

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 22, 2009
SAN LUIS OBISPO VETERANS HALL
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA**

Commissioners Present: Rick Mathews, Pandora Nash-Karner, Paul Teixeira, Deanne Gonzales and Bruce Hilton

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Ernie Del Rio and Stacey King

Other Staff: Janette Pell, General Services Agency Director

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

OPENING

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

2. **Public Comment.** None

3. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** introduced General Services Agency Director **Janette Pell** to the new Parks Commissioners **Bruce Hilton** and **Deanne Gonzales**.

4. **Commissioner Comments.** **Commissioner Teixeira** thanked General Services Agency Deputy Director – Parks, **Pete Jenny** and **Commissioner Gonzales** for being at the dedication of 29 acres at the Dana Adobe on January 16; some of the rooms at the Adobe have been restored and in the process 4 – 5 old letters from the Dana Family were found. **Commissioner Mathews** reminded everyone about the Commissioners Workshop at Hearst Castle on February 21; he said this is a great opportunity for networking and urged everyone to attend; 5th District citizens are interested in having the Santa Margarita Ranch project build a trail from Garden Farms to Santa Margarita. **Commissioner Hilton** added that he and Park Planner **Jan Di Leo** would be working with **Rob Rossi** on this topic; **Commissioner Hilton** thanked **Supervisor Adam Hill** for appointing him as Park Commissioner and he also thanked former **Commissioner Terry Eberhardt** for his service; he said that Parks will be facing a lot of challenges and he is looking forward to being an advocate for Parks; on February 4th there will be a meeting on unmet transit and bikeway needs; there will be an online survey on the SLOCOG website for those who cannot attend; he believes we need a vehicle to better promote private donations and supports having a dedicated parks support foundation. **Commissioner Gonzales** is honored to be here as the District 1 Parks Commissioner; she and **Supervisor Mecham** are doing a lot of “getting their feet on the floor” and trying to get an idea of the various community needs; she also expressed the concerns about the donation process. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** reported that Celebrate Los Osos, a highly energized group of citizens, built a fence along the Los Osos Community Park; Gerard Ages, a local

contractor, spearheaded the project; they have another two-phase project in the works. Phase one is to hopefully be able to partner with the Los Osos CSD to build a windscreen (wall) to protect the Grizzly Group Day Use Area next to the Barn; Phase two would be a zip-line course; 100 trees were planted at the park and drip irrigation has been put into place; the Cuesta Inlet is an 11-acre area that is being used as a park and Celebrate Los Osos is going to try to clean it up; the SLO Botanical Garden is on its way to becoming an international seed bank w/ restaurant, research and resource center; they are teaming with the Monterey County donors and getting the word out to go to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Hearst Castle and then finish at the SLO Botanical Gardens; she also mentioned the importance of the upcoming Commissioners' Workshop and that they need to create alliances as well as be advocates for parks.

5. Approve minutes of October 30 and December 10, 2008 meetings. Motion to approve October 30, 2008 minutes was made by **Commissioner Mathews**, seconded by **Commissioner Teixeira**. Motion approved 5-0. A motion to approve December 10, 2008 minutes did not occur as there was a quorum issue raised. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** suggested taking this issue back to **Pete Jenny** for clarification.

STAFF REPORTS

6. Trails Committee Report. Commissioner Hilton reported there was a good turnout at the last meeting: a) The High Ridge Trail needs a new access gate; b) the ECOSLO arrangement seems to be working well and Ride Nipomo has expressed an interest to adopt more trails; c) Harmony Headlands Park, north of Cayucos has a docent on site but there are access restrictions, State Parks has an agreement with the Cayucos Land Conservancy to staff it with volunteers.

7. Parks Superintendent's Report. Del Rio reported a) commented about Dorothy Jennings's Trails Committee application and explained the process of applying to the Commissioners. b) Staff is working with the SLOPOST Foundation and Kathy Longacre on putting together an agreement so they can become an official support organization for County Parks. c) Commissioners were encouraged to participate in the Commissioners' Workshop at Hearst Castle. d) Parks is allocating \$20,000 to the Atascadero Unified School District so they can make upgrades to the Creston Pool. e) The SLO Botanical Gardens was vandalized and several items were stolen; vendors have come forward with donations to help with replacing stolen items. f) Parks is looking at a \$650,000 - \$700,000 budget reduction along with a \$200,000 increase in Countywide Overhead; **Pell** said she is working on the Overhead issue with the Auditor and Administrative offices; she is optimistic that this current amount will be reduced and that future calculations will change so that Parks is not hit with huge fluctuations in overhead costs; **Commissioner Nash-Karner** stated that Parks has been waiting many years for this issue to be addressed and fixed; **Commissioner Gonzales** asked what the projected time frame would be; **Pell** said we can't fix it but they can make an adjustment, hopefully for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. g) ECOSLO Volunteer Program, a support organization for County Parks, is beginning to branch out and do other activities; they want to expand their existing program. The contract with ECOSLO was allocated at \$25,000 and they have only spent \$8,000 this past year. h)

Del Rio thanked **Commissioner Mathews** for being on the oral board for Ranger II recruitment interviews. i) The seasonal budget has been cut by 20%. j) Prop 40 funds have been frozen by the State; funding for the Rios Caledonia Adobe, old San Miguel Pool removal, Lopez Lake water delivery and paving projects are all subject to delay. k) California Department of Fish & Game is being sued because they haven't completed a CEQA review for the facilities in which they plant trout. **Commissioner Teixeira** asked about the Quagga Mussel; **Del Rio** said that Fish & Game has said SLO County Parks is doing a great job with the Quagga Mussel program and that we are a model for every other agency in California; Santa Barbara County now wants to accept our tags.

BUSINESS ITEMS

8. **Consideration of appointment of new member and selection of a new Commissioner representatives to Trails Committee.** **Del Rio** submitted for approval past **Commissioner Dorothy Jennings's** application for the Trails Committee. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** commended **Jennings** for her past work as the Commission's representative. A motion was made by **Commissioner Gonzales** to approve the application and seconded by **Commissioner Mathews**; approved 5-0. A motion was made by **Commissioner Teixeira** to have **Commissioner Hilton** serve as the Parks Commission representative to the Trails Committee with **Commissioner Mathews** as back up; the motion was seconded by **Commissioner Gonzales** and approved 5-0.
9. **Discussion of Annual Report to Board of Supervisors.** **Commissioner Nash-Karner** expressed the need for a very valuable report and that the program is competing with other departments for funding. She gave the homework assignment of "Value of Parks" to **Commissioners Hilton** and **Gonzales**. **Commissioner Hilton** stated there's a need in the County but the constituents need to ask for it. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** said Parks is a driver of this economy so we need to show that Parks should be on the top of the list when it comes to budgeting, not the bottom.
10. **Approve Letters of Donation.** Letters of donation approved by consensus.
11. **Adjourn Meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.