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Minutes For February 10, 2005

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING, HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005 AT THE VETE
LOCATED AT 549 MERCHANT STREET IN THE CITY OF VACAVILLE

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Hermsmeyer.
2. Roll Call. A quorum was observed, with Commissioners Hermsmeyer, Alvarez, Leong and Riddle present. Commissioner Garrison was excused. Also present were staff Norris, Davis, Tarver, Linne and Fust.
3. Approval of Minutes. On call of Chair Hermsmeyer, a motion was made by Commissioner Leong to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2005 (a Regular Meeting). The motion is seconded by Commissioner Riddle. On a unanimous vote the minutes were approved as written.
4. Approval of Agenda. On a motion by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Leong, the Agenda was unanimously approved without change.
5. Chair Announcements. Chair Hermsmeyer introduced the newly elected Vice Chair Alvarez to the audience.
6. Commissioner and Staff Comments. Commissioner Alvarez makes a case why the existing Commission By-Laws pertaining to how many regular meetings Commissioners miss in a calendar year ought to be modified. Commissioner Alvarez would like a future agenda item to discuss and recommend modification of the existing By-Laws pertaining to absences. He requests staff to make a comparison of other By-Laws for excused absences. Commissioner Hermsmeyer points out that special meetings that are attended by Commissioners on top of regular meetings that should be taken into account. Commissioner Alvarez says the Commission has been able to hold quorums. Commissioner Riddle agrees that a clause for excused absences needs to be reintroduced.
7. Public Comment. Chair Hermsmeyer calls for public comment. Jim Ball thanks the Commission for their visit. Tony Norris for his great effort in getting the County contribution for the acquisition of the Eastern Swett Ranch. He says it will be a protected treasure for future generations to have. Commissioner Alvarez recognized Ball's work as the Director of the Solano Land Trust.
8. Presentations / Updates/ Actions
 - A. Public Hearing for the Lake Solano Regional Park Master Plan. Chair Hermsmeyer introduces staff Fust and Gates. Gates starts by introducing the public and herself. Gates gives an overview of her presentation that will include discussion on the planned Visitor Center.

With the assistance of overhead projection and wall maps, Gates gives an overview of the Master Plan starting from the Flats. Staff Norris answers a member of the audience's question on the total acreage of the park.

The presentation moves to the proposed walnut orchard property, soon to be included. Uses are primarily camping.

camping cabins, RV sites or a combination, depending on revenue potential to cover operating costs of the site. C Alvarez suggests Gates & Associates prepare a maintenance report. Staff Fust notes that will be included in the M for each phase of development. Jim Ball suggests a joint meeting between Solano and Yolo County Park Commiss PCDC cooperative to discuss updating the existing JPA and the possibility of adding camping in the fishing access Solano County managing them. He questions if a concession or non-profit management option has been explored cabins at the walnut orchard site. Mary Helen Seeger notes the existing drainage problems on Sackett Lane and s additional culvert piping. Ball suggests adding a boat storage area somewhere in the park as an additional revenu Chair Hermsmeyer asks about the history of the orchard and is answered by staff and Mary Helen, a nearby resid park. A discussion ensues on keeping a portion of the existing Walnut Orchard intact for an educational componer replace it over time with native species in succession. A discussion follows on water requirements for the orchard need to preserve a part of our agrarian heritage. Ball notes that agriculture tourism is on the rise and suggests th maintained orchard as an attraction. Gates notes that one community orchard sells fruit to fund the irrigation and maintenance of the orchard. Seeger suggests adding example fruit trees around the Visitor Center, where it is pre irrigated.

Gates moves the presentation to the existing campground and highlights the planned improvements, some of wh ongoing. Staff Fust gives an overview of the proposed Visitor Center project, including a conceptual map and a bu Discussion followed on additional arrangement of overflow parking and temporary room for RV uses.

Fust also goes over some of the goals and objectives of the Master Plan. Commissioners Hermsmeyer and Alvarez that the 20 year master Plan better take into account the future demand for additional campsites. A discussion be Commissioner and staff ensues on future requirements. Ball suggests to market off tract usage on midweek and v periods. A discussion follows on ways to market and advertise the park. Staff Tarver notes that the campground i developed with few remaining areas to add campsites. Commissioner Leong is concerned that over usage may aff and notes that the park is a unique place attracting bird watching. Camp Host Phil Martin notes that the site is a c and not a resort. And he has heard a lot of park users mention that they like it as it is as a clean and shaded exp Norris notes that the planned uses of the park must be consistent with the recommendations of the Bureau of Rec the landowner.

