



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of General Services  
Parks Division

*Patrick Blacklock*  
County Administrator

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## PARKS, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRWAC)

### DRAFT Summary of Minutes

January 26, 2015

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**Members in Attendance:** Jennifer Henning, Jack Young, Andrew Fulks, Kent Lang, Rodney Higgins, Nancy Ullrey, Patrick Reynolds, Catherine Portman, Trini Campbell

**Members Absent:** None.

**County Staff in Attendance:** Deputy County Administrator, Mindi Nunes  
Administrative Services Analyst, General Services, Laura Liddicoet  
Natural Resources Analyst, Elisa Sabatini

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fulks called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

*Motion: Lang. Second: Reynolds. Ayes: ALL*

#### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The August 25, 2014 minutes were adopted as presented.

*Motion: Lang. Second: Reynolds. Ayes: ALL*

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## 5. REGULAR AGENDA

- 5.1 Advisory Members appointments/reappointments/resignations: A vacancy on the Advisory Committee remains for District one.
- 5.2 Discussion of current status of parks staffing/organization: General Services Administrative Services Analyst Laura Liddicoet provided the following parks staffing update: the Principal Parks Planner position within the division remains vacant after Jennifer Santos' departure. The division does not currently plan to fill the position. A retirement on the Parks maintenance staff prompted the division to hire a replacement Parks and Facilities Worker One. Additionally, a limited-term Parks and Facilities Worker One was hired to assist the maintenance staff with deferred maintenance projects. Both positions reported for work on January 26.

Elisa Sabatini, Analyst for the CAO Natural Resources Division provided the PRWAC with information related to a working group being formed to analyze the current status of the Parks division. Currently, the Parks Working Group comprised of management and staff in both the CAO's office and General Services, is currently analyzing the fiscal status of the Parks division, and will shortly begin work analyzing the usage of the parks.

The PRWAC collectively expressed concerns regarding both the fiscal and usage information, citing the recent closure of the campground, and the draught. Staff reassured the PRWAC that these items have been taken into consideration, along with the non-payment of some visitors to the park facilities. Sabatini shared plans to have usage taken at the parks on a Saturday, during peak hours, by hand, as is done during similar studies at State Parks. Utilizing this information, the CAO's office intends to formulate several different scenarios for the future of the Park division, for presentation to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

The initial findings from these two studies will be brought to the PRWAC in May or June of this year, for review. The PRWAC expressed its desire to utilize this information on its own with the intention of preparing various scenarios of their own for the Board to review. A second PRWAC review will occur in September or October, during which time, an analysis of each park, and its current status will be presented, with attention having been paid to the goals documented in the Parks Master Plan.

The PRWAC expressed and reaffirmed its desire to be a part of this process- something greatly appreciated by both the Parks Division and the CAO's office. The committee's knowledge of the Parks Master Plan will be important as this process moves forward. The PRWAC also expressed its desire to potentially hold a Saturday workshop to synthesize this information, inviting other parks stakeholders in the community to share their own input.

Following this process, General Services and the CAO will return to the BOS for a Parks Workshop, in which the BOS will identify which of the proposed scenarios they would like additional analysis and research on, in order to determine the future of the parks division.

- 5.3 Review of current Parks Master Plan: Chair Fulks expressed a desire for the PRWAC to review the "big picture" for Yolo County Parks. The committee discussed the best ways to envision and conceptualize the way that Parks should appear in the future, using the Parks Master Plan as a guiding document. Chair Fulks presented the committee with a document outlining the goals for

each park, as described in the Master Plan. The committee decided to review the document prior to the next meeting of the PRWAC, with the intention of taking one hour of the next meeting to review the progress, or lack thereof, on each goal. Staff will also respond to each goal, noting what has or has not occurred, in order to back fill information as needed.

- 5.4 PRWAC member discussion of issues identification, goals, and action plan for 2015: The committee decided that focusing on the current status of the parks, using the Master Plan as a guide, and assisting in the analysis of information provided by the Parks Working Group, works parallel to their own goals and action plans for 2015. Members asked staff to please provide a map of the County Park system for the next meeting. Deputy CAO Mindi Nunes added that it may be useful for the committee to also have a map of the intended Cache Creek Parkway properties, and Committee members Campbell and Portman asked if a map of city parks in Yolo County could also be included.

Committee Member Higgins shared information regarding the development of a system of connected walking pathways through all Yolo County cities, which would connect parks throughout the County.

- 5.5 Development of meeting calendar for 2015: The committee opted to begin meeting on the second Monday of each month, in light of the large volume of work before them this calendar year. Currently, they have scheduled meetings for March 9, April 13, and May 11. Staff will provide confirmation of dates and location prior to each meeting.
- 5.6 Fremont Weir access issue of discussion of possible letter to Board: Chair Fulks presented information relative to the parking lot closure at the Fremont Weir. Without an easement on approximately eight-hundred feet of privately owned land, access to this area is impeded. Fulks has met with both Supervisor Saylor and County Counsel to discuss the options, and will prepare a letter voicing the PRWAC's desire for the County to take action on this access issue. In compliance with the Brown Act, a draft of the letter will be sent to staff for distribution and collection of comments.

**6. PARKS DIVISION STAFF UPDATE** *(Information below was provided by the Parks Manager unless otherwise noted.)*

- 6.1 Cache Creek Regional Park Status (park host, showers, and operations): Staff reported that applications for new park hosts will be collected by Friday, January 30, 2015. At that point, staff will expedite the hiring process in order to open the campground as soon as is possible. The showers project is on schedule to be completed by Friday, January 30, 2015.
- 6.2 Rafting Concession Status: Staff reports that no rafting concessionaires are currently under contract with the County. With the continued draught in the area, potential for a rafting season is unlikely.
- 6.3 Status of other construction and grant projects: Staff reports that the Knights Landing Design project is complete and in the reimbursement phase, and that the Putah Creek Shade Shelter project remains on schedule.

## 7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Reports by Committee Members on information they have received and meetings they have attended which would be of interest to the Committee or the public. *Please note that under the California Open Meetings Law (Government Code Section 54954.2); discussion of the Committee Members' reports is limited to asking clarifying questions. However, the Committee or any individual Committee members may request that an item be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.*

**Committee Member Campbell** reported that the ballot for the formation of the Esparto Recreation District would be mailed to residents on April 1.

**Committee Member Lang** expressed concern about the condition and lack of a park host at Elkhorn Regional Park.

## 8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA'S:

Parks Master Plan Review  
Update on the Davis Communications/Grasslands sites

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fulks adjourned the meeting at 8:28PM. The next regular meeting of the PRWAC is scheduled for March 9, at 6:30pm.

Submitted by:

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