

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

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Pete Jenny and Ernie Del Rio

Call to Order: 6:03 p.m.

OPENING

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment. Kathy Longacre of San Luis Obispo Parks Open Space and Trails Foundation addressed the meeting, enumerating the various groups included under the umbrella non-profit SLOPOST. These groups include: a.) SLO-4-Pups; the off-leash dog area in El Chorro Regional Park. b.) Parks-4-Pups; a volunteer group who has adopted the Vineyard Trail and is fundraising to build the now approved off-leash dog area at the Vineyard Park. c.) Heilmann Dog Park; the volunteer group who created and maintains the off-leash dog area at that park. d.) Ride Nipomo; a local equestrian group who has officially adopted the Calendar Grove Trail and Knollwood Trail and unofficially maintains several other trails in Nipomo. e.) Friends of Lopez Lake; a group of volunteers which include fishermen, equestrians, hikers and nature lovers who work to improve the park and to build a nature center in the future. SLOPOST members, members of Friends of Lopez and Parks Superintendent **Ernie Del Rio** and Ranger **Kristen Brewster** met in early July to discuss ideas on how to better define the relationship between SLOPOST and SLO County Parks, so that we can work together on ways to enhance parks, partner on grants and fundraising for projects such as the Nature Center at Lopez Lake. a.) SLOPOST supports the idea of a “drive-in” equestrian horse camp at Santa Margarita Lake that **Commissioner Matthews** brought from his meeting with the Atascadero Horsemen. b.) SLOPOST has also offered to design, install, and purchase (with approval from ranger **Ken Klis**) a.) water trough at the northern junction of the new Falcon Trail and River Road. Equestrian access to water would make the trail much more usable in warm weather. b.) SLOPOST has offered to help pay for a Trail Construction Consultant to try and establish a workable route for the southern connection of Santa Margarita Lake Loop Trail between Sandstone Trail and Grey Pine. The difficulty that we have run into is crossing the Salisepedes Creek, and that has been what our local trail builders are stumped by. c.) SLOPOST will be working with an Eagle Scout project to do some improvements to the High Ridge Connection trail gate in the Lopez Lake Recreation area in early August.

3. **Commissioner comments. Commissioner Jennings** handed out the Noticia de Anza newsletter. She would like to see trails maps on the website and commented on the Santa Margarita Ranch cluster development. **Commissioner Jennings** commented on the inconsistencies of comments made by various individuals and agencies regarding the Santa Margarita Ranch cluster development plan. **Commissioner Teixeira** attended Jack's Helping Hands at Santa Margarita Ranch and said the event was a huge success. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for newly acquired property for Dana Adobe Sunday at 1:00 P.M. **Commissioner Eberhardt** said the Avila Civic Association now has a budget of \$50,000. The money will be used to offset cost of operating the Civic Center. Avila Beach maintenance service facility is closed for summer/fall for renovation. New entrance sign for Avila Beach will be designed and installed. Achievement House has been picking up litter throughout the community with support from Parks, Port San Luis and local businesses. The Avila Civic Association is trying to put trashcans along sidewalks. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** said: there would be a lost at sea memorial bell in Cayucos, commented on the potential entrance kiosk at Montana de Oro, indicated there is a new movement in Los Osos called "celebrate Los Osos" and there is a new fence around the Grizzly group area in Los Osos Park. **Commissioner Jennings** attended the ground breaking of the Veterans Memorial in Atascadero Lake Park.

4. **Approve minutes of June 26 meeting.** Motion to approve June 26, 2008 minutes as amended made by **Commissioner Eberhardt**, seconded by **Commissioner Jennings**. Motion approved 4-0. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** abstained.

STAFF REPORTS

5. **Trails Committee report.** The Trails Committee meeting on July 8, 2008 included a staff report from **Ernie Del Rio** on offers to dedicate (OTD) trails. OTD's are submitted to the Board of Supervisors according to connectivity per PRE and date sensitivity (typically 9-21 years). **Jan Di Leo** is compiling a list. **Shaun Cooper** is being trained on GIS. **Nancy Graves** said Coastal Conservancy will take OTDs about to expire. Falcon Trail approved by Parks Commission. Trail Days (work day) suggested for Falcon Trail. Meeting in August with **Supervisor Patterson** to discuss Salinas River crossing at Santa Margarita Lake. Discussed trail repairs at Cypress Ridge. **Juventino Ortiz** presented the State Parks Report including a discussion of budget issues and working on putting together a trail etiquette brochure. He also said that the State Parks Los Osos office is open and Limekiln Park is closed due to fire and maintenance issues. Bluff Trail Bridge was replaced in Montana de Oro, there will be future ADA work. The immediate goals and objectives of the Trails Committee include: a.) Projects for the Anza Trail. b.) **Kathy Longacre** discussed possible Eagle Scout project on the High Ridge Trail at Lopez Lake. c.) **Nancy Graves** reported that Coast Trail signs will be going up in Pismo Beach and discussed Morro Bay Harbor Walk and equestrian staging at the end of Grand Avenue. d.) **Helene Finger** submitted a report on the Bob Jones Trail including construction highlights. e.) **Jonalee Istenes** discussed ORV areas in North County and efforts to curtail illegal ORV in restricted areas.

6. **Deputy Director's Report. Pete Jenny** a) updated Park Commission on upcoming website improvement; b) commended **Jan Di Leo** for her work on the Master Plan Process in Nipomo and inclusion of the Community in a process to select alternate sites for the Nipomo Community Center; c) Community members in Cayucos are interested in developing an Off Leash Pet Area; Norma Rose Park and Hardie Park are potential locations. Chalk Mountain Golf Course improvements have been completed; d) the Rios Caledonia will be closed during seismic retrofitting; e) Parks has an operating agreement with State Parks concerning Montana de Oro; it provides that in the 8th year County must: 1) let State charge entrance fees beginning in the 11th year, 2) pay State Parks \$40K (adjusted for inflation) not to charge a fee, or 3) end agreement after 10th year; agreement includes MBGC, Bishop Park Trails and other locations; **Jenny** has been to Morro Bay, Cayucos and Los Osos advisory groups; Morro Bay and Cayucos were in support of option 1; LOCAC did not reach a decision; staff will come back to the Commission soon for a recommendation; f) Parks is down 5 rangers, one Administrative Assistant III and one Groundskeeper; combined with budget cuts, this puts Parks in a difficult position.

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. **Recommendation to Board of Supervisors on potential use of PFF to fund purchase of property at Pirates Cove in Avila.** **Jenny** provided a parcel map and reviewed the potential project with the Commission. San Miguelito Partners owns all five parcels and is offering to sell parcels 3 and 5 (including the beach access). **Commissioner Teixeira** asked if the County sold Le Grande Beach to the State, could funds be used for the purchase? **Jenny** said not very likely. **Commissioner Eberhardt** thought it was an opportunity to work with Fossil Point Development. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** supported the concept and thought it was a good use of Public Facility Fees. **Commissioner Jennings** echoed her sentiments. Motion to support of the purchase of parcels 3 and 5 made by **Commissioner Eberhardt**, seconded by **Commissioner Teixeira**. Motion approved 5-0.
8. **Approve letters of donation.** None.
9. **Adjourn meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.