

SAN BENITO COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION

Dick Gallagher

Hollister VFW

Jaime De La Cruz

Ed Hawkins

Paul St. John

Jerry Muenzer

Chair

Vice-Chair

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

REGULAR MEETING ACTION MINUTES August 1, 2011

1. Call To Order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson De La Cruz

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Muenzer.

Roll Call 1.2

Present:

Commissioners Dick Gallagher, Jaime De La Cruz, Ed Hawkins, Paul St. John,

and Jerry Muenzer.

Absent:

None.

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

Facilities Manager Ken Nattell.

Acknowledge Certificate of Posting

The agenda was posted on July 29, 2011 by 5:00 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).

The motion to acknowledge the certificate of posting was made by Commissioner Muenzer and seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Public Comment

Joe Love, Commander of American Legion Post #69, informed the commission that Ed Hawkins will be the new American Legion representative on the Commission replacing Richard Wagoner.

3. Consent Items

3.1 Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2011 meeting

The motion to approve all consent items was made by Commissioner St. John and seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Hawkins abstain.

4. Staff Announcements – Information Only

4.1 Steve informed the commission that an application was submitted on behalf of the Veterans Park for consideration in the competitive Proposition 84 State Grant Funding. The amount request was \$5 million and the results of the application should be available within 6 to 8 months.

4.2 Mike distributed the Noticias de Anza newsletter highlighting the national historic trail system Juan Bautista de Anza traveled. A portion of this trail system runs through San Benito County and the newsletter contained an article regarding car enthusiasts on Old Stage Coach Road.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions and Presentations - Information Only

At this time Chairman De La Cruz recommended accepting Ed Hawkins onto the commission representing the American Legion and replacing Richard Wagoner.

A motion to accept Ed Hawkins was made by Commissioner St. John and seconded by Commissioner Gallagher. Motion passed 4-0.

5.1 Commissioner Gallagher gave an update on the activities of San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Veterans Park Water Supply Update

Commissioner De La Cruz announced a concern from the public regarding possible decisions being made without sufficient public input. Steve assured that once the data collection process was completed, all user groups and the general public would have numerous opportunities to express views and work together with the commission on solving the water supply issues. Currently the county is working with the city to install 11 meters throughout the park that will assist in monitoring total water usage broken down to individual areas. A brief history of the city and county agreements regarding water supply to the park was given and the city's desire to find a solution to the ever escalating cost to provide water. The current plan is to accumulate water usage data within the park for one year then open discussion to find a solution that mutually solves the problem keeping in mind the effects on each ball field user group financial operations.

A request was made to distribute the existing County – City agreement to all commissioners.

A request was made to draft a memo to all ball field user group league presidents updating them on the current water supply situation.

6.2 Veterans Park Rental Usage Update

Mike presented the historical usage of all facilities within the Veterans Park during the prior year. Existing facilities covered included Bertha Briggs building and Bar-B-Que Shelters A, B, C, and D. All facilities are primarily rented on Saturday and Sunday. The Bertha Briggs rental rates are continuously high through out the year. All Shelter rentals show a higher usage during hot summer months and lower usage during winter months. Rents are \$150 for Bertha Briggs and \$50 for Shelters. The commission was in favor of covering cost as much as possible. It was requested to have a report created analyzing the potential fair local rental fee rates.

6.3 County 2011-2012 Budget

Staff updated the commission on the recent budget process approved by the Board of Supervisors with regards to the Veterans Park operating unit. Questions were addressed and clarification made as each commissioner inquired.

6.4 Proposed Combining of County Park Commissions

Staff presented a request by the County Board of Supervisors interested in reducing costs of government. Public Works is requesting input from both commissions in an effort to formulate a response back to the Board of Supervisors regarding cost savings by consolidating both the Veterans Park Commission and the San Benito County Parks and Recreation Commission. The

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histories of both commissions were presented along with potential combination options. The commission did not have a desire to combine.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Veterans Memorial Park Commission, Commissioner Muenzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 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, November 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

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