

# Santa Barbara County Park Commission

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## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION Regular Meeting of January 22, 2009

### MINUTES

The Santa Barbara County Park Commission met at the County Administration Building, 105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Gene Petersen called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

#### 1. Roll Call:

**Present:** Commissioners: Gene Petersen, Bailey Hudson, Darlene Chirman

**Absent:** Commissioners: Suzanne Perkins, James Hickling

#### **County Staff in Attendance:**

Dan Hernandez, Parks Director

Jeff Stone

Erik Axelson

Juan Beltranena

Claude Garciaceley

Celia DeGonzales

#### 2. Opening Remarks from the Commission:

Commissioner Petersen commented that typically in January there is a transition of officers. Commissioner Chirman agreed that since the status of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District office appointee is unknown that this item be postponed until there is a further update.

#### 3. Action:

Minutes from the December 11, 2008 regular meeting:

Commissioner Chirman had a few questions regarding Item #6 & Item #4:

Item #6: Regarding Trails & Planning Development (Santa Claus Lane), Commissioner Chirman asked for clarification as to the statement that “we haven’t been collecting property taxes”. Mr. Hernandez clarified that the County has not been collecting property taxes on those parcels. We are in the process of moving forward with the tax assessor. Mr.

Hernandez noted that we have not been able to find the owners of the parcels, and we had to put the monies into an account, similar to an escrow account. The County has run a records check and it shows that the property taxes have not been paid. Mr. Garciacelay stated that the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in December to acquire the parcels. There was no owner or heir to be found, so the County is moving forward with the plan to purchase two of the parcels.

Item #4: Goleta Beach Update, Commissioner Chirman asked about the emergency generator lift station, she asked if that is within the Goleta Beach Park. Mr. Axelson stated that Goleta Beach has the three restrooms, ranger residences, and the restaurant which are too low for wastewater to flow by gravity to the Goleta Cemetery District sewer line. A lift station is used to move wastewater to the sanitary line, using pumps powered by the park's electric service. When there is power outage, one of the two resident rangers will manually start the generator, which runs the backup pumps to continue the flow of wastewater. Mr. Axelson stated that back in July (during the GAP Fire) there was concern due to the frequent power outages at the same time as both resident rangers were disabled or otherwise unavailable. In such a situation we are concerned about the effective operation of auxiliary power to the lift station. This problem could be abated by automating the generator, so it will go on automatically in such situations. Commissioner Petersen asked if this would be a new generator and Mr. Axelson confirmed that this would be a new propane power generator and automatic electrical switch gear system. The total cost would be about \$55,000 and about \$36,000 of that will be paid for through a state grant through the Proposition 12 RZH program. Mr. Beltranena added that the RZH funds for Goleta Beach for the sewer lift project have been frozen by the state. Commissioner Chirman asked where the sewer lift station was located. Mr. Axelson stated that it is located between the two ranger residence structures. Mr. Hernandez commented that it is the maintenance yard section.

Item Public comment period: Commissioner Chirman asked regarding IV Parks & Recreation District Skate Park in downtown IV. Commissioner Chirman asked why there was a reference to ask the 2<sup>nd</sup> district for support when the park is located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district. Mr. Hernandez commented that this may be because the park is located on the border between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Districts. Commissioner Chirman asked if there was a specific location of the skate park. Mr. Hernandez said that he was not aware of location. Mr. Ken Warfield of Isla Vista Parks & Recreation gave an overview of the idea for the skate park he stated that they have a couple of plans. One location is in the residential area or downtown area. Mr. Warfield also commented that this will be the only skate park from Santa Barbara City to Solvang, so it will be a regional skate park.

Commissioner Petersen and Commissioner Chirman commented that they were not clear on the reference to the UCSB comment in Item #8-Reports and Commissioner Petersen was not clear on Item #7-Cachuma Concessionaire.

Commissioner Petersen asked that Approval of Minutes be tabled for next meeting.

### **3. Public Comment Period**

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Petersen noted that there was a letter regarding Cachuma Lake concessionaire from Mr. Craig Lingham and this was not on the agenda.

Mr. Hernandez clarified that this letter from Mr. Lingham was handed out at the last meeting (December 11, 2008) and that one of the commissioners asked that the letter be placed in the packet as an informational item to accompany the minutes, if someone would like to discuss further. Mr. Hernandez elaborated that this letter from Mr. Lingham was in response to a letter that the Board of Supervisors received regarding issues of the perception of unsatisfactory service being provided by Mr. Lingham over at the boat launch areas and the letter is Mr. Lingham's response. Mr. Hernandez noted, as stated at the last meeting, that they have had a chance to meet with Mr. Lingham. This meeting included: Mr. Hernandez, Mr. Medeiros and Mr. Stone. They met to address some of the concerns; to date; there has been positive progress in improving accessibility to the public, consistency with the hours, and overall improvements in customer service. Parks is continuing to monitor the issue, but there have been significant improvements.

Commissioner Petersen asked for clarification that this was since last meeting and not since the original meeting that was in September. Mr. Hernandez stated that this has been ongoing and continues to show improvements. Mr. Stone elaborated that this has all been part of a progressive effort on both County Park's part and Mr. Lingham's part. Prior to Mr. Lemp's letter, Mr. Stone stated that they had conversations regarding the hours with Mr. Lingham. However, when Mr. Lemp's letter went to the BOS it helped to move this along a little quicker.

Commissioner Petersen asked if Mr. Lingham's letter was also submitted to the BOS; and Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Stone confirmed that yes, the letter was forwarded to the BOS directly from Mr. Lingham. Commissioner Petersen commented on Mr. Lingham's letter; that was very informative and noted that this item is very positive and thanked both Mr. Lemp for getting the item moving and Mr. Lingham for his insightful and thoughtful response. Commissioner Petersen also commented that this gives us all an opportunity to see the impact we have on concessionaires, especially in Cachuma where they are negotiating the lease.

Mr. Hernandez commented that he wanted to acknowledge Mr. Stone and Mr. Medeiros for their proactive work with Mr. Lingham in monitoring this issue; it definitely has been positive effort.

#### **4. Status of Goleta Beach Long Term Protection Plan**

Mr. Hernandez introduced Juan Beltranena, Project Manager.

Mr. Beltranena gave an overview of the project; not many changes since the last report. Mr. Beltranena stated that they have continued to prepare the next submittal to the Coastal Commission which is due to go out on January 28. He stated that they are in the process of completing the final items requested. This consists of repackaging the material and letters

signed by professional engineers. We have gone back to the engineers and they have reconfigured their material with the proper signatures.

Mr. Hernandez announced that there are three requests to speak on this item and that staff request to speak when this item is complete.

Speaker #1: David Revell of Philip Williams & Associates – See attached report

David Revell addressed his proposal and handed out copies of his report to the Commissioners. Commissioner Petersen inquired about sea level rise and asked if this was staying static, coast versus water. David Revell responded, stating that globally sea level rise is coming up about 2mm per year and that is expected to accelerate over the next 100 years and elaborated in greater detail. Commissioner Chirman inquired about the west end and the alternative presented. She asked what would be the expectation for the erosion hot spot at the west end. David Revell responded stating that the main emphasis of the park reconfiguration alternative is to get a lot of the critical infrastructure out of harm's way this would include relocating the infrastructure so if that hot spot area continued to erode the infrastructure would not be at risk. Commissioner Petersen asked if the cost of moving the infrastructure was factored into the estimate of this proposal. David Revell confirmed this was true. Commissioner Hudson inquired about ocean warming and what the impact might be. Mr. Revell responded, stating, it is hard to say on an average, but in Indonesia and the South Pacific they have definitely seen a warming. Commissioner Chirman inquired about the adequacy of space in the west end to accommodate the relocated utilities and if there is enough room to accomplish this. David Revell responded stating that they did look at the bike path and other areas and that this may be something to look at as opportunities arise for infrastructure improvements; and it may be feasible to couple this in to reduce the overall costs.

