

Santa Barbara County Park Commission

610 Mission Canyon Road Santa Barbara, California 93105 (805) 568-2461

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION Regular Meeting of February 26, 2009

MINUTES

The Santa Barbara County Park Commission met at the Buellton Community Recreation Center, 301 2nd Street, Suite A, Buellton, California

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

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners: Suzanne Perkins, Gene Petersen, Bailey Hudson, Darlene Chirman

Absent: Commissioner: James Hickling

County Staff in Attendance: Dan Hernandez, Parks Director; Jeff Stone, Deputy Director, North County; Erik Axelson, Deputy Director, South County; Juan Beltranena, Project Manager; Sonia Thompson, Administrative Professional

2. Opening Remarks from the Commission

Commissioner Petersen asked if there has been an appointment by the 3rd District to replace Mr. Hickling. Mr. Hernandez stated that there has not been an appointment. Commissioner Perkins discussed the need to fill Mr. Hickling's seat on the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force; she added that Mr. Hickling represented the 3rd District and the Parks Commission. She also stated that there is a need to have someone that is current on the issues. Commissioner Chirman suggested having the Park Commission appoint Mr. Hickling as a representative and Mr. Hernandez added that he could discuss this item with the 3rd District office.

3. Election of 2009 Park Commission Officers

Commissioner Petersen added an item to the agenda: the election of the new Commission officers, i.e., chair and vice chair, for the coming year.

Commissioner Perkins nominated Commissioner Chirman to serve as chair; Commissioner Hudson seconded the motion. Commissioner Chirman accepted the nomination and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Chirman nominated Commissioner Hudson to serve as vice chair; Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Hudson accepted the nomination, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Action

A. Minutes from the January 22, 2009 meeting:

A motion was made by Commissioner Petersen, seconded by Commissioner Hudson to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009, as amended.

Minutes as amended as follows:

The correct spelling of Commissioner Petersen's name is, "Petersen".

Motion passed; Commissioner Perkins abstained.

B. Minutes from the December 11, 2008 – Commissioner Petersen asked that the minutes of December 11, 2008 be tabled until the next meeting. Asked staff to clarify the following items:

- i. Item 4: Status of Goleta Beach Long Term Protection Plan
Commissioner Petersen inquired regarding the middle of the first paragraph.
- ii. Item 5: Cachuma Lake Draft Resource Management Plan
- iii. Item 7: Cachuma Concessionaire – change word "staff" to "commission".

C. Minutes from the September 25, 2008

A motion was made by Commissioner Petersen, seconded by Commissioner Hudson to approve the minutes of September 25, 2008.

Motion passed; Commissioner Perkins abstained, Commissioner Chirman abstained.

5. Public Comment Period

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

6. Rancho Guadalupe Dunes

Mr. Stone presented his report; copies of report were handed out to the Commission and County Park staff. Mr. Stone also added, to date, there has been no action taken by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Hernandez commented that the problem with this is that the Parks Department was asked by the BOS, as part of the Budget Principles, to submit a 10% reduction; this is in addition to what was previously submitted and added that this is critical for the Board to mitigate, otherwise the department will be looking at an additional cut of \$84K for this fiscal year. Commissioner Hudson inquired about the attendance at the park; Mr. Stone responded that there are about 200-300K visitors annually. Mr. Petersen asked if the income sources have been the same throughout the years, because there appears to be huge difference in the drawdown. Mr. Stone explained that the income has been the same,

but some expenses were incurred when they developed the parking lot, such as the conditional permits with the Coastal Commission, there were a lot of fees attached with that project. Mr. Stone also added that costs continue to go up. Furthermore, he added there should be an annual work plan and annual budget that is reviewed by parks; this is in line of what is required. Mr. Petersen commented that this could be put on the Park Foundation agenda; this is not an immediate response, but something to have on the agenda. Mr. Stone noted that there is funding through grants; but these grants do not address the operations of parks. Commissioner Perkins inquired as the abilities to use the park for any type of commercial venue in order to raise money or are there too many restrictions because of the habitat that it is impossible. Mr. Stone stated that there have been movies filmed on the park location.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hudson and seconded by Commissioner Perkins that a letter be drafted by the Park Commission with signature by the chairperson with regards to the Commission's sentiments regarding Guadalupe Dunes and Cuyama Pool in light of the current financial situation.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hernandez noted that during the process to construct the pool the community approached the Parks Department with a commitment to allocate resources for maintaining the park. Since that time, we have approached them and have received no response back. Mr. Hernandez clarified that it was the school that stated they would allocate manpower for the maintenance of the facility and since that time we have not received any commitment. Commissioner Perkins commented regarding open spaces and ongoing maintenance for parks; that perhaps now is the time to begin thinking about approaching neighborhood groups and informing them that there is a possibility that Parks may not be able to continue funding maintenance operations and we are looking to neighborhoods to help supplement these costs. Mr. Axelson added that the Park Foundation is currently looking at "Friends" groups to help supplement public funding with volunteer efforts and private donations regarding specific parks and open spaces.

