the Board of Supervisors. The new by-law will state: "Vacancies on the Commission shall exist (1) on the death, resignation or removal of any Commissioner; and (2) any member who misses three consecutive meetings, without good cause entered into the Commission's minutes or 5 out of 10 meetings in a calendar year, of the Commission shall be deemed as resigned from the Commission and the Board of Supervisors will be notified of the vacancy on the Commission. The Chairperson of the Commission shall notify the Clerk of the Board of any vacancies on the Commission."

AGENDA/MEETING FOR: Parks Commission, Monday, February 12, 2007 at 7:15 p.m. at the Government Center, Board Chambers 5th Floor, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Dogs Off Leash at Polo Grounds
2. Par 3 –Commissioner Minott Update
3. Valencia Hall Post Office Update
4. Felt Street Park Update
5. Web Site – Contact for Commissioners

B. ACTION ITEM

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. (Minott/Mercer 5/0)