



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	Estevan Guzman District 5	Janie Lausten Historical Society	Rich Wagoner Vet's Park	Talia Gonzalez Youth Rep. San Benito HS	Kyle Vallejo Youth Rep San Benito HS
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San Benito County Board Chamber – 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023

REGULAR MEETING ACTION MINUTES MARCH 17, 2009

1. Call To Order at 5:30 p.m. by Acting Chair Ray Pierce

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim West.

1.2 Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Don Kelley, Ray Pierce, Jim West, Daniel Dungy, Richard Wagoner, Talia Gonzales, and Estevan Guzman (arrived at 5:35) p.m.

Commissioners Absent: Kyle Vallejo and Janie Lausten.

Staff Present: Janelle Cox, Acting Public Works Administrator; Ken Nattell, Building & Grounds Manager, and Kathy McShane, Secretary I.

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on March 13, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Free Library, San Benito County Courthouse, and San Benito County Administration Building.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Staff Announcements

3.1 Status regarding Form 700, Statement of Economic Interest

Janelle reminded the Commissioners that this form was due in to the County Elections Department by April 1, 2009. Ray Pierce and Jim West turned in their forms to the Clerk. Daniel Dungy said he had mailed his in.

4. Commission Announcements, Introductions, and Presentations – Information Only

4.1 CPRS Conference Report

Several Commissioners attended this conference, as well as Janelle Cox. Chairman Kelley said he would ask each Commissioner to give a brief presentation on the seminars they attended at a future meeting. Commissioners Pierce and Dungy encouraged everyone to attend next year. Everyone agreed they would have gotten more out of the conference if they had stayed at the hotel overnight, when most of the networking took place.

5. Consent Items

5.1 Approval of minutes of February 17, 2009.

Commissioner West said a portion of the minutes addressing the flyball issue at Veterans Memorial Park was not written as he remembered it. He asked staff to review the notes and correct the wording. Chairman Kelley asked staff to bring the minutes back to the next meeting for review and approval.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Program Budget

Janelle handed out a revised copy of the FY 2010-2014 Recommended Capitol Budget. The five year total Prop 40 fund amount is \$556,400. She reviewed each project and the proposed budget for FY 2009-10. Commissioner Pierce asked if the \$2.5 million was for the Regional Park that the sub-committee has been working on; Janelle said it was.

A Commissioner asked if the money received from the cell tower rent could be used for the safety netting at Veterans Memorial Park. Janelle said the Board of Supervisors would make the final determination on the allocation of the General Fund. Commissioner Pierce cautioned the Commission that paying for water might one day be a priority at the park, and the cell tower money might have to go towards that. There was more discussion about the netting for Veterans Memorial Park. Commissioner West reiterated that no activity at the park should negatively impact the neighbors. Commissioner Guzman suggested putting up a tinted net so it would offer shade to the homeowners. Chairman Kelley asked staff to speak to each affected neighbor to see how they felt about the netting. A discussion followed about the cost, lifespan, and engineering that would be involved in putting up the netting. Commissioner Pierce suggested it might be cheaper to re-configure the layout of the fields rather than put up netting.

Commissioner Guzman stated that Bertha Briggs needed a lot of work, such as new toilets, blinds, and paint. He suggested getting the free low-flow toilets that San Benito County Water District is giving away. He asked if the project installing conduit for Spring Grove School District had been awarded yet. Chairman Kelley indicated that he met with Straight Line Boring, who told him that pits have to be dug, and they have to meet with the school district to discuss this further. Janelle said the project might may be completed during the summer to eliminate disrupting school operations. Commissioner Guzman said if he could be of any help to let him know.

Chairman Kelley said he liked the idea of fixing Bertha Briggs, as the facility brings in revenue, approximately \$35,000 over the last four years. Ken Nattell, County Facilities and Grounds Manager, said the fees are minimal, but after the improvements are completed, they could be increased. He stated some work has already been done at Bertha Briggs, such as outside painting, but there was still much to do. The Commissioners concurred with the \$28,000 budgeted to fix Bertha Briggs as opposed to the original \$450,000 budgeted. It was asked if Proposition 40 money could be spent now; Janelle said no, but that the Joint Use Agreements should be approved by the Board and project applications submitted to the State so that when the money becomes available, it can be distributed immediately to the County.

Chairman Kelley said that the YMCA roller hockey was a big success, and that the San Jose Sharks were coming to Hollister in April. He asked when the resurfacing of the basketball court

would be done; Janelle said it was not scheduled to be done until 2009-10, but if the Commission wants it done sooner, it would have to provide a recommendation to staff.

Commissioner Dungy expressed appreciation for the hard work of the staff maintaining Veterans Memorial Park. He added emphasized that in reference to the fly ball issues, the Parks and Recreation Commission was not at all anti-Little League, that it is a great program. Chairman Kelley agreed wholeheartedly.

Operating Budget:

Janelle presented the Requested FY2009-10 Operating Budget for the Veterans Memorial Park and County Parks Budget Units, highlighting increases/decreases from the FY2008-09 Adopted Operating Budget. Chairman Kelley asked if there was a depreciation schedule for the parks equipment in the budget. Janelle did not know, but she will get more information from the Auditor's Office.

7. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Task Force

7.1 Master Plan Update

Janelle said this was a draft document, and she commended the team that put the plan together. It was truly a collaborative effort, involving multiple stakeholders in the community, State and Federal Parks, the City of Hollister, schools, water districts, and other County departments. She then introduced the consultants to present the plan.