7. Quimby Fees- IVRPD Proposed Appropriation

Quimby Fee report is included in the meeting packet. Mr. Hernandez reported that the State has passed its budget and today we will find out the status of the Proposition 12 and Proposition 40 monies. Mr. Hernandez summarized that the request is for \$18K; added that should the Commission recommend approval and if there is a concern regarding the remaining balance coming from the Proposition 12 and Proposition 40; a condition could be added pending final approval. Commissioner Perkins made an inquiry regarding the maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Hernandez responded that we would not be taking on any maintenance responsibilities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chirman, seconded by Commissioner Petersen to approve this item with the following condition:

Condition reads as follows:

Approval is contingent on the primary funding being available.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Reports – Park Operation Reports

A. South County Division

i. Lake Cruise – Park Foundation discussion

Commissioner Petersen commented that the Lake Cruise was a great success. Mr. Axelson added that it was a great mix of people who attended the event. The Foundation benefited from the donations from local merchants: Buttonwood Winery donated the wine; Elements Restaurant donated the refreshments, as well as HotCookie.com donating a cookie platter. Commissioner Petersen also added that Liz Mason did a very good job. Commissioner Hudson requested an outline of Foundation activities. Mr. Axelson stated that he will follow up. Mr. Axelson also added that we have a good representation from North County and South County on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board and Mary Anne Morrison will be joining the Board of Directors.

ii. Arroyo Burro Pet Spa Ribbon Cutting – Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 10:00AM.

B. North County Division

i. Orcutt Community Park Opening is scheduled for March 24, 2009.

ii. Quagga Mussel Inspection – Mr. Stone stated that camp hosts are currently assisting with the boat launch inspections and installing tags.

iii. Trailer Storage – Mr. Stone reported that we are in the process of negotiating a concession agreement with a new concessionaire who sells new travel trailers. Some of the trailers will be kept on site and be made available for people to rent. The agreement will also include a percent of the gross and pay for the trailer storage. Mr. Stone also noted that the trailer storage is a consistent revenue source.

iv. Lake Cachuma Resource Management Plan

Mr. Beltranena reported that the Environmental Impact Statement is at the Federal level and will meet the CEQA & NEPA requirements. The Bureau has completed going over the comments. The Bureau has not published a full set of comments; this should be published by the end of February. The document is scheduled to be complete by June. Once complete, we will proceed to bid for the long term privilege of holding the park management agreement with the Bureau. The lease will be for a 50 year term which is the same length as the original lease. Currently, the lease has been renewed in the short-term until January 2011. There is a clause in the new lease that will end the contract as soon as the RMP and the new lease agreement come into place. There is also a 6-month grace period which gives us time to negotiate with the concessions.

- v. Ocean Beach Park – Juan Beltranena
The Ocean Beach Park project began in 1981. It was substantially constructed; the boardwalk and the Park Host site remained to be constructed. We are only doing Phase I of the project because Phase I is exclusively on the parking lot and Phase II goes into the marsh and estuary. We were successful with the Planning Commission. A few changes were requested by the Planning Commission; the changes were the placement of the benches and the benches were requested to be turned around so people were looking at the estuary and we moved the stairway. We will go back to the Planning Commission for two more reviews. Regarding the Coastal Commission permit: the existing old permit was issued in 1991 and extended in 1993. The project was substantially constructed; so we will receive a vesting determination on our project from the Coastal Commission and then we are able to go back to the County and receive a local coastal permit.

Jeff Stone added on a separate item with Ocean Park -- they will be meeting with Vandenberg AFB. Vandenberg AFB has expressed a concern regarding the signage at Ocean Park. Their concern is that the signage is insufficient during the nesting season of the Snowy Plover. Currently during the nesting season, we put up a 10 ft. chain link fence with a gate and a sign that states "Do Not Enter"; VAFB would like us to put more signs because they are claiming that a good portion of the violators are entering from Ocean Beach Park.

9. Receive and File Reports

A. Park Donation Status Report

- i. Commissioner Perkins commended Erik Axelson, on behalf of the Park Commission, for spearheading the efforts of the Park Foundation; these efforts have contributed to an increase in donations. Erik has done a great job and brought forward a lot of innovative ideas with the movies and calendars.

B. Park Mitigation Fee Status Report

C. Capital Projects Report

Commissioner Chirman made the following report suggestions: a new report showing two lists: 1) Budget Part 2) Capital Projects. This will show what type of projects that have the possibility of moving forward because the funding is in place. Regarding the report that shows Capital Project expenses and the grants; showing an "Initial Funding Date". Commissioner Petersen added that the report should also show completed projects.

D. Monthly Concession Revenue Report

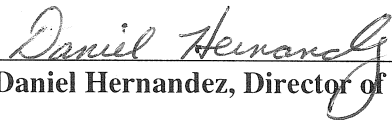
- i. Commissioner Chirman inquired about The Boathouse showing a baseline funding level. Mr. Hernandez stated that the first year of the agreement was that The Boathouse would pay the minimum rent of \$16,000/month. Effective March 1, the payment will revert to 10% of their gross.

E. Park Visitor Survey Report

Commissioners' Non-agenda Items

No items

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Chirman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55a.m.



Daniel Hernandez, Director of Parks