

**SOLANO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
March 10, 2022**

**County Administration Center – Multipurpose Rooms 1600-1620,
1st Floor, 675 Texas Street, Fairfield
10:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Vice-Chair Michael Whited, Commissioner Mike Alvarez, Commissioner Terry Riddle
Members Excused: Chair Robin Leong
Commissioner Donta Kendrick
Staff Present: Parks Manager Chris Drake
Clerk Melissa Catron

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chair Whited called the meeting to order at 10:03am. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of January 27, 2022 were approved as prepared.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Chair and Commissioner Comments

There were no Chair or Commissioner comments.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund Evaluation Committee Recommendation for Award

There was one applicant for the Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant for this cycle, International Bird Rescue. Commissioner Alvarez motioned and Vice-Chair Whited seconded; the sub-committee approved the grant for the applicant. Any of the grant funds not awarded from this cycle (\$7,500 out of the total \$10,000) will effectively “roll over” and be kept in the fund to award in future years. Chris Drake commented that from this point, it will go before the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

The Commissioners requested an over-view of the Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund to better understand where the incoming funds come from as well as the sustainability of those incoming funds and how long this grant program will be able to function. Parks Staff and the Commissioners agreed to a more in-depth discussion on this topic at a future date.

7. Staff Report

A. Attendance & Revenue Summary

Attendance and revenues continue to show progress towards pre-COVID and LNU Fire levels. Parks Staff provided a graph of revenues for the Commissioners detailing mid-year and total annual revenues for FY2019-20, FY2020-21, and current tracking for FY2021-22. Chris pointed out that for the current fiscal year, mid-year revenue data is tracking at pre-COVID levels.

Effective March 1, 2022, all Parks have had occupancy restrictions lifted and the reservation-only restriction lifted; first-come, first-served camping is now available again for visitors. The CAMAVA reservation system is still in place, it is strongly recommended that if you want a specific camping space you utilize the reservation system. There are still a couple of camp sites at Lake Solano that are unavailable to use, Parks Staff are still working to get those sites repaired and re-opened. Chris also reported that the permanent full-time Parks positions are now fully staffed.

B. Park Status Updates

LNU Fire Recovery Updates

At Lake Solano, the retaining walls have been replaced with concrete block; one of those walls supports Sackett Lane, materials needed to be more fire resistant and structurally sound than wood. The Nature Center is also now open and operational for staff and docent training as well as for the enjoyment and education of visitors to the park. Projects still in process are:

- 1) Replacing fencing;
- 2) Replacing the Shop and maintenance yard;
- 3) Site preparation and Replacement of the Ranger residence.

Chris reported that a large amount of the vegetation in the park recovered, including native trees and other vegetation originally thought to have been destroyed. He also reported that in prior years, Solano RCD and Putah Creek Council helped the park with removing and replacing some of the non-native vegetation with native species and those native species proved their resiliency and grew back after the fire. Solano RCD and Putah Creek Council are part of an on-going short and long-term vegetation planting cycle that will assist with the health of the trees and vegetation within the park for years to come.

Sandy Beach Updates

Chris reported that Sandy Beach had suffered some systemic system failures. The waste vault pumps in the day-use restroom is no longer operational. Just prior to COVID, it was known that the pumps were no longer performing well and would need to be replaced. The original contractor in place for that repair became unavailable when COVID hit. Chris reported that they recently received a quote from a new contractor to complete this repair. The irrigation well pump also is no longer functioning and needs to be replaced, they recently received a quote from a contractor to complete this repair. Once that pump has been removed from the well, Parks Staff will investigate whether it can be repaired or rebuilt for future use.

General Parks Updates

The update to the CAMAVA reservation system is still in progress, this program originally went live for Solano Parks in 2012. Parks Staff is currently training and beta-testing the new version of the program and will go live with it in April 2022. Chris stated that they are anticipating a 1-2-hour service interruption for the public; the migration is scheduled to begin at midnight on April 12th to limit the disruption to the public as much as possible.

Chris stated in the past they kept a small number of campsites available specifically for the first-come, first-served campers. Moving forward, all sites are fully reservable and there will no longer be camp sites set aside for the first-come, first-served visitors. The only sites that are non-reservable are the “hike and bike” sites at Lake Solano; those sites are specifically designed to be first-come, first-served only. The goal is to match what other regional and neighboring agencies are doing so that there is consistency.

9. Confirm date of next regular meeting on May 12, 2022 and Adjourn

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for May 12, 2022. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03am.