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Minutes For March 10. 2005

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED CLAY STREET IN THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Chairman Hermsmeyer.
2. Roll Call. A quorum was observed, with Commissioners Hermsmeyer, Leong, Riddle, Garrison and Alvarez present. Also present were staff Ferguson, Norris and Davis.
3. Approval of Minutes. On call of Chair Hermsmeyer, the minutes of the February 10, 2005 (Special Meeting) were unanimously approved as written.
4. Approval of Agenda. Staff Norris added three items to the agenda. They were for commissioners to consider principals that were included in their packets and return any comments, a proposal by the Suisun Resource Conservation District to partner with the County Parks in the development of a boat launching facility on Pierce Road, and an update on a Mt. Vaca property. Commissioner Garrison made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion and by a unanimous vote the agenda was approved.
5. Public Comments. Chair Hermsmeyer calls for public comments. A member of the audience, Joe Connolly, addressed the Commission. Connolly offers support for the Regional Parks and shares some possible display ideas for the new Center at Lake Solano Park. Connolly raises questions to staff. Staff Norris advises that a name for the Visitor Center has been determined and that a preliminary design may be ready by the March 23rd Master Plan meeting in Winters. Connolly suggested activities that could be included at the groundbreaking ceremony and is interested in fundraising for the Center.
6. Chair, Commissioner and Staff Comments and Updates
 - a. Update on the master planning process for Lake Solano Regional Park and the public outreach planned to be held at the Winters Community Center on March 23, 2005 at 6:30. Chair Hermsmeyer questioned staff on the protocol for calling a special meeting. Staff advised a request would come to the Commissioner or the Commission and it would be set up by the Chair or the Secretary of the Commission. After a discussion, Commissioners all agreed that March 23rd would be an opportunity for Yolo and Solano County to work on the waterway and connecting trail. They hoped for future collaborations between the counties. Commissioners Hermsmeyer and Riddle planned on attending the meeting. Staff noted that it may also be an opportunity for talk pending Yolo/Solano JPA update for Lake Solano. Norris advised the Commission that initial draft copies of the Master Plan can be available for review by staff and Commissioner Riddle (who was assigned to this planning process by the Chair) in the next few days.

Staff Norris briefed Commissioners on the draft Advisory Board Principals and Policies they were given in their packet. They can return comments by the week of March 23rd with an updated version of what they have twice seen in recent months. They can return comments by the week of March 23rd.

Next Norris notified Commissioners, that the Suisun Resource Conservation District would like to partner with the Parks on developing a two-lane boat launching facility at the old Pierce Lane boat launch of Highway 680. A mem audience, Dept. of Fish & Game Warden Jim Jones, was queried by Commissioners and staff on the site and the p benefits of the proposed facility. It was suggested by staff and recommended by the Commissioners that the Suis Conservation District be requested to present their plans for the site to the Commission at an upcoming meeting. followed between staff, Commissioners and audience members on the proposed development. Commissioner Alva the good access and location between the Benecia boat ramp and the Belden's Landing boat ramp. He also notes opportunities for funding the development would be good from various mentioned funding sources.

Staff Norris then advised the Commission that two Homeless Advocacy groups have taken interest in the Mount V property and have notified the General Service Administration. Staff advised it would update the Commission whe is decided.