Speaker #2: Brian Trautwein, Environmental Defense Center

Mr. Trautwein presented the proposal as well. Mr. Trautwein noted that this report was submitted to the Coastal Commission. Mr. Trautwein also commented and he wanted to be clear that this report is not the Management Retreat Alternative which was previously discussed; this is the Park Reconfiguration Alternative. Commissioner Chirman inquired as to what the major differences are between the Managed Retreat option that was analyzed in the County EIR and this alternative. Mr. Trautwein responded to her question stating this was very clearly different from the Managed Retreat; this would reach a state of equilibrium. David Revell responded stating there are several primary differences, but the primary two would be the increase lineal footage of the lawn beach interface which was given top billing and the park reconfiguration which is flushed out and it looks at the most historical impacts and identifies the coastal process zone and fits in the entire parking infrastructure.

Speaker #3: Everett Lipman, Surfrider Foundation

Everett Lipman stated that he is representing the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. Mr. Lipman stated that Surfrider supports the report presented by the two previous presenters. They are sponsoring the work completed by David Revell and Brian

Trautwein and would like the Park Commissioners to adopt a long-term view of Coastal Armoring when it decided what they think is the best for Goleta Beach. Mr. Lipman stated that the organization is international and stated what has happened in the past when people have been confronted with coastal erosion. He stated this is a common problem all over the world and hundreds of communities have faced the same choices we are facing now. They believe many places have made mistakes. One place pointed out was in New Jersey. The current state of the coastline is a string of unsightly rock walls. Ellwood another example cited for rusty steel beams sticking out of the sand where you are walking with bare feet. He also cited Butterfly Beach as a place where there is a seawall and said Santa Claus Lane is another place you can see rusty pipes sticking out of the sand. He commented that this is a place where children may want to play. Mr. Lipman stated this is why they fight very hard against coastal armoring. They would like to see clean coast line. He thinks this is the best way to keep a park where the public can enjoy the park in a safe way.

Comments by Dan Hernandez:

The BOS voted 5-0 to proceed with the proposed plan. Contrary to some of the statements the Resident Ranger program discussed was based on a Grand Jury report regarding Resident Rangers, not the maintenance yard. Mr. Hernandez clarified that the maintenance yard where the lift station is located is a yard where the equipment is stored and there is a Park Host there. Mr. Hernandez stated that the elimination of the maintenance yard has never been discussed. What was discussed was the elimination of the Resident Ranger Program. Mr. Hernandez also commented that at this time we have submitted an application that has been approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors and have prepared a number of studies that indicate the project submitted provides the most benefit for both the beach and the park. Mr. Hernandez commented that the goal is to provide a park that serves a wide range of users and he stated that they need to follow through on the application that is before the County Counsel. We are not in a position to pursue an alternative that has essentially no review by the community or environmental assessment – an assessment that would include park facilities and impacts on the utilities and ESH. We appreciate the feedback we have received and thank the speakers for their comments, but at this time we have clear direction from the Board of Supervisors and the Coastal Commission.

## **5. Park Foundation**

Mr. Axelson presented an update on the revitalization of the Park Foundation. As of this month the Park Foundation now has a legally sufficient number Board of Directors, seven directors. This is a significant step because for many years the Foundation board has been inactive; for the past year the Foundation board has been slowly growing, adding directors to reach a legal minimum of seven. Mr. Axelson commented that Commissioner Petersen has been a significant contributor to the Foundation during this past year and serves on the board as the designated representative from the Park Commission. The Board of Directors are: Gene Petersen (Present Park Commissioner), Coleen Lund (retired from County Parks as Capital Project Manager), Robert Ooley (County Architect/Trustee Courthouse Legacy Foundation), Frances Romero (Former Park Commissioner and current environmental consultant), Katrina Rogers (Vice President at Fielding Graduate University and former director of the Grand Canyon Foundation), John Venable (President, Montecito Trails

Foundation), and Sue Foley (Mission Canyon resident and 20 years as an environmental consultant).

In addition to the Board of Directors, the Foundation has also had great success in recruiting an Advisory Board, representing different interest groups in the County. Commissioner Hudson inquired about the number limit for the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board. Mr. Axelson stated that up to 35 directors are permitted, and that our goal is to attain 12-15 members in 2009. Mr. Axelson stated that the purpose of the Advisory Board is to supplement the representation of the Board of Directors, and that there is no limit on the number of advisors. Commissioner Hudson commented that the Foundation appears to have good geographical representation.

