

**SOLANO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
May 12, 2022**

**County Administration Center – Multipurpose Rooms 1600-1620,
1st Floor, 675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 a.m.**

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chair Whited called the meeting to order at 10:01am. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of March 10, 2022 were approved as prepared.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Alvarez stated he will not attend the September 8, 2022 meeting.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Staff Report

A. Attendance & Revenue Summary

Chris Drake referenced a graph provided at the March meeting that showed Parks revenues for FY19/20, FY20/21, and actual vs projected revenue for FY21/22. In the graph (created in March 2022), Parks mid-year revenues were tracking at pre-COVID revenue levels. Chris shared with the Commissioners that for the current fiscal year, Parks revenues are tracking to potentially exceed the projected annual revenue target for FY21-22.

The new CAMAVA reservation system is not yet live, there were technical issues that prevented the April 2022 go-live date from happening. The new CAMAVA reservation system will be able to provide attendance reports and allow Parks Staff to track annual pass holders

and how often they visit the parks that utilize the CAMAVA system. Chris stated an email will be sent out to the Commissioners when the new system has gone live.

B. Updates

LNU Fire Recovery Updates

At Lake Solano, the replacement fence project is underway, all fencing in need of replacing is being replaced on a “like for like” basis, meaning if it was a chain link fence prior to the fire, it will be replaced with chain link fencing. The replacement of the ranger residence is underway, Solano County Parks was able to secure a manufactured home with the same square footage and bed/bath count as the prior residence. The purchase was made through Clayton Homes. Delivery is estimated for June 2022. Site preparation for the replacement residence and replacement shop is underway. Chris stated when the shop yard fencing has been replaced, he will then start the process of replacing picnic tables and fire rings that would be regularly stored in the shop yard for use at the camp sites.

Chris shared that Solano Parks was awarded \$867,648 in federal earmark funds for a project that was pre-designed and shovel ready. The project will improve pedestrian pathways for ADA and ABA access, and for replacing the public parking paving within the campground in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation. Community Project Funding was approved for this project in 2021; as of the date of this meeting, Solano Parks has not yet received the earmark funds.

Chris also shared that Solano Land Trust was awarded \$431,250 in federal earmark funds for improvements at Patwino Worrta Kodoi Dihi (formerly Rockville Trails Preserve). The earmark funds will be utilized for a 0.5-mile all-access loop recreational trail with resting areas, interpretive signage, and ADA compliant picnic tables. This area is not fully open to the public, it is only available via Docent-led activities.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if Solano County was going to manage the grant for Solano Land Trust, as Solano County is listed in the grant award, not Solano Land Trust. Chris responded that he was not sure who would be managing the funds to make the improvements for the Patwino project.

Chris shared that ARPA funds were approved for LSP. These funds are utilized for infrastructure updates, LSP has a direct need for the potable and wastewater systems at LSP. The potable water system is aged, but not faulty; it needs overall updating and upgrading with modernization to allow it to service the public for future years. Maintenance of this system is currently done with Solano Parks staff and if this system was modernized, it would be more self-sufficient and require less time from staff. The LSP sewer system is connected to its own leachfield; 3 leachfields in the park total. The sewer system was originally designed for lower attendance in the park, and the existing waste pump/septic holding tank system is inefficient, and outdated. The overall goal for the potable water and wastewater systems at LSP is to update, upgrade, and modernize those systems. The Solano County Board of Supervisors approved funds for this project at the May 10th Board of Supervisors meeting.

Chris stated that he will apply for future ARPA funds for improvements to the aquatic interface at the boat launch area within LSP. The funds would be used to make improvements to address high water events and flooding at the boat launch area and restrooms; updating the waterfront area to include more accessible options for kayak and canoe rentals; investigate options to add paddle boarding; updating the area in general so that it is attractive and easily seen for the public as they cross the bridge on Putah Creek.

The boat launch and restroom area are very aged and were originally used for fishing, the lake has not been stocked with fish since 2008. The overall goal is to revitalize the area as well as offering amenities and services that are on trend with those who visit while also improving accessibility for all who visit.

Sandy Beach Updates

Chris reported that the day-use restroom has been re-opened. The waste vault pumps have been replaced and the sewage waste system for the day-use restroom is now fully operational. The irrigation well pump has also recently been replaced and is fully operational.

Commissioner Alvarez inquired about how the public can reach Parks Divisions staff if they have questions. Chris responded that there are phone numbers listed on the main website, in addition to the main phone number for Resource Management. If the caller calls the main line for Resource Management, Admin will assist the caller, and if the caller has questions or concerns that Admin cannot assist with, it will be routed to Chris from Admin. There is also a Parks main line listed on the website that the public can call, it will be routed to either Chris (Solano Parks Manager), Marissa Medders (Supervising Park Ranger), or Jamie Fussell (LSP Park Ranger). In addition to the phone lines, there is a "Contact Us" link on the website where public can email Parks Staff from the website and one of the three staff listed above will respond, depending on who is available.

Commissioner Whited inquired about the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant cycle. Chris responded that discussion in the March meeting indicated their interest in learning more about the program as a whole, where the funds come from, how long the funds will last, and whether the Commissioners wanted to increase the award amounts for a future fiscal year (FY23/24). Chris stated that he would like to move the grant cycle earlier this year, making the announcement of the grant in September 2022, followed with presentations from the applicants in the November 2022 meeting, and awards announced in the January 2023 meeting.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if Parks staff would be able to have shovel ready projects available for this next grant cycle in the event there was only one applicant again. Chris responded that he had already reached out to his staff for their project ideas for this grant at the request of the Commissioners in the March meeting.

9. Confirm date of next regular meeting on July 14, 2022 and Adjourn

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for July 14, 2022. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13am.