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Minutes For January 11, 2007

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - FI HEARING ROOM, LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Commission Members Present: Hermsmeyer, Alvarez, Riddle, Leong & Laevastu

Commission Member Excused: All were present.

Staff Present: Epner, Tanner-Linne

- Chair Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:26 PM. A quorum was confirmed.
- Approval of Agenda: Staff Epner pulled item D -the Non Smoking policy for County Regional Parks from th Staff Epner asked the Park & Recreation Commission's adhoc committee on Smoking Policies if they (Commission and Commissioner Alvarez) would meet with the Smoking Alliance group and the Park Services Manager to review Smoking policy for the Parks. The adhoc committee said they would be glad to meet with the committee.
Commissioner Laevastu made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion. Th was approved unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes: There were no changes to the minutes. Commissioner Laevastu moved to approve th November 9, 2006. Commissioner Leong seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. Commissioner Alv abstained since he was not in attendance of the November 9, 2006 meeting

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair:

Chair Hermsmeyer opened the floor for the Commissioners to volunteer for the position of Chair. Commissioner L if any of the Commissioners were getting close to their terms expiring. Staff Epner stated no one's term would e 2008.

Commissioner Alvarez made a motion that Steve Hermsmeyer stay on as Chair and Commissioner Riddle seconde motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor. Chair Hermsmeyer will be the Chairman of the Park & Recre another year.

Commissioner Leong made a motion that Commissioner Laevastu be the Vice Chair of the Park & Recreation Com Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous Commissioner Laevastu be the Vice Chair

- Chair Announcements: A Public Meeting for review of the 's Public Access Plan for Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills Space, Vallejo Swett Ranch, Eastern Swett Ranch and King Ranch' will be held on Tuesday January 30, 2007 at Fairfield-Cordelia Public Library, 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield.

Staff Epner stated the Solano Land Trust had asked to come before the commission and make a presentation. The Commission said it would like a short version of the presentation since the agenda was so packed tonight.

Sue Wickum of the Solano Land Trust made the presentation to the Commission. Sue spoke of the new ridge trail available to the public by fall of 2007; the identification of endangered species and endangered habitat within the area; opportunities for access, and limitations on the access to the plan area. Sue said that the Solano Land Trust around \$8,000 as matching funds to complete the ridge trail by the fall of 2007. Sue informed the commission that not make the January 30, 2007 meeting, the Solano Land Trust will be presenting the access plan before the Board Supervisors and GVRD. The Solano Land Trust also provided each of the Commissioners a copy of the Public Access CD. Sue stated the access plan is also on their website at www.solanolandtrust.org.

6. Public Comments:

The Smoke Free Parks group said they looked forward to meeting with the Commissioners and Staff Epner to discuss campsites that might become smoke free within the County Parks. Commissioner Laevastu stated the working group include County Counsel or have County Counsel look over it afterward to ensure we are on a legal track.

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

Receive reports from Staff on the following:

Parks Division Staff Reports and Recommendations for Commission Action:

A. Staff Epner reported the County would be conducting interviews on January 25, 2007 for the position of Park Manager and by next meeting there could be a Park Manager. He stated there were two applicants for the position at that moment.

Commissioner Alvarez stated the Commission had advised Staff Taylor that the commission would like to sit on the panel for the Parks Manager's position. Chair Hermsmeyer stated Commissioner Riddle had been selected with Commissioner Alvarez to be the alternative if Commissioner Riddle could not attend. Staff Epner said he would take the message to Interim Director Pam Ogle.

X Status of Agreement between the County and the Solano Land Trust for the operation of Lynch Canyon for access;

The opening of Lynch Canyon Open Space will be on May 11, 2007. Staff Epner stated the County has reached an agreement with Solano Land Trust. There still is a lot of work to be completed at the new park along with the hiring and training of new Park Ranger and Assistant Park Ranger. It will take 30 days to complete the background check for each of the employees. Initially, the new employees could be started at an existing park and experienced rangers could work at Lynch Canyon.

Also a Chief Ranger position is under consideration. That person would be a law enforcement and training expert and also being a working ranger. If this position is approved the Park Services Manager would need less law enforcement support.

B. Receive a report from Staff on activities at Regional Park Facilities;

Staff Epner gave a status report of attendance and revenues of the three parks.

C. Approval of staff recommendation of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant Awards for FY 2006/07 to be presented to the County Board of Supervisors;

Staff Epner stated the applications had been reviewed and four grants were submitted and three grants were recommended for approval and one at a lower funding level. Three were significantly within the guidelines one was not. The Suisun Natural History submission was poorly written and the evaluators could not tell what the goals were or how it would benefit wildlife.

Staff Epner stated the information regarded in each of the grants and the amount of funds each grant had asked amount being funded.

Commissioner Riddle said he would refrain from voting on these due to his role with the Solano Resource Conserv District.

Commissioner Laevastu stated she was pleased how the application process had worked and it was professionaliz agrees this one application needs to re-look at how they fill out the information. The application states the funds for an education program that meets the code. The verbal part describes the organization instead of the project. have changed the process we may want to give some leeway to the organization to learn what we are looking for Commissioner Laevastu recommends the commission consider some funds for this proposal.

Commissioner Alvarez applauded staff for the way they considered the applications. Commissioner Alvarez thought can fund all the applications. Commissioner Alvarez stated if each of the applicants were cut some then all four co funded.

Monique Liquori, from the Suisun Marsh Natural History Association addressed the commission stating, "Unfortun organization did not for reasons that are no fault of this commission have time to respond to this." She clarified "The goals are ongoing goals to increase participation by 5%." Another goal is "to revise one program yearly." goal was also met last year. Monique spoke of the past goals and the past experiences and appreciation of the fur the commission in the past.

Staff Epner said that rather than reverting to the "proportionate allocation of funding" the Commission use extr from the Kinder Morgan funds to grant \$1,000 to the Natural History Association. Monique said they would apprec funds available.

Commissioner Laevastu made a motion to approve the Wildlife application grants in the amounts recommended in application for Suisun Marsh Natural History Association for \$1,000. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion. was unanimously approved. Commissioners Hermsmeyer, Alvarez and Laevastu voted on the approval of the app Commissioners Riddle and Leong abstained due to their involvement with several of the associations.

D. Receive an invitation from the Suisun Resource Conservation District to tour the Suisun Marsh and the site Kinder Morgan diesel spill.

The Commission discussed and accepted the Suisun Resource Conservation District's invitation to tour the Suisu each commissioner stated which days they would be available for the tour. Staff Epner stated he would contact th and make the arrangements and notify the Commission.

E. Approve a letter of support for Yolo County's grant request to improve the fishing access sites on the East Putah Creek.

Commissioner Hermsmeyer said the commission was in to support Yolo County request for grants.

Commission Laevastu made a motion to approve the recommendation of Solano County's Park & Recreation Cha letter of support for Yolo County Parks, so they can apply for grants to improve the fishing access on the Eastern Creek. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

F. Committee Reports: None Scheduled

8. Future Agenda Items (for reference only):

- A. Receive report on Mare Island Regional Park.
- B. Consider new park sites.
- C. Consider new funding sources for County Parks.
- D. Joint parks planning with Yolo County.

- E. Commissioner training in press and media relations.
- F. Commissioner update on Brown Act.

9. Confirm next regular meeting of March 8, 2007 at 5:30 P.M. and Adjourn at 6:55 P.M. There will be a train on the Brown Act at 5:00 PM on March 8th.

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