

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
January 12, 2017**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room
675 Texas Street, Fairfield
5:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Commissioners Hermsmeyer, Leong, Alvarez, Whited and Riddle

Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Chris Drake, Parks Services Manager, Resource Management, Diane Gilliland, Resource Management

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of November 10, 2016 were approved (motion by Commissioner Whited, second by Commissioner Riddle).

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved (motion by Commissioner Leong, second by Commissioner Whited).

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Leong mentioned that there might be a hearing January 13th regarding emissions at the Valero Refinery with possible fines levied against the refinery. Commissioner Alvarez noted that there may be funds available for the placement of Native American interpretive signs. The signs would indicate that an area has some significance to Native American culture. Lake Solano Park has what is believed to be a midden site near the campground area.

5. Public Comments

There were no comments.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Action Item)

Commissioner Riddle nominated Chairman Hermsmeyer for another term as Chairman. Chairman Hermsmeyer accepted the nomination. Commissioner Whited made a motion to accept the nomination of Commissioner Hermsmeyer for Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leong. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hermsmeyer nominated Commissioner Whited for Vice Chair. Commissioner Whited accepted the nomination. Chairman Hermsmeyer made a motion to accept the nomination of Commissioner Whited for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leong. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Presentations by applicants, for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF) FY2016/17 grant cycle (Informational, with Possible Action)

Wendy Shackwitz, President, Napa-Solano Audubon Society, gave a presentation on the Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Colony Survey in the area of Fairfield and Vacaville. Loss of

wetland environments has resulted in a significant loss of the Tricolored Blackbird population. The project proposes to conduct breeding surveys of the four known large scale colonies of Tricolored Blackbirds in Solano County. The work will generate population data, indicators of population change and detailed breeding phenology. The applicant, Napa-Solano Audubon Society, will also recruit and train volunteers to perform Tricolored Blackbird breeding colony surveys.

The Napa-Solano Audubon Society was the only applicant for the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant. Their grant request was for \$2,500. The ad hoc committee will report back to the full Commission at the March meeting.

8. Staff Report (Informational)

A. Regional Parks Update

On December 13, 2016 the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the continuance of efforts to create special legislation, perform education and outreach, and develop an implementation and administration plan for the development of a Dependent Parks and Open Space District. The District would begin as a dependent district and through a trigger mechanism would later transition into an independent district. The time frame for the transition into an independent district could be from five to twenty years. The Board supported the staff recommendation to move forward with the creation of a district through special legislation and the creation of a funding mechanism. Both of these will require a vote by the public. The special legislation process will involve writing legislation that will be specifically tailored to meet the unique requirements for a successful district in Solano County.

During the Commission discussion of the Regional Park Update the following comments and questions were raised:

Will the public have a chance to provide input on the details of the special legislation before it is completed? Could one or two Park and Recreation commissioners be part of the park district planning group or serve on a working committee?

Mr. Drake stated that County staff and consultants are currently putting together a loose framework to move forward that will identify the details of the special legislation. Education and outreach will be used to gather public input to assist with the identification of the details before the special legislation is finalized.

Could staff and the consultant provide the Commission with a critical path of all the milestones that must be reached starting from the Board of Supervisors blessing on 12/13/16 to the end of the process?

The Commission could be well served by an ad hoc committee that would attend those activities that are appropriate for them to attend. Because the Regional Park Plan is an incremental step by step process going from one point to the next there will be discussions that the commission won't have any useful information to add.

Mr. Drake commented that the key element to the Regional Park planning process is that it can't be done with a shotgun approach. It has to be very detailed process. The consultants have put together a clear and concise recommendations report. They have also been asked to draft a proposal for an administration and implementation plan. That plan will be a very thorough, step by step guide.

B. Attendance and Revenue Summary

As of January 5, 2017 the parks are at 50% of their annual revenue goal. If attendance totals stay on track they may exceed last year's totals.

C. Resource Damage Report

The parks have experienced limited damage from the recent heavy rains and wind. Lynch Canyon has been closed since January 6th due to heavy rain causing trail damage. Belen's Landing was closed on January 10th due to flooding. At Sandy Beach high water came up and over the cement approach to the boat launch. The high water has also caused significant amounts of debris to wash up on shore. The entrance road to the park is currently under water. There were several mud slides along Pleasants Valley Rd. Lake Solano Park staff were on alert to assist Solano County Public Works with road hazards. Runoff from the topside of the campground area has caused some limited flooding. Some trees have fallen without causing damage to the park.

9. Confirm Date of Next Meeting, and Adjourn (Action Item)

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a regular Commission meeting on March 9, 2017 in its regular location, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.