



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	District 5	Janie Lausten Historical Society	Rich Wagoner Memorial Park Comm.	Sarah Bartholf Youth Rep. San Benito HS	Bianca Vasquez Youth Rep San Benito HS
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San Benito County Board Chamber – 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023

REGULAR MEETING ACTION MINUTES January 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 Commissioner Jim West.

1.2 Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Don Kelley, Jim West, Ray Pierce, Janie Lausten and Bianca Vasquez.

Absent: Commissioners Daniel Dungy, Richard Wagoner and Sarah Bartholf.

Also present: Public Works Administrator Steve Wittry, Staff Analyst Mike Hodges and Veterans Memorial Park Commissioner Jesse Garza sitting in for Richard Wagoner until his appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on January 14, 2010 by 3:00 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).

2. Public Comment

None

3. Consent Items

3.1 Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2009 meeting

Due to the lack of a quorum, these minutes were not approved. These minutes will be brought back to the commission at the February meeting for approval.

3.2 Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2009 meeting

Due to the lack of a quorum, these minutes were not approved. These minutes will be brought back to the commission at the February meeting for approval.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

Steve mentioned that with the upcoming heavy rains, it would be a good test of the drainage on the new Spring Grove Athletic Fields. The contractor's work is still under warranty if any issues arise.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations – Information Only

Don Kelley confirmed the statements during roll call that Jesse Garza would be replacing Richard Wagoner as the representative from the Veterans Park Commission.

Bianca Vasquez gave an update on a new club at the high school. The Lumber Jack Club has just started and will work toward implementing "Green" environmental solutions within the community. Bianca will continue contact with the club as a liaison to this commission.

Don Kelly invited Jesse Garza to provide an update on the Veterans Park Commission and the projects underway at the park.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Mike informed the commission that the County Council's office was also inquiring as to the status of the Master Plan's CEQA review. County Council will need to review the document after it leaves the Planning Department and before it is submitted to Sacramento. In checking with County Council just prior to the meeting, they have not received any documents for review. Inquiries and updates will be brought back to the next commission meeting.

6.2 River Trail/Regional Park

Mike updated the Commission on the Proposition 84 grant application for Phase II of the River Trail Parkway from Union Road Bridge south to just beyond Hospital Road. Jim West recommended this commission review "without his input due to conflict" the Graniterock reclamation plan for that area of the riverbed. There could be opportunities for joint partnerships with local service groups to assist with the river trail project and returning the landscape back to its original native state. Janie Lausten inquired as to the type of trees that would be planted. Steve stated that only native, erosion protective, habitat protective, low maintenance planting would be done.

6.3 Commission Ordinance/By-Laws Update

Mike reported to the Commission that the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the recommended Ordinance updates during their last Board meeting. The next step will occur during the Board meeting on January 26, 2010 when the Ordinance changes would be adopted. The changes would then go into effect 30 days from this signing.

Steve added insight to the BOS concerns about changing to monthly regular meetings and the costs associated with this change. Steve then explained to the BOS the current meeting process and cost savings efforts being implemented. The County Supervisors all acknowledged the admirable accomplishments this commission has made to date. They did not want to slow down the momentum of this commission in any way.

6.4 Property Taxes for Parks & Recreation

Mike recapped the Commission's prior direction to individually inquire of the public, Supervisors, and friends in an effort to gather additional current opinions on this topic. A number of options were presented, with the general consensus being this is a great idea that needs to be done, but now is not the appropriate fiscal time for it.

During public comment, Jerry Muenzer agreed with the Commission's direction.

This topic was closed and tabled until a later time when any Commissioner might wish to bring it back for discussion.

6.5 Clear Creek Management Area

Mike introduced the Commission to an area in the southernmost end of San Benito County called the Clear Creek Management Area. The Bureau of Land Management is charged with the management of this area and is currently bringing forward for review a Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. On January 14, 2010 the BLM held a public meeting in Hollister to present options and gather comments. The presentation of seven usage alternatives ranged from prohibiting all public access to controlled access of certain areas. All the alternatives were designed to minimize the public health risk from exposure to the asbestos in the area.

Janie Lausten also attended this meeting, stating it was similar to a town hall meeting with many, many motorcycle enthusiasts present. They all wanted the area to remain open.

Steve added that BLM would also like the area to remain open to some extent with more controls. This area has been dealing with the asbestos problem for a number of years and the County will default to BLM's medical findings and data analysis regarding the public safety issues. The Clear Creek Area topic was being brought to the Commission's attention today as informational, in that it does deal with recreational activities within the County.

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 6:10 p.m. Second by Commissioner Lausten. Motion passed 5-0.

The next regular meeting of the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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