



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 AGENDA

Monday, April 20, 2015
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
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 February 23, 2015 Pages 1
 - B. Consider Reports:
 1. Maintenance Section – Status Report..... Pages 2-3
 2. Facilities Section – Status Report Page 4
 3. Recreation Section – Status Report Pages 5-11

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.

- IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- V. REGULAR AGENDA
 - A. ACTION ITEMS
 1. Take Nominations and Elect Chair and Vice-Chair of the Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission
 - B. INFORMATION ITEMS
 1. Presentation from Fred Keely regarding the Parks, Recreation, Agricultural Conservation, and Open Space Project Status Report (Pages 12-14)

VI. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 15)

VII. ADJOURNEMENT



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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of February 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, California

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Bennett, Kate Minott, Mariah Roberts, Dave Mercer, Jim Lang
Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Gretchen Iliff, Melissa Young

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:

Consent Agenda III. - Item B. 3. was corrected to state Recreation Section – Status Report.

Commissioner Minott provided flyers/notices to the Commission for two upcoming fundraisers sponsored by Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. This information was included in Item IV. Director's Report.

Motion/Second: Minott/Lang

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approved Minutes from December 15, 2014, meeting.
- B. Accepted and filed reports.

Motion/Second: Bennett/Minott

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

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

V. REGULAR AGENDA – Action Items None

VI. REGULAR AGENDA – Informational Items None

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

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

DATE: APRIL 10, 2015

TO: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: GRETCHEN ILIFF, MAINTENANCE DIVISION

RE: PARKS BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE STATUS REPORTS ON
CURRENT PROJECTS

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

New fence screening material was replaced at the Highlands Park Tennis Courts.

North County staff installed Snowy Plover fencing and protection signage for the breeding season at Scott Creek Beach.

Roof was replaced on one of the barns at Quail Hollow Ranch.

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, Mid-County beach access areas)

A few Eucalyptus trees at Moran Lake received pruning.

“Beach Rules” signs were replaced at some Live Oak Beaches.

The Willowbrook Playground replacement project was completed.

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)

Tree protection work has begun at Pinto Lake Park near the fishing pier. The work consists of fencing, re-routing a trail and the addition of wood chips.

Plumbing and electrical repairs were made to the Mar Vista Recreation building.

High weed mowing began this month; Crestview Annex, McGregor, Moran and The Farm have been completed thus far.

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

Staff received training on loading and trailering equipment.

The impeller in the 50 meter pool pump was replaced.

Roof drains were cleaned and one was replaced at Simpkins.



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

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

DATE: April 10, 2015
TO: Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission
FROM: Gretchen Iliff, Facilities Management Division
RE: Status Report on Current Projects

Summary for reservations in the Parks for the months of January and February 2015, (excluding SFSC):

Attendance at Reserved Facilities:

March and April have seen increase in use with the opening of athletic fields, weddings and events at park centers, and increased rental of the group picnic areas. Staff estimates that approximately 54,500 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks in these two months.

Center and Meeting Room Rentals in March and April 2015:

March and April hosted 19 weddings, receptions and family events at our various Park Centers with rental revenues totaling \$16,750 (12 of the 19 events took place in April, when the wedding season typically begins). There were also 49 meeting room rentals totaling \$1,400.

The Park Centers have continued to fill up with weddings, parties and special events for the upcoming season. With approximately 50 available dates (36 for Quail Hollow Ranch) in May through October, at this time Aptos Park is reserved at 56% of all available dates (with only 5 Saturdays remaining available), Highlands Park is reserved at 76% (with only 1 Saturday remaining available) and Quail Hollow is reserved at 89% (with no Saturdays available).

Picnic Areas in March and April 2015:

Picnic area rentals have become busy again as the spring season increases park usage altogether. 54 picnics took place during these two months and revenues totaled \$7,900. This is a 30% increase in revenue as compared to the same months of use in 2014.

Athletic Fields in March and April 2015 (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 in the beginning of April in an effort to provide for a longer renovation period. The athletic season is in full swing and has become busy for both baseball and soccer fields, with over 634 individual field bookings in 18 athletic fields (483 bookings in baseball fields and 151 bookings in soccer fields). Revenues total \$32,400.

Special Events:

The special event season kicked-off during these past few months and a number of events have successfully taken place. The **Off Road Ramble "Shamrock Run" 5k/10k Race** was held at Pinto Lake County Park on March 15th. This is the first of three races in the Santa Cruz Race Management series hosted by Fleet Feet Sports that are held in County Parks. The race raised proceeds for Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. April events include the two-day **Santa Cruz Mountain Bike Festival** hosted by Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz on April 11th and 12th. The event was previously held at the Aptos Village bike jumps and pump track, but is now at San Lorenzo Park and will utilize the Government Center Parking lot for event parking; **Earth Day** is on April 18th at San Lorenzo Park, with use of the Government Center Parking lot for festival parking (or for event activities as back-up plan for weather); and on April 26th, the Fallen Officers Foundation will host the **Never Forget Relay** at Aptos Park and into Nisene Marks. This memorial relay race is open to teams of first responders in honor of our fallen heroes. 2015 is another busy year of special events.

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

DATE: April 10, 2015
TO: Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator
RE: Recreation and Cultural Services Division Status Report – April 2015

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Mar Vista ACE - March was an enjoyable month at ACE. We began with Dr. Seuss Week and took a field trip to San Lorenzo Park & The Tannery Arts Center. The kids had an opportunity to play the new disc golf course at San Lorenzo Park with our resident disc golf pro. At the Tannery Arts Center, participants helped create a collaborative public art piece! There was a lot of “buzz” around Insect Week. Staff led games such as Get the Insect, Flea Tag, La Cucaracha, Dead Ant Tag and more. Projects highlights included faux fossilized insects, Ants on a Log and marshmallow insects. During Leaping Leprechauns Week we searched for “gold” and built leprechaun traps. After the weekend, green footprints & chocolate coins around the room indicated that we had a little visitor, but we weren’t quite able to trap him and get his pot of gold. Better luck next year! During Spring Into Spring Week, we had an ice cream sundae party, played dodgeball, made kites, and more. Next was Hop To It Week, during which participants took a field trip to Pump’d Inflatable Fun Center, played kickball and more!

April brought spring break from school and Spring Camp offered at Aptos Village Park. Upon returning to regular ACE programming, the kids were welcomed back with Kids’ Favorites Week, during which staff worked closely with participants to repeat things they really enjoyed this year and add things to the lineup for what they wanted to do. One of their choices was to have Jim Greiner return and conduct a drumming workshop. Next was Theme Week, during which each day was programmed around a unique theme. The highlight of the week was a carnival and petting zoo! We’ll end the month with Survivor Week, always a favorite among staff and kids. The kids are divided into teams and each team’s goal is to earn a certain number of points by having good sportsmanship, trying their best, etc. We’ll end the week with a festive luau party!

May is the winding down of the school year, which means the kids get wound up in anticipation of summer! We plan to do a plethora of fun things with them to celebrate another wonderful year of ACE and a great group of kids. We’ll have a Wheels Day and participants will bring bikes, scooters, skateboards and more for a special day of activities. During Appreciation Week, we’ll make gifts for teachers and others and take a field trip to the Boardwalk Bowl and

Neptune's Kingdom. During Health and Fitness Week, we'll focus on healthy lifestyle choices and take a field trip to the beach. We'll also have a Water Day and bring out the Slip-N-Slides and water balloons!

La Selva ACE - La Selva Beach ACE is off to an exciting spring season. We started with a Leaping Leprechauns theme that included fun activities such as lucky bingo; magical melty beads; a game of sea, shore, sand; a scavenger hunt; a game of rainbow; a Wii session at the local La Selva Library; shamrock shakes; a treasure hunt; a new game called kaos; a spring flowers craft; leprechaun races; and a game of beckon at triangle park.

We also enjoyed our last movie and pajama day of the school year by watching an animation with a projector borrowed from the local library. The following week's theme was Super Spring Week which included activities such as a coffee filter flower craft; an outdoor obstacle course; a game of rabbits vs. squirrels; a blue bird craft; a game of chill out and knee slap; a Lego building session at the library; mini pizzas; drama skits; a game of fire in the forest; a flower pens print kit; a game of kickball; and a game of capture the flag. The highlight for Super Spring week was a field trip to the Santa Cruz Roller Palladium.

Our last theme before our spring break was Racing Rabbits which included activities such as aluminum sculptures, soccer, decorating eggs and a Lego session at the library. Our highlight for Racing Rabbits week was the Celebrate Spring Potluck Party which included dance competition, prizes, pizza, music, food and good times! La Selva Beach A.C.E. also includes a mandatory daily homework time and every Tuesday we send a group of children to the La Selva Beach Library for extra homework help from two retired, certified teachers. We look forward to the rest of the spring season with special events such as a field trip to the Simpkins Swim Center, a trip to Manresa Beach, extra fun Wednesdays and a Cinco de Mayo Potluck Party. We continue to have youth from the local Aptos Junior High and Aptos High School come in to volunteer their time and assist staff with the children.

Spring Camp - All aboard! This year's Spring Camp theme was Adventures In Play. Staff planned activities based on a different theme each day of camp. On Monday, participants played games such as Hook Tag, 4 Corners, Sun Wars, Bulls Eye, and Beckon. They also made rainbow waffles, melty bead creations, and began observation of how carnations change colors over time when various dyes are added to their vase water. On Tuesday, games such Garden Knot, Belly Bumpers, hockey and parachute were enjoyed. Campers also made egg heads by adding soil and grass seeds to hollowed out eggs that have faces drawn on them. When the grass grows it appears to be hair and can be cut & styled! On Wednesday, participants took a field trip to the Boardwalk for a day of rides and fun in the sun! The next day brought activities such as Pass the Bunny, Bees & Butterflies, Shore/Sea, Quick Draw, World Cup Soccer, piñatas, bingo and a marshmallow tower contest. Friday brought spring stamping, musical games, a water balloon toss, Capture the Flag and a pizza and punch party!

Kinder Enrichment - For March we planned themes that encouraged imagination. Weekly themes included Bugs and Butterflies, Leaping Leprechauns, Green of our World, Spring has Sprung and Bunny Trails. What a blast!

April continued with the last of the Bunny Trails theme. Children participated in several activities that taught them about counting bunnies and how to fold a fun treat box. Spring Break followed for the second week of April. During Kings and Queens Week, the children imagined what it was like to be royalty and some activities were fancy crowns and dress up paper dolls. All hail the royals!

During Weather, Sky and the 5 R's, participants discovered the many ways to recycle, reuse, and reduce; learned the different and distinct layers of clouds; and sang a fun song about dirt. Last, but certainly not least, Gold Rush and the Old West theme finished up the month; this week was an exploration of time gone by and the way folks lived in the old west. The children learned how to draw a cowboy hat and worked with a weight machine to measure their pretend gold. There was a focus on the different animals that assisted humans in the Old West.

April is also when the Kinder Round-up happens at Mar Vista Elementary and Heather Heider represents the before and after school recreation and enrichment programs on campus through the County Parks Department. She also brings information about the upcoming summer camps and copies of the activity guide to expose new parents to our cornucopia of parks & program offerings for all ages. For the month of May, expect to hear about themes like Fiesta, Fun Under the Sun, Ocean, and Kid Choice Week.

ARTS AND CULTURAL

Public Art Program – An artist has been chosen by the Arts Commission to continue in the selection process for the Seacliff Village Park public art project.

Art Exhibitions – Anita Landon's paper collages are on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office from now until mid-May, 2015.

Artist of the Year Award – Geoffrey Dunn has been named the 2015 Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission. Geoffrey, an internationally-recognized author, journalist and filmmaker, is the County's 29th artist to be so honored. Mr. Dunn will give a Profile Performance at the Museum of Art & History on October 9 from 7-9 p.m. He will present a multi-media exploration of his extensive body of work—film, poetry, journalism, museum curation, historical works, fiction and nonfiction narrative writing—and engage local journalists in a discussion of his 40-year artistic journey.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

The 2015-16 Santa Cruz County Parks activity pamphlet was mailed to over 50,000 county residents on April 2; staff will distribute copies of the pamphlet to local libraries and business. Swim lessons, summer camps, preschool programs, activities for older adults and seniors, and more fill the pages, showing the many programs offered to the public by the Parks Department. Advertisements will also be placed in local papers, highlighting summer recreation opportunities.

ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

In March, Senior Mall Walk program participants had their hard work acknowledged at the Mall Walkers 26th annual awards ceremony. Many walkers received awards for attaining their goals and reaching new mileage categories. Volunteers for the program were also honored and recognized for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, we raffled off great prizes that were donated by generous area merchants and individuals.

We also took a trip to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in March. Along with a unique shopping experience, the show featured dramatic and inspiring display gardens.

On April 16, we will journey to Half Moon Bay where participants will have an opportunity to browse the shops and enjoy a nice lunch. We will then travel to Harley Farms, where we will be treated to a tour of the goat farm and will experience the cheese-making process firsthand.

We have four trips in store for May: 9th – Presidio & Fisherman's Wharf, 21st – SF Giants vs. LA Dodgers, 23rd – A narrated tour of 17-mile drive, Carmel & Big Sur, 28th – Legion of Honor and deYoung museums!

AQUATIC PROGRAMS

Spring Schedule runs through June 12, 2015

The spring pool schedule is as follows:

Lap Pool hours:

Mondays through Friday from 6:00 am to 7:30 pm.

Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Warm-water Pool - The warm-water pool is available for general use on:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 6:00 – 10:30 am, 3:00 – 5:00 pm (Rec. Swim) & 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 am- 5:00 pm
(Shared w/swim lessons 9:30 am-12:30 pm & again from 6:30-7:30 pm)

Saturday 9:00 am - 10:30 am (adults only)
10:30 am – 12:30 pm (adults & kids 6 years and younger)
12:30 – 4:00 pm (Recreation Swim ~ all ages)

Sunday 9:00am – 12:30 pm (all ages)

Recreation Swim – This includes the Warm Water Pool and the 1st lane of the 50M pool

Monday through Friday 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Saturday 12:30 – 4:00 pm

Spring Swim Lessons –Spring swimming lessons begin on March 2, 2015. Sessions will be available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. Evening swim lesson sessions will be available on Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings from 4:30–7:30 pm AND Tuesday, Thursday evenings from 4:30 – 7:30 pm.

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 40 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Fitness swimmers may choose from several different workout times: Mondays at 6:00 am; Tuesday workouts are at 6:00 am and 12:00 pm; Wednesday and Thursday 6:00 am, 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm; Friday workouts are offered at 6:00 am and 12:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday workouts are offered at 9:00 am.

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.

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 – For the third year offered a week long Spring Break Pool Junior Lifeguard Program 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 program was again successful with 35 children participating. 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.

Summer Programs – Summer program registration began on April 6th. Once again the Little Guard Program filled for the summer within a hour. The Junior Guard Program is filling up quickly. There is plenty of room to sign up for summer swim lessons.

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.

Lifeguard Training Exercises -

Our April in-service training exercise was Emergency Action Plan practice. Staff practiced responding to mock emergencies, covering the following topics; victim recognition, rescue techniques, continued care, CPR, first aid, clearing pools, meeting EMS, writing reports, resuming pool operations.

Aquatic Staff Recruitment

The following positions are currently open; Lifeguard, Head Lifeguard, Aquatic Specialist. The recruitment ends April 17th.

Pool Rentals –

Swim Teams - The Cabrillo Threshers and Santa Cruz County Aquatics 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 to 7:30 p.m.

Special Olympics

On Friday evenings through June 12th Special Olympics has rented 4 lanes in the 50 meter pool for training and coaching.

Private Pool Parties – Private Pool Parties are available on Saturdays & Sundays starting March 1, 2015 through the Fall of 2015. 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 in May. Every weekday for 3 weeks schools enjoy the pool with their classmates.

Special Event

Plans are formulating for the first annual fundraiser at the pool, Saturday August 29th. *(Jennifer, not sure if Jeff wants to bring this up yet)*

QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Recent Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- Eric Feuss returned for a Beginning Birding program on Sunday, March 1 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- A herp walk, In Search of Herps took place on Sunday, March 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- An Orienteering field trip for Son Seers Homeschool was offered by Lee Summers on Friday, March 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Ponderosa High School came out to the park on three successive Fridays, March 13, 20, and 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for community service work ranging from trail maintenance to broom removal.
- Two Broom Bashes took place on Saturday, March 14 and 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with Chuck Baughman leading the first and Linda Brodman leading the second.
- Lee Summers led a habitat hike called Have to Have a Habitat on Sunday, March 15 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- On Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz was out for a Fungus Foray.
- Star and Moon Gazing were offered on Friday, March 27 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight by the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club.
- A house tour field trip was offered by Lee Summers on Sunday, March 29 from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The Nest Box Monitoring program had its kick off meeting and potluck on Sunday, March 7 from 10:30 a.m. We confirmed groups and roles as well as do a first check of boxes.

The Master Gardeners and Quail Hollow Gardeners had a planning meeting on Sunday, March 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to discuss priorities for a series of Wednesday work parties.

Lee Summers and Sean Wharton met with Terris Kasteen from California Fish and Wildlife to inspect the sandhills trekking route and cage wallflowers. This was the first time a department representative joined us on these reconnaissance trips. Quail Hollow's population of wallflowers are doing quite well being caged to prevent deer browsing. This is in contrast to the Bonny Doon population, which despite the recent fire there, had many expecting that the flowers would do better. The trip gave Terris a good background of our techniques and results.

Upcoming Interpretive Programs and Activities:

- Two final Broom Bashes will be offered on Saturday, April 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and again April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Chuck Baughman led the first work party and both Chuck and Linda Brodman will lead the second.
- The annual Trek to the Forbidden Sandhills will be offered every Sunday in April from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. by Sean Wharton.
- Ponderosa High School will return to the park on two successive Fridays, April 10, and 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for community service work ranging from trail pruning to broom removal.
- Paul Haskins will be back for a session of In Search of Herps on Sunday, April 12 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 17 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight will be the date of this month's A Stellar Experience – Star Gazing at Quail Hollow with the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club.
- From Laundry to Landscape – Greywater Systems with LeAnne Ravinale will take place on Sunday, April 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- A Creepy Crawly field trip will be offered by Lee Summers on Monday, April 20 from 10:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Susan White-Rose will be back for a session on Dowsing for Earth Energies on Sunday, April 26 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

This year's outstanding volunteers for Quail Hollow will be the day camp volunteers: Madi Ahrens, Alec Adamson, Tyler Hawes, Alex Polland, Shelby Slaughter, Sasha Townsend, Savannah Zachau, and Sophia Zachau. Their help with day camp when we only had one staff person was essential for a successful program last year. They will be recognized for an award by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m.



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123

SUSAN MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

April 9, 2015

AGENDA: April 21, 2015

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

PARKS, RECREATION, AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, AND OPEN SPACE PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Dear Members of the Board:

This report is in fulfillment of the Board's request for an update on this agenda regarding the Open Space Project authorized by the Board in 2014. The Open Space Project was approved by the Board of Supervisors to be undertaken in 2015, with the goal being for the Board to be able to make decisions near the end of the calendar year as to whether or not to pursue the establishment of an Open Space District at a future date.

As indicated in the Open Space Project – Status Report of February 24, 2015, the effort underway now has two basic components: 1) Research concerning use of existing state law for the establishment of an Open Space District; Collection of existing Conservation and Open Space elements of County and City (four) General Plans; Collection of Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities elements; Collection of existing Capital Improvement Plans of the County and City (four); Identification of resources that can assist in a thorough development of sufficient information for a Board of Supervisors' decision at a later date; and, 2) Constructing the framework for a series of meetings in supervisorial districts, cities, and appropriate special districts.

Existing State Law. In general, the California Public Resources Code (Sections 5500-5595) establishes the legal framework for Open Space Districts (OSD). OSD's can come into existence through one of two methods: 1) An act of the Legislature, amending the General Law of 1939; or, 2) Proceeding through the Local Agency Formation Commission pursuant to the Knox-Nisbet Act of 1963. In either event, a vote of the electorate of the proposed OSD is required in order for the OSD to come alive. A decision regarding which path to take is not likely to come before the Board until some time near the end of the calendar year.

Parks, Recreation, Agricultural Conservation, and Open Space Project – Status Report

Conservation and Open Space Elements of General Plans. The OSD Project has assembled Conservation and Open Space Elements of the County's General Plan, and the Planning Department is reaching out to Santa Cruz, Capitola, Watsonville and Scotts Valley to provide their corresponding elements. In the County's Conservation and Open Space Element, it is stated: "The goals, objectives, policies and programs of this chapter recognize the need to balance conservation and preservation of natural and cultural resources with their productive use and stewardship." This policy will be respected in the development of any future OSD, and will include the sentiments of the Board as expressed in the Working Lands resolution adopted by the Board in April 2015.

Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Elements of General Plans. The OSD Project has assembled Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Elements of the Santa Cruz County General Plan, and the Planning Department is providing the corresponding elements from the four cities in Santa Cruz County. The County's Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities element states in part: "The Parks and Recreation and Public Facilities Element is an optional element under State Planning law which combines numerous topics all related to providing Community facilities to support existing and future populations."

Capital Improvement Plan. The Board of Supervisors approved the Santa Cruz County Final Capital Improvement Program 2014-15 in December of 2014. That CIP is the combined work of the departments of Planning, Public Works, and Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services. The project is overseen by the County Administrative Office. The CIP is presented by Planning Area, and, thus, will serve as a key document for community meetings.

Additional Resources. In order to provide the Board of Supervisors with the most comprehensive data and information with which to make subsequent decisions, the OSD Project has assembled additional resources. Local vendors will be utilized to provide information concerning community needs for parks, recreation, agricultural conservation, and open space. They will also assist in assessing in a comprehensive manner, the capacity for increasing funding for high priority projects.

Community Meetings. Based on discussions with members of the Board of Supervisors, the Mayors of Santa Cruz, Capitola, Scotts Valley and Watsonville, and with the County Administrative Officer and the four City Managers, there seems to be a strong interest in holding community meetings to explore the notion of adding financial resources to local governments' efforts to provide parks, recreation, and open space. Further work will be done to identify times, dates and locations for such community meetings. At this time, the framework of community meetings on this topic would include the following:

Four Corners. Rather than hold community meetings that are purely aspirational in nature, local elected officials seems to be inclined towards meetings that use existing policy documents and actions for the framework. More specifically, using the relevant sections of the documents noted above, in addition to the Conservation Blueprint (Land Trust of Santa Cruz County) and Healthy Lands & Healthy Economies: Nature's Value in Santa Cruz County (Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County), will help frame the discussion of parks, recreation, agricultural conservation, and open space.

Parks, Recreation, Agricultural Conservation, and Open Space Project – Status Report

Notice of Community Meetings. In addition to legal meeting requirements, the community meetings would be noticed through local media outlets, social media, and limited advertising. Local elected officials will be encouraged to utilize any lists that they may have to increase turnout. Meetings would be held in each supervisorial district, the four cities, and, potentially, in each of the four existing autonomous park districts (Boulder Creek, Alba Road, La Selva Beach, and Opal Cliffs).

Record of Meetings. A variety of methods may be used to capture the general sentiments and specific issues expressed at the community meetings. Forms will be designed to allow individual participants to record issues and projects that are important to them. Extensive note-taking will be conducted. Together with other methods of capturing community wishes, these methods will be concentrated into a "living document" that will be available on a to-be-established link on the Santa Cruz County Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Cultural Services website.

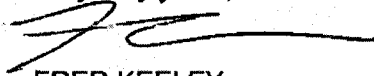
Timing of Meetings. Local elected officials, and especially members of the Board of Supervisors have expressed a desire to hold community meetings when the largest number of residents can attend. Thus, community meetings will be scheduled during week evenings, and when school is in session (in other words, not during summer school vacation). Assuming that the Mayors would feel similarly, it is likely that not more than a couple of meetings will take place before June, and most will be compressed into the September, October, November timeframe.

Based on conversations with Supervisors and Mayors, it seems that the Board of Supervisors may want to take two actions at this time. First, a strong sentiment has been expressed that top priority be given to focusing on funding capital improvements to existing public park lands, and agricultural conservation, and that lower priority be given to acquiring additional park, open space, and habitat lands. Second, there is a very strong sentiment among local elected officials that any new or expanded entity should not have eminent domain powers.

It is, therefore, recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Accept and File this Status Report;
2. Direct the County Administrative Officer to continue overseeing the work of the Project Convener, with emphasis on conducting community meetings as set forth in this Status Report;
3. Rename the Open Space Project as follows: Parks, Recreation, Agricultural Conservation and Open Space Project; and,
4. Establish as policy that any entity that is formed as a result of the Parks, Recreation, Agricultural Conservation and Open Space Project, not have eminent domain powers.

Very truly yours,



FRED KEELEY
Project Convener



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

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 George Fitzimmons, received February 7, 2015 and processed March 18, 2015 regarding off-leash dogs.
2. Letter Mike Malbon received March 18, 2015 regarding off-leash dogs.