

**SOLANO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
November 10, 2022**

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

Members Present: **Chair Robin Leong
Vice-Chair Michael Whited
Commissioner Mike Alvarez
Commissioner Terry Riddle
Commissioner Donte Kendrick**

**Members Excused:
Members Unexcused:**

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 10:04am. A quorum was confirmed. Chair Leong arrived at 10:05am, after the meeting was called to order. Commissioner Kendrick arrived at 10:16am.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of September 15, 2022 were approved as prepared.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Chair Leong requested PDF parking passes for a group of volunteers coming to one of the Parks for a study.

Chair Leong asked Parks staff if there was still an arundo problem at Sandy Beach Park. Chris Drake responded that there is still an arundo issue at Sandy Beach Park. Chair Leong brought the Solano RCD magazine/mailer with him to the meeting and asked Chris Drake if he had contacted Solano RCD, as they had announced aid is available with excessive arundo growth in the magazine/mailer. Chris Drake responded that Solano RCD works with Solano Parks frequently.

5. Public Comments

Tom Slyker from the Napa-Solano Audubon Society gave an oral presentation about the Napa-Solano Audubon Society and detailed how they would apply the 2022/23 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant monies to their program, if awarded.

Commissioner Alvarez clarified that this discussion should have occurred with Item #6 on the Agenda.

Commissioner Alvarez stated that the Commission did not have the applicants grant packet. Chris Drake responded that the applicant needed to supply more information for their application, then he would supply the packet to the sub-committee for review.

Commissioner Riddle requested the applicant return to the next meeting (January 12, 2023) to further discuss their application with the Commission.

Chair Leong clarified the members of the sub-committee with the applicant and stated he would need to be recused from the sub-committee because he is a member of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society. Commissioner Mike Alvarez will take Chair Leong's place to review this application; he volunteered and was selected as the alternate member of the sub-committee at the September 15, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

6. Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund 2022/23 Applicant Presentations

The Napa-Solano Audubon Society were the sole applicants of this grant for the 2022/23 grant cycle. Mark Stevenson and Tom Slyker of The Napa-Solano Audubon Society attended the meeting; Tom Slyker gave a verbal presentation for this grant under item #5.

7. Staff Report

A. Attendance & Revenue Summary

Chris Drake provided the Commission with an attendance and revenue summary for the first quarter of the 2022/23 fiscal year for all 4 parks; July 2022 through October 2022. Parks attendance and revenues are strong for the first quarter.

Chair Leong clarified with Parks Staff regarding the seasonal change in day-use fees for vehicles; off season parking fees are \$6 (Oct. 1 – March 31), peak-season are \$8 (April 1 – Sept. 30).

Chris Drake discussed the Veteran's fee waiver, valid from 11-6-2022 through 11-12-2022. All day-use and boat launch fees are waived for Veterans and current military personnel from 11-6-2022 through 11-12-2022.

Vice-Chair Whited asked if Parks Staff would consider a First Responders fee waiver that could take place sometime in April. Chris will research and bring this item back to the Commission at a future meeting date.

B. Project and Activity Updates

Some parks staff recently attended a tree trimming training at Lake Solano Park, hosted by Solano RCD. Classroom training took place in the Nature Center at LSP, followed with

outdoor training. During the training, they felled and processed approximately 20 trees that were fire damaged or marked for removal in the Beetle Point area of LSP.

Chris announced that Solano Parks has been awarded ARPA funds from the Board of Supervisors. ARPA stands for American Recovery Program Act, these funds were federal funds awarded to the County for programs or infrastructure updates for companies or agency programs that were negatively impacted by COVID-19. Solano Parks qualified for the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure updates funding category as well as the Parks and Tourism funding category. In working with the Delta and Water Programs and Public Works Engineering Divisions within Resource Management, as well as General Services' Capital Projects Management Division and the County Administrator's Office, several projects were identified for funding from the ARPA funds. Lake Solano Park serves approximately 75,000 annual park visitors and Sandy Beach Park serves approximately 100,000 annual parks visitors. All projects on the list below must be completed by December 2026.

The projects are as follows:

1) **Lake Solano Park: Potable Water and Septic System Improvements**

Project description: Upgrade the existing potable water and wastewater systems to meet increased visitor demand, protect human health, and protect the environment.

Funding recommended: \$740,000

Timeline: Design of this improvement is in process. This project is estimated to be complete within 12 months, once funded.

Outcome: The upgrade to Lake Solano Park continues low-cost recreational opportunities for the region and prevents park shut down in the event of a water system failure.

2) **Sandy Beach County Park: Recreational Vehicle Wastewater Dump Station & Wastewater Sewer Connection**

Project description: Connect the existing recreational vehicle dump station to the existing park sewer system, which connects to the City of Rio Vista sewer treatment plant, adjacent to the park.

Funding Recommended: \$200,000

Timeline: This project is estimated to be complete within 12 months, once funded.

Outcome: To reduce the contractual needs to pump out the waste in the existing waste vault; projected operational savings of \$34,000 - \$55,000 annually to the division operations budget.

3) **Lake Solano Park: Accessible Pathways and Campground Parking Funding**

Project description: Update paved surfaces in the campground, including campsites, paths of travel, and install parking and fire safety assets.

Multiple-stage funding approach:

- 1) \$867,648 from 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act;
- 2) \$550,000 from Federal Lands Highway (via Bureau of Reclamation);
- 3) \$216,912 proposed from ARPA for local match funds.

Timeline: Project completion in 12-18 months, once funded.

Outcome: Improved access for foot traffic in the campground, paving infrastructure updates, increased safety resulting from improved signage, labelling, wayfinding and fire suppression equipment.

4) **Lake Solano Park: Transformer Replacement**

Project description: Replace aging transformers to ensure functioning electrical system to park facilities.

Funding Recommended: \$252,720

Timeline: Project completion in 12-18 months, once funded.

Outcome: Replacing the transformers will increase overall service capacity, energy efficiencies, and security against system failures.

5) **Sandy Beach Park: Day Use Access Improvement**

Project description: Create accessible paths of travel into and around the day use restroom, fish cleaning station, beach and personal flotation device loaner kiosk.

Funding Recommended: \$1,280,000

Timeline: Up to 2 years.

Outcome: Improving the day-use access at Sandy Beach Park would provide increased accessible paths of travel for this high-density public access park. It would also promote inclusive recreational opportunities to the day-use area, beach, and the Sacramento River Delta.

6) **Lake Solano Park: Waterfront and Boater Access Improvement**

Project description: Update and upgrade the waterfront area for accessible launch access for paddle sports equipment, environmental education, and an interpretation hub. This would include an information kiosk, nature viewing scope, waste and recycling containers, and Personal Flotation Device loaner station. It will also create a fully accessible path of travel from the day-use area to the Nature Center via a fully-accessible path under the bridge; this will lower the number of pedestrians crossing Pleasants Valley Road between the campground and the day-use area.

Funding Recommended: \$3,700,000

Timeline: Up to 3 years.

Outcome: This improvement would enable Lake Solano Park to meet tourist public-use pattern changes, increase the accessible use of the facility, promote inclusivity, and increase environmental education assets within the park.

Commissioner Alvarez requested the minutes to reflect that the Commission has reviewed all the projects presented and has a general consensus of approval of the projects presented by staff.

8. **Confirm date of next regular meeting on January 12, 2023 and Adjourn**

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for January 12, 2023. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34am.