

County of San Mateo

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center, Redwood City

MINUTES

Commissioner Manneh served as acting Chair prior to the arrival of Chair Okelo (4:15 p.m.) and Vice Chair Bonilla (4:20 p.m.). Commissioner Manneh called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Neil Merrilees, Barbara Bonilla (Vice Chair), Marico Enriquez, Basem Manneh, Meda Okelo (Chair), and Eeshan Bhat (Youth Commissioner)

Staff Present: Sarah Birkeland, Scott Lombardi, Lori Mrizek, Eduardo Castillo, Carla Schoof, Cecily Harris, Nirit Eriksson, Deputy County Counsel

3. Public Comment – No public comment.

4. Parks Director's Report

Acting Director Sarah Birkeland announced the appointment of a new Director of Parks, Jonathan Gervais. Jonathan will join the Parks Department beginning Nov 6th. He has been the Parks and Recreation Director for City of Belmont for past nine years. Prior to that he was with the National Park Service. Jonathan will be introduced to the Commission at the December Commission meeting.

5. Public Presentations

5.1 Honor Camp Proposal – Mr. Chip Huggins, CEO, Caminar for Mental Health. Mr. Huggins discussed other uses of the Honor Camp, such as affordable housing and low-income housing. He believes the facility could provide an excellent opportunity to develop a tiny home facility. The village would be self-contained, with water and waste systems. It would be open to the public, those with low incomes, farm workers, people beginning their journey of recovery from addictions, as well as

those struggling with mental illness. Residency would be based on income, and length of stay could be open-ended.

6. Informational Items

6.1 Honor Camp Feasibility Study – Cecily Harris, Senior Management Analyst, Parks Department Report: Jan & Aug 2017

Ms. Harris presented a summary of the feasibility study for the Honor Camp that was recently completed. This study provides the history of the Honor Camp property, which is located within San Mateo County's Pescadero Creek County Park. She explained that the Boy Scouts built and operated a camp there in the 1940s-1950s, and that the camp was subsequently purchased by San Mateo County and converted to the Sheriff's Honor Camp. The County added a Medium Security Facility in the 1970s that was eventually closed in 2003.

Ms. Harris also presented the Commission with five re-use alternatives for the site from the feasibility study that include: decommissioning the camp and restoring it to its natural condition; develop a Recreational Vehicle (RV) campground; create a corporate retreat or themed camp; create an Environmental Education Center for youth outdoor education programs; offer the camp for CalFire crews, or California Conservation Corps.

Public Comment on item 6

1) Dr. Scott Morrow.

2) Mr. Mike Bushue, Vice President and Management Oversight member of ETRAC, Equestrian Trail Riders' Action Committee and member of the Volunteer Horse Patrol.

3) Tracey Weiss, Executive Director, Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools.

7. Action Items

7.1 Review and Approve minutes from June 1, 2017: Chair Okelo requested a re-wording on item 6.3 of the June 1, 2017 minutes.

Commissioner Bonilla made a motion to approve the minutes, subject to the re-wording requested by Chair Okelo. Commissioner Enriquez seconded the motion. 5-0 minutes approved.

7.2 Review and Approve minutes from Aug 3, 2017: M/S Merrilees/Manneh, Approved 4-0, with Chair Okelo abstaining as he was not at the August meeting.

7.3 Review and recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors of funding for the Coastside Fishing Foundation for the 2018 Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project.

Commissioner Merrilees said that he has knowledge of this program and that it is a worthwhile one. He explained that the Coastside Fishing Club is a volunteer organization that uses funds to buy fish to improve fish stocks, contribute to the local economy, and benefit the natural environment.

M/S Merrilees/Bonilla support funding the program in the amount of \$10,000 out of the Parks Department's California Department of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund for the 2018 Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project. Approved 5-0.

7.4 Discuss and approve Commissioner assignments to Commission Work Plan:

Commissioner Bonilla said that we need to decide who will be assigned to each work plan item. There should be no more than 2 Commissioners on each item.

Assigned to workplan item 1.1: Okelo; Manneh

Assigned to workplan item 1.2: Okelo

Assigned to workplan item 1.3: Enriquez

Assigned to workplan item 1.4: Merrilees

Assigned to workplan item 2.1: Bonilla; Okelo

Assigned to workplan item 2.1.1: TBD

Assigned to workplan item 3.0: TBD

Assigned to workplan item 4.0: item complete

Assigned to workplan item 5.0: Manneh

Assigned to workplan item 5.2: Manneh

Assigned to workplan item 5.3: Manneh; Bonilla

M/S Bonilla/Merrilees to approve the above assignments. Approved 5-0.

8.0 Parks Foundation Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director was unable to attend.

9.0 Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner Merrilees commented about the controversial Mavericks Surf Contest, which relies on Parks staff time and risks damage to the natural environment.

Youth Commissioner Eeshan Bhat noted that he is glad to be back on the Parks Commission this year. Eeshan is Chair of Environmental Justice Committee, which is part of the Youth Commission. They are to do one project in the year, and he would like to collaborate with the Parks Commission on this project. Publicizing County Parks is one idea he had for the project.

Commissioner Manneh reported on the wildlife town hall held by Supervisor Canepa in Colma on September 20th.

Chair Okelo reported on his attendance at the Youth Commission Boards and Commissions Mixer, which he found very informative, and suggested inviting chairs of other county commissions to Parks Commission meetings to make presentations about different commissions' responsibilities.

10. Items for Future Agenda

Reports from Work Plan (timeline), and Park-in-lieu fees discussion.

Presentation of the Dog Committee findings and the proposed policies.

11. Adjournment

At 5:57 p.m.