Mr. Axelson also reported that the Park Foundation is currently working with the Downtown Organization to correlate First Thursdays with an expanded outdoor movie night at the Courthouse Sunken Gardens. Right now the Foundation is seeking sponsors to help underwrite the cost for the projection system and other production costs (approximately \$1,200-1,500 per event). In addition to the film series at the Sunken Gardens, the Foundation is working on presenting outdoor films in parks in North County. The film series in North County will be a similar number (approximately 4-6) of outdoor films. Mr. Axelson stated that Mr. Hernandez has been speaking with the City of Lompoc to do an outdoor film in Lompoc. In addition to Lompoc, Mr. Axelson stated the Foundation is looking at Lake Cachuma, Waller Park, and Santa Ynez as other possible locations for the film nights. Mr. Axelson commented that this may seem ambitious and will depend on the ability of the Park Foundation to secure the needed sponsorships for the events. Mr. Axelson also stated that the Park Foundation is trying to build partnerships with local companies that have an outdoor focus, such as Deckers Outdoors Corp., Patagonia, Horny Toad and the like. Mr. Axelson announced the first fundraiser of the year is a Valentine's Day afternoon cruise at Lake Cachuma. Mr. Axelson also gave an update of the Arroyo Burro Coastal Overlook project, which is in a rough finished condition. Mr. Axelson and Operations Manager Richard Lindley have been conducting public tours on some Fridays and Saturdays to generate interest in the project.

Commissioner Hudson inquired about an outline of the Park Foundation activities. Mr. Axelson responded that he will email this to the Park Commission. Mr. Axelson will also send out a Park Foundation package to the Park Commissioners.

Mr. Axelson concluded with a discussion about the potential of grassroots groups such as "Friends of Waller Park." He would like to replicate this type of organization in all of the major parks, using the Foundation as the tax-exempt umbrella organization. "Friends of" groups could help organize volunteer efforts as well as raise donations for park projects. Commissioner Chirman suggested that the Park Foundation could produce an informational tide pamphlet for distribution at Goleta Beach. Mr. Axelson agreed, and stated that the Foundation is currently pursuing this project.

## **6. Baron Ranch trail Grant Proposal & Environmental Review**

Claude Garciacelay presented handouts and presented report.

Mr. Garciacelay stated that County Parks has been working with Public Works and the County Riding Advisory Trails Committee and others to move this trail proposal forward. They are in the process of putting together a funding application to the Goleta Valley Land Trust and will be submitting this soon. Mr. Garciacelay gave an overview of the project. He stated that this a two phase project. Phase I is a trail component within Baron Ranch. It will start out to be 4.5 mile loop. Phase II is a connection up to Camino Ceilo and go west and then to Gaviota State Park. They are moving forward with Phase I and have been in discussions with Public Works and Waste Resource Management and are working closely to address any concerns. It is estimated about \$65K to complete the improvements. Public Works has agreed to some of the work as an in-kind match. Some of the trails groups will do some of the work to establish the trail approximately \$5K and County Parks will make available about a \$5K match. Mr. Garciacelay commented that they are going into this grant application showing some match and showing interest from other parties as well as the County. Mr. Garciacelay stated that improvements are minimal and the trail is on an established ranch road so there will be no need for an environmental review. Project should be complete by summer. Commissioner Petersen inquired about restricted use. Mr. Garciacelay commented that they will have to be diligent in letting the people aware of the use. Mr. Garciacelay also commented that use will be restricted to pedestrians, hikers, and bikers. No equestrians at this time until biologist have time to determine how the equestrian use will affect the riparian area.

## **7. Quimby Fees – Reports attached in the meeting packet**

Mr. Hernandez summarized the requests for allocation of Quimby Fund fees:

Item #1: Commissioner Chirman inquired on the Isla Vista Parks. She asked why are they asked to come up with 10% of the total cost if part of the funds are frozen. Mr. Hernandez responded that the request was made prior to the state funding freeze and that they would approve these funds pending the release on the finalization of what happens with the rest of Proposition 12 and 40.

Motion by Commissioner Hudson “IVRPD Proposal Appropriation” be tabled until additional information is available from this organization, seconded by Commissioner Chirman.

Mr. Hernandez asked Mr. Warfield if the funds have been released by the state. Mr. Warfield responded that he was not aware of the funds being released.

