

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
March 9, 2017**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room  
675 Texas Street, Fairfield  
10:00 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Alvarez, Whited and Riddle  
**Members Excused:** Chairman Hermsmeyer and Commissioner Leong  
**Staff Present:** Chris Drake, Parks Services Manager,  
Resource Management, Diane Gilliland, Resource  
Management

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Vice-Chair Whited called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of January 12, 2017 were approved (motion by Commissioner Riddle, second by Commissioner Alvarez).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved (motion by Commissioner Riddle, second by Commissioner Alvarez).

**4. Chair and Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Alvarez noted that he had a meeting with Supervisor Monica Brown where he advised her of the Park and Recreation Commission activities. He asked Mr. Drake if he could send her the Recommendations Report for the proposed Regional Park District. Commissioner Riddle commented that he had also met Supervisor Brown at a flood control meeting. Commissioner Whited asked about the status of filling the Park Supervisor Ranger position. Mr. Drake noted that applicants are currently going thru background checks.

**5. Creation of Parks District Ad Hoc Committee Members (2 Commissioners)**

Mr. Drake suggested that the item be continued to the next meeting as two Commissioners were not in attendance. He noted that staff had received and were reviewing a document from the consultants for the regional park admin plan.

Commissioner Alvarez noted that the commission will not meet again for two months. He was concerned about the Commission's absence at any regional park meetings that may occur in that two month period. He suggested that the Commission appoint an interim committee today to attend any regional park meetings that may occur before a more permanent committee can be appointed at the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting in May. Commissioner Whited made a motion to appoint an interim representative to attend regional park meetings and nominated Commissioner Alvarez. Commissioner Riddle recommended that the Commission appoint two representatives. Commissioner Whited amended his motion to appoint two representatives and nominated Commissioner Alvarez and Commissioner Riddle as interim Ad Hoc committee members. Commissioner Riddle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Public Comments**

There were no comments.

**7. Approve Recommendation of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF) Awards for FY2016/17, to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors**

There was one application from the Napa-Solano Audubon Society for a Tricolored Blackbird Breeding colony Survey in the area of Fairfield and Vacaville. Commissioner Riddle noted that he and Chairman Hermsmeyer reviewed and scored the application. The only possible weakness was how the applicant planned to carry the survey program forward over the years. The ad hoc committee recommended that the Commission award the Napa-Solano Audubon Society a grant award of \$2500. Commissioner Riddle made a motion to award the applicant a grant in the amount of \$2500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alvarez. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Commissioner Outreach Reports**

Commissioner Alvarez reported that he met with the Solano County State Parks committee and in attendance was Supervisor Brown, two councilmembers and the mayor from Benicia, Benicia city staff, and some aids to state elected officials. It's becoming more of an informational meeting. There is no plan to shut down either of the state parks. He believed that Solano County representatives now have the ear of State staff concerning the State parks in Benicia.

**9. Status reports by Staff**

**A. Attendance and Revenue Summary**

Park attendance and revenue are moving ahead as projected with some reduced visitor use as a result of the recent storm events. Revenue was 63% at this time last year and presently we are at 61% which is acceptable considering the number of closures the parks have had over the past months.

**B. Project Updates**

The Solano County General Services capital improvement project coordinator has put the Belden's Landing improvement project on their schedule. The Commissioners received a diagram of the project. The promenade area will be resurfaced; ADA compliant ramps and parking spaces will be installed. There will be three shade structures, one of which will be ADA compliant. The project has already been awarded and will begin soon.

**C. Park Closure Status and Storm Event Updates**

All the parks have sustained some storm damage. There have been frequent closures at Lynch Canyon. The Ken Poerner Trail washed out near the intersection with Kestrel Trail. At Belden's Landing there was groundwater intrusion into the waste vault and the vault seal was compromised caused by flooding.

Lake Solano also had closures. The boat launch was closed due to flooding that reached up to the restroom area after overflow water from Monticello Dam began to be released into Putah Creek. There were potholes and failed asphalt at several locations in the campground roads and the day use parking lot. Lower campsites were flooded and damaged.

Sandy Beach experienced closures due to flooding. Flooding and heavy sand deposits prevented access to the boat launch. The launch also incurred some damage when logs and Tule became lodged under it. The beach was under water all the way up to the vegetation line. A large eucalyptus branch broke off and took out a portion of the fence and clipped the power line that runs along the back side of the park. There were 5 trees lost and 3 damaged in the campground area. There were numerous potholes and areas with failed asphalt.

The funds that are being used to repair park damage are currently coming out of the Parks operational budget. The Department of Resource Management has applied for funding from OES and has requested \$50,000 for park repairs.

**10. Confirm Date of Next Meeting, and Adjourn (Action Item)**

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a regular Commission meeting on May 11, 2017 in its regular location, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.