



# SAN BENITO COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION

Maria Spandri

Peter Hernandez

Robert Duffy

Paul St. John

Kollin Kosmicki

Hollister VFW

Board of Supervisors

American Legion

San Juan Bautista VFW

Board of Supervisors

San Benito County Board Chambers – 481 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hollister, CA 95023

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, October 4, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**

## MEETING MINUTES

**1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Commissioner Spandri.**

- a. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Kosmicki.
- b. Roll Call – Jennifer Frechette took roll call; all Commissioners were present; commissioner St. John was absent.
- c. Acknowledge Certificate of Posting.

*Commissioner Kosmicki made a motion to approve Certificate of Posting, seconded by Commissioner Duffy. (4/0 vote)*

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Minutes of the November 16, 2020 special meeting.

*Motion by Commissioner Duffy to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner St. John. (4/0 vote)*

**4. Elections**

Commissioner Kosmicki nominated Commissioner Spandri for chair.

Commissioner Duffy seconded the nomination and Commissioner Spandri accepted.

*Commissioner Kosmicki made a motion to approve Commissioner Spandri as Chair for the Veterans Memorial Park Commission, seconded by Commissioner Duffy. (4/0 vote)*

Commissioner Kosmicki nominated Commissioner Duffy as Vice-Chair and Commissioner Spandri seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Duffy accepted the nomination.

*Commissioner Kosmicki made a motion to approve Commissioner Duffy as Vice-Chair for the Veterans Memorial Park Commission, seconded by Commissioner Spandri. (4/0 vote)*

**5. Commission Announcements – Information only.**

No Commissioner announcements.

**6. Discussion/Action Items:**

- A. Delegate authority to the CAO, or his/her designee, to execute license agreement with Recology for the 2022 Environmental Day dates of January 8, April 16, and October 8, 2022 to facilitate events at the Veteran’s Memorial Commission Park Parking lot with County Counsel approval and delegate authority to CAO to approve any changes to the contract or any changes in dates as necessary.**

Chair Spandri stated that this item should be tabled so that they can talk with all the groups to make sure it doesn’t conflict with their schedules. In the past the groups would get notified of the dates first.

Interim RMA Director Chambless suggested there be a special meeting in November once the dates are verified with the groups.

Chair Spandri stated she asked the groups to bring in an up-to-date roster to be able to communicate with all the groups.

Senior Management Analyst Dulce Alonso suggested an ad hoc commission be created to approve the contract so it would not have to come back to a meeting.

Chair Spandri volunteered to be in that committee and asked if any other commissioner would be interested.

Commissioner Duffy volunteered to be part of the ad hoc commission.

Chair Spandri stated the ad hoc committee would consist of herself and Commissioner Duffy.

**B. Review and discussion of Chapter 19.23 of the County Code (Parks) and provide appropriate direction to staff.**

Interim RMA Director, Michael Chambless provided a presentation on the existing park regulations. He stated that there is currently one regulation for San Justo Reservoir written in 1966. Since the County operates several regional parks, a common set of rules for all park and recreational areas would be most efficient. He suggested that park rules be in alignment with the rules for the parks in the City of Hollister since the public visits both parks.

Mr. Chambless suggested that the commission adopt the City rules into the county code with one minor change. The City prohibits camping in any of the parks. At the Historical Park there has been some camping and the Girl and Boy Scouts have expressed it would be a good place to have some over night stays.

Mr. Chambless outlined in his presentation the changes he suggested be made to the park regulations.

Chair Spandri asked if scooters would be included in the bicycle regulations.

Mr. Chambless stated that scooters are included with bicycles because they have two wheels. He also stated there may need to be a change for firework regulations at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Chair Spandri asked if there would be any exceptions for scouts when they use bows and arrows and BB Guns if they have a range master under the weapons and hunting regulations.

Mr. Chambless stated he would take another look at those regulations.

Commissioner Kosmicki asked if this would go to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Chambless stated that would be the next stop and he foresees many more meetings before this is finalized.

Mr. Chambless suggested looking at the current usage of the parks because they seem to be overly programmed. He would like to explore that and then bring back a recommendation of perhaps eliminating a park area. He only wanted to introduce the topic for regulations at this point, no decisions need to be made at this time.

Commissioner Kosmicki suggested they speak with law enforcement regarding the alcohol issues they have encountered at the parks. He also suggested smoking be prohibited at the parks.

Chair Spandri wanted to add to the agenda in the future an update from each group regarding Vets Park as that was done in the past along with the Commissioner reports.

Tina Garza stated that there is a lot of vandalism at the large softball field at the Vets Park. An area to revisit would be to see that the City close the gates after games and what law enforcement can go in there to patrol. The skate park does continue to be an issue and she is trying to work with the Art and Culture Commission to help beautify that. The adult softball season is going on right now.

Public Comment: Joe Monteon stated that for Blackjacks the field is going well, but there has been some vandalism, and someone has been breaking in. There are concerns of homeless people staying behind the booth. The biggest thing he is seeing is the number of cars speeding and doing donuts in the parking lot.

Commissioner Spandri commented that Mr. Monteon needs to provide an updated roster.

David Arias, President of Hollister Heat stated registration for summer league had 240 registers. Some of the complaints are that the equipment at the playground is broken and there is poor lighting at night.

Gina from Hollister Heat stated there are many drug deals happening at the Vets Park during the day all day long. Some sort of law enforcement needs to take a look at that. She suggested getting the kids at the skatepark involved in painting the skatepark, so they do not continue to vandalize it.

## 7. Adjournment:

***Motion made by Commissioner Kosmicki and seconded by Commissioner Duffy to adjourn the meeting; Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. (4/0 vote)***