



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 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION --REVISED-- AGENDA

Monday, April 3, 2017
7:00 pm
Regular Meeting

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

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS

III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

- A. Approve minutes from Feb. 6, 2017Page 1-2
- B. Consider Reports:
 - 1. Maintenance Section – Status ReportPage 3-4
 - 2. Facilities Section – Status ReportPage 5
 - 4. Aquatics Section – Status Report.....Pages 6-8
 - 5. Planning Section – Status Report.....Pages 9-11

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today's agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

- 1. Postponing By-law review to next meeting (June 5, 2017)
- 2. Direct Staff to prepare a study concerning the expansion of Santa Cruz County Park staff to include Santa Cruz County Park Rangers.
 - a. [Discussion]: The report will propose and examine the role of on-site County Park Rangers in county parks.
 - b. The report should distinguish the role of volunteer docents, and the Rangers as paid staff whose job description could include Rangers as nature guides and peace-keepers in county parks

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items

3. Motion to approve commissioners sending correspondence about the Strategic Plan on behalf of the commission (Pages 12-13)
4. Motion to create a 'commissioner reporting section' in the agenda, during which time a commissioner may request a letter of endorsement from the commission
5. Direct staff to work with (new) Chair to write a letter of congratulations to the Artist of the Year from the commission
6. Take nominations and Elect Chair and Vice-chair of the commission

VIII. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Pages 14-17)

IX. ADJOURNEMENT



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of February 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m. meeting

26 W. Front St.

Watsonville, CA 95076

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kate Minott, Mariah Roberts, Jim Rapoza, Steven Bennett
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Jennifer Mead, Will Fourt

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:

Motion to accept agenda as presented. (Roberts/ Bennett 4/0)

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved minutes from December 5, 2016. (Roberts/ Rapoza 4/0)

Accept and file items and reports. (Bennett/ Rapoza 4/0)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Raymon Cancino: Ray provided an update about the non-profit Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks (FSCCoP). Moving forward FSCCoP is working on prioritizing goals. FSCCoP is working on a cocktail event for early March as a way to spread awareness about FSCCoP and increase membership. Everybody, please, like us on Facebook!
- Supervisor Greg Caput: Represents the 5th Supervisorial District. The goal of the 5th District as it relates to parks is to find more park land. We are looking into utilizing the fairgrounds as possible recreation space. Recently the County is putting a lot of time, work and effort into managing storm damage and preventing flooding.
- Brian Peterson: Brian is a member of Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBoSC). MBoSC is currently promoting a trail to be built in Santa Cruz City Pogonip Park. Also, MBoSC is working with Watsonville City Parks on a paved bike pump track at Ramsay Park. It's been nearly 2 years since the Aptos, postoffice bike jumps were closed and it still feels like a big loss for the community.
- Margit Aramburu: I am very excited to be the new Secretary for Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. The timing was right. I was involved with advocacy for Seacliff Village Parks, as well as Seascape Park and I look forward to serving FSCCoP.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Jeff Gaffney gave his report to the Commission.

- Maintenance staff has been really busy recovering from the recent storms. Luckily, no major damage has occurred in county parks however, the damage at this point is probably costing at least \$250,000.
- It's Budget Season. The County is implementing a new budget format that will be easier for the public to read and analyze. Carlos Palacios has implemented the new budget format.
- Bear Creek Country Club Open House – Saturday, Feb. 25th. Boulder Creek Rec District hosting the event. Some Parks staff will be helping
- Proposal for San Vicente Redwoods Park Related Program – deferred to March 21st. Deciding on how to formulate agreements among County Departments.
- Parks Department Strategic Planning Process is underway! Developing a work plan – we have gathered staff input. The first working group meeting is this week. Planning public meetings for late April / early May.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA – Information Items

1. Jonathan Pilch, Director of Watsonville Wetlands Watch presented to the Commission
2. Ana Espinoza, Director of Watsonville City Parks & Community Services presented to the Commission

VII. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items (none)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m. (Bennett/ Rapoza 4/0)



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: April 6, 2017
TO: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
FROM: GRETCHEN ILIFF, MAINTENANCE DIVISION
RE: STATUS REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

PARKS, BUILDING, AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Staff are working through the FEMA process to get funding and make repairs to storm damaged parks. Staff hope to have a section of Ben Lomond Park opened soon.

Staff prepared the athletic fields at Michael Grey field and Highlands park for opening day of baseball.

The Americorp team did a week of non-native plant removals at the future Felton Library site. Volunteers led by the Valley Women's Club, Environmental Coordinator, Linda Skeff are continuing efforts to make improvements to the site.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, Mid-County beach access areas)

Clean up, tree removals and assessments are continuing at Moran Lake Park. Staff are working with an arborist and butterfly specialists to further reduce any tree hazards.

Staff repaired a fence that was damaged by a falling tree at Floral Park.

Staff are working with the Water Conservation Coalition and Ecology Action to participate in a Lose your Lawn workshop at the Emeline Campus on April 15th.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex, Seacliff Village Park)

The old stairway leading to the creek area at Aptos Park has been removed. Staff hope to replace it before summer.

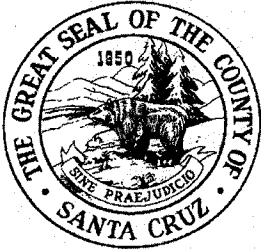
Park staff removed and replaced failing concrete around one of the picnic pavilions at Pinto Lake Park.

Staff have begun out spring mowing at our undeveloped park site and undeveloped areas of current parks. Pinto Lake Parks, Seascape Park and the 'Crestview' lot were mowed this month.

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

A new hot water heater was installed in the kitchen at the **Simpkins Family Swim Center**. The previous hot water heating system did not provide a hot enough temperature to meet code conditions for a commercial kitchen.

All maintenance staff received training on the topics of Bloodborne pathogens.



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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

DATE: April 3, 2017
TO: Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission
FROM: Mary Chavez, Program Coordinator
RE: Facilities Division Status Report- March/April 2017

Summary for reservations and Facilities operations in the Parks (excluding SFSC):

Attendance at Reserved Facilities:

March and April have seen an increase in use of reservable areas with parties, weddings, memorial services and sports taking place at park centers, picnic areas and athletic fields. Staff estimates that approximately 59,500 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks in these two months, an increase of over 50,000 from January and February attendance.

Center and Meeting Room Rentals in March and April 2017:

March and April hosted 19 weddings, receptions and family events held at various Park Centers with rental revenues totaling \$17,850. 54 meeting room rentals also took place during these two months, with revenues totaling \$1,720.

Picnic Area Rentals in March and April 2017:

Use of the reservable picnic areas have increased during the months of March and April, with 43 rentals for parties and family events taking place so far, as compared to 14 rentals that took place in January and February. Anna Jean Cummings picnic areas continue to book months in advance and typically rent to capacity on weekends each month. Revenues for March and April total \$6,450.

Athletic Fields in March and April 2017 (includes February info for baseball fields):

The season for athletic field use began late February for baseball and softball fields, while soccer fields were opened between the end of March and beginning of April in an effort to provide for a longer renovation period. The athletic season is now in full swing and has become very busy, for both baseball and soccer fields, with 679 individual field bookings in 18 athletic fields (504 bookings in baseball fields and 175 bookings in soccer fields). Revenues totaled \$39,200.

Special Events:

The special event season has kicked off during these past few months with a number of events having already successfully taken place. Fleet Feet Sports hosted the **Diocese of Monterey Health Challenge 3K** at Anna Jean Cummings Park on March 11th. It was the first event of its kind at Anna Jean and was very successful. April events include: Coast Chapel will host the second annual free **Easter Egg Hunt** for the community at Brommer Street Park on April 15th. Activities include a free BBQ, jump house, and photos with the Easter bunny. **Earth Day** on April 22nd will take place at the San Lorenzo Park and include use of the back and south lawns of the Government Center as well as the parking lot for festival parking. Team in Training/ Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will host the **Spring Fun Run for Team Coco** at Pinto Lake County Park on April 22nd. This race commemorates the birthday of Coco Lazenby, a civic-minded, young community activist, who was killed by a distracted driver in 2015. Aptos Park will host Mar Vista Elementary's second annual **Move For Mar Vista** on April 23rd. The inaugural **Run.Sweat.Love. 5k Fest**, benefitting Mini Mermaid Running Club & Young Tritons, will take place at the Polo Grounds, for a first time entire park rental which anticipates attendance of up to 1500 local youth participants. The Big Stick Surfing Association will host the annual **Big Stick Log Jam** retro surf board contest at Pleasure Point Park on April 29th and 30th, which fundraises for the community and ocean-focused non-profits. 2017 is proving to be another busy year of special events.



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Jeff Gaffney
Director

DATE: April 3, 2017
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission, Arts Commission
FROM: Rebecca Hurley, Aquatics Coordinator
RE: Aquatics Division Status Report

AQUATIC PROGRAMS

Our spring schedule runs through June 9th and is as follows:

Lap Pool Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 6:00 am to 7:30 pm

Saturdays: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sundays: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Warm Water Pool Hours: (Hour will vary May 28th – June 9th due to School Parties)

Monday, Wednesday and Fridays: 6:00 am – 10:30 am
3:00 pm – 5:00pm
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 am – 5:00 pm
6:30 pm - 7:30pm

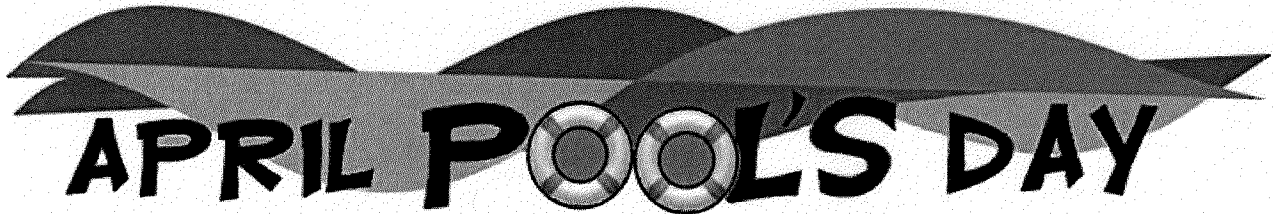
Saturday 9:00 – 10:30 am (Adults only)
10:30 am – 12:30 pm (Adults and children 6 years and under)
1:00 – 4:00 pm (All ages)

Sunday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm – (All ages)

Events

Join us on April 1st for our second annual April Pool's Day!
Saturday April 1, 12:30 - 4:00PM

FREE entry for Recreation Swim on April Pool's Day when you register for any summer youth program!



Also FREE on April Pool's Day for all who enter:
FREE Stand-Up Paddle Board Lessons
FREE Treading Water Clinics for Kids
FREE Swim Lesson Assessments

Swim lessons – spring lessons are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30am – 12:30pm; Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

Summer Program Registration starts **March 27 at 9am** and the Junior Guard and Little Guard programs are anticipated to fill up quickly!

Water Polo - Sundays from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Participants must be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program.

Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program – The Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program will be running April 3 - 7 at Simpkins Family Swim Center, Mon – Fri from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm with the option for participants to stay for Recreation swim from 2:00 – 5:00 pm free of charge. The spring program follows similar schedules and activities as our very popular Summer Pool Junior Lifeguard Program and has a special activity day on the last day.

Lifeguard Training Classes - Lifeguard Training Classes are being offered and will continue through the end of April. Most classes will be held on Friday evenings and Saturdays; fees are \$310 for residents and \$341 for non-residents. As well, Simpkins Family Swim Center will also be offering limited courses in First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (CA Title 22). Interested candidates can find more information on the parks website at www.scparks.com. All course materials are included in the course fees.

Aquatic Staff Recruitment

The following positions are currently open; Lifeguard, Head Lifeguard, Aquatic Specialist. The recruitment ends April 21st.

Private Pool Parties – Private Pool Parties are available on Saturdays & Sundays. A variety of aspects of the facility may be rented for Private Pool Parties, from just the warm pool to aspects accommodating up to 110 people. Private Pool Parties are scheduled on weekends, spring, summer and fall, after the facility has closed to the public.

School Parties – Once again local schools will be renting the facility for their end of the year parties starting the last week in May and continuing into June.

Adult Fitness Swimming - Adult Fitness Swimming is very popular at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The best-attended workouts are Tuesday and Saturday mornings; up to 35 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Fitness swimmers may choose from several different workout times: Monday's 6:00 am; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday workouts are at 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Starting in March we also have begun to offer a Saturday afternoon class every other Saturday which has so far been well attended.

