

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, HELD THURSDAY, September 8, 2005 AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER GROUND FLOOR HEARING ROOM, LOCATED AT 675 TEXAS STREET IN THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Commission members present: Hermsmeyer, Laevastu and Riddle

Commission members absent: Alvarez and Leong were both excused

Staff present: Norris

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM by Chair Hermsmeyer.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was confirmed.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** On call of Chair Hermsmeyer, Commissioner Riddle made a motion to approve the Minutes for the May 12, 2005 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hermsmeyer. Commissioner Laevastu abstained.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** No changes were noted, Laevastu motioned and Riddle seconded for approval.
5. **Chair Announcements:** Chair Hermsmeyer described the new Committee assignments he is making to help keep Commission business going. He noted that Dimitrios Georges, who is a resident of Dixon, has volunteered to participate in some of the Committees. Laevastu asked for clarification on conduct of reports from the Committees back to the full Commission. This would happen on an as needed basis. Norris noted for the record that each of these Committees appear to be appointed on an *ad hoc* basis for the purposes of Commission business. A list of Committee assignments are included with the Minutes by reference. Hermsmeyer introduced and welcomed Laevastu back to the Commission. He also pointed out the new Solano County Regional Parks brochures that are available for distribution. Thru the Chair, Riddle presented a copy of the *Plea Bargain Agreement* for the Kinder Morgan case settlement for Parks files.
6. **Commissioner and Staff Comments:** Norris informed the Commission that some remaining Proposition 40 funding is still available to help support projects noted in the Master Plan update for Lake Solano Park. Some of these projects are also listed in the County's 5 Year Capital Improvements Plan and associated shoreline improvements, trail upgrades, signage, ADA accesses and Visitor Center learning stations can be matched from an application to the Proposition 50; River Parkways Grant Program. The application will be made in partnership with other agencies in the area that can include the US Bureau of Reclamation, Yolo County, Solano County Water Agency, City of Winters, UC Davis and City of Davis for similar and coordinated project improvements along the Putah Creek watershed. The Commissioners were generally supportive of this approach. He informed the Commission that he is on the verge of hiring a new Park Ranger. US Bureau of Reclamation staff also assisted with the interviews. The new certified list for Park Rangers established by the

process contains several particularly strong and talented candidates to draw from as County Parks assumes management of other properties like Lynch Canyon and Mount Vaca. Commission members noted their concerns for staffing levels at the County parks. Norris stated that the National Park Service is still processing the title transfer for the Mt. Vaca property. He reminded the Commission that they can expect to have a lead in conducting public hearings for planning the recreational reuse of the site once the transfer is confirmed. The revised By-Laws approved by the Board were noted in the Commissioner's packets. Norris also noted that Commissioner Laevastu plans on attending the "Working with Boards" event hosted by County Counsel on Friday and another similar workshop hosted by the CAPRCBM on Saturday.

7. **Public Comments:** Jim Ball updated the Commission on the planning activities of the BRBNA and invited them to attend a BRBNA regional trails workshop to be held at the Winters Community Center in late October or early November. Norris will confirm the date for the Commissioners.

8. The Commission acknowledged acceptance of applications for the next cycle of the Fish & Wildlife grant awards by consensus. A list of applications is included with the Minutes by reference. Commissioner Riddle advised the Commission that he would recuse himself from any scheduled discussions and votes on the two applications submitted by the Solano Resource Conservation District. Norris noted that there is still no timeline established yet for deposit of additional amounts to the Fish and Wildlife Fund as mitigation from the Kinder Morgan case settlement. Acceptance is consistent with the following adopted Schedule:
 - July 14, 2005 – Authorize distribution of applications.
 - September 1, 2005 -- Closing date for applications to be submitted.
 - September 8, 2005 – Confirm acceptance of applications/initial review of qualified applicants.
 - October 2005 – Either a Special meeting or subcommittee for further review of applications, as needed.
 - November 17, 2005 – Presentations by qualified applicants to the Commission as a public hearing.
 - January 12, 2006 – Recommendations by the Commission to the Board

9. Felicia Flores-Workman and Valerie Williams of the Tobacco Prevention & Education Program updated the Commission on initial litter surveys in the regional parks and the feedback from interviews with Park Rangers. They provided handouts of the surveys and related information. Emphasis of their discussions with the Commission centered on the health hazards imposed on other park visitors by second hand smoke. Hermsmeyer brought attention to the smoke free parks concept contained in the ordinances or guidelines of other agencies. He feels there should be no place for smoking around leisure activities. Riddle sought clarification on the percentage of smokers who may actually be in the parks and how serious a problem it is to have to enforce given all the other responsibilities Park Rangers have. Further talk followed regarding appropriate fitting of an ordinance and guidelines to the situation. Laevastu noted the need for restrictions for public health and wildlife protection. Hermsmeyer spoke about the importance of keeping a healthy parks concept in mind while he and Riddle as the newly appointed committee help research the issues for staff and the Smoke Free Parks Committee.

10. Sue Wickham of the Solano Land Trust (SLT) updated the Commission on the Resource Management Plan for the Sky Valley – Cordelia Hills open space areas which include the King and Swett Ranches. She reviewed the types of biological monitoring underway and the public access components to be covered by LandPeople. She provided a handout which is a draft schedule of upcoming public meetings to support the public access planning in October and November. Meetings will be held in Fairfield, Vallejo and Benicia as well as with the Tri-City and County Advisory Committee and Agricultural Advisory Committee. SLT and LandPeople will come back to the Commission in May or June of 2006 with a draft plan and then proceed to complete CEQA requirements. Hermsmeyer wanted to know if the plan will address collection of fees and other funding sources. He and Laevastu inquired if each property will have an estimate of revenue generating capacity to offset a possible tap of future County resources beyond the \$65,000 about to be committed. These type of estimates can be expected to be included in the analysis provided by LandPeople from identifiable resource area to resource area across all the King/Swett properties and not necessarily be confined by existing boundaries. Expanded docent led programs would most likely be identified as the first steps for public access. Riddle asked how this planning process is different from previous planning done for the same areas. The public outreach meetings in October and November will explain the planning history and outline what recreation is possible in relation to other resources of the area. Hermsmeyer wanted to be sure that the next steps for administration of the area will also be considered during the planning process.
11. Norris outlined options open to the Commission to address creation of an appropriate memorial for Mick Freese. Hermsmeyer sees the sense in finding a memorial at Sandy Beach Park or elsewhere and accepts that the newly appointed Committee can take it on to simultaneously test the naming guidelines they will be working on. The Committee will check with the City of Rio Vista, the local 4H Club and County Parks. Riddle asked if the 4H Club could provide a letter of recommendation to aid the naming process.
12. **Future Agenda Items:**
 - A. Staff report on ADA policy for campsite reservations.
 - B. Hear report on Mare Island Regional Park (a Committee project).
 - C. Consider new park sites (possible Committee project).
 - D. Consider new funding sources for County Parks (a Committee project).
 - E. Consider a naming policy for parks and park facilities (a Committee project).
 - F. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict smoking in the Parks (a Committee project).
 - G. Recommendation to prohibit or restrict alcoholic beverages in the Parks (part of a Committee project).
 - H. Joint parks planning with Yolo County.
 - I. Visitor Center development update (part of a Committee project).
 - J. Fish & Wildlife Fund grant program (a Committee project).

The Commissioners confirmed that the next regular meeting will be on November 17, 2005 at 5:30 PM. and reserved the option to hold a special meeting in late September or early October if the Chair and Secretary find that it would be needed to aid the work of one or more of the Committees.

Adjournment: Chair Hermsmeyer adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM.