



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of October 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Virtual via Zoom

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Vivian Fenner-Evans, Kate Minott, Steven Bennett, Jim Rapoza
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Will Fourt, Jennifer Mead

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS Approved agenda as presented. (Rapoza/Minott 4/0)

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (none)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Minutes of August 2, 2021 were approved; reports considered and accepted
(Minott/Rapoza 4/0)

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Minott 2nd District: I attended a wonderful groundbreaking for the Hidden Beach playground. Thank to Jeff for organizing, it was super.

Rapoza 5th District: I noticed Felton Covered Bridge and Felton Discovery Park getting a lot of use. Felton deck had a music concert that was nice. Graham Hill showgrounds is looking desolate, are there plans for landscaping improvement? JG: Yes, there is some restoration working happening there after it was used as PG&E base camp for the CZU fires.

Fenner-Evans 1st District: I attended the Moran Lake public meetings. This is a 1 acre park that hasn't been updated since 1981. There's many species of birds there. I also attended the Floral Park campaign kickoff, that park needs improvement; landscaping, playground equipment etc... I visited Brommer and the pickleball courts are packed. I did see two homeless camps that were visible from the play structure.

Bennett 4th District: Not much to report except we did have the County Fair out here, I did attend. It was very packed and a huge success.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- National Night Out at *Mesa Village Park* - Tuesday, Oct 5th, 5-7:30pm
- Planning for the *Floating Pumpkin Patch* - Sunday, Oct 16th, 1-4pm at Simpkins
- Simpkins Renovation Project planning underway: Closing the 50M pool on Dec 6th and planning to reopen in June 2022. We are blending the Library Annex project with the renovations to minimize facility closure.
- The groundbreaking for Hidden Beach Playground was on Sept 15th
- County Park Friends launched the *Fixing up Floral Street Park* fundraiser

- \$150,000 has already been raised.
- I met the new Director of Land Trust, Sarah Newkirk; I look forward to working with her.
- Submitting grant apps for the following projects: Simpkins Indoor & Outdoor Youth Activity Center, Chanticleer Phase 2 development, South County parkland acquisition and development, and North Coast Rail Trail Ph 2.
- We have a new County Counsel person supporting parks, John Nguyen
- Regarding Scott Beach; our website is inconsistent with the signage at the beach, we'll rectify that.
- With passing of the AB/SB155, Trailer Bill for resources agencies, several hundred million dollars have become available for watershed protection, climate agency and fuel load reduction. We will look for opportunity to apply for those dollars.
- County Budget Manager, Christina Mowrey will be retiring, she's asking all gifts to be a donation to County Park Friends.
- We'll meet virtually through December. Simpkins will be closed for construction - we can talk about our options for meeting in person at our next meeting.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- a. Will Fournier gave presentation on Moran Lake public meetings and the Restoration and Public Access Plan progress (Page 16-79)
- b. Todd Marco and Barry Scott presented on the Nisene Rio Gateway progress

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

- a. The commission approved support letter to the Board of Supervisors for the Parks FY 21-22 Budget (Page 80-84) (Rapoza/Fenner-Evans 4/0)

IX. NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 6, 2021, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 85)

XI. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. (Minott/Fenner-Evans 4/0)