



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	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 OCTOBER 20, 2009

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

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Dungy.

1.2 Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Don Kelley, Ray Pierce, Jim West, Daniel Dungy, Richard Wagoner, Sarah Bartholf, Estevan Guzman, Bianca Vasquez, and Janie Lausten (arrived at 5:35).

Staff Present: Steve Wittry, Public Works Administrator; Mike Hodges, Staff Analyst; and Kathy McShane, Secretary I.

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on October 15, 2009 by 3:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Free Library, San Benito County Courthouse, and San Benito County Administration Building.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Consent Items

3.1 Approval of minutes of September 15, 2009

Under Section 6.7, Commissioner Pierce corrected the spelling of Father Kambitsch's name from a C to a K. Under Item 4, Commissioner West said the Board approved a Resolution *in support of* renaming Pinnacles National Monument.

With the corrections noted above, Commissioner West made a motion to approve the September 15, 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce, and unanimously approved. Commissioners Lausten and Vasquez abstained from voting.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

None

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations – Information Only

Commissioner Vasquez said the cross-country track team at the high school was using the river area trails to run practices.

Commissioner Bartholf presented a brief slide show of a few of the County's parks. She will add more to it, and bring it back next month. When finished, this could be presented to the Premiere Cinemas as an ad to encourage use of our parks and recreation facilities.

Commissioner West apologized to anyone who did not get the message that last Saturday's re-dedication of the De Anza trail had been postponed. It was decided to move the monument rock, and it would be done soon and the re-dedication rescheduled. He will keep everyone posted.

Commissioner Dungy said he was a volunteer at the Condor Classic bike ride last week, and he thoroughly enjoyed it. He said it gave participants a very positive impression of San Benito County, and he encouraged everyone to volunteer next year if possible.

Commissioner Wagoner said he appreciated the staff reports that accompanied the agenda this week, it helped him to be more familiar with each topic.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Gang Task Force Coordinator – Al DeVos

Al DeVos addressed the Commission, thanking them for the opportunity to meet with them. He gave them his background, and said Parks & Recreation was close to his heart, as he had been involved with them in some way for fourteen years. He was the Executive Director of the Monterey County Police Activities League (PAL) and will be partnering with this group often in the future. He is in his third term as the Treasurer of the Board for the California Police Activities League (CPAL).

He has had extensive training working with gang identification, prevention and intervention. He will be conducting a survey soon to analyze the gang activities in Hollister, especially reaching out to schools and community organizations because different groups view gangs differently.

Commissioner Guzman asked Mr. DeVos if he could give the Commission a quarterly report. He said he would really like to see the gangs run out of our parks, and would like to work with Mr. DeVos any way he could to achieve this. Commissioner Guzman said he would like to see the Neighborhood Watch program re-activated. Mr. DeVos said he could set up an informal process to work on these problems together.

Chairman Kelley said that the City of Fresno had an excellent gang intervention program, and he has a DVD available for viewing. He will bring it to Mr. DeVos so he can possibly get some new ideas for gang intervention.

6.2 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Oral Report)

Mike Hodges gave an update on the progress. He said Lissette Knight would send the Plan to County Counsel this week, for about one week. Commissioner Dungy asked if it had already gone through the Fish and Game Department. Steve Wittry said it did not go to them until after it was approved by the Planning Commission, but Lissette was asking to waive the Fish and Game review and recording fees of \$2,043.

After the Plan leaves County Counsel, it will go to the State Clearing House for 30 days, as well as to other local agencies. Then it will be presented to the Planning Commission, and the final step is to present it to the Board of Supervisors. It will come back to this Commission around the end of November or first part of December.

6.3 River Trail/Regional Park

Mike said letters had gone out to the eight property owners adjacent to the proposed Regional Park. Commissioner Pierce asked what the follow-up strategy was; Steve said to wait until next month's meeting, and staff will bring copies of responses back to the Commission. Then staff will call the property owners to let them know the status of the plan, and then will have no more contact with them until it is approved by the Board. Chairman Kelley asked, if there were no responses, if the sub-committee could re-initiate contact with these property owners; Steve said that should wait until after the Master Plan is approved by the Board.

