

County of Santa Cruz



PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Government Center, Board Chambers

7:15 p.m.

701 Ocean St., 5th Floor

Regular Meeting

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 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 presented (Minott/Doten 5/0).

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of February 12, 2007 were approved as corrected (page two correct spelling of name Jesse Nickell). (Minott/Mercer 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 March 12, 2007

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

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Samuel reported that the recruitment for a new Parks Director is proceeding. Interviews were conducted today (March 12) and it is expected that the County Administrative Officer will make her decision in the near future.

The Board of Supervisors has approved the new "no smoking" ordinance and it is scheduled to take effect on March 27, 2007.

On March 20, the Board will be asked to approve a lease for the bike jump area behind the Aptos Post Office. The Swenson Company has offered the Parks Department a one year lease.

A meeting was held with Tom Schott who would like to install a Disc Golf course at Pinto Lake County Park. Mr. Schott is a former world champion disc golf player and very active in the Santa Cruz Disc Golf Club. He and the Club plan to raise the funds for the installation and perform the work themselves. Tom has been asked to attend a future Parks Commission meeting to make a presentation to the Commission.

A proposal for Proposition 50 funds was submitted in cooperation with the Soquel Water District for installation of artificial turf fields at the Polo Grounds. There is a good chance that we could receive funds for at least one field and a sewer line so a permanent restroom could be installed, although the decisions are not final.

Clark Beattie gave a report on the very successful "Pooches in the Park" event Sunday, March 11, 2007 at Polo Grounds County Park. Three hundred and fifty dogs registered and received very well packed doggie goodie bags. Thirteen prizes were awarded for dogs in the "dog pride" parade. A K-9 clinic with city police and sheriff units presented their dogs in action as needed in assisting police in searches. Thirty vendors were in attendance with pet services and supplies. Free Micro chipping was available along with licensing. Commissioner Rosenberg asked how vendors were chosen. Andrew Stewart contacted vendors from last year's "Pooches" and contacted many pet supply companies to determine their interest. It was an extremely successful event. Commissioner Serna complimented the County wide distribution of publicity all for this event.

Commissioner Rosenberg questioned wording on the no smoking ordinance.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Polo Grounds Dog Park Improvements

Gretchen Iliff has researched the cost of placing sod at the Polo Grounds Dog Park. Some pet owners have been concerned about the wood chips in the dog park that disturbs their dogs' paws. The area to cover is close to one acre and would cost approximately \$34,000 with in house installation (maintenance staff). Outside installation would run \$5,500 to prepare the site, fertilize, lay sod, etc. Gretchen also had the idea of using half grass and half chips. The dog park would need to periodically be closed for maintenance. Using sod would minimize the period of time the dog park would need to be closed for installation as opposed to seed. Sod would increase water use and take one month for the sod to set. The dog park would possibly be closed for two months. Gretchen looked into various grasses to use and many would not be satisfactory for use with pets.

Tod Stosey from Animal Services spoke about off leash areas. He is interested in educating people and enforcing leash laws. He supports unfenced dog areas. There are five officers for the entire County and they cannot cover all the areas needing enforcement. All the beaches have dogs loose nearly 24 hours a day. This is difficult to enforce and his belief is that time limits for dogs off leash on beaches would be helpful perhaps before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. Animal Control officers are on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and calls average 150 per month, more calls than police receive. He is not in favor of dogs disturbing wildlife and birds in the creek at Polo Grounds. Commissioners discussed various parks and beaches in the county and the possibility of off leash use. Discussion also included fencing the great meadow at Polo Grounds. If Proposition 50 funds are received, Soquel Water would take over the well at Polo Grounds and the

paved path at the Great Meadow would need to be accessed by vehicles of the Soquel Water District. A water treatment plant would be built with daily access needed. This could be a potential dog vehicle conflict.

Director Samuel conducted a survey of acreage at all the county parks to determine if off leash areas could be designated. There is virtually no space available or underutilized facilities at County Parks for off leash use.

2. Great Meadow at Polo Grounds – Liability Issue

County Counsel is researching the liability issue and Director Samuel will have a report at the April meeting.

3. Valencia Hall Post Office Elevations for Review

Director Samuel displayed elevations of Valencia post office. When complete, it will resemble an 1880's post office. It was designed by experts of historic renovations. There will be a display area with exhibits. The Post Office will also serve as a staff office for facility supervisors during events at Valencia Hall. Construction is expected by fall of 2007. A gas-fired propane stove will also be placed in the post office/general store. Neighbors have offered to serve as docents and school children are expected to take tours for educational purposes.

B. ACTION ITEMS - None

VII. AGENDA/MEETING FOR: Parks Commission, Monday, April 9, 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. Disc Golf at Pinto Lake County Park – Tom Schott
2. Prop 50 Grant Results
3. Liability Issues of Dogs Off Leash
4. Discussion of Hours of Usage of a Park or Beach
5. Elections

B. ACTION ITEM - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. (Doten/Mercer 5/0)