

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
SAN LUIS OBISPO VETERANS HALL
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA**

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

Commissioners Absent: Rick Matthews

Trails Committee Members Present: Kathy Longacre, Skip Dyke, Greg Bettencourt, Dorothy Jennings

Staff Present: Curtis Black and Don Melin

Other Staff: None

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

OPENING

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comment.** Nancy Graves praised the Parks Commission and Trails Committee for their public outreach and efforts at getting public input.
3. **Commissioner Comments. Commissioner Texiera** commented that it was a great idea to have these two committees together. **Commissioner Hilton** commented that this was an exciting time for the Parks Commission and that the Board of Supervisors was very receptive and interested in parks issues.
4. **Trails Committee comments- Kathy Longacre, Trails Committee Chairperson** commented that this was the first time she had attended a meeting with the Trails Committee and the Park Commission and that it was a great idea to have both groups together. Nancy Graves mentioned the upcoming Trails and Green-waste Conference in Cambria this year. Greg Bettencourt commented that there is excellent cooperation between trails users groups and that, for the most part the groups share the same goals. Juventino Ortiz, State Parks District Services Superintendent commented on the unique cooperation between groups that exists within this county.
5. Review of SLO County Trails Committee mission statement and goals. Kathy Longacre suggested that the group be called the "SLO County Trails Advisory Committee".
6. **Approve minutes of April 23, 2009 meeting.** Minutes approved by consensus.

STAFF REPORTS

- Juventino Ortiz – California State Parks** advised that the **SLO County Board of Supervisors** had recently approved the ability of state park to conditionally charge a day use fee at Montana De Oro State Park. State parks are currently evaluating how to how to implement this change. State Parks has until January of 2010 to begin charging day use fees. State parks are currently having planning meetings in regards to the 2010 Trails and Green-waste Conference. State Parks are dealing with 3 furlough days for all state employees, which affect park operations and maintenance levels. Possible closures of certain state parks are also being considered.

Curtis Black- County Parks apologized for the mix up on the agenda and advised that while attempting to meet the Brown Act notification guidelines a few things got confused while creating the agenda. SLOCOG had requested a statement that county parks could take on maintenance for the proposed connector trail between Atascadero and Templeton in order to get a grant from CALTRANS and that they needed the information within 24 hours. The BOS has stated that any increase in square footage maintained must have an identified funding source and therefore he was unable to commit to this request. SLOCOG has tentatively accepted responsibility for the maintenance of this trail. Curtis gave an update on acceptance of offers of dedication of trail easements. Curtis said this item will be going to the BOS in early October. Reminder- County Parks Volunteer Appreciation BBQ at Cuesta Park is Sunday September 27th 2009.

TRAILS COMMITTEE AGENDA

- Committee Report** - Coordinated the first meeting of the North County Trails Association August 5th met with reps for Atascadero Mutual Water Company, City of Paso Robles, and National Parks Service. Items discussed included placement of kiosks, illegal motorcycle and ATV use and potential new trail segments.

Immediate Goals and Objectives of the Trails Committee:

- Continue working with cities and counties on a continuous multi-use trail from Monterey County to Santa Barbara County.
- Work with Coastwalk for a recreational corridor overlap.
- Promote awareness of historical significance of and exhibition and coordinate with the National Parks Service who administers the De Anza trail.

Commissioner Hilton commented that the Pismo City Plan (Pismo Creek Trail) addresses segments of the Anza trail and that Pismo is currently working on an EIR that encompasses areas in the Price Canyon area (1700 acres).

- Ride Nipomo's** main objective- help maintain the Woodlands trail; they are working on putting up signs to keep people from leaving the trail and going onto the golf course.
- Coastal trail-** Nancy Graves- signage for coastal trails that are well established.

11. **Bob Jones Trail-** Project to expand trail and to install a traffic signal. Things moving slowly. Section from Ontario Rd. to octagon barn is being worked on; over-crossing is still an issue of public concern.
12. **Volunteer trails-** Pandora commented that David of ECOSLO was doing a great job on coordinating volunteers.
13. **SML Loop trail –** Kathy Longacre and Greg Bettencourt discussed difficulties in completing loop trail due to access issues and terrain.
14. **Atascadero Trails Connectivity to County Trails-** Discussion regarding lack of funding to maintain and acquire “linear parks”.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business

NEW BUSINESS

15. **Needs Assessment - Curtis Black** commented that the number one priority should be to conduct a needs assessment to determine priorities of the park and recreation element; this must be approved by the BOS.

Commissioner Deanne Gonzales suggested that when discussions are planned regarding trails acceptance that a map would be made available to committee members for information purposes.

15. **Long Range Planning Needs-** Dorothy Jennings commented that cities and other agencies seem to have little coordination regarding connectivity and that SLOCOG or even SLOCAPRA may have better success bringing these agencies together to mitigate this issue. Dorothy Jennings and Kathy Longacre commented that cooperation between Public Works and Parks Planning staff could be improved and that this would benefit the entire planning process.

16. **Commissioner Pandora Nash Karner** asked how often the group felt that joint meetings be held. Kathy Longacre suggested that the group meet once a year. Discussion ensued regarding having trails committee members attend Park Commissioners retreat. No consensus was reached.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 p.m.