For the past two months we have been offering an Introduction to Lap Swimming Class and an Introduction to Adult Fitness class on Wednesday and Thursday mornings which have continually gained attendance numbers. Beginning in April we will be offering an Introduction to Lap Swimming Class on Saturdays so swimmers that work during the week can take advantage of this great class.

Water Aerobics & Exercise - The water exercise classes this year continue to reach their highest capacity to date. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including, healthy, pre-natal, seniors, and rehabilitating or cross training fitness enthusiasts. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times and instructors names. Previous swimming or water-exercise experience is not required for participation in any of the water exercise classes.

Lifeguard Training Exercises –

The lifeguard in-service in March was a swim condition check; shallow water spinal rescues, and a swim lesson review.

In April the topics scheduled to be covered are:

Emergency action plans

In May the topics scheduled to be covered are:

Victim recognition, skills review, and pool rules discussion.

Swim Teams - The Aptos Cabrillo Swim Club and Santa Cruz County Aquatics – CRUZ - swim teams continue to rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Pool Closures and Holiday Schedule

There are no scheduled pool closures in April, June, or July.

Live Oak Community Rooms - The Live Oak Community Rooms at the swim center are rented out regularly throughout the year for meetings, small events and classes.



JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

County of Santa Cruz

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(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

DATE: APRIL 3, 2017
TO: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
FROM: SHERYL BAILEY & WILL FORT, PLANNING SECTION
SUBJECT: PARKS PROJECT PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

COUNTY-WIDE PROJECTS

County Parks Strategic Plan: Staff has continued progress on the development of a Strategic Plan for the County Parks Department. Staff has completed three large group meetings with Department staff to get input on the process, and has compiled a draft summary on the existing conditions and Department needs. Staff has scheduled five community meetings for the last week of April through the second week of May, and has developed an extensive publicity and outreach program for these meetings.

Park Finder Map: Staff has worked with the County GIS Department to put an interactive Park Finder map on the Parks webpage.

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

Quail Hollow/Pace Property Trail Planning: County Real Property staff is working with the property owner on the potential for a trail easement allowing a proposed new trail from Quail Hollow Ranch to the Pace Property. County Parks staff went on a site visit with the biologist preparing a biotic assessment to be used for the project.

Felton Library: Parks staff continues to work with other County staff to develop the site plan for the new Felton Library and an outdoor nature explore play area on the library grounds.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Heart of Soquel Plaza, The Farm, Mid-County beach access areas)

Brommer Park: Planning staff is working with Parks Maintenance staff who will be managing the contractor installing four pickleball courts and resurfacing the courts at Brommer Park.

Chanticleer Avenue Park: The County was notified that National Parks Service will be awarding the Land Water Conservation Fund grant to the Parks Department for \$500,000 towards the development of Phase I at Chanticleer. The Parks Department has a purchase order set up to do additional

geotechnical borings to assess feasibility of a groundwater recharge drywell system at the park. The Santa Cruz Playground Project has continued their fundraising efforts.

Staff submitted a grant application to the Housing-Related Parks program for funds for Phase 1 development at Chanticleer. Staff is preparing a grant application for the Tire-Derived Products grant program for resilient surfacing at LEO's Haven.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Seacliff Village Park, Freedom Government Annex)

Polo Grounds Restroom: A railing has been installed at the restroom and striping at the ADA parking spaces is being fixed.

Pinto Lake: Staff is working with the Resource Conservation District (RCD) on a project to add rolling dips on the road near where the virgin tree used to be located for sediment and erosion control.



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Jeff Gaffney
Director

DATE: April 3, 2017
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Margaret Ingraham, Volunteer Program Coordinator
RE: Recreation & Cultural Services Division Status Report – March 2017

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

North County

We have a new volunteer in Davenport whom I met recently to sign up and give supplies to. He volunteers his time to pick up trash from Davenport Landing to Bonny Doon Road. He will be volunteering approximately 5 hours a week.

Quail Hollow Ranch

The Quail Hollow Ranch volunteers are an amazing group of organized and motivated individuals. So far I have met Trail Crew volunteers who maintain the trails, and educate visitors about dog rules; Richard and Kathy James who are who open the Visitors Center and Richard gives history presentations; and a few of the volunteers who report on the bird nesting activity. I am looking forward to meeting the varied and abundant group of volunteers who are passionate about Quail Hollow Ranch in the near future.

On April 8th there will be a painting day at Quail Hollow from 10 – 4 to paint the fences and barns. This volunteer effort is being organized by the County's VIP representative, Donna Patters and myself.

Mid County

While visiting Moran Lake, staff met two people who pick up trash at the park and beach every week.

South County

I met with two volunteers in South County at the Pinto Lake Park to sign them up and to hear about the work they plan to do and plans for the future of the disc golf course. The volunteers help the maintenance division with maintaining the disc golf course and graffiti removal. I am in the process of organizing a large clean up and beautification day at Hidden Beach Park and Beach Access on April 27th. There will be 90 of Crown Castle's employees who will be spending 4 hours weeding, raking, digging, cleaning, painting, and beautifying the park. We have a very active volunteer at the Polo Grounds who just recently signed all of his paperwork and is happy to assist wherever and whenever he can.

The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

Parks and Recreation Commission
County of Santa Cruz
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz CA 95062

April 3, 2017

SUBJECT: Upcoming Strategic Plan Public Meetings

Dear Commissioners,

The Parks Department is continuing the process of developing a Strategic Plan! To date: staff have compiled background information related to the Parks system, held a series of three meetings with County Park staff, convened a Strategic Plan Working Group to give input throughout the planning process, and developed a community outreach strategy to engage community members.

Looking forward, there will be five public meetings held throughout the County designed to get input from community members on vision and priorities to be included in the Strategic Plan. These meetings include the following times and locations.

Community Meeting Day and Time	Location
Wednesday, April 26 , 6:30 PM:	Ben Lomond: Highlands County Park
Thursday, April 27 , 6:30 PM:	Watsonville: Civic Center Community Room
Tuesday, May 2 , 6:30 PM:	Davenport: Pacific Elementary School
Saturday, May 6 , 10:00 AM:	Aptos: Aptos Village Park
Thursday, May 11 , 6:30 PM:	Live Oak: Community Room at Simpkins Family Swim Center

We hope you will be able to help publicize and share these meeting dates within your individual networks. We also hope Commissioners may be able to attend at least one of these meetings! Please see the attached flyer with more information and for use in publicity.

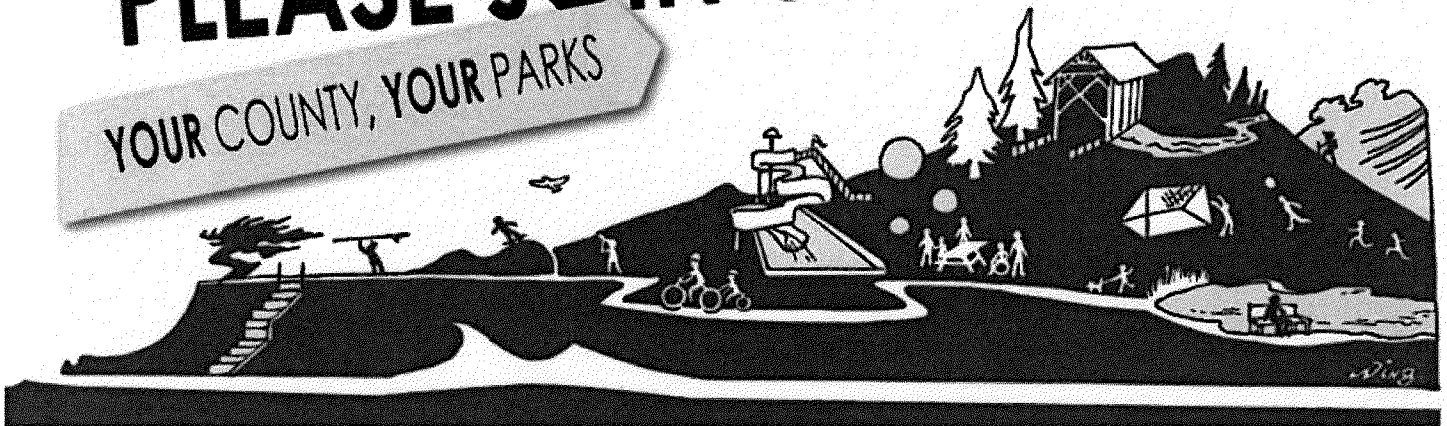
We also recommend that your Commission approve a motion at your April 2017 meeting to invite members of the community to the Strategic Plan meetings on behalf of the Commission.

Warm regards,

Jeff Gaffney
Director of Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services

PLEASE JOIN US!

YOUR COUNTY, YOUR PARKS



Public Meeting Dates & Times

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30-8:30 PM Ben Lomond - Highlands County Park, 8500 Highway 9

Thursday, April 27, 6:30-8:30 PM Watsonville - Civic Center Community Room
275 Main St. (upstairs)

Tuesday, May 2, 6:30-8:30 PM Davenport - Pacific Elementary School, 50 Ocean St.

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Aptos - Aptos Village County Park, 100 Aptos Creek Rd.

Thursday, May 11, 6:30-8:30 PM Live Oak - Community Room at Simpkins Family Swim
Center, 979 17th Ave, Santa Cruz

Strategic Plan Public Meetings

The Parks Department is holding a series of meetings throughout the county, and we need to hear from you and your neighbors! Your input is essential as we create the document that will help guide the department's work over the next decade. What do YOU want to see in YOUR County Parks? Please join us as we look to the future of our parks, programs, and facilities! Childcare and translation services (Spanish language) will be available.



Please RSVP for a meeting!
For more info. or to RSVP, please visit
www.scparks.com/strategicplan



WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING:

The Written Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Commission as a whole, but may also include items requested for inclusion by individual Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Commission at this time:

1. Letter from Jean Brocklebank, dated Dec. 5, 2016, regarding suggestions for Parks Commission By-laws
2. Report from Jean Brocklebank, dated Feb. 7, 2017, regarding storm damage at Corcoran Lagoon Beach

County Park Advisory Commission Meeting
5 December 2016
Comments on Agenda Item #2
by Michael Lewis and Jean Brocklebank

As a rule, By-laws should be simple, general, concise, and without minutia. For instance, the words Santa Cruz do not need to be added (a proposed amendment throughout the latest revision) to existing By-laws for a Santa Cruz County advisory body. It is understood that the bylaws are for a Santa Cruz County body. Nor does the acronym POSCS in parentheses need to be added.

As the past 4 months worth of Commission meetings have demonstrated, amending By-laws is tedious and therefore amendments should be rarely implemented, ***without a compelling reason.***

Even when a County policy changes, the By-laws do not necessarily need to be formally amended. For instance, due to budget constraints, when all County advisory commissions were reduced to meeting every other month, this did not necessitate amending By-laws of all those commissions to match the reduced meeting allowances. The commissions simply adapted to the new schedule.

Each amendment to the By-laws for the Parks Commission will entail administrative time -- time taken from County Counsel, time taken from Board of Supervisors staff, time required by Parks staff. If an amendment is not necessary, let's not burden the County with time consuming work. Some examples include:

Sec. 7 Hyphenating subcommittee throughout this section is unnecessary.

Sec. 13 There is no compelling need to change on death to with death; no need to change anything in this section

Sec. 14 A There is no compelling need for the added sentences - Biennial means every two years!

Additionally, those Powers and Duties as established for the Parks Commission by County Code Chapter 2.70.050 must not be amended in any way. These sections have to remain ***in compliance with*** County Code. This Commission is not authorized to recommend amendments to Santa Cruz County Code.

With the foregoing in mind we make the following **recommendations**:

- Scrap entirely the December 5 revisions.
- Return to the October 3 revisions.
- Retain Sections 1 - 6 unamended (with one correction, see below**)
- Amend only Sections 7, 10 A, 10 D
- Add Section 15 and 16 (see below)

** The original Parks Commission By-laws had an unfortunate typo. In Section 6 C the word master was typed as "matter." In the matter plan, not in the master plan -- as stipulated in County Code 2.70.050. While this typo in no way changes the Powers and Duties of the Commission, if it is troublesome to be reminded of the original typo, the word can be corrected. But it is not an amendment to the By-laws.

15) **Amendments**

Amendments to these By-laws may be recommended to the Board of Supervisors by a majority vote of the commission.

16) **Approval of By-laws**

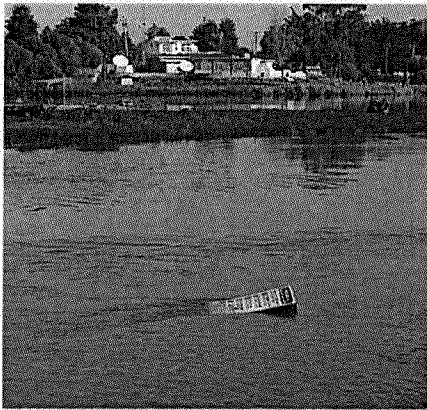
These By-laws, and any subsequent amendments thereto shall be approved by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to the County Code Section 2.38.140.

2017 Winter Storm Damage at Corcoran Lagoon Beach
Report to Parks Department and Parks Advisory Commission

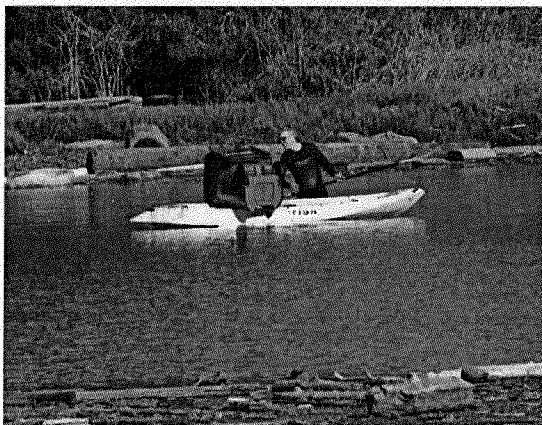
by Jean Brocklebank
Friends of Corcoran Lagoon Beach

7 February 2017

On January 29 & 30, two residents associated with Friends of Corcoran Lagoon Beach (FoCLB) alerted Parks to the garbage bins that were flushed into the inner lagoon during one of the major winter storms of this season. We also knew that one of the signs (replaced after the 2015/16 winter storms) was missing. Here are pictures of the sign, floating in the inner lagoon, taken (1/21/17) by a third resident and member of FoCLB. When the sign was retrieved by another resident, it was placed by the side of the road, then disappeared. We hope County workers got it.



Although Gretchen responded immediately to the 1/30 alert, saying that they would get the bins, the garbage bins were actually retrieved on January 31st by a resident unknown to FoCLB). An hour later County workers, also unaware that a resident had retrieved the bins, showed up with a boat to find the bins back in place. Here are pictures of that retrieval:



We are very pleased to learn that our suggestion that Parks be proactive, when these huge storms are predicted, has been taken to heart. By removing the garbage bins ahead of the extreme conditions forecasted, garbage (including a lot of plastic bags of dog feces) will not end up in either the lagoon or flushed back out into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary due to natural tidal action.

We hope that parks will give some serious management consideration of all County beach access conditions, as this pollution may have been a problem at other County beach access locations. We look forward to seeing this management concern incorporated into the now-developing Strategic Plan for the Department.

Additionally, last year FoCLB initiated conversation with County Public Works Director John Presleigh (copied to Parks Director Jeff Gaffney) about the need to seriously explore replacing the section of E. Cliff Drive (that bifurcates the lagoon and beach and floods every year) with a causeway. Such a causeway would allow more natural tidal action, during annual destructive winter storms. The benefits of a properly designed and built causeway would include:

- reduced environmental damage due to garbage pollution of spilled bins.
- less money spent on maintenance to haul sand off the roadway
- eliminate flooding and closure of E. Cliff Drive
- eliminate the constant replacement of beach access signage
- allow the lagoon system to absorb wave energy with less destruction
- allow the shorebird nesting area of Corcoran Lagoon Beach to fluctuate with a more naturally functioning lagoon

We are aware that the County has many unfunded needs for maintenance and replacement of poorly designed roadways and that funding is always a challenge. At some point, however, coastal problems will have to be addressed. Destruction by severe winter storms is not going to go away and may even get worse in the coming decades.