

**SOLANO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
July 8, 2021**

**County Administration Center – MP Rooms 1600 & 1610
675 Texas Street, 1st Floor, Fairfield
10:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Chair Robin Leong, Commissioner Mike Alvarez, Commissioner Terry L. Riddle, Commissioner Donta Kendrick
Members Excused:	Vice-Chair Michael Whited
Staff Present:	Parks Manager Chris Drake Clerk Melissa Catron

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Alvarez called the meeting to order at 10:05am, Chair Leong arrived late. Vice-Chair Whited was absent. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 13, 2021 were approved as prepared.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

There were no Commissioner comments.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Parks and Recreation Division Staff Report (Informational and Discussion)

A. Parks and Recreation Month & Parks and Recreation Professionals Day

Annually, Solano Parks presents a resolution to the Board of Supervisors to adopt, recognizing July as *Parks and Recreation Month*. This Resolution (Resolution #2021-0139) is to honor Solano Parks Staff, Volunteers, the Parks and Recreation Committee members, as well as the Solano Parks partners (SRCD, Putah Creek Council, Solano Land Trust, etc.), for the hard work and support they all contribute in the Parks. This year, in addition to *Parks and Recreation Month* for the month of July, Chris added July 16th as *Recreational Professional's Day*.

Commissioner Alvarez asked Chris to pass along to Solano Parks staff the appreciation of the Parks and Recreation Committee members for all of their hard work.

C. County Park Operations Status

Lake Solano Park: Day use access at Lake Solano Park is now open Fridays-Sundays with a planned return to normal Peak Season access and the return of boat rentals scheduled to begin in July. The campground at Lake Solano Park is now open on a reservations basis only. Eleven campsites remain closed due to damage from the LNU Lightning Complex Fire and are expected to reopen by the end of the year. Chris further stated that of the 11 aforementioned campsites, one will be able to be opened later in July (site #38).

LNU Lightning Complex Fire damage recovery efforts continue as staff work with vendors and contractors to replace the destroyed assets, including maintenance equipment, tools, picnic tables and benches, boundary fencing and retaining walls, maintenance shop and yard, carports, park residence, electrical and plumbing infrastructure related to the destroyed structural assets, habitat, and fire suppression system for the Nature Center. The Nature Center remains closed until the fire suppression system returns to operation (supply chain issues resulting from COVID-19 impacts is creating delay in receiving parts).

Sandy Beach County Park: The day use is open with reduced access to follow COVID-19 protocols and is expected to return to normal day use operations later this month. The boat launch is fully operational and heavily utilized. The Sandy Beach County Park campground is open with reservations required.

A fire on May 28, 2021 damaged a carport, deck and windows to the on-site Park Ranger residence before being stopped. Repairs are underway. The park did not suffer any other damage and was not evacuated as a result of the fire.

Beldens Landing Water Access Facility: Beldens Landing Water Access Facility is open with bank fishing from the promenade and full boat launch access, including kayak launch.

The fishing pier damaged in the Branscombe Fire (October 2018) is still closed with the replacement sections in production.

Lynch Canyon Open Space: Lynch Canyon is fully operational with Friday – Monday access, increased attendance levels counted in FY2020/21 is expected to continue into FY2021/22.

B. Attendance and Revenue Summary

For year-end revenues, Chris provided a rough estimate of year-end parks-generated revenues at \$289,000. In a normal year, with full operations, Solano Parks' revenues are in the range of \$610,000 - \$640,000. Chris will provide a revenues comparison at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if, during the decline in revenue throughout the fiscal year, was Chris required to make any expenditure or budgetary adjustments? Chris responded that for FY19/20, once the Working Budget numbers had been approved by the Board of Supervisors, Parks staff monitored and made adjustments where they could, utilizing parks staff for deferred maintenance projects that they normally wouldn't be able to do with the park open. For FY20/21 they made further adjustments where they could, specifically to the maintenance budget; they did not take on any new projects that they didn't already have an alternative funding source for. Chris was also able to re-allocate some of the maintenance budget for Lake Solano to the other parks, since it was closed due to the LNU Lightning Complex fire.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if the Solano Parks received any CARES Act Funds or other Federally funded programs for COVID-related loss of revenues. Chris responded and confirmed that they had received some CARES Act monies but did not have an exact number.

7. Confirm date of next regular meeting on September 9, 2021 and Adjourn

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for September 9, 2021 at 9:30am, scheduled as a park tour of Belden's Landing and Sandy Beach. Since there was no further business, Commissioner Alvarez Motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Riddle Seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06am.