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Minutes For May 18, 2006

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER FLOOR HEARING ROOM, LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET, FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Commission Members Present: Laevastu, Alvarez, Hermsmeyer & Riddle

Commission Member Excused: Leong

Staff Present: Taylor, Tanner-Linne, Fiack, Ingram, Fust, Bryant

1. Chair Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. A quorum was confirmed.
2. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Riddle made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 9, 2006 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Laevastu and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Alvarez made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Riddle and was approved unanimously. (The agenda item C was moved to benefit the senior citizens center. Steve Ingram, County Counsel would be able to make another engagement.)
4. Chair Announcements: Chairman Hermsmeyer stated there were no announcements for tonight meeting.
5. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Chairman Hermsmeyer said, the packet received from Mr. Taylor had changed, had more information and was very helpful. This allows the commission to look at recommendations from another perspective.

John Taylor asked if he could report and note Commissioner Leong did call in earlier in the week regarding his absence.

6. Public Comments:

Chairman Hermsmeyer stated, "There were no public speakers at this meeting."

7. Parks Division Staff Reports and Recommendations for Commission Action:

Agenda Item 7 A: Chapter 19 - Consider of additional proposed amendments to Chapter 19 of the Solano County Code related to Parks & Recreation.

The chair asked if County Counsel would describe the changes of Chapter 19 and what prompted these changes.

John Taylor, Interim Director spoke of the changes to Chapter 19. He advised the Commissioners that when the e drafted changes that had been reviewed by the Commission were prepared from Board of Supervisors approval, t Demonstrator recommended additional changes citing concerns over the appeals process in particular.. The existi process mentions the Commission be involved in every case. The changes being recommended would change the hearing appeals to the General Services Director or his/her designee. This would streamline the process, since the Commission only meets every other month and some of the cases are time sensitive.

Commissioner Riddle stated the Commission should be involved and they have met and can meet more than ever month. A special meeting for appeals would not be out of line.

Commissioners Riddle, Alvarez and Laevastu stated they wanted to be more involved with the Parks decisions.

Commissioner Laevastu asked if the Commission goes along with the recommendation that a report be could be g Commission of the appeals at each meeting. She said the role of the Commission was to establish policy.

Commissioner Alvarez made a motion to accept the changes and Commissioner Laevastu second the motion.

Commissioner Hermsmeyer said he hoped that the appeal processed could be handled at the ranger or manger le Taylor agreed to include in his staff report to the Board of Supervisors for the first reading of the ordinance amen County Code that the Commission had expressed concerns that in changing the appeals procedure the departmer establish clear policies that use permit denials only be issued after consulting with senior management and, if nec County Counsel. This is to avoid misinterpretations of policy in the field that might increase the chances of an app

Mr. Taylor reported that the other area of change in the Code being recommended had to do with clarifying when allowed to camp in county parks..

Steve Ingram County Counsel stated another part of the code changed was regarding obscene language and the obscene behavior to code to address the issue of Constitutional protection of free speech.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if comprehensive training could be developed and implemented for the Park staff to these rules and regulations. John Taylor told the Commission that the staff was working with the Sheriff's Office c and Steve Ingram said he would be willing to review the changes with the staff also.

Commissioner Riddle said he thought the Commission should be heard more and with a louder voice. When we sa to the General Services director and let him deal with it. We are missing an opportunity.

Commissioner Alvarez stated this Commission will have to look at the ordinance again. Commission over the year where we are today than a lot different as a Commission today than we were four or five years ago. There is a gr people here today that is willing to be involved to take it to the next level and prepare Solano County for the futu

Chairman Hermsmeyer asked who would like to make a motion that the changes to the Chapter 19 amendments approved.

Commissioner Alvarez made the motion and Commissioner Laevastu second.

Commissioners Hermsmeyer, Alvarez and Laevastu approved the motion and Commissioner Riddle opposed.

Agenda Item 7 B: Receive a report from Staff on the status of Master Planning efforts at Lake Solano & Sanc

Parks.

Steve Fust gave the Commissioners a report on the status of the projects.

The initial study phase one has been completed.

The items below have been completed.

- Restrooms are ADA compliances and paths to restroom
- Sandy Beach Shower
- Belden's Landing Project
- Residences at each parks

The entrance to the Lake Solano Park will be dressed up and widened. There will be an area for a bus turnaround

Steve Fust said staff would be meeting the organizational group leaders who would be using the Visitor's Center for ideas and obtain their ideas.

Agenda C: Receive Report on the status of Solano County acquisition of the approximate 38 acres site on Mt.

John Taylor introduced Mark Bryant, Real Property Manager.

Mr. Bryant told the commission the original proposal for Mt. Vaca. Where we would acquire the land and the tower presented to the Board but around 120 days ago the F.A.A. notified me of their interest and would exercise their right to the tower.

Without the tower the revenues to support the parks would be gone. John Taylor mentioned if the County accepts the property it would be only for open space. No buildings could be erected.

John Taylor told the Commission they had told the CAO's office this was a big question mark at present. This is not a deal.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if the County had contacted Barbara Boxer's office and stated it might help with the

Agenda Item 7 D: Receive a Report on the status of recruitment for the Parks Services Manager position.

John Taylor asked the Chair to appoint one of the members of the Commission to participate in an interview panel for the position.

Commissioner Laevastu state she had concerns regarding the salary of this position.

Commissioner Alvarez stated the County would not attract the person needed for this position with this salary. Al Taylor if he would settle for someone just to get a manager. Taylor replied, "No he would not settle just to get a manager." He is looking for a manager who has knowledge of parks and how they run, be able to handle staff; deal with countywide policy issues, etc.

John Taylor stated even though the salary is not high the benefits are good.

Commissioner Terry Riddle volunteered to be the appointee to sit on the Park Manager interview board. Mike Alvarez would be available if Commissioner Riddle was not available.

Agenda Item 7 E: Commission continues discussion on recommending evaluation criteria to Board of Supervisors regarding funding local programs pursuant to specific criteria set forth in the Kinder-Morgan Plea Agreement.

John Taylor told the Commission the Kinder-Morgan funds were in contingency fund and can be transferred when Commission approved a transferred after going before the BOS.

Chairman Hermsmeyer asked where we were in the process of the Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund.

John Taylor said there is a two step process and we need to immerse ourselves what habitant projects are. Have come in and give us the ground work. Mr. Taylor agreed to prepare additional staff work for the Commission's sut meetings on what constitutes acceptable projects under the Fish and Game Code sections as well as potentially a projects in the Suisun Marsh that meet the criteria set forth in the Kinder-Morgan Pleas Agreement. Mr. Taylor als provide more information for the Commission's consideration on establishing objective criteria to evaluate funding applications.

Agenda Item 7 F: Discuss on River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Path with a View publication

Chairman Hermsmeyer presented information about a trail going from Sandy Beach to the City of Rio Vista.

Agenda Item 7 G: Receive a report from Staff on the City of Rio Vista Community Campout at Sandy Beach I

Jim Ball thanked the Commission and staff for supporting this campout. He invited everyone to the campout. Mr. stated there was a large interest in this Campout.

Agenda Item 7 H: Receive a Report from Staff on the status of the Proposed Management Agreement between Solano Land Trust and Solano County Management.

John Taylor told the Commission the Agreement between Solano Land Trust and the County has not been reached the Department had not included funding for this program in its requested budget for FY 06/07

Commissioner Alvarez stated the City of Benicia had a condition on the money they had given the Trust for the S It was that there would be public access.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- A. Staff report on ADA policy for campsite reservations.
- B. Hear report on Mare Island Regional Park.
- C. Consider new park sites.
- D. Consider new funding sources for County Parks.
- E. Joint parks planning with the Yolo County committee.
- F. Consider appropriate memorial at Sandy Beach Park.
- G. Consider next steps for recreational reuse of the Mount Vaca property through public hearings.
- H. Commissioner training in press and media relations.
- I. Consider rating methodology for Fish & Wildlife Fund.
- J. Consider revision of the Commission By-Laws.

9. Chairman Hermsmeyer said he had received information from Senator Tom Torlakson regarding "The Great Delta"

10. The Commission confirmed the next regular meeting of July 13, 2006 at 5:30 PM. Several Commissioners sta would have to check their vacation schedule before committing. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

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