

**SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
March 10, 2016**

**County Administration Center - First Floor Hearing Room
675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 A.M.**

Members Present: Commissioners Alvarez, Whited, Leong and Chairman Hermsmeyer

Members Excused: Commissioner Riddle

Staff Present: Chris Drake, Parks Services Manager, Resource Management, Diane Gilliland, Resource Management

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Hermsmeyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of January 14, 2016 were approved as prepared (motion by Commissioner Whited, second by Commissioner Leong).

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as prepared (motion by Commissioner Leong, second by Chairman Hermsmeyer)

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Alvarez congratulated Chairman Hermsmeyer on his new term as Chairman. Chairman Hermsmeyer noted that he has received correspondence from the Fish and Game Commission and invited the commissioners to look at them if they wished.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Approve Recommendation of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Awards for FY2014/15, to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors

Mr. Drake stated that the sustainability of the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Awards seemed to be the main concern brought up by the ad hoc committee. He also noted that it was very likely due to the timing of the grant cycle that there was only one application submitted. The Putah Creek Council utilizes the funds as a way to supplement their contract with the County for the docent training program. Mr. Drake recommended that the Commission award the grant of \$2,500 the Putah Creek Council for the Putah Creek Stewardship Team/Lake Solano Docent Training program.

Mr. Drake recommended that the Commission award the grant of \$2,500 the Putah Creek Council for the Putah Creek Stewardship Team/Lake Solano Docent Training program. Commissioner Leong motioned to approve the grant to the Putah Creek Council in the amount of \$2,500. Commissioner Alvarez commented that it is a good example of leveraging funds where there is a dual benefit for the grantee and the County. Chairman Hermsmeyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hermsmeyer asked for confirmation that the remaining funds will roll over into the next funding cycle. Mr. Drake stated that they will and that the fund balance for next year is approximately \$16,000. He noted that if all the awards had been granted this year there would be no funds left for any grants next year. When asked about using funds from park citations Mr. Drake noted that the amounts have been low for several years possibly as a result of low staffing levels. The Commission discussed offering limited numbers of grants at lower levels. Staff will confirm that the Commission has the authority to offer fewer grants at lower amounts.

7. Commissioner Outreach Reports

Chairman Hermsmeyer noted that there is a Solano Open Space meeting on March 14, 2016. Commissioner Alvarez stated that he attends the Benicia State Park Committee meetings which are held every other month. He thought that for now the State is more accountable to Solano County because State Park staff attend every meeting. Commissioner Alvarez asked Mr. Drake if a regional park update could be added as an item on the regular agenda.

8. Introduction of Park Ranger Supervisor

Mr. Drake introduced Kevin Hanson who is the new Park Ranger Supervisor. Mr. Hanson briefly described his over 20 years of experience as a park ranger, wildlife biologist, wildlife refuge manager and writer.

Mr. Drake also reported that they were close to reaching the staffing levels of the organizational structure that Dan Sykes had put in place several years ago.

9. Status Reports:

A. Attendance and Revenue Summary

Mr. Drake reviewed the attendance and revenue summary of Solano County Parks, to date for FY2015/16. The earnings for Belden's Landing since December have begun to increase. As of February earnings had doubled in the space of one month. The increase was largely due to the fact that the payment machine was up and running. The annual revenue goal for Belden's Landing is projected to be \$23,000 and is based upon the installation of the pay machine. Sandy Beach Park and Lake Solano Park are on track to meet their annual revenue goals.

B. Project Updates

The prop 84 nature center grant at Lake Solano is almost completed. At Sandy Beach a new border fence is being constructed in phases. The new fence will use standard ranch rails with driftwood attached to the rails. At Belden's Landing preliminary designs have been drawn up for the update of the promenade area next to the boat launch. The existing cement promenade area will be repaved. ADA accessible parking will be added along with shade structures and picnic tables. A three sided interpretative kiosk will be installed as well. Funding was provided by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant. The grant has been extended to April 2017. At the other parks funds have become available to add weather stations and updated irrigation control panels that will link up with County computer systems. There are also funds available to plant drought tolerant, native plants that will replace heavy water users and those that have not survived the drought. At Lynch Canyon a security camera has been installed at the entrance. Weather and trail conditions have delayed the installation of the three sided kiosk at Prairie Ridge which is near the border of Newell Open Space.

10. Confirm Date of Next Regular Meeting, and Adjourn (Action Item)

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to a regular Commission meeting on May 12, 2016 in its regular location, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Hearing Room. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.