

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, June 4, 2015
Captain's House at the Coyote Point Recreation Area
1701 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo

MINUTES

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the improvements at Coyote Point Recreation Area. The tour was open to the public.

Chair Pincus called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Cooney, Enriquez (Vice Chair), Merrilees, Okelo, Pincus (Chair), Ruehl (Youth Commissioner)

Staff Present: Arechiga, Bennett, Castillo, Finley, Harris, Herzberg, Lombardi, Schoof

Oral Communications

There were none.

Agenda Amendments

There were none.

Presentations

Recognition of Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager, Community Services, for her Service with County Parks

Chair Pincus presented Ms. Jensen with a commemorative plaque in appreciation of her leadership as the Deputy County Manager in charge of the Community Services Departments for the past 8 years. Ms. Jensen noted her new responsibilities with the County and indicated she had enjoyed parks both professionally and personally.

Coyote Point Recreation Area - Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project Update

Consultant Harris provided the Commission with an update on the Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project highlighting that a recommendation would go to the Board of Supervisors on July 7 to approve a consultant agreement with an engineering firm to provide design services for plans, specifications, permits and cost estimates for the

County of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Commission:

Mel Pincus, District 1 (Chair) | Marico C. Enriquez, District 2 (Vice Chair) | Neil Merrilees, District 3 | Meda O. Okelo, District 4 | Michael J. Cooney, District 5 |

County of San Mateo Parks Department:

*Marlene Finley, Director
Brenda Bennett, Executive Secretary*

project. She noted that funding for this was made available by the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation.

There was no public comment.

Commission Comment: Youth Commissioner Ruehl asked if the project would require construction of a new parking lot. Ms. Harris said that 75 parking spaces would be relocated.

Green Valley Trail Planning Project Update

Ms. Harris provided the Commission with an update on the Green Valley Trail Planning Project highlighting that plans would be brought to the Commission as those were developed. Commissioner Okelo asked about efforts to engage the community. Ms. Harris noted the various methods used as outlined on page 2 of her report. In response to a question from Commissioner Enriquez, Ms. Harris said the plans were conceptual at this point and no permits had been acquired. She said the anticipated date for 100% plans and specifications was December 2015.

Action Items

Review and Approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2015 Rescheduled Regular Meeting

Commission Action: M/S Okelo/Cooney to approve the minutes with one correction on page 1, after *Commissioners Present*: delete "Arechiga" and after *Staff Present*: insert "Arechiga."

Motion carried 6-0.

Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors the Formation of a Blue Ribbon Committee to Support Designation of the Portola Trail as a National Trail

Senior Planner Herzberg reported that the 250th anniversary of Portola's expedition arrival at Sweeney Ridge and the ensuing view of the San Francisco Bay would be November 4, 2019. He said there was interest in formally designating the Portola Trail as a National Trail and opportunity with that proposal and the upcoming celebration. He said the recommendation was to request that the Board of Supervisors support formation of a committee to support designation of the Portola Trail as a National Trail and to support completion of the California Coastal Trail.

Public Comment: Mr. Mitch Postal, President of the San Mateo Historical Association, said that he and the Association fully supported the proposal noting the opportunity to work with federal and other agencies to bring attention to the history of this area including the Sanchez Adobe.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Okelo said the use of the word "discovery" of the San Francisco Bay by Portola was a mischaracterization and essentially negated the presence of the indigenous peoples of the area. He suggested the use of the word

“expedition” instead. He said that staff should ensure that Native Americans were involved in any of the planning that come out of the proposal.

Commission Action: M/S Okelo/Merrillees to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the formation of a blue ribbon committee to support designation of the Portola Trail as a National Trail

Motion carried 6-0.

Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Certain Changes to the Coyote Point Marina Fee Schedule

Harbormaster Hallet provided the Commission a short report on the arrivation of the proposed 3% increase to the Marina’s berth rental fee highlighting that the last increase to that fee had been 6% in 2008. He said annually a Bay Area public and private marina survey was done by staff to compare marina fees. He said that the combined influence of the economic downturn in 2008 and the lack of funds to replace Dock 29 which berthed larger boats was why these fees had not been increased during this interim period. He said the fee survey results and the consumer price index (CPI) for all urban consumers for January 2014 through December 2014 were used to establish a 3% increase as it would increase revenue, while keeping the Marina’s fees towards the middle of other public marinas’ fees and so was competitive pricing, and aligned with the cost of living identified in the 2014 CPI. He said that the proposed increase had been discussed with tenants at stakeholder’s meeting at the Captain’s House.

There was no public comment.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Okelo said he thought a nexus between the costs to operate the Marina and a fee increase had to be made. Commissioner Pincus suggested making an increase yearly. Commissioner Okelo asked why the fee increase was 3% and not 4%. The Commission requested the Harbormaster provide them more information on how the 3% increase was determined.

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Merrillees to recommend to the Board of Supervisors an increase of 3% to the berth rental fee.

Motion carried 5-0 with Commissioner Okelo abstaining.

Staff Reports
Director’s Report

Director Finley noted in addition to her report that she is participating in the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship 5.0 workshop with representatives from 25 agencies whose goal is to share monitoring data, best practices and work on large scale stewardship through the efforts of an impact network.

Harbormaster’s Report

Harbormaster Hallett updated the Commission on the fuel dock project.

Commissioner Enriquez asked about the Yacht Club. Harbormaster Hallett said that the facility could be rented for events and noted their membership had declined. Commissioner Cooney asked staff to provide information on the Yacht Club operation and facilities in the future.

Parks Superintendent's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

Natural Resource Manager's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

Fiscal Officer's Budget Report

Fiscal Officer Castillo noted personnel changes in the office and praised staff for filling in until replacement staff could be hired.

Park Planner's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

Community Program Specialist's Report

Community Program Specialist Schoof reported in addition to her written report on an upcoming Take A Hike in collaboration with Belmont Parks and Recreation using Sheep Camp Trail.

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation Executive Director's Report

There was no report.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Pincus said he had gone to the smolt release at the Princeton Harbor. He asked in the near future that a comparison be done on park usage looking at what sites are popular.

Chair Pincus recognized Youth Commissioner Henry Ruehl for his service. Henry graduated from high school and will go to Princeton University in the fall. Commissioners and staff congratulated Henry and thanked him for his great work on the Commission.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.