

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JULY 23, 2009
SAN LUIS OBISPO VETERANS HALL
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA**

Commissioners Present: Rick Matthews, Paul Teixeira, Pandora Nash-Karner and Bruce Hilton

Commissioners Absent: Deanne Gonzales

Staff Present: Pete Jenny and Ernie Del Rio

Other Staff: None

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

OPENING

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comment.** Scott Bennett, Templeton homeowner, said the property “leased to Paula O’Farrell” for the dog park was put in against the community’s wishes. He thought there was not an overwhelming desire by the community to construct the dog park at the Vineyards park site and said it was in violation of the County’s noise ordinance.
3. **Commissioner Comments.** **Commissioner Hilton** noted that Pismo Beach is looking to annex Price Canyon property and he is interested in knowing how parks may be included in their plans. **Commissioner Matthews** apologized to the Park Commission for not attending the last meeting; he noted that California ReLeaf is offering \$6 million of federal “stimulus” grant funding for urban forestry with a minimum size of \$100,000; he also asked whether County Parks make use of work furlough crews to perform park/trail maintenance (**Jenny** replied that staff makes use of several types of “alternate work” programs for low cost labor). **Commissioner Teixeira** attended Jack’s Helping Hands BBQ where \$100,000 was raised for park development; he commented that Dana Heritage Days was a big success; and, he will attend a SCAC meeting on Monday to support the of County Parks property to the Dana Adobe board. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** thanked **Commissioners Matthews and Hilton** for sitting in on interviews for Deputy Director—Parks; she commented on concerns regarding the lack of follow up by County Planning to the Morro’s Advisory Committee; and, she the SLO Botanical Gardens is having a BBQ on September 27 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the gardens.
4. **Approve minutes of April 23, 2009 meeting.** Minutes approved by consensus.

STAFF REPORTS

- 5. Deputy Director-Parks' report.** 1) **Jenny** shared with the Park Commission the very public process regarding the development of the Vineyard Park dog park that included public hearings and unanimous recommendations from the Templeton Area Advisory Group and the County Parks Commission; he also commented on the noise ordinance and that, based on staff's investigation, there have been no violations. Both Parks and Planning Department staff have responded to Mr. Bennett's concerns in writing. 2) A letter received from DANA Board was distributed to the Commission responding to objections raised by Mike Winn over the proposed 99-year lease of parkland to DANA; the item will again go back to SCAC for further review July 27. 3) Proposal to use Public Facilities Fees toward the American Land Conservancy's effort to purchase Wild Cherry Canyon is going to the Board on August 25. 4) Bear and mountain lion sightings in various parks and Chalk Mountain GC have been in the news; the Commission was reminded that Parks has a longstanding policy and alert system for dealing with such sightings. 5) An update on the new fiscal year budget was provided but everyone is waiting for the State budget to be adopted to assess what additional impacts it will have on local government. 6) The Commission discussed when they wanted to send their annual report to the Board; they requested it be presented on August 18.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 6. Update on recruitment for Deputy Director-Parks.** **Jenny** gave an update on the process. A conditional offer has been made and the candidate should be available to start August 17. **Commissioners Matthews and Hilton** thought the process went very well and noted it was a difficult choice.
- 7. Discussion of drafting by-laws for Parks Commission per Board's enabling resolution.** **Jenny** explained the 1988 Board resolution creating the Commission provided them with an option to develop by-laws to govern their meetings and action. However, this has not proved necessary over the past 20 years. The Commissioners voiced confidence that the current approach is working fine and no action taken.
- 8. Discussion of joint meeting with Trails Committee.** The meeting will be at SLO Vet's Hall on September 8, if space is available (Right Wing is available and has been reserved). **Commission Hilton** will work with Committee Chair **Kathy Longacre** to develop an agenda for the meeting.
- 9. Approve letters of donation.** **Commissioner Teixeira** made a motion to approve letters of donation, seconded by **Commissioner Matthews**. Approved 4-0.
- 10. Adjourn meeting.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.