Lee Steinmetz, a Consultant for the Master Plan, gave a brief summary of accomplishments to date. He then handed out the draft Organizational Options report that was compiled by Economic and Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS). The report recognizes the abundant recreation programs available in San Benito County, and the opportunity for partnerships with other agencies rather than the formation of a Parks and Recreation District at this time.

Chair Kelley thought the EPS report depicted the County as an information clearinghouse that leaves the infrastructure development to other agencies. Commissioner Pierce agreed, stating the report should make it clear that if facilities are constructed by the County, it will partner with other agencies for services. Commissioner Guzman concurred with the importance of partnerships with the City and school districts. Lee said he would revise the wording.

Elke spoke about the acreage per 1,000 residents. This standard needs to be analyzed and included in the master plan. The acreage standard is usually between 3.5 and 5 acres. She showed some examples of what the acreage would be using different criteria. Five acres per 1,000 residents is the current County standard, although there is no definition of what criteria that is based upon.

Reb Monaco, a County Supervisor, addressed the Commission, suggesting that the County finding out what acreage standard other counties in the area use. He suggested finding out what Santa Clara, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties use as their minimum acreage. He also said to give developers the option of paying "in lieu" fees. He would like research done to justify whatever acreage is decided upon. Commissioner Pierce agreed with Supervisor Monaco.

Chairman Kelley indicated that the subcommittee reviewing parks elements would review the standard at its upcoming meeting and report back to the Commission.

Elke directed the Commissioners to the Capital Recommendations & Costs section of the draft master plan. Commissioner Pierce asked that the walking trails at Veterans Memorial Park be removed. Elke clarified that the lighting of sports fields came from the outreach meetings, and could be moved to long term projects. Commissioner Guzman said the lighting was a good recommendation as there are not enough fields available for night games. The Commission agreed to leave lighting at Anzar High School under the short term projects, but move the proposed lighting for San Benito High School and Marguerite Maze Middle School to the long-term list.

The proposed new Regional Park/River Parkway projects are included. Supervisor Monaco's opinion was that the proposed River Parkway Trail between Nash Road and Hospital Road would get minimal use. He said putting in a new soccer field with a running track around it would get much more use, and youth activities were badly needed in this county. A discussion followed about the importance of trails in the Master Plan.

Elke suggested not taking the trails out of the Master Plan because they would be used to connect future elements in the plan. Chairman Kelley agreed, as long as it was clear that the trail systems are intended to enhance the elements of developments already set in the plan, not to replace other facilities. Janelle Cox added that grant funding is often contingent upon the listing of projects in an approved Master Plan, and recommended keeping the trail elements in the plan.

Commissioner Pierce suggested removing trails and Hernandez Reservoir from the master plan. Chairman Kelley said it was the consensus of the Commission at a previous meeting that access to Hernandez Reservoir was not feasible. Commissioner Pierce said it could be addressed at a later time during an update of the Master Plan. However, Commissioner Guzman disagreed, stating the Commission wanted Hernandez Reservoir in the Master Plan so it would not be forgotten.

The Commission took a break at 7:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:50 a.m.

Scott Fuller, the Chairman of the YMCA Board, commented that it is common for his organization to use other facilities. However, the YMCA is planning to build a new facility on the site where Leatherback Industries once stood. He urged this Commission to consider partnering on a community facility in conjunction with the YMCA, which will be a \$12-15 million dollar facility.

Commissioner Guzman suggested taking the money allocated for San Justo Reservoir to purchase land for access to Hernandez Reservoir, and put this on the short-term project list. Commissioner Pierce suggested the money needed to get easement rights to Hernandez Reservoir would be better spent eradicating the Zebra mussels from San Justo Reservoir, which would get much more use by County residents. Lee suggested that the intended use of these projects should be clearly defined, and a Project Specific Master Plan developed. Lee also said that a feasibility study on access to Hernandez Reservoir and public use could be done. Janelle suggested that if these elements were left in the Plan, grants were more likely to be approved for improvements. Lee noted that trails would more likely receive grant funding if included in a master plan. The Commission agreed to leave Hernandez Reservoir and the trail systems in the Master Plan.

Elke suggested that Operations and Maintenance costs need to be recognized up-front as project components because they can be significant costs. Commissioner Pierce suggested adding a

depreciation schedule to this section and the Commission agreed. Commissioner Pierce asked if solar and wind power be incorporated into costs for new projects. Commissioner Guzman said that on page 9 of the Introduction Chapter it does designate alternate forms of power to be used. Commissioner Pierce asked that this be reiterated in other sections of the Plan.

It was acknowledged that Commissioners may have further editing comments to make on the document. Lee asked the Commissioners to review the documents and send any comments or corrections back to him by the end of the week. Janelle proposed that the Draft Parks & Recreation Facility Master Plan be presented to the Board of Supervisors at its April 28th meeting, which means it has to be completed by mid-April. The sub-committee on Park Elements and Development Standards is meeting on April 8 to make decisions on the acreage per 1,000 residents and other items. The Commissioners, consultants and staff agreed to hold a special evening meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at 5:30 in the Board Chambers. This will be the Commission's final review of the draft plan before it goes to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Guzman asked that the Parks and Recreation website address be placed somewhere in the document.

8. Adjournment:

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 21, 2009.