County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901   FAX: (831) 454-7940

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Aug 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
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Rebecca Hurley, Jennifer Mead

II.   AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Motion: Agenda approved. (Roberts/Rapoza 4/0)

III.   ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Michael Lewis   Subject: Virtual format for commission meetings

2. Jean Brocklebank   Subject: Virtual format for commission meetings

IV.   CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes approved (Rapoza/Roberts 4/0)

b. Reports approved (Rapoza/Roberts 4/0)

V.   COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Roberts 1st District: wonderful development, a lot going on a HOS. New use of space to help businesses. Parks continue to be responsive eto the time we are living through

Minott 2nd District: district is wonderful the bathroom programs are going along. Money is coming in thanks to Friends non-profit. I want to ask Director Gaffney for advice with problems at the new skate parks. Getting a slew of emails about trash and bad attitudes.

Rapoza 5th District: Everything I was going to speak on is all in the staff reports. The lawns at Covered bridge and highlands were getting on the brown side. I assumed because of the weather not conservation. I got a article today about tennis courts at Highlands

Duncan-Merrell 3rd District: COVID has kept our playgrounds fare closed and I am getting a lot of emails from parnets. I am seeing the parks being used in other ways. I am seeing more mask wearing. I would love to request guidance in parks about the use of masks. I think we can do a better job at the local level with educating the public. It would be great to get some guidance and some help to the community.

VI.   DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The BOS is taking an action to mandate masks and updating ordinances so that officers have ability to enforce the laws.
- County employees are now on furlough. Parks Dept staff will have a furlough bank. Dept Heads and BOS took 10% furlough, Sheriff's Office is 5%. The furloughs will be challenging. We are cutting hours yet expecting same productivity, please be patient with us.
- We've made a lot of progress with volunteers during Covid-19 and volunteer projects continue.
- Land Water Conservation fund money was approved for continuous funding, it will help with development situations and small acquisitions.
- We submitted a grant for 1M to do planning around Moran Lake.
- We received $457,000 from the State per Capita, Prop 68.
- Heart of Soquel construction coming along nicely, hoping to have it mostly completed before rain hits.
- Encroachment program is ramping up. We are getting a lot of complaint letters from neighbors and input from Coastal Commission. Our park planner is doing a great job handling the program.
- We are starting to use some outdoor space for fitness groups and ceremonies. We are partnering with the County Clerk's Office to provide 3 days of weddings in the parks.

VII.   REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

a. Public Works staff presented on County's Zero Waste plan.
b. Terry Corwin presented on Slow Streets Santa Cruz and County Park Friends update.
c. Commission discussed ways to develop more diversity for Commission positions and policies

VIII.   REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

a. Approved the Veterans Memorial Bench project at Aptos Village Park and direct the Parks Department to work with the Cabrillo Host Lions to fund & implement the project. (Page 18-19) (Rapoza/Minott 4/0)
b. Reviewed Budget and make recommendations as needed. Revised budget available online: https://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/supplemental_budget_2020-21/2020-2021_revised_budget.pdf
Motion: Chair write letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending the Parks budget to be approved (Minott/Rapoza 4/0)

IX.   WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (none)

X.   ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.