7. Update on regional park formation options and related planning and funding timelines. Staff Norris addresses the request of the Board of Supervisors to staff at their January 11 meeting. The request w to find other formation and funding alternatives that did not involve the Public Resources Code 5500 Legislative a governance and five funding strategies were outlined. Commissioner Alvarez requested staff to add the 5500 opti as a sixth funding strategy. Commissioner Garrison questioned staff on the ratio of user fee revenues per facility i Solano Park. Staff advised on the breakdown and noted that recreational use fees and property tax revenues curr offset the costs. Joe Connolly asked if there were any support for recreation in upcoming transportation measures could be support for open spaces in the south county. Commissioners discussed the intent of the latest endeavor smaller South County Regional Park District, instead of the Countywide District the Friends of Solano Regional Par (Friends) were previously working toward. It was asked what had happened to the consensus building process an Friends are not meeting. Commissioner Alvarez noted that the consensus of the public Summits, hosted by the Fr supported a single countywide Regional Park District, not a smaller Park District. Commissioner Riddle stated that Commission should remain clear on a single countywide system. After discussion Commissioners reached the con a one countywide Park system was still best for the County. Staff noted that the Board of Supervisors did not rule formation by Public Resources Code 5500 entirely, but that they wanted staff to come back with additional formal funding options to support an expanded Regional Park system, including a District or Countywide JPA. Staff also r the Board of Supervisors at the January 11th meeting, made it known that they were committed to supporting inc funding for Regional Parks. Discussion followed on how to "fuel" an expanded system. Commissioner Riddle noted lot to expect of limited staff to create all the funding that will be needed. Commissioners Garrison and Hermsmey hard to visualize an expanded system without all new funding sources. Discussion then followed on the upcoming by the Trust for Public Lands Study and the possible direction it may suggest for Regional Park expansion. Commi direct staff to invite the Friends to an upcoming Commission meeting and update the Commission on their plans. Commissioner Alvarez suggested for staff to explore entering into a contract with the Solano Land Trust to help n lands that they have acquired. Staff advised the Commissioners that the County is already looking at such steps.

8. Update on the Sky Valley - Cordelia Hills Open Space Study Area and the special joint meeting of the Tri-City and County Planning Group (JPA Governing Board and Citizen's Advisory Committee) for Monday, March 14, 2005 at 7:00 PM. Staff Norris went over the agenda items before the Tri-City and County Planning Group's upcoming meeting. Disc followed on Agenda item 7e, which calls for action on the consideration of formation of a South County Park Distr would include the Tri-City County Area. Staff Norris noted that he will be at the meeting and address the planning agenda item 7a mentioning the direction the Board of Supervisors gave Park Staff, in regards to recommending o formation and funding options before going to the Legislature.

9. Commission discussion on revisions to the existing By-Laws and further direction to staff. Per Commissioners' request at the February 10th meeting, staff Norris presented excerpts of various Commission concerning Commissioner absences. The results varied on the amount of Commissioner absences allowed. Chair H suggested that the Board of Supervisors amendment of the By-Laws, requiring the replacement of members with two absences in a year, risks the good work that is being done by the Commissioners and does not take into acco many other special meetings and committee functions that Commissioners are involved in. He noted that they ha productive Commission and have been able to hold a quorum. Warden Jones noted the work the Commission has and observed the risk of reinventing the wheel and loose the collective knowledge that has been gained. Commiss

their disagreement with the new amendment. Staff suggested that Commissioners tell their individual appointing Members of their concerns. Staff suggests that the Board of Supervisors decide after discussing it fully. Commissioner Alvarez makes a motion directing staff to request the Board of Supervisors amend the By-Laws to Commissioners with (2) two consecutive, unexcused absences instead of the existing two absences. The motion is by Commissioner Riddle and passed by unanimous vote.

10. 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 (including the surplus Mount Vaca federal property and Pierce Lane boat launch).
- D. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict alcoholic beverages in the Parks.
- E. Consider a naming policy for parks and park facilities.
- F. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict smoking in the Parks (beyond fire safety).
- G. Consider new funding sources for County Parks.
- H. Set a new annual schedule for awards of the Fish & Wildlife Fund.
- I. Consider action on the draft Lake Solano Regional Park Master Plan.

Commissioners call for a Special Meeting of the Commission on April 20th, 2005 at 6:30 PM to address two agencies reviewing the Draft Lake Solano Master Plan and a Commission Recommendation on the Expanded Regional Park Options. It is noted that presentation from the Friends of the Solano Regional Park District group may be included.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for May 12, 2005 at 5:30 PM and the meeting is adjourned at 7:50PM.

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