

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 24, 2008
SAN LUIS OBISPO VETERANS HALL
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA**

Commissioners Present: Rick Mathews, Dorothy Jennings, Pandora Nash-Karner, and Paul Teixeira.

Commissioners Absent: Terry Eberhardt

Staff Present: Ernie Del Rio, Pete Jenny, George Rosenberger and Janette Pell

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

OPENING

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Nominations and Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair.**
Commissioner Nash-Karner nominated **Commissioner Matthews** as Chair, seconded by **Commissioner Teixeira**; motion approved 4-0. **Commissioner Jennings** nominated **Commissioner Nash-Karner** as Vice-Chair, seconded by **Commissioner Matthews**; motion approved 4-0.
3. **Public Comment. Supervisor Jim Patterson** thanked the Parks Commission for their service. He talked about means for maintaining trails. This is a very popular topic and he is hoping to address this issue at the BOS meeting. He talked about forming a Parks Department in a year or two and expanding Parks services to include Resource Management.
4. **Commissioner comments. Commissioner Nash-Karner** thanked George Rosenberger for stepping up as interim General Services Director. She hoped to get some stalled projects in Los Osos moving. Bear sculptures in Los Osos will be repainted using volunteer work parties. There are seventy-eight boats in the Cuesta Inlet in Los Osos, which currently is private property. She would like to see it as a park in the future. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** will provide a monthly Park Commission report to local agencies and Advisory Counsels and recommend other Commissioners consider doing the same in their districts. **Commissioner Jennings** attended a meeting of the TCSD subcommittee of Parks and Recreation. There was a discussion of Vineyard Estates Park and talk about creating a maintenance district should a park be built. A homeowners survey will be sent out to determine support levels. She commented on Bob Cuddy's story in the Tribune. **Commissioner Matthews** thought it would be a good idea to keep various committees and advisory counsels informed of Parks and Recreation activities. He commented on the Governor's budget to close forty-eight state parks and invited Park Commission to look at the website of California Parks Foundation and take action. Staff will place this item on the Commission's February

agenda. **Commissioner Teixeira** asked if closing state parks would have an effect on County parks. **Pete Jenny** said closing parks is bad for everyone and may add to our burden. **Commissioner Matthews** said owners of Eagle Ranch are looking to develop and are setting aside 3,000 acres of conservation easement. **Commissioner Teixeira** attended a community meeting regarding Jack Ready Park; concerns were voiced including water, traffic and access issues.

5. **Approve minutes of December 13 meeting.** Motion to approve the December 13, 2007 minutes made by **Commissioner Nash-Karner**, seconded by **Commissioner Jennings**; motion approved 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

6. **Park Manager's report.** a) A Commissioner's workshop will be held on February 23rd. There may be participation from throughout CPRS District VIII. b) At the SLOCAPRA meeting plans were made to promote the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights; County staff is taking a resolution to the Board in February. c) On February 5th staff is presenting to BOS a recommendation to give Chalk Mountain GC concessionaire 2 more years to complete contractually required CIPs. d) BOS adopted a 2.5% cut to this year's budget, which equals \$88K for Parks budget. Parks cut a project to perform countywide needs assessment. e) On January 29, an offer to accept three constructed trails will go to the BOS; Parks has entered into an agreement with ECOSLO to manage the volunteer services in an effort to contain maintenance costs for these new trails. **Commissioner Jennings** asked when the balance of trail inventory would be accepted by BOS; **Jenny** said it will probably happen in batches and that the process could take a year. f) Parks has selected a vendor to implement a new reservation and accounting system; rollout is expected for fall of 2008. The cost is approximately \$300K, paid for by Parks over time from profits attributed to new growth. g) County Parks will be cutting down 10 mature White Oaks at Lopez Lake based on a recent assessment of the potential hazard they pose to visitors. h) Lakes are filling up due to recent rains; Santa Margarita Lake is about to spill and Lopez has come up one foot so far. i) **Jenny** handed out prescription trail brochure developed by SLOCAPRA. This is a brochure that encourages outdoor activities by encouraging doctors to "prescribe" a walk/hike to patients who would benefit from more exercise. k) Park Commission annual report to BOS will be placed on next month's agenda.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. **Update on General Services Re-organization.** GS Director **George Rosenberger** gave an update on the General Services re-organization. The recommendation is to combine IT with GS to create a General Services Agency, headed by **Janette Pell**. **George** will assist with the transition. **Janette Pell** said that she would be the General Services Agency Director; she is currently looking at the proposed structure of the revised agency, which will continue to have departments or divisions with a deputy director overseeing each. **Supervisor Patterson** said that it was a good model to allow for future spin off of Parks and Airports.

8. **Final Report on Board's Working Group regarding reformation of Parks Department.** Jenny reported that the effort to create a separate Parks Department has been tabled due to financial considerations. While he was prepared to recommend that the Parks program could absorb any new costs of formation, a significant increase in Countywide Overhead coupled with an uncertain budget outlook makes that recommendation impractical. **Supervisor Patterson** cited the benefits of a separate Parks department and thought there would be opportunities in the not too distant future when the economy picks up. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** commented on the nature of the County system. Parks are continually being suppressed and are looking for ways to improve. She said that Parks continues to lose ground in acquiring land and providing services. **Commissioner Jennings** said District 1 has only 10 acres of County parkland with no sign of that improving soon. **Janette Pell** suggested that staff use the interim time to look at internal changes that could assist in the spin-off of a separate department.
9. **Request to approve storm drainage into the Nipomo Native Garden area of Nipomo Park.** Jenny introduced **Dale Ramey** of Public Works, who made a presentation on the storm water drainage project in Nipomo Park. Parks staff feels that Public Works has met the intent of County Park's easement policy. **Dale Ramey** explained the nuances and scope of the project to the Park Commission. **Jenny** categorized the development as meeting an important community need while also providing a modest improvement to the park. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** moved to support the project; seconded by **Commissioner Teixeira**. Motion approved 4-0.
10. **Discussion of agenda and schedule for Commission's winter field trip.** Field trip scheduled for February 29. Commission will meet at the SLO Vets Hall at 8:00 a.m. and visit the Dana Adobe and Jack Ready Park site.
11. **Discussion of agenda and schedule for Commission's winter/spring retreat.** The commission's retreat will be at the home of **Commissioner Nash-Karner**. The retreat will be held on March 15th beginning at 8:00 a.m. with the meeting scheduled for 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Staff suggests that the focus of the meeting be developing strategies for the financial stability of the Parks program.
12. **Approve letters of donation.** **Commissioner Nash-Karner** moved to approve letters of donation; **Commissioner Teixeira** seconded. Motion approved 4-0.
13. **Adjourn meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.