



SAN BENITO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Don Kelley Chair District 1	Jim West District 2	Daniel Dungy District 3	Ray Pierce Vice-Chair District 4	Wilbert White, Jr. District 5	Janie Lausten Historical Society	Jesse Garza Veterans Park Commission	Youth Rep. San Benito HS	Youth Rep. San Benito HS
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San Benito County Board Chamber – 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023

REGULAR MEETING ACTION MINUTES August 17, 2010

1. Call To Order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Don Kelley.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Kelley.

1.2 Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Don Kelley, Daniel Dungy, Ray Pierce, Wilbert White, Janie Lausten, and Jesse Garza.

Absent: Jim West.

Also present: Public Works Administrator Steve Wittry, Staff Analyst Mike Hodges.

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on August 12, 2010, by 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Free Library, San Benito County Courthouse, and San Benito County Administration Building per Government Code Section #54954.2(a).

A motion to acknowledge the Certificate of Posting was made by Commissioner Pierce and seconded by Commissioner Garza. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Consent Items

3.1 Approval of Minutes of July 20, 2010 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pierce and seconded by Commissioner Garza to approve the Consent Items. The motion passed 4-0 with abstention by Commissioners White and Lausten.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

A county budget process update was made by Steve. Currently, the Board of Supervisors are dealing with a roughly \$3 million dollar deficit. A number of departments throughout the County were mentioned as potential areas for cost savings, including Public Works and the Parks Department. A subcommittee was created to investigate all possible alternatives to closing the deficit gap. These are very serious financial times, as the current recommended budget shows, with the elimination of 20 positions. The Board of Supervisors has directed that all training and travel budget dollars be re-evaluated with regards to being mandated to maintain service levels. Currently, all parks are funded, but the subcommittee will be looking into a number of alternatives to reducing general fund expenses. Commissioner

Dungy asked what the current staffing levels of the parks were. Each park is staffed with .9 Full Time Equivalent "FTE" which is made up from a percent of Park Supervisor, Buildings and Ground Manager, Staff Analyst, and Public Works Director. Commissioner Pierce commented that if parks were closed, more cops will be needed on the streets because of the increase of gang activity, due to lack of recreational activities. He also recommended we all contact our supervisors and express the need for county parks.

Mike distributed the De Anza Newsletter to all commissioners, and highlighted the recognition article on page 10 regarding the San Juan Bautista portion of the trail, and the efforts of former supervisor Richard Place. The newsletter is also available online.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations – Information Only

Commissioner Garza presented a status update on the activities of the Veteran's Memorial Park Commission. He updated the group on all the ongoing park projects, scheduling efforts being done between softball and soccer groups, and a use permits topic that will be discussed later in this meeting under Item 6.5.

Commissioner Lausten presented a status update on the activities of the Historical Society. She updated the group on the upcoming Civil War Days at Historical Park on September 18th and 19th. She also wanted to insure the project work would continue even if the maintenance budget dollars are reduced.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Master Plan was adopted during the July 27, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting. A number of commissioners were present during the meeting and expressed full community satisfaction over the plan's passing. Some minor printing corrections were made to the document, which was then posted on the county's web site. A final printing will be made and copies given to all who request it.

Steve added that, even with the current state of the county budget, a majority of the projects identified in the Master Plan were included within this year's budget, and project updates will be presented during upcoming commission meetings.

Kate Felice from the YMCA looks forward to working together with the Parks Department and the county on collaborative efforts within the Master Plan projects.

6.2 River Trail \ Regional Park

There has been no notification from the state regarding this grant opportunity since last month's report. Staff has placed an inquiry to the state regarding the status of the application. No response has been received to date.

6.3 Youth Commissioner Appointment

Staff currently has one application for youth commissioner on record. The Commission timeline for placement extended the recruitment period until late September, with an appointment date sometime in mid October. This time frame will provide a greater opportunity for students to receive the information and submit the application.

A recommendation was also made to provide a Certificate of Recognition to Sarah and Blanca for their service during the prior year. These would be presented during the next Commission meeting.

6.4 McCarthy Park Improvements

During the July 20, 2010 meeting, the Commission requested a presentation be made to the City of Hollister Parks Commission regarding the opportunities available at McCarthy Park. Steve and Don attended the meeting and presented the idea of \$70,000 towards a new playground element with safety fencing. The City Commission provided input and gracefully approved moving forward with the project partnership. A Joint Use Agreement will need to be executed to address the maintenance aspects and access requirements.

6.5 Park Land Use Permits

During the August 2, 2010 Veterans Park Commission meeting, an action item regarding Park Land Use Permits was discussed. The discussion issues involved what permits are necessary and required for an individual or organization to hold fund raising activities within the parks. The Veterans Park Commission deferred a decision on this topic to the SBCPRC, in order to facilitate some type of county-wide park land-use policy instead of a Veterans Park only policy.

Since the Veterans Park Commission meeting, research has determined that the current Veterans Park Ordinance already deals with user groups' request for use. It was discussed and recommended that this new information be brought back to the Veterans Park Commission for them to revisit the topic and determine if user group access is still an issue.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission, Commissioner Lausten made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Garza. Motion passed 6-0.

The next regular meeting of the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hodges, Staff Analyst
San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission