

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2015
4:00 p.m.
Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center, 1st Floor, Redwood City

MINUTES

Chair Pincus called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Cooney, Enriquez (Vice Chair), Merrilees, Pincus (Chair)

Commissioners Absent: Okelo

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

Welcome and Introduction of Youth Commissioners

Ms. Ana Angel Avendano, Youth Commission Program Coordinator, Youth Development Initiative, StarVista, introduced Kevin Huo and Cailan Cummings, who will serve as Youth Commissioners on the Parks Commission beginning the December meeting. Both Kevin and Cailan spoke briefly and shared their enthusiasm for serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Oral Communications

There were none.

Agenda Amendments

Staff said a request was made to move Item 7 after item 6C. The agenda amendment was accepted by consensus.

Presentations

San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan 30 Year Assessment – Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Manager

Director Finley noted Ms. Arechiga was in route to the meeting from Santa Cruz and would make presentation later in the meeting, which was amenable to the Commission.

Action Items

Review and Approve the Minutes of the August 6, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission and Bicycle Advisory Committee

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

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*

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Okelo not in attendance.

Establish a Dog Strategy Committee to Make Recommendations to Update and Improve Dog Management in San Mateo County Parks

Director Finley said that staff had previously provided the Commission with a briefing paper on dog management and a recommendation for staff to develop a dog management strategy at the August 7, 2014 Commission meeting. She said that with the successful process and outcome of the mini-parks subcommittee, she was proposing they use a similar approach for dog management strategy and create a committee. She reviewed her proposal for the makeup of the committee as outlined in the staff report.

Public Comment: Ms. Christine Corwin, Montara Dog Group, said that she and her organization supported formation of this committee.

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Merrilees to establish a dog strategy committee.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commission Okelo absent.

Commissioner Merrilees offered to serve on the committee. Commissioner Enriquez indicated he would be willing to serve. Chair Pincus said they would hold off on designating two commissioners until the next meeting since Commissioner Okelo was absent this meeting.

Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Acceptance of Donations and In-Kind Services from the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation

Foundation Executive Director Bott highlighted the donations listed in the staff report that would go to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance on November 3.

Commission Comment: Chair Pincus said it has been delightful to work with Ms. Bott through a number of years. He said she has been such a pleasant advocate for the parks system and effective. He said they have never had to worry that Ms. Bott was leaving anything behind in funding efforts as whatever projects came up made her Board's funding list.

Commission Action: M/S Cooney//Enriquez to recommend to the Board of Supervisors acceptance of donations and in-kind services from the Foundation.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commission Okelo absent.

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

Ms. Bott recognized members of the Foundation Board in the audience: Mary DeLong, Chair, Lyndell Erb, Christy Morrill, Katy Rnodes and Bill Korbholz. She recognized Ms. Linda Liebes as well. She noted the hosted hikes held in Pescadero Creek Park for board members and donors. She introduced the incoming Executive Director, Michele

Beasley, currently with Greenbelt Alliance. Ms. Beasley said she was very excited and honored to join the Foundation. She said she had been born and raised in San Mateo County and had the opportunity to explore its parks as a Girl Scout. She said she will begin her new position on November 2.

Resolution Honoring Ms. Julia Bott, Executive Director, San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, upon Her Retirement, for 17 Years of Dedicated Service

Chair Pincus read the resolution honoring Ms. Julia Bott. The resolution, a life pass to County Parks, and a redwood plaque were presented to Ms. Bott.

Public Comment: Ms. Mary DeLong, Foundation Chair, thanked Ms. Bott for years of leadership as the Foundation Director. She said there were so many things she could say in appreciation of Julia. She recalled when she (Mary) was the President of the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Board that Julia had taught her much about leadership.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Cooney thanked Julia for being the “bolt” and “anchor” for San Mateo County Parks.

Commissioner Enriquez announced “Julia Bott day in San Mateo County.” He thanked Ms. Bott for her leadership and for providing wonderful opportunities to explore and visit parks, noting it was with her that he first experienced going to the top of San Bruno Mountain and enjoying the view of the Bay. He congratulated Ms. Bott on raising large amounts of money annually and for her leadership and activities in the community.

Commissioner Merrilees thanked Ms. Bott for being a positive force in the parks department, her unflagging enthusiasm and her efforts to get people including himself out into the parks. He said he enjoyed every hike immensely.

Chair Pincus noted the remarks he had made previously. He thanked Julia and the Foundation for the contributions to the County, parks, youth and enabling Parks to carry out programs that otherwise would not have been possible to happen.

Ms. Bott thanked all the speakers for their touching and heartwarming accolades and communications. She said her job has been so enjoyable and said it was delightful that people wanted to donate money because they love parks. She thanked the park staff generally for their support and the park ranger staff particularly, praising them for their can-do and positive attitude.

Chair Pincus recessed the meeting for refreshments at 4:40 p.m.

Chair Pincus reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Recognized by Chair Pincus, Director Finley said she wanted Julia to know how much the Parks Department appreciated all of the things she has done over the years and that they have enormous gratitude for her unwavering support to San Mateo County Parks. She said both in the good and bad times Julia has been there to support Parks.

Park Superintendent Lombardi thanked Julia on behalf of all the staff. He said staff has enjoyed supporting the Foundation events and appreciated the Foundation's support.

Presentations

San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan 30 Year Assessment – Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Manager

Natural Resource Manager Arechiga said they had recently completed a 30-year assessment with a particular focus on the last 10 years of what active management and their butterfly monitoring strategies have been on San Bruno Mountain, and making sure that the next management plan was current in addressing the correct issues.

Ms. Arechiga reviewed the objectives of the Habitat Conservation Plan Area Agreement (HCP). She noted major shifts identified in the management paradigm noting that scrub encroachment was now the biggest threat to maintaining grassland habitat. She said they were moving toward plant monitoring strategies as well as butterfly monitoring, and prioritizing invasive species targets and management activities among other things. She said in managing for butterfly habitat – Mission blue, Callipe silverspot, and San Bruno elfin - beginning in 2009 there had been some experimental scrub removal treatments that have been expanded slowly to manage invasive species in high quality butterfly habitat. She said they initiated a rare, threatened and endangered plant survey on the Mountain in 2015 that would inform future management actions for both state and federally listed species and locally rare plants. She said over the next five years the goal was better mapping and quantification of significant vegetation communities to better understand and manage wildlife habitat diversity.

Ms. Arechiga reviewed the FY 2015/16 budget of \$85,000 and the work plan for the Commission and provided visual maps showing priority management areas. She said the direction of future management included bringing grassland acres into compliance with the 2007 Habitat Management Plan target of 1200 acres, to continue to manage areas treated in FY 2015/16, apply an ecosystem approach and consider all rare, threatened and endangered species for active management, strategically partner with city agencies already working on vegetation management on the Mountain and to seek additional funding from grants and partnerships.

In response to comments made by Commissioner Cooney related to cost-sharing with cities in the HCP, Ms. Arechiga said Brisband was open to collaboration. Director Finley said the Priority Conservation Areas just approved by ABAG were giving more visibility to the Mountain. She said County Parks staff was negotiating with State Parks on the next 15-year operating agreement and they were bringing numerous partnership opportunities forward with that. She said funding was available to complete the Master Plan and that would open the planning process, which often brought partners forward. Commissioner Cooney said he was glad to hear the County wasn't bearing all of the responsibilities and costs for management of the HCP.

Responding to questions from Chair Pincus, Ms. Arechiga said that the management of the HCP was not paid from County General Fund. Director Finley said with audit and

30-year assessment expenses, the Department would not charge the HCP for its staff overhead in FY 2015-2017 budgets.

Director's Report

Director Finley said in addition to her written report new staff positions were being filled and the Department had signed an agreement with SF State to conduct a visitor survey to determine why some people don't visit County Parks. She said there was more detail on that in Ms. Schoof's report. She said the Department has three large projects going on: the Coyote Point East Promenade, Green Valley Trail, and Re-imagine Flood Park projects. She said there was interest in seeing whether the Sam McDonald house could be placed on the national historic register. She said a reporter from the Half Moon Bay Review had spoken with her about doing an article on Sam McDonald in their magazine. She said she included information in her report on the Coast Dairies Monument, as two bills had been introduced, one in the senate and one in the house to create the monument. She said regarding reuse of the Honor Camp that the Outward Bound organization just visited the site and were inquiring about the possibility of bringing youth to it. She highlighted from the report the donation of horse hitching racks by local equestrians.

Harbormaster's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

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

Management Analyst Castillo reviewed his report for the Commission highlighting September budget revisions, including a fund balance adjustment of an additional \$1,075,246 to the FY 2015-16 fund balance reimbursing the Department for the loss of revenues from Memorial Park due to drought conditions and a depreciation allowance for the Marina not previously taken. He highlighted that the Department would upgrade to a new reservation system that would go live November 2. He reported that \$402,807 of Measure A funds from the previous year were re-appropriated for FY 2015-16 to complete Parks maintenance projects.

Park Planner's Report

Planner Herzberg said he had no additions to his written report. He commented that he had worked with Executive Director Bott for over 25 years originally when she was with the Sierra Club and he was with County Planning Department. He said they had

collaborated on numerous important environmental issues such as stopping offshore drilling and a golf course at Edgewood Park.

Community Program Specialist's Report

There were no additions to the written report.

Development Consultant's Report

-- Coyote Point Recreation Area Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project Update

There were no additions to the written report.

Commissioner Reports

There were none.

Adjournment

Chair Pincus adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m. in honor of Ms. Julia Bott, San Mateo County Parks Foundation Executive Director.