



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JOE SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, May 12, 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, Gretchen Iliff, Beth Porter

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as revised (Item #5 was added "Freedom Lake Water Hyacinth") (Minott/Mercer 5/0).

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of April 14 , 2008 were approved as revised (Francisco Serna was not in attendance; the minutes reflected that he was present). (Minott/Doten 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 May 5, 2008

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

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Schultz introduced the SFSC new Aquatics Coordinator, Laurie Boswell. She is a welcome addition to the aquatics center and arrives with many years of aquatic experience, including ten years spent as the aquatic supervisor at the

Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Recreation center. Laurie is very enthused about her new position at Simpkins Family Swim Center.

Director Schultz briefly discussed the budget. Today the narrative portion was completed. It has been submitted and is being reviewed by the CAO and the BOS. The budget narrative will be sent to Commissioners for their review when it can be released.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Public Hearing – Naming the Community Gardens at the Farm Park for Steve Boysol

The Public Hearing was opened for discussion. The first speaker was Steven Sturm, a Santa Cruz resident since 1975. He met Steve Boysol when he was a frequent customer at The Farm Restaurant. He considers the naming of the community gardens at the new Farm Park as a fitting tribute to Steve, the spirit that will always be present. Speaker 2 was Mike McClellan, a friend and coworker at Shadowbrook and the Crow's Nest Restaurants. Mr. McClellan thanked the Park's staff and Park Commissioners on behalf of the family and friends of Mr. Boysol for the work that has been done on the project. Money has been raised and is in a fund to create a plaque or marker to designate the community gardens at the Farm named for Steve Boysol.

It was explained by Chair Rosenberg that the Farm Park is in the design process now. The Board of Supervisors approved a design contract on March 11, 2008. The plans will be reviewed at a community meeting in fall 2008 prior to submitting a development permit application. Preparation of construction plans will begin in fall of 2009. Construction will begin in 2010 and will take approximately one year to complete.

Steve Boysol's brother and sister in law were in attendance, Doug and Debbie Mayfield expressed the appreciation the family would experience if the Commission recommends to the BOS the naming of the community gardens for Steve. Dick Beahrs, a college friend of Steve's, spoke about the appropriate recommendation to name the gardens for Steve. A photo album was shown to the Commissioners that was full of photos of Steve and the Farm from the 1970's, leading tours of the organic gardens to school children and sharing produce with them. His vision was to have children learn about organic gardening at The Farm.

A motion was made and passed to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the community gardens be named in honor of Steve Boysol (Serna/Mercer 5/0).

2. Visioning Meeting McGregor Park Site May 14, 2008

Commissioner Minott reminded Commissioners that the park site came before the Commission ten years ago. The Seacliff Improvement Association will meet Wednesday, May 14th at the South County Housing community room. Neighbors were notified of the meeting by Parks staff and the schools sent out notices to parents of students. Director Schultz explained that Park Planners will attend the meeting on May 14th and share ideas of neighbors and discuss the process of visions for the new park. The Master Planning process will be discussed with plans to complete the process in December, 2008. When the Master Plan has been approved, the design process will begin. The infrastructure will take engineering and dollars. The funds have not

been identified other than projected park dedication fees from the South County Housing Project. Once the master plan is complete, costs will be more identifiable.

3. BMX Park @ Aptos Post Office

The kids are kept safer because they cannot fly across the road on their bikes any longer (Cathedral Drive). The neighbors are appreciative and the kids are happy with the new arrangement. Gretchen Iliff believes that it is a good compromise for the use of the property.

4. Affordable Housing – Park Dedication Fees

A board letter written by Tom Burns, Director of Planning Department was distributed to Commissioners. Mr. Burns letter asks to schedule a public hearing to consider amendments to the county code to eliminate the exemption currently provided for certain affordable housing units. The public hearing will be held on the agenda of May 20th. Because of the shortage of funds for park facilities in contrast to the availability of financial assistance for affordable housing projects, the requirement for payment of park dedication fees will be extended to both affordable rental and ownership units. This item will be included in the next Coastal Commission meeting agenda. The Commissioners would like time to research and discuss this topic.

5. Freedom Lake – Water Hyacinths

Chair Rosenberg received correspondence from a concerned citizen regarding the prolific growth of water hyacinths at Freedom Lake. Gretchen Iliff discussed her research which has determined that the cost to remove the water hyacinth would be about one million dollars. The Coastal Conservancy has offered to fund \$500,000 to \$600,000 toward the cost of the clean up. A consultant in habitat work has been hired because of the protected species at the lake (California Long Toed Salamander & California Red Legged Frog). Studies have been done to determine the presence of these species out at the lake. None have been found so far. The Parks Department is applying for a Fish and Game grant. A meeting is scheduled Friday with a grant writer who found grant dollars for the County last year. She will work with us to find grants to aid in this process. We are hopeful to approach the Coastal Conservancy in September, 2008 and have permits, then apply for funds. Spring or summer of next year is the target for the water hyacinth removal. The hyacinth coverage of Freedom Lake spread to 80% within eight months. The water hyacinth is the second fastest growing plant in the world. Once it is removed, it will need to be treated every year for 5 to 10 years.

VII. AGENDA/MEETING FOR: Parks Commission, June 9, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. at the Board Chambers, 5th floor, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (Government Center).

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Budget Update
2. Park Dedication Fees & Affordable Housing
3. McGregor Park Site

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. (Doten/Mercer 5/0)