Commissioner Guzman asked if a letter had gone to Augustin Gonzales, and whether he had gotten a Spanish translation. Steve said it had gone out, and he thought there was a statement on the bottom of the letter in Spanish asking the recipient to call us if they did not understand the letter or had questions.

6.4 Spring Grove School Field Project

Mike said on October 6 the Board of Supervisors approved the augmentation to the final budget to pay the final invoice on this project. Also on October 6, there was a Grand Opening ceremony, and Chairman Kelley did a great job on the microphone. Don said it went very well, and he had gotten a letter from the Superintendent, Evelyn Muro, who thanked the County and the Parks and Recreation Commission for seeing the value in these kinds of projects and being a vital partner with the school district.

6.5 Community Park in Tres Pinos

Mike said at the last meeting it was asked whether Prop 40 money could be used on church property; it cannot. Commissioner Pierce asked if there was any other money available; Steve said no, and this would essentially stop the proposed park. Chairman Kelley asked if a long-term lease had been discussed; Mike said the land had to be owned by the County through a donation by the church, or we could find another location for the park. Chairman Kelley asked if staff would ask the church about a long-term lease of 50 or 100 years and report back next month.

Jerry Muenzer said that the Tres Pinos School was purchasing land west of Granite Rock property in Tres Pinos, and maybe a park could go there in the future.

6.6 De Anza Trail grading donation

Commissioner West apologized for the change in date for the re-dedication of the trail. The location of the stone was changed, and he would let everyone know when it was set and ready.

Commissioner Dungy appreciated the cooperation Granite Rock is showing on grading this trail, and that it was a great place to walk. Commissioner West said that Jim Selznick had adopted the trail and done a lot to protect and maintain it.

6.7 2010 CA & SW Park and Recreation Training Conference

Mike Hodges reminded the Commission about the Annual California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS) Conference coming in March 9-12 in Palm Springs, CA. The registration fee is \$329 each, and Mike estimated the cost to send each person to the conference would be about \$1600, including flights, lodging and meals. Commissioner Pierce said this was a very educational conference, but with funding the way it was, we should either pass this year or only send one representative. Commissioner West and Guzman agreed. Chairman Kelley thought it was better to pass this year due to budget constraints, and try to go to a closer one when they have one. The information from next year's conference will be available afterwards if anyone is interested in transcripts.

6.8 Property Taxes for Parks & Recreation – Commissioner Pierce

Commissioner Pierce referred to the tax measure that was included in the packet. He said it does not establish any new taxes, but diverts a percentage of the general fund to Parks & Recreation so they have a budget to work with. He said Santa Clara County has been doing this for 30 years, and that is where he got this information. He suggested starting a dialog with the Board of Supervisors for a consensus. Commissioner West agreed, and Commissioner Pierce said it would be great if the Board could do it now, but it will at least get the idea before them.

Chairman Kelley asked staff to find out what amount they would have gotten last year, and Commissioner Guzman suggested comparing to adjacent Counties also. Commissioner Lausten said when they were trying to get the Historical Park going, they took it to the Board over five years before it was finally opened, so it might take persistence. Commissioner Wagoner suggested adding wording to the measure stating that in lean years we would get less money and more in good years.

Al DeVos said this was the best time to put money into services to the community because people are staying closer to home and using the local facilities more.

Chairman Kelley directed staff to find out the amount we would have gotten last year, to look at adjacent counties and what they do, and to go forward from there to the Board of Supervisors. All Commissioners agreed with this idea, and thanked Commissioner Pierce for bringing it forward.

6.9 Go Green – Commissioner Guzman

Commissioner Guzman suggesting including “green” power like solar and wind into the tax measure to reduce our carbon footprint. He contacted the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local Union 332, for statistical information on potential savings. He is still waiting for the report. He would like to have this on the next agenda to bring their findings to the Commission. Chairman Kelley asked Commissioner Guzman to also look into recycled ground material for playgrounds and bring those figures back next month.

Steve said our Facilities and Grounds Manager, Ken Nattell, was working with AMBAG to make our buildings more energy efficient, but the outside facilities would not be included in this audit and would have to be done separately.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner West made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce, and unanimously approved.

The next regular meeting will be held on November 17, 2009.