



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 DECEMBER 15, 2009

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 Pierce.

1.2 Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Don Kelley, Ray Pierce, Daniel Dungy, Estevan Guzman, Bianca Vasquez, and Janie Lausten.

Absent were Jim West, Sarah Bartholf, and Richard Wagoner.

Staff Present: Steve Wittry, Public Works Administrator; Mike Hodges, Staff Analyst; and Kathy McShane, Secretary 1.

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on December 10, 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 November 17, 2009

Due to the lack of a quorum, the November 17, 2009 meeting minutes were not approved. These minutes will be brought back to the commission at the January meeting for approval.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

Mike announced that on Saturday, March 6, 2010 there will be a Park Commission Training class in Santa Clara. The class is geared for Youth Commissioners but any commissioner who wishes may attend. The cost is \$20 each. Chairman Kelley asked Mike to email the information to our youth commissioners.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations – Information Only

Commissioner Guzman introduced Paul Gutierrez, the Director of Industry Development for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for Local Union 234 for a short discussion on the “Go Green” movement.

Mr. Gutierrez gave a brief overview of the “Go Green” program and what it involves. Energy conservation and efficiency is the key to this program’s success. Under the Power Purchase Agreement, an entity can have solar panels installed on their property and maintained by an outside company as long as they agree to purchase the energy produced by their solar panels. This is a great investment and the IBEW maintains the product. Mr. Gutierrez asked the Commission to keep his phone number handy as they planned future parks and facilities.

Chairman Kelley thanked Mr. Gutierrez for his presentation and suggested this topic be placed on the agenda at a future meeting so that Mr. Gutierrez could present more in-depth information on this topic.

Al DeVos, the County Gang Task Force Coordinator, handed out an information sheet on the CalGRIP grant that the Office of Emergency Services is applying for this week. He asked if the Commission would put together a letter of support for this grant to be sent in with the application on January 12, 2010.

Commissioner Guzman asked if the grant is being translated to Spanish. Mr. DeVos said it currently was not; however, in February he would be working on a web-based system that was. Commissioner Guzman said Chief Miller is a member of LULAC, and they would be willing to help with any translation.

Commissioner Dungy asked if Mr. DeVos had contacted Hollister Hills. Mr. DeVos said he knew they had a certified motorcycle safety instructor. Commissioner Dungy suggested putting that information into the grant application.

Mr. DeVos complimented the Public Works Department, saying they were doing a great job of getting rid of graffiti as soon as it was reported.

He also talked about a California Healthy Kids survey in which San Benito County received a D+ rating. Chairman Kelley asked where he could find a copy of the survey. Mr. DeVos said he would get the site name to the Commission.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Mike said the CEQA document is still in county review. County Council needed a copy of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan document, which was delivered to them today. Lissette Knight has pledged that her number one priority in January will be to complete the CEQA document with the help of County Council. Steve Wittry said that if that happens on time, the document should be ready to go to the Board of Supervisors in mid February.

6.2 River Trail/Regional Park

Mike said we are still getting responses to the letters sent out to the eight property owners and staff will continue to update the commission with further information regarding responses. The Proposition 84 Grant Application is continuing with a focus on a smaller segment of the River Trail between the Union Road Bridge and Hospital Road.

Steve gave a brief history with background information on a prior Prop 84 grant application submitted as a joint project between the City of Hollister and the County. It was approved by the Board at one time, and then put on hold when all the funding was withdrawn. Staff recommends applying for the \$1.8 million for the CEQA work and development of this portion of the trail.

There was a discussion about whether there should be a specific plan designating this as parkland. Steve said this has already been designated as park land by the Board about a year ago. The scope of this portion of the park was reviewed. The scope would consist of two parking lots, a paved walking path, and protective fencing along portions of the path. It was suggested to call this Phase I of the River Trail with Phase II to be completed later.

Commissioner Pierce made a motion to direct staff to move forward with the grant application process for Prop 84 funding for Phase I and Phase II of the River Trail/Regional Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dungy, and approved unanimously.

6.3 Commission Ordinance/By-Laws Update

Mike said the draft Ordinance revision and By-Law documents have been amended and are ready for review. Commissioner Dungy said the membership portion had been clarified and looked fine. Chairman Kelley agreed on the terms of offices, and the attendance portion wording.

Commissioner Guzman suggested that Parks and Recreation Commissioners should not be charged to enter parks for the purpose of inspection and that maybe there should be working in the By-Laws to address this. Chairman Kelley said that the assigned County ID cards should be enough to allow Commissioners in, and he did not think it needed to be written into the By-Laws.

Commissioner Dungy made a motion to move forward with the By-Laws and the amendment to Ordinance 804 as written, and send them to the Board of Supervisors for their review and approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

6.4 Property Taxes for Parks & Recreation

Mike presented the approved County budgets for the Veteran's & Historical Parks. Commissioner Dungy asked about the large spike in expenses last year for San Justo Reservoir. Mike said it was a combination of no revenue coming in since the closure and expense for a county parks and recreation master plan project. Chairman Kelley asked if the water district could reimburse the County for these expenses. Steve said it was not very likely.

Commissioner Dungy said the proposed tax measure would net \$850,000 in tax revenue, with Veterans, San Justo, and Historical Parks getting \$154,728, which left an additional \$703,554 for additional parks development. Commissioner Pierce suggested putting a survey on the SBCPRC website. Steve said the County IT department was extremely busy doing year end assignments. It would be more realistic in a late February or March time frame. Commissioner Guzman said that this was a good time to ask the public for funds for parks since people were staying closer to home with their families.

After a discussion as to how to bring this information to the public, it was agreed by all to discuss with Supervisors individually first for their guidance and feedback.

Jerry Muenzer, of Hollister, asked the Commissioners why they were trying to open a new park when San Justo Reservoir is still closed to the public after two years. Commissioner Pierce explained that this topic has had in-depth discussions with the Board of Supervisors and all other agencies involved. The bottom line is that it would take millions of dollars to eradicate the zebra mussel infestation, and there is still no guarantee that they would not come back. If this pest spreads to one other lake in California, there could be a huge liability issue for San Benito County. Also, the land is not owned by the County, but leased, and at the end of the lease the reservoir could be taken from the County's control. All Commissioners agreed they hate to see the reservoir closed, but there is nothing they can do to get it opened again anytime in the foreseeable future. Mr. Muenzer said he never realized the scope of the problem, and thanked the Commissioners for their insight.

6.5 Action Minutes

Steve explained staff's recommendation on going to action minutes for this Commission rather than the lengthy, detailed minutes done now. He explained that with action minutes, it would free up several hours of staff time, and the recorded tapes would be kept for two years or longer as archives in the event review was needed. Chairman Kelley was concerned about losing staff time dedicated to Parks and Recreation. Steve assured him that staffing resources would meet the requirements of the commission. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to try the action minutes starting in January 2010, as long as the meeting tapes were kept at least two years.

6.6 Resignation of Commissioner Guzman

Chairman Kelley said he had received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Estevan Guzman through his Supervisor, Jaime De La Cruz.

Commissioner Guzman stated that he had three sons and a wife and wanted to spend more time with them. He said it has been a great honor working with the staff and Commissioners since the beginning of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and he thanked everyone. Chairman Kelley thanked Commissioner Guzman, saying he had been an appreciated and vital member of the Commission. He reluctantly accepted the resignation. Commissioner Guzman said if the Commissioners or staff ever needed help with anything, or needed aerial photos taken, to please let him know.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce, and unanimously approved.

The next regular meeting will be held on January 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.