



# County of Santa Cruz

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JOE SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Government Center, Board Chambers

7:15 p.m.

701 Ocean Street

Regular Meeting

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 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: Joe Schultz, Clark Beattie, Beth Porter

### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as modified. Director Schultz asked that item #2 be removed at the request of Planning Department who is in the process of negotiating. (Doten/Minott 5/0).

### III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of March 10, 2008 were approved as corrected. March minutes reflected Francisco Serna was present when he was absent. (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 April 7, 2008

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

### IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

### V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New employee Laurie Boswell will be introduced at the May 14, 2008 Commission meeting. She is attending lifeguard training tonight and could not attend this meeting.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a Visioning Meeting at Seacliff Highlands Community Room. This meeting will join the Seacliff Improvement Association and the Parks Department planning staff for discussion of the future park site at the corner of McGregor Drive and Sea Ridge Road with neighbors of the future park invited to participate.

The budget impact on the department will be presented at the June Parks Commission meeting.

A situation came up at Cathedral Drive about the bike riders using the jump area across from the Aptos Post Office. Bike riders are using Cathedral Drive to “stage” their runs to approach the dirt mounds that are used for their jumps. Director Schultz and Gretchen met Jesse Nichols, Vice President from Swenson Builders to discuss the best approach to keeping the area safe. The property will be reconfigured to prevent the bike riders from taking their approach to the jumps from Cathedral Drive. The immunity of the County will remain with posted signs stating “use at your own risk”.

## **VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)**

### **A. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **1. Jose Avenue Skate Park Update**

Cristina James, park planner, presented materials to illustrate the proposed fencing and walkways for Jose Avenue Park. The neighbors of the Park met previously with Supervisor Jan Beautz to express their concerns for Park safety. The topography of the Park creates difficulty for fencing. Landscape architect Mark Cahalan drew plans for fencing, ADA accessible walkways and viewing areas. The construction documents are being completed (end of May expected completion) with construction expected to begin in September, 2008. The budget for this project is \$155,843. Discussion between commissioners and Ms. James included fencing details, walkway particulars and skate park issues.

#### **2. Aptos Skate Park**

This item was removed from the agenda in agenda modifications.

#### **3. Parks Budget Report**

Clark Beattie, Recreation Superintendent, presented updated budget information to Commissioners. Initially, Parks Department was asked to submit a budget that reflected no net County cost increase, essentially the same as last year's budget. Costs have increased over the year including contract costs, utilities, water and various overhead costs. That budget was presented followed by the request by CAO to present a budget reflecting a 5% decrease and then a 10% decrease. Those budgets were also presented to CAO and are being reviewed. The Parks Department expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year are being reviewed in order to anticipate next year's costs. The CAO is determining the County's position. An increase in revenues is being closely examined. The State of California is reviewing the budget to determine how the counties will be affected. In July and August, all Funds will be reviewed. The Park Dedication Funds and State Park budgets look very good. Nearly all reimbursements from the State have been received for projects that have been completed in the last several years. Redevelopment Agency has been partnering with Parks Department in some very good projects. We will have a much better idea at the June Commission meeting about the budget and what decisions the Board of Supervisors will likely make. The CAO will have the opportunity to publish the

recommended budget of the County. It is difficult in the current economic climate to make predictions.

Commissioner Minott remarked that the volunteer force that keeps watch and performs clean up at the Farm Park property does an excellent job. Mr. Beattie indicated that Parks Department is fortunate to have a good volunteer group.

Commissioner Minott also commented on her appreciation for the status reports each month. The Youth leaders have great imagination and enthusiasm for the projects and activities for after school programs. Every week is themed and creative. Permanent site staff has been responsible for the improvement and quality of the programs and Parks Department takes pride in that, according to Clark Beattie.

## **B. ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Michael Rosenberg was nominated for Chair and Francisco Serna was nominated for Vice Chair with a motion to vote for nominations as presented (Doten/Mercer 5/0).

## **VII. AGENDA/MEETING FOR: Parks Commission, May 12, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. at the Board Chambers, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (Government Center).**

### **A. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Public Hearing Farm Park Community Gardens Name for Steve Boysol
2. "Visioning" Meeting McGregor Park Site 5/14/08 Discussion
3. Update for BMX park @ Aptos Post Office

### **B. ACTION ITEMS**

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