

SAN BENITO COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION

Dick Gallagher

Hollister VFW

Jaime De La Cruz

Ed Hawkins

Bob Picha

Jerry Muenzer

Chair

Vice-Chair

Board of Supervisors American Legion San Juan Bautista VFW Board of Supervisors

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

Special MEETING **ACTION MINUTES** December 9, 2013

1. Call To Order at 7:01 p.m. by Commissioner De La Cruz.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Picha.

1.2

Present:

Commissioners Dick Gallagher, Jaime De La Cruz, Ed Hawkins, Bob Picha, and

Jerry Muenzer.

Absent:

None.

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

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on December 6, 2013 by 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Courthouse, San Benito County Administration Building, San Benito County Library, and San Benito County Permit/Sheriff Building per Government Code Section #54954.2(a).

The motion to acknowledge the certificate of posting was made by Commissioner Muenzer and seconded by Commissioner Hawkins. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Public Comment

No public comment presented.

3. Consent Items

No consent items requested.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

No staff announcements made.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations – Information Only

No commission announcements, introductions, or presentations given.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Park Sponsorship Policy review

Steve and Janelle updated the commission on this item which was requested by the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission. The item being discussed is the creation of a new County wide Parks Sponsorship Policy. This item was reviewed by the Veterans Park Commission on November 4, 2013 and a number of concerns about the policy were raised specific to the operation and management of the Veterans Park. In an effort not to stop the approval process, the commission

recommended returning the policy to the Parks and Recreation Commission with the elimination of all elements dealing with the Veterans Park. Once these concerns were addressed at a later date, the Veterans Park elements would be added back to the policy.

A revised Park Sponsorship Policy is now being submitted for review. This revision contains solutions to a number of the original concerns highlighted by the commission. Questions still needing to be answered include the legal ability to create a Veterans Memorial Park Sponsorship Fund and the legal ability of sponsorship agreements to impact potential decision making abilities of future Board of Supervisors regarding a park and community vision.

The newly revised sponsorship policy addressed all prior concerns the commission identified in November. Commissioner Muenzer requested a change on 5.7 to reflect the ownership of all parks by the county. The commission also requested a distinct separation of Veterans Park from all other county parks in terms of management and operations. Staff will also clarify with the county auditor on the specific requirements of separate park sponsorship funds being allocated from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year prior to the policy being presented to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. The commission was in agreement the policy could move forward with the stated changes.

6.2 Skate Park expansion request

This item was requested by the City and County Parks and Recreation Commissions. The item being discussed deals with a request the City of Hollister received regarding the potential expansion of the current Skate Park managed by the City within the Veterans Park. The citizens have proposed a skating area expansion with possible fundraising efforts to fund the project. To explore further the possible benefits and issues with this request, a committee is being created by the City with two commissioners each from the City Parks and Recreation Commission, County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Veterans Park Commission.

The Commission was not in favor of footprint expansion of the Veterans Park. They believed this idea would work perfectly at a regional park. The current facility has fallen into disrepair and a cleaning up effort must be accomplished first. During public comment Don Kelley "Chairperson of the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission" detailed the public request and possible ways to accomplish this expansion.

The commission directed staff to notify both the City of Hollister Parks/Recreation Commission and County Parks/Recreation Commission with a future meeting request. During a future meeting, the group requesting skate park expansion should make a presentation and formal request. This meeting will allow the project scope and several questions to be discussed prior to taking any action.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Veterans Memorial Park Commission, Commissioner Hawkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Motion passed 5-0.

The next regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Park Commission will be held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Hodges, Staff Analyst San Benito County Veterans Memorial Park Commission