Motion Passed by all members present.

Item #2: Manning Park Annex Play Equipment Improvements:

Commissioner Chirman inquired as to what type of other projects this could be use for and what is the status of the Toro Canyon playground where funds have been allocated. Mr. Axelson responded that the Toro Canyon project playground is complete. Mr. Axelson commented and that South County staff and County Parks in-house planning staff are taking

a long term look at what is needed at parks to better respond to changing tastes in leisure and recreation (further noted in his South County report). Regarding Manning Park, Mr. Axelson commented that this is a case of heavy use and deteriorating facility. This project has been on the top of the list for a long time.

Commissioner Chirman inquired regarding the cost of the project being \$90K-\$100K and that this request is for \$40K. Mr. Axelson stated that this request will cover approximately half of the project cost and the other half will come from capital deferred maintenance funds. Commissioner Chirman inquired if we had any information regarding Tea Fire homes to be rebuilt since this is the same Quimby Development district; the question is if the rebuilding projects will pay into these funds. Mr. Garciacelay stated that this will not, the only time we collect mitigation fees is on brand new construction. This is why is the South Coast East District we do not receive funds because there is not a lot of construction.

Motion: Commissioner Chirman moved to approve \$40,000 for Manning Park, \$20,000 from each of the Quimby South Coast East funds for the Manning Park project; seconded by Commissioner Hudson. Passed by all members present.

#### Item #3: Tuckers Grove

Commissioner Petersen inquired as to the current structures. Mr. Axelson stated that they date back to 1988. Commissioner Chirman asked what does the \$35K cover? Mr. Axelson responded that it will replace the existing structure and part of this project's funding would also come from capital deferred maintenance. Mr. Axelson announced that field staff and County Parks planning staff will do a brainstorming visit to Tucker's Grove on March 2, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Motion: Motion by Commissioner Chirman to allocate the Quimby funds totaling \$35,000; seconded by Commission Hudson. Passed by all members present.

#### Item #4: Quimby Fees – Waller Improvements – presented by Jeff Stone.

These items are being brought forward due to the freeze on Proposition 12 funds. Three surfacing projects 1)larger playground near the entrance-this does not meet the ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials) requirements. Estimated cost about \$75K. 2) the back playground 3)Don Potter area – undeveloped area.

Project #3-Completion of Bird & Butterfly Garden - - Major costs will be concrete.

Motion: Commissioner Hudson motioned to approve Waller Park surfacing project for \$75K and Commissioner Chirman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed by all members present.

Motion by Commissioner Hudson to approve Project #2 (purchase of installation of aeration and ozone system) for Waller Park, seconded by Commissioner Chirman. Passed by all members present.

Completion of Bird & Butterfly Garden – tabled until next meeting.

**8. Field Use Policy Reports –**

Report presented by Jeff Stone.

Commissioner Petersen would like to meet with Mr. Stone to streamline the last portion of the policy. Mr. Stone agreed. Mr. Hernandez stated that we will be taking over the park and it is prudent to get the policy and fees in place prior to the beginning of the sport season. Mr. Stone commented that currently the organizations are using the school district and they are making payments greater than what is in this policy.

Commissioner Petersen asked if there was a standard for these policies. Mr. Hernandez stated that there are no standards that they used the CPRS format. They have been networking with other recreational facilities to put together these policies.

**Reports – Park Operation Reports – comments by Bailey**

- B. South County Division
- C. North County Division
  - Reports attached.

**9. Receive and File Reports**

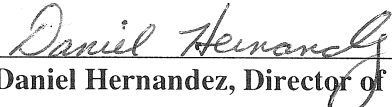
- A. Park Donation Status Report
- B. Park Mitigation Fee Status Report
- C. Capital Projects Report
- D. Monthly Concession Revenue Report
- E. Park Visitor Survey Report

Motion: Commissioner Hudson moved to receive and file reports; Commissioner Chirman seconded the motion. Motion passed by all members present.

**Commissioners' Non-agenda Items**

No items

**Motion to adjourn:** Commissioner Hudson moved to adjourn; Commissioner Chirman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07p.m.

  
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Daniel Hernandez, Director of Parks