Seeger notes that three parcels of nearby properties are for sale and suggests expanding the park to other areas additional campsites. Staff Tarver and Norris talk about the proposed 15 acre Fish and Game property below the l Dam and the potential for future expansion there. Commissioner Leong suggests that another agency, like the PC cooperative, should get involved with grant applications for agricultural interpretation.

Commissioner Alvarez suggests the plan include a Dam to Dam trail showing access easements on neighboring pr North West of the walnut orchard properties. Staff Davis advises the planning group that the entire park is not sh proposed plans and that an additional mile of waterway and park are off the planning area maps and should be in Davis also mentions that the Yolo County Park Manager Bret Williams suggested at the November Public Meeting Commission that any future trail go on the Yolo County side of the Lake and run between the Yolo Fishing Access again urges staff and the Commissioners to set up a joint meeting were a Dam to Dam trail and the possibility of and managing more campsites in the Yolo Fishing Accesses could be discussed and that the time is right for both

The discussion focuses on the underutilized aspects of the Day Use Area and planned improvements to attract mc and usage. Commissioner Leong notes the need for a pedestrian bridge over Pleasants Creek and the benefits to usage. Funding alternatives are discussed by Commissioners, Ball and staff for a new bridge. Mary Helen Seeger i that there is a sectional type bridge being used in Vacaville that would be far below the previous cost estimates, a would provide the information to staff. Members of the Vacaville Sunrise Rotary in the audience, offered thier Clul whatever areas they may be needed, including the bridge. Gates suggests their help in the constructing of a boar the restored wetland area. Staff Norris notes that the County can coordinate the materials for the Rotary voluntee some of the planned improvements. The store room in the rest room near the fishing pond was noted to be under could better house project needs of a Rotary Club program.

Fust thanked the audience for their comments. Fust advises the Commission that a draft will be before them in a review and that they could recommend or make final changes then. He also notes it will also go to the Bureau of for their authorization.

B. The Commission Considers and recommends annual adjustments to the Recreational Fee Schedules for Solano Regional Parks. Staff Norris explains to the Commissioners that annually, staff can propose updates and changes schedule, along with other County Departments. Norris goes over the few changes suggested this year. Commission staff discuss possible new fees, such as reduced rates for County residents (including buying two days and receiving free). Hermsmeyer and Alvarez emphasize the need to promote sales for the parks. It is offered that the agencies other thru their brochures and newsletters. The City of Benicia could set an example by posting for the regional p adds two other options for discussion; a rental fee for the proposed Visitor Center auditorium and a fee for a lifeti pass. Discussion follows on each option as future considerations. Commissioner Riddle makes a motion to recomn suggested fee schedule as written. Commissioner Leong seconds the motion. The Commission votes and the reco are unanimously approved.

9. Future Agenda Items. Chair Hermsmeyer requests staff to give a status report on each item.

A. ADA policy for campsite reservations. Staff Norris explains that when planned ADA improvements are made at campsites, and then the reservation policy will be brought before to the Commission for discussion.

B. Hear report on Mare Island Regional Park. Staff Norris explains that the group is in a report writing phase and will come back to the Commission as it progresses.

C. Consider new park sites. Norris notes the list in the updated Park and Recreation Element.

D. Consider new funding sources for County Parks. Staff Norris explains the need to expand services and facilities.

E/F/G. Naming policy for parks and park facilities, Prohibit or restrict smoking in the Parks (beyond fire safety) and prohibit or restrict alcoholic beverages in the Parks. Staff comments that all three will be included in upcoming park ordinance amendments that are being worked on by County Council.

Additional future agenda items suggested were;

-Organizing and drafting a letter for a joint meeting of the Solano and Yolo County Park and Recreation Commission and PCDC partnership group.

-Considering recommending to the Board of Supervisors a change to the existing Bylaws pertaining to the maximum number of excused absences allowed by Commissioners at Regular meetings.

Staff Alvarez advises the Commission that he will be late to the next regular meeting.

Adjournment is at 8:55 PM with March 10, 2005 at 5:30 PM set as the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.

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