

**Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 5, 2015
Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center, Redwood City**

MINUTES

Chair Merrilees called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Cooney, Enriquez (Vice Chair), Merrilees (Chair), Pincus, Ruehl (Youth Commissioner)

Commissioners Absent: Okelo

Staff Present: Arechiga, Bennett, Finley, Hallett, Lombardi, Schoof, Weaver, Wright

Oral Communications

Ms. Lennie Roberts, Committee for Green Foothills, provided the Commission with a letter dated February 5, 2015 regarding her organization's opposition to consideration of disc golf at Junipero Serra County Park.

Agenda Amendments

None.

Presentation

Community Health and the Role of Parks, Trails and Open Space - Ms. Jessica Osborne, Senior Community Health Planner, County of San Mateo Health System

Ms. Osborne presented information on health profiles and Trust for Public Lands ParkScore maps for the cities of Daly City, South San Francisco, Redwood City, and East Palo Alto.

Commissioners made general comments about the information presented noting particularly correlation between greater park access and better health profile data. Youth Commissioner Ruehl mentioned that the data as presented could obscure the importance of parks for youth and the need for greater access to parks for them.

County Parks Community Engagement Plan – Ms. Carla Schoof, Community Programs Coordinator

Ms. Schoof presented the County Parks Community Engagement Plan. She said the focus would be to position the Parks Department as the source of information about parks and facilitate information sharing among park stakeholders and the broader community. She noted that a variety of communication methods, interpretive programming, expanded volunteer programs and stronger partnerships would be used to accomplish this goal. She said effectiveness would be measured through a

community survey in 2018 (fifth year of the Parks Strategic Plan) as successful if community members were able to identify at least two San Mateo County Parks and name special features/resources of at least one County Park.

Ranger Wright provided the Commission with information on educational and interpretive programs and tools supporting children and youth.

Commissioner Pincus noted that these could be tailored to even younger children relative to the general trend of preschool and kindergarten education. The importance of interpretation and education for seniors was also emphasized.

Director Finley said programs in the future that staff are considering include mountain biking on Old Haul Road for teen and adults and van tours to the parks for those seniors who were less mobile.

Mr. Chris Johnson, El Granada, noted through his travel in most of the United States that parks used a passport program for education and interpretation.

Ms. Schoof said the passport program was built into the Jr. Ranger program.

Action Items

Review and Approve Minutes of the December 4, 2014 Regular Meeting

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to approve the December 4, 2014 minutes as submitted.

Motion carried 5-0.

Selection of Commission Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2015

Chair Merrilees noted that nominations for Chair received by the Commission Secretary were: Marico Enriquez, Neil Merrilees, Mel Pincus.

Commissioner Cooney seconded the nomination for Marico Enriquez for Chair.

Motion was 2-2 with Youth Commissioner Ruehl not voting.

Commissioner Merrilees seconded the nomination for Mel Pincus for Chair.

Motion carried 3-2.

Chair Merrilees noted that the nominations for Vice Chair received by the Commission Secretary were for Marico Enriquez and Meda Okelo.

Commissioner Cooney seconded the nomination of Marico Enriquez for Vice Chair.

Motion carried 5-0.

Review and Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Neil Merrilees' Service as 2014 Chair of the County of San Mateo's Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Action: Consensus to adopt.

Commission Subcommittee Reports

Mini-Parks Subcommittee

Commissioner Merrilees said the subcommittee was very close to having a draft policy on mini-parks in unincorporated San Mateo County and expected it to come to the Commission in April for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Director Finley highlighted Measure A proposals for FYs 2015-2017 noting that 30 of 300 proposals were for park related projects and the intent to transfer Pedro Point Headlands to County Parks in the future. She noted that Peninsula Open Space Trust was seeking funds from the California Coastal Commission to acquire a 21-acre parcel of undeveloped land surrounded on three sides by County parks' lands.

Harbormaster's Report

No additions to the written report.

Parks Superintendent's Report

No additions to the written report.

Natural Resource Manager's Report

Natural Resource Manager Arechiga reported in addition to her written report that the contractor had removed 16 tons of invasive species from Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Fiscal Officer's Budget Report

No additions to the staff report.

Park Planner's Report

No additions to the staff report.

Community Program Specialist's Report

No additions to the staff report.

Development Consultant's Report

- i. *Complete the Gap in the Crystal Springs Regional Trail Project*

No additions to the staff reports.

Park News

No additions to the staff report.

Ms. Julia Bott, San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, reported that the Board of Supervisors in January approved acceptance of nearly \$125,000 for projects at Coyote Point Recreation Area, Parks' Volunteer Program, SCA summer crews, work at the Bill and Jean Lane Educational Center, and new trail signs.

Chair Pincus asked if the Commissioners had any reports to make. Youth Commissioner Ruehl reported on an upcoming Youth Conference on February 7.

Chair Pincus asked if there were credit card entry machines at the parks which he thought would increase revenue. Director Finley said a study was done a year prior and machines have been ordered for the gatehouse at Coyote Point Recreation Area.

Chair Pincus asked staff to look at what appeared to be stumps of pilings in the water in the beach area at Coyote Point Recreation Area as he feared they were a safety hazard. Superintendent Lombardi said staff would be investigate.

Future Agenda Items

None identified.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.