



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 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

San Benito County Board Chamber – 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023

REGULAR MEETING ACTION MINUTES October 19, 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, Jim West, Daniel Dungy, Ray Pierce, Wilbert White, Janie Lausten, and Jesse Garza.

Absent: None.

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

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on October 15, 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 West. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Public Comment

Scott Fuller of the San Benito County YMCA spoke regarding the excitement their organization has with regards to working in partnership with the county parks commission to benefit the citizens of San Benito County and the State of California.

3. Consent Items

3.1 Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2010 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dungy and seconded by Commissioner Garza to approve the Consent Items. The motion passed 7-0.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

Mike informed the commission that the Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan final version was now ready for printing. A query of the commission found the need for five hard printed copies and the remaining copies would be soft CD versions.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations – Information Only

Commissioner Garza presented a recap of the Veterans Memorial Park Commission meeting from Monday, October 4, 2010. Highlights included the introduction of Paul St. John who will be replacing Fred Pagaran as representative from the San Juan Bautista VFW Post 6359.

Commissioner Lausten presented a recap of the monthly activities of the Historical Society. Highlights included the recent Civil War event held at the County Historical Park.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Parks Project update

Capital Projects Manager Adam Goldstone presented an overall status update of short term park project accruing within years 1 thru 5 of the master plan. Adam updated the commission on current progress and estimated timelines for all projects identified within the Veterans Park, Historical Park, and the River Park project.

Commissioner Dungy congratulated staff on the successful Veterans Park Access project. Commissioner Lausten also congratulated staff with regards to the successful Bar-B-Que Pit project at the Historical Park.

Commissioner White commended staff on the current project progress and asked what the process was for starting a new park project within the county. Steve recommended a starting point for future projects would be during a SBCPRC meeting with a presentation by a commissioner or interested party. The project would then progress with input from the public, commission, and staff. This type of process would insure total transparency.

Chairman Kelley thanked Steve and staff for their efforts in keeping project expenses within budget and even taking measures to cut cost, while keeping quality standards high.

6.2 River Trail \ Regional Park

Mike updated the commission that on September 2, 2010 the county received word from the State Parks that our grant application for the River Parkway – Phase II had been denied. Three reasons were given as weak points within the application. Improvement was needed on the working budget, local water agency partnerships and the new Union Road Bridge realignment project. The county is planning to submit a new application during the second round of funding sometime in early 2011. Commission discussion continued on the planning of tasks in anticipation of a successful second application submittal. Items identified that would assist the second application process were increased outreach, bridge and park joint plans, revised dollar request amounts, and increased commission interaction with state lobbying agencies.

6.3 Bear Valley School

Mike presented a letter received from the Jefferson Elementary School District requesting a SBCPRC decision of interest regarding the sale of the Bear Valley School location. The school district wishes to sell the old school property and is required by California Education Code to first request interest from the local city and county parks departments.

Commission discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the county taking over and creating a park down in south county adjacent to the Pinnacles National Park. The final commission consensus was no interest in the property. Staff was directed to take the necessary steps to inform the school district.

6.4 Youth Commissioner appointment

Mike informed the commission that to date only one application has been received. Staff made a second request to both county high schools that commissioners were being recruited for.

Commissioner Dungy recommended increased communication with school counselors and even making a presentation during a school career day or back to school day event. Dan volunteered to make contact with the local schools in hope of increasing youth interest and application submittals.

6.5 County Budget Update

Steve presented to the commission a decision from the BOS regarding steps to realize cost savings within the county parks budget. The major changes to the budget would be removal of training budget and a reduction in the number of commission meetings from monthly to quarterly. The reduced meeting demands would allow for the current levels of maintenance at all county parks to remain. This maintenance levels will allow public access to all parks to remain at current levels year round without limited hours of operation.

Commissioner Dungy commented that he appreciates the work and efforts of staff and everyone on this young commission, but he wanted to keep the county park progress moving forward by not limiting the public to only four opportunities per year to be represented.

Commissioner Pierce echoed these concerns and added the public needs to see this commission's accomplishments to further improve future public support that will be requested.

Commissioner Lausten agreed with all comments. She would like any ordinance or by-law changes to be worded or implemented in a temporary fashion so as to make it easier to revert back to monthly meetings without too much effort.

Commissioner Kelley understands the current economic times and will be investigating other possibilities to continue moving this commission forward. Possibility sub-committees could be utilized if deemed legal.

Steve informed the commission that the BOS has already acted on the sub-committees recommendation and removed the support funding from both county parks commission budgets. The staffing will be reduced from last years .25 FTE level for support for this commission.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission, Commissioner West made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Lausten. Motion passed 7-0.

The next regular meeting of the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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