

DRAFT
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2010
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

Commissioners Present: Deanne Gonzales, Paul Teixeira, and Bruce Hilton.

Commissioners Absent: Pandora Nash-Karner, Rick Matthews

Staff Present: Curtis Black, Jan Di Leo, and Shaun Cooper

Call to Order: 6:07 p.m.

OPENING

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments. 1.) Kathy Longacre (SLOPOST) requested that Commissioners talk to Board members and others encouraging them to attend the California Trails and Greenway Conference scheduled for April 21-23. She introduced Kelli Schonher and noted that Ms. Schonher is helping Parks staff with the outstanding trail offers (OTOs). She wanted to know what the timeline was for the OTOs. She also wanted to know if the Arroyo Grande Creek Trail is included in the proposed Biddle Park Master Plan. 2.) Marina Washburn of Dana Adobe Amigos gave a presentation regarding the future plans for the Dana Adobe and Rancho Nipomo (the 129 acre preserve adjacent to the adobe). 3.) Liz Scott Graham gave an update on what is going on at the SLO Botanic Garden.

3. Commissioner's Adjustments to Agenda. **Commissioner Hilton** requested that the minutes from September 8, 2009 (item #9) be moved up on the agenda with the minutes of January 25, 2010. There was consensus to move the September 8, 2009 minutes up in the agenda. **Commissioner Teixeira** announced that he has another meeting in Nipomo and will have to leave early.

4. Commissioner's Comments and Outreach. **Commissioner Teixeira** visited Dana Adobe. He applauded both Liz Scott Graham and Marina Washburn for what they are doing within SLO County. Jack Ready Park is applying for Proposition 84 grant funds along with the Dana Adobe, the SLO Botanic Gardens. He noted that all three projects are exciting. **Commissioner Gonzales** discussed the Oak Trail Program. She noted that under this program groups are being taken onto Santa Margarita Ranch for hikes. These hikes are scheduled throughout the year. She stayed at Sycamore Mineral Springs, which has access to the BJB. She noted Sycamore Mineral Springs has no literature on BJB and she suggested that some should be provided. **Commissioner Hilton** discussed how we run our meetings. He noted that County Counsel will attend the March Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Their attendance will help make Commission procedures more clear. He noted his recent community outreach was taking the Cub Scouts on the Bob Jones Bike Path

(BJBP). He acknowledged that Parks has a new staff person. **Curtis Black** then introduced Straith Zanartu. **Commissioner Hilton** noted that Dorothy Jennings (a member of the Trails Advisory Committee) attended SLOCAPRA in February. He also noted that Pandora Nash-Karner could not make tonight's meeting due to a family emergency. **Curtis Black** noted that Rick Mathews had sent an email indicating he would not make tonight's meeting or the Commissioner's workshop scheduled for Saturday, February 27th.

5. **Approve Minutes from January 25, 2010 meeting.** Approval of the 01/25/10 minutes were deferred since **Commissioner Teixeira** had not attended the meeting and could not comment on the minutes.
6. **Trails Advisory Committee Report and approve new TAC Members.** Trails Committee did not meet this month so Kathy Longacre did not have a report.
7. **Grant 2010 Opportunities-Specific Recommendations for Grants to pursue.** Shaun Cooper gave a power point presentation on grant opportunities. **Commissioner Gonzales** requested that Shaun send the power point to her electronically. **Commissioner Teixeira** asked the estimated value of the Cal Boating grant for Santa Margarita Lake. Shaun indicated about \$800,000 to \$900,000. **Commissioner Teixeira** asked what amount of grant funds would typically be requested or granted under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He also asked whether trail projects could be funded. Shaun indicated around \$250,000. He noted trails do qualify. **Commissioner Hilton** opened the item up to the public. There was no public comment on this item. **Commissioner Gonzales** moved to support staff's recommendations based on what information they have before them tonight. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Texeira** and was passed 3-0. Staff's recommendation is attached to as Exhibit 1.
8. **Biddle Park Master Plan Discussion and Recommendation.** Shaun Cooper introduced the Biddle Park Master Plan. He provided background information regarding the layout and facilities at the park now. Jeff Ferber (RRM) provided information on the Master Plan process. Lief McKay (RRM) walked the Commissioner through the draft master plan. It was noted the priorities are: (1) valuing the existing sycamore grove, (2) enhancing recreational activities/opportunities, and (3) meeting the needs of the community while protecting the site's resources. Shaun opened the floor to questions. **Commissioner Teixeira** asked about the condition of the sycamore trees. Shaun indicated the project includes an arborist report. Per the report, the trees are generally in good condition. He noted that sycamores are susceptible to limbs dropping. As a result, the master plan attempts to minimize numerous activities in heavily forested areas. **Commissioner Gonzales** asked if people planted most of the current grove. Shaun indicated the majority of the sycamore grove existed before it became a park so the plantings were mostly natural. **Commissioner Hilton** thought this was a great plan. He wanted to know if a new host site had been identified. Lief said the potential new site is near the kiosk which goes

back to the idea that the host is a gate keeper. This is a large area, which could easily be screened for more privacy for the host. **Commissioner Hilton** expressed concerns whether there are utilities in that area. **Commissioner Hilton** opened the item up to the public. There was no public comment. **Commissioner Hilton** requested a clarification regarding what action the Commission should take. Shaun clarified at this point the item was scheduled simply to obtain Commission input. After environmental review is complete, the Master Plan will come back to the Commission for a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. **Commissioner Teixeira** would like staff to send the master plan information to the other Commissioners (Nash-Karner and Mathews) for their comments. **Commissioner Gonzales** asked about proposed parking – whether people would continue to park in areas that are now not designated for parking. Shaun said the Master Plan proposes the same number of parking spaces as exists today. People will not be able to park along the road (areas where parking was previously located) due to proposed fencing in that area as well as a narrow road. **Commissioner Hilton** likes the promenade idea because it provides a separation from the road. A playground next to the grass is also a good idea; as is one ball field. He wanted to know if the proposed multi-use trail is designed consistent with PRE trail standards and whether it provides ADA access. He also stated it might be better to run the trail west of the amphitheater to have trail users closer to the creek area so it is more of a perimeter trail. Jeff Ferber noted from the plans it is difficult to see where the creek bank is located. As proposed now, the trail is located adjacent to the creek bank. Shaun noted the trail would have a paved area (either concrete or asphalt) thereby providing ADA access. **Commissioner Hilton** noted there should be a staging area for equestrians as well.

9. **Reconsider approved minutes from the September 8, 2009 joint Parks Commission and Trails Committee meeting.** **Commissioner Teixeira** moved to approve the September 8, 2009 minutes, seconded by **Commissioner Gonzales**. Motion passed 3-0.

STAFF REPORTS

10. **Deputy Director's Report.** There was no Deputy Director's report because **Commissioner Teixeira** needed to leave.

BUSINESS ITEMS

11. **Approve letters of donation.** Curtis Black noted there are a couple of donation letters. Commission approved having the Chair sign the letters.
12. **Adjourn meeting.** 7:30 p.m.

Exhibit 1

Staff's Recommendations #7 Grant 2010 Grant Opportunities – Specific Recommendations for Grants to Pursue

Staff's Recommendations:

- 1) As feasible, SLO County Parks should pursue the following grants in 2010:
 - ❖ Cal Boating Grant¹ for Santa Margarita Lake Boat Facilities,
 - ❖ Environmental Justice Grant¹ for the Countywide Needs Assessment,
 - ❖ Prop 84 – Nature Education Grant² for Lopez Lake Nature Center, and
 - ❖ Coastal Conservancy Grant³ for repairs and upgrades to the Cayucos Pier.

- 2) SLO County Parks staff should continue to research the following Proposition 84 – Statewide Park Development (Round 2)⁴ grant projects and provide the Commission an update and recommendation in the summer of 2010:
 - ❖ Los Osos Community Park (LOCP) Expansion
 - ❖ San Miguel Park & Recreation
 - ❖ Bob Jones Bike Path (SLO to Ontario Road)

- 3) SLO County Parks staff should assess whether there is time and a viable project for the LWCF grant⁵ and provide the Commission an update in early summer 2010.

Notes: ¹ Grant deadline is April 1, 2010
² Grant deadline is anticipated in June or July 2010
³ No designated grant deadline – ongoing
⁴ Grant deadline is anticipated in roughly March 2011
⁵ Grant deadline is anticipated in the fall of 2010