



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 9th, 2026
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regular Meeting

**Simpkins Family Swim Center
Community Rooms**
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Introductory Items

1. **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL** Meeting called to order by Chair Konevich at 5:03 PM.

Present: Alexis Konevich (District 1), Nick de Sieyes (District 2) & Anne Less (District 5)

Absent/Excused: Jeremy Sanford (District 3) & Elizabeth Hernandez (District 4)

Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Juan Perez Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** – No Modifications.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – 3 members of the public.
4. **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA** (items 9-10)
Approved consent agenda – Motion/Second: de Sieyes/Less
AYES: 3
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

Regular Agenda

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

District 1: There were no major updates to report. Expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming Strategic Plan discussion. She also noted she is hoping to hear an update on spring repairs in the Director's Report.

District 2: Noted that the need for field use is especially apparent at this time of year across all fields. He shared that the number one concern he hears about is the lack of sufficient safe, high-quality playing fields. This issue is particularly challenging during the winter months when fields are closed, often requiring travel to other counties and creating difficulties for clubs that provide organized youth sports. He expressed hope that progress can be made on this issue in the coming years.

District 3: Absent.

District 4: Absent.

District 5: Supervisor Martinez hosted a Strategic Plan town hall last week, which was well attended. Key themes related to Parks included access, transportation, and safe transit to park facilities. She noted increasing community feedback emphasizing the critical role of Parks in the future of North County, as well as anticipated interest in how investments will be prioritized moving forward.

6. **PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gaffney reported that recent storms have impacted several parks; however, most repairs have already been completed. Fuel reduction efforts are underway in District 5, with work anticipated to move into Districts 4 and 1. Field maintenance work is set to begin, with additional rain expected. The Swim Center continues to experience high use, and overall facility usage has been higher than in previous winter seasons. Staff are advancing capital project planning, including pre-planning activities, approvals, and necessary analyses. Work at Moran Lake is ongoing with a focus on long-term stewardship. At Pinto Lake, efforts are underway to address algae bloom through sustainable, long-term solutions. Community engagement for the VDP Master Plan took place in March. Staff are actively recruiting seasonal workers. Work on the Felton Pump Track is expected to begin soon.

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. [County Strategic Plan Presentation](#) – Ryan Friedrich, Senior Admin Analyst, CEO

Ryan Friedrich presented the focus areas and priorities under consideration for the Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan update and provided a brief overview of the anticipated project timeline. Commissioners asked questions and offered feedback, particularly regarding indicators and the inclusion of Parks in the plan.

Public Comment

3 members of the public.

- b. [New Pace Trails](#) – Mike Pruitt, Park Planner II

Mike Pruitt provided background on the Pace Trails Project, including an overview of the habitat and sensitive biological resources present on the property. He discussed the connection to Quail Hollow Ranch County Park and the development of new trail loops. He noted that trail construction began in 2025 and has been carried out entirely through volunteer efforts.

Public Comment

1 member of the public.

- c. **Measure Q Grants** – Rebecca Hurley, Deputy Director

Deputy Director Rebecca Hurley announced the launch of the inaugural Measure Q Grant Program. She provided an overview of the available funding allocations, the program’s two grant tiers, the timeline, and the potential opportunities this funding could create for the County. She encouraged Commissioners to share information about the program within their networks.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Defer election of Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2026 to the April meeting –
 Motion/Second: de Sieyes/Less
 AYES: 3
 NOES: 0
 ABSTAIN: 0
 ABSENT: 2

Consent Agenda

Consent items include routine business that does not call for discussion. One roll call vote is taken for all items. Only a Commissioner may pull items from Consent to Regular Agenda. Members of the public must request that a Commissioner pull an item from the Consent Agenda prior to the start of the meeting.

- 9. **Approve minutes from January 12th, 2026**..... page 3.

10. Consider Reports:

- a. Aquatics Section Report..... page 5.
- b. Arts and Cultural Services Report..... page 7.
- c. Maintenance Section Report..... page 9.
- d. Planning Section Report..... page 11.

e. Recreation Section Report..... page 17.
f. Reservations Section Report..... page 19.
g. Volunteer Section Report..... page 20.

Written Correspondence Listing

- I. None.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:00 PM Monday, April 13th, 2026

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms