

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
November 9, 2017**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room
675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 A.M.**

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

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 10:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of September 14, 2017 were approved (motion by Commissioner Whited, second by Commissioner Riddle).

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments and Outreach Reports

Chairman Hermsmeyer briefed the Commission on notices from California Fish and Game regarding a tri-colored blackbird nesting program for dairy farmers and new additions from the Cascades area to the threatened species list.

5. Presentations by applicants, for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF) FY2017/18 grant cycle.

There were ten grant applications submitted to the Parks Division. Representatives from the following organizations gave brief presentations to the Commission:

1. Solano Land Trust, Sue Wickham, requested a grant (\$2,500) for an upgrade to the visitor center at the Jepson Prairie Preserve.
2. Napa-Solano Audubon Society, Christa Marco, requested a grant (\$2,500) for a program called From Foothills to Bay: Fostering Urban Youth as San Francisco Watershed Caretakers.
3. Solano Resource Conservation District, Marianne Butler, requested a grant (\$1,850) for binoculars for K-12 Watershed Education Field Trips.
4. MIT Academy, Doug Darling, requested a grant (\$2,500) for a Current Science Legacy Project at Lake Chabot.
5. Suisun Resource Conservation District, Tim Edmunds, requested a grant (\$2,500) for Lower Joice Island lepidium spraying.
6. Suisun Resource Conservation District, Tim Edmunds, requested a grant (\$550) for a marsh soil salinity meter.
7. Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Doug Darling, requested a grant (\$920) for a classroom aquarium education program.
8. Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Doug Darling, requested a grant (\$1,107) for fishing equipment for volunteers in a Vallejo Inner City Fishing Program.

9. Vallejo Watershed Alliance, Doug Darling, requested a grant (\$460) for creek cleanup supplies.

The tenth grant request was from the California Waterfowl Association to fund an Outdoor Education Science Seminar (\$1,984). There was no presentation.

6. Status Reports by Staff

A. Attendance and Revenue Summary

Attendance for the current fiscal year has exceeded the figures from last year by a percentage point. The extra percentage point represents approximately \$10,000. From July thru October there was a modest increase in visitor usage at Belden's Landing from 3,360 last year to 3,720 for the current year. Lake Solano has climbed from about 23,000 to a little over 30,000 visitors. Attendance at Lynch Canyon is up about 100 more visitors than last year despite red flag closures. Sandy Beach is up by 15,000 visitors from last year.

Last year revenue for Sandy Beach at this time was \$92,000. Currently this year revenue is \$109,278. Lynch Canyon stands at \$1,673 which is up about \$300 more from last year. Lake Solano revenue is down somewhat. Last year at this time it was \$91,000. Currently the number is \$82,972. Last year at this time Belden's Landing was at \$8,400, this year it is at \$9,299. Revenue percentages show a 2% increase at Belden's Landing; a 3% increase at Lake Solano; a 4% increase at Lynch Canyon and a 6% increase at Sandy Beach. Mr. Drake stated that at midyear he will analyze the data to determine if any changes need to be made. He noted that total attendance has increased by 22,000 more visitors to the parks this year.

B. Park Closure Status and Incident Updates

There was one closure at Lake Solano due to a wildfire evacuation advisory for the Blue Ridge area. Fifteen campers were evacuated from the park. Lynch Canyon was closed due to a Red Flag Fire Advisory on 9/1/17-9/4/17, 9/23/17-9/24/17 and 10/1/17. On 10/2/17 and 10/8/17 thru 10/23/17 Lynch Canyon was closed due to a Fire Weather Conditions Watch. There was no damage to the park from the Atlas fire however it did disable the County website. Public access to County online services was down for almost 2 weeks. County staff were able to provide forms and information to the public via phone and email. Sandy Beach reached capacity closures through September for the day use area. Enforcement issues have been minor for most of the off season.

The Parks have made the transition into the "off season" and permanent staff is now able to take some vacation time and start on project work. The Park has 3 year round extra help park aids that help with maintenance and operations. There are two park aids at Lake Solano and one at Sandy Beach. Seasonal Park aids work during the busy months from April 1st to September 30th.

7. Assign Ad Hoc Committee to review FWPF Grant Applications

After a brief discussion Commissioner Whited made a motion nominate Commissioner Alvarez and Commissioner Leong to serve on the Ad Hoc committee to review the FWPF applications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approve 2018 Meeting Dates

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to the following meeting schedule for 2018:

A Special Commission meeting on January 4, 2018, a regular meeting on March 8, 2018, a Special meeting on May 3, 2018, and regular meetings on July 12, 2018, September 13, 2018 and November 8, 2018. All Park and Recreation meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.