

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2014
Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center, Redwood City**

MINUTES

Chair Merrilees called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

Staff: Finley, Arechiga, Bennett, Castillo, Gardner, Hallett, Hawk, Herzberg, Lombardi, Schneider, Schoof, Wright

Oral Communications

Ms. Elena Alejandre, Millbrae, said she was concerned with the prospect of disc golf being allowed in Junipero Serra Park (JSP) as she feared for the safety of seniors and children who use the park.

Mr. Bill Guisti, San Bruno, provided the Commission with a handout listing municipal codes for County parks and recreation area that made associations between disc golf and the code on "dangerous activities," disallowance of projectiles being thrown in a park or across a path, noise and other general protective regulations relating to vegetation and vandalism. He said he was opposed to disc golf in JSP.

Ms. Carolyn Bechthold, San Bruno Senior Center, said that walking groups from the Senior Center use JSP for their walks and the prospect of disc golf there concerned her due to the possibility of projectiles striking walkers.

Mr. Perry Peterson, San Bruno, said he wanted to reinforce his opposition to the allowance of disc golf in JSP and suggested the formation of a Friends Group for JSP.

Agenda Amendments

There were none.

Consideration of Minutes

Regular Meeting of August 7, 2014

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

Presentations and Correspondence

Park Superintendent Lombardi introduced newly hired Ranger IIs Robert Gardner, Kelly Hawk and Adam Schneider highlighting the experience and skills the new rangers bring to County Parks.

Director's Report

Director Finley provided a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the reconstruction of the riding arena for the Folger Stable at Wunderlich Park, the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich *Carts to Cars* fundraiser for such improvements as the riding arena and educational programs, the 4H's millionth ceremonial tree planting at Huddart Park, pathway improvements at the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, and completion of Phase I of the Promenade replacement project at Coyote Point Recreation Area. She noted upcoming projects including Phase II of the Promenade project, Crystal Springs Trail South of Dam, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve parking lot, Cypress Grove management, and San Vicente Creek restoration. She said possible trail connectors to Devil's Slide Trail were being discussed. She said a business consultant had been hired to review park fees, concessions, leases, contracts and other potential revenue stream improvements.

Director Finley said future focuses for the Department and Commission were the 2015-2017 budget and stakeholder and other agency workshops on county and multi-use trails, noting the 17-mile Crystal Springs Regional Trail linear park, and a Flood Park community workshop to discuss park uses.

Discussion ensued regarding a workshop on the 2015-2017 parks budgets. November 6 was identified as the preferable date for the Commission to hold a special meeting on this topic.

Action Items

Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to Name the Northernmost Vista Point of the Devil's Slide Trail Park as "The Ollie Mayer Vista Point" and to be Identified as such at the Vista Point and in Future Publications Highlighting the Devil's Slide Trail Park

Director Finley indicated there were no additions to the written staff report.

Chair Merrilees opened public comment.

Public Comment: Ms. Lennie Roberts, Committee for Green Foothills, said that Ollie Mayer, who passed away in March 2013, had been a great environmental advocate and a very strong proponent for the Devil's Slide Tunnels. She said at the tunnel opening which was just after Ms. Mayer's death, Congresswoman Speier had suggested that Ms. Mayer be recognized for her efforts.

Mr. Chris Hunter, Chief Legislative Aide for Supervisor Horsley's office, said that Ms. Mayer was very well-known in her life time for her environmental advocacy and that their office had received multiple requests for recognition of her life's contributions in particular her actions and organizing for the realization of the tunnels at Devil's Slide.

Ms. Julia Bott, San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, said Ms. Mayer had been a mentor and friend. She said the Sierra Club's Hiker's Hut located in Pescadero Creek Park was the brainchild of Ms. Mayer.

Chair Merrilees closed public comment.

Commissioner Okelo asked for more information on the County and Parks' naming policies. Staff indicated that information would be provided.

General support for the recognition of Ms. Ollie Mayer was expressed by individual Commissioners.

Commission Action: M/S Pincus/Cooney to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to name the northernmost Vista Point of the Devil's Slide Trail Park as "The Ollie Mayer Vista Point" and to be identified as such at the Vista Point and in future publications highlighting the Devil's Slide Trail Park.

Motion carried 6-0.

Marina

Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Hallett reported in addition to his written report that only seven berths in the 45-foot slips for Dock 29 were left to lease, and bids had been requested for the Fuel Dock project which was expected to be finished by January.

Operations and Maintenance Activities

Superintendent's Report

Park Superintendent Lombardi said he had no additions to the written report.

Volunteer and Community Programs Report

Community Program Specialist Schoof reported on County Parks' first hosted BioBlitz that was held at Memorial Park. She said over 70 people signed up for it and there were 60 participants, who identified and documented 140-plus species. She said the final Take A Hike hosted at Devil's Slide Trail had 100 participants.

Prompted by a question from Commission Okelo, discussion ensued on the capacities of the online volunteer management system which is being implemented.

Improving Visitor Count Methodology Report

Ranger Wright provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation on her research for improving visitor count methodology and the decision to purchase the TRAFx system to include nine Car Counters and 18 Trail Counters with a one-time installation cost of approximately \$14,500.

General discussion on the system attributes and capabilities ensued.

Natural Resources Management *Natural Resources Manager's Report*

Natural Resource Manager Arechiga said she had no additions to the written report.

Prompted by a question from Commissioner Okelo, discussion ensued on invasive plants and their management.

Support Services *Budget Report*

Management Analyst Castillo reported in addition to the written report that Parks has received \$250,000 in Measure A funding.

Commissioner Pincus thanked him for providing a supplementary report to the Commissioners on the different types of parks revenue.

Park Planning Report

Senior Planner Herzberg reported on various activities in addition to the written report including hazmat inspections of various Parks' corporation yards, GGRNA parking lot trail head study for Rancho Corrale de Tierra, and midcoast planning for a congestion transportation management plan.

Alternative Funding and Program Development Report

There was no additional report.

Friends and Subcommittees

Parks and Recreation Foundation's Report

Executive Director Bott reported that the Foundation has dedicated \$500,000 for Phase II of the Promenade project. She noted that there were upgrades to the exhibits and AV equipment in the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center. She said potential donors were hosted for a preview hike on the developing Crystal Springs South of Dam Trail. She said there would be other such walks for potential donors to give them a preview of developing projects and new properties.

Mini-, Neighborhood Parks Subcommittee Report

Chair Merrilees reported that Commissioner Okelo, Director Finley and he had met with representatives from the North Fair Oaks Community Council, Pescadero Advisory Council, and Midcoast Community Council, and had received demographic information on unincorporated San Mateo County from North Fair Oaks Forward staff.

Commissioner Okelo noted the subcommittee had requested additional data and updated demographics.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Okelo suggested that the Commission consider using a different agenda with a consent calendar and section for actions and policy.

Adjournment

Chair Merrilees adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.