



COUNTY OF YOLO

Department of General Services
Parks Division

Kevin Yarris
Director

120 W. Main Street, Suite D. Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 406-4880
www.yolocounty.org

PARKS, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRWAC)

Summary of Minutes

October 9, 2017

Members in Attendance: Cliff Feldheim (Vice Chair), Andrew Fulks, Karen Sutliff, Bridgette O'Flaherty, Nancy Ullrey, Catherine Portman (Chair)

Members Absent: Anthony Volkar, Jack Young, Thomas Procter, Trini Campbell

County Staff in Attendance:

General Services Director, Kevin Yarris
Associate Parks Planner, Jeff Anderson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Portman called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Director Yarris requested that the committee move Item 5.6 (Cache Creek Area Plan Draft Parkway Plan) after the Parks Division Staff Updates (Items 6.1 through 6.5). The agenda was adopted as amended.

Motion: Ullrey Second: Fulks. Motion carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 5, 2017 minutes were adopted as presented.

Motion: Ullrey. Second: Feldheim. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Brugger, Putah Creek Trout board member, introduced himself and Kyle Kordana, high school student from Davis. Mr. Brugger informed the committee that he had contacted Parks staff about the possibility of Kyle doing trail work at the Putah Creek Fishing Access Sites for his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Brugger mentioned that the improvement project would improve access and recreational uses, and he, Kyle, and the Putah Creek Trout members are excited to work with the County on this project.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 Advisory Members appointments/reappointments/resignations

None.

5.2 Knights Landing Boat Launch Grant Update

Director Yarris provided an overview of the Knights Landing Boat Launch permitting process and explained that the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is circulating for public review. Director Yarris explained that the engineer who prepared the plans for the project has gone out of business and cannot be reached, which has created

an obstacle in the permitting process. Staff is currently working to find another engineering firm to recreate and update the plans within the allotted budget.

5.3 Grasslands HCF Grant Update

Associate Parks Planner Anderson provided an update of the Grasslands HCF Grant project. Mr. Anderson stated that the construction plans for the parking lot and ADA path will be prepared within the next two months and that construction for the entire project will likely commence in Spring 2018. He also stated that biological surveys will be conducted, as required by the approved Mitigated Negative Declaration, prior to construction.

5.4 Yolo Bowmen Update

Director Yarris introduced Greg Wright from the Yolo Bowmen Archery Club. Director Yarris explained that the Bowmen are currently operating under a lease extension, but the long term contract is close to being finalized. The new lease agreement will be for 20 years with 5 year check-ins. The Bowmen will do some site improvements each year, such as maintain barrier fencing, fix irrigation, and maintain restrooms. Director Yarris explained that the Bowmen will be able to charge for the use of the archery range. The County will no longer collect parking fees. Individuals using the site for bird watching or nature walking will not have to pay the fee. Director Yarris explained that the existing well has high levels of nitrates, so the County will be switching to the agricultural well. Committee Member Feldheim thanked Greg Wright and the Bowmen for their efforts in maintaining the site.

5.5 County Code, Title 9 (Parks) Update

Associate Parks Planner Anderson explained that most of the amendments being proposed in Title 9 are proposed by the Sheriff's Department and are related to boating safety and equipment. The proposed amendments related to Title 9, Chapter 3 (Parks Regulations) are relatively minor, and include changing definition of "Director" and other titles to reflect current organizational structure, the prohibition of feeding wild and feral animals in County Parks, and other minor changes. There is a significant problem with people feeding feral cats at the Knights Landing Boat Launch, so the proposed amendment would allow Parks staff or the Sheriff to increase enforcement.

5.6 Cache Creek Area Plan Draft Parkway Plan

Elisa Sabatini, Manager of Natural Resources, introduced Casey Liebler, Natural Resources Program Assistant, and Heidi Tschudin, Contract Planner. Ms. Sabatini provided an overview of the Cache Creek Area Plan, including the Off-Channel Mining Plan and the Cache Creek Area Plan, and provided a brief history of the gravel mining program. Ms. Sabatini explained the concept of "net gains" and how it ties in with the Draft Parkway Plan. Heidi Tschudin and Casey Liebler provided an overview of the Cache Creek Area Plan Draft Parkway Plan and the feasibility study, which describes multiple funding scenarios for the Plan.

6. PARKS DIVISION STAFF UPDATES

A report by the Parks Division staff on recent activities relevant to the Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife Advisory Committee. *Please note that per the California Open Meetings Law (Government Code section 54954.2); discussion of the staff update is limited to asking clarifying questions. However, the Committee or any individual Committee member may request that an item be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.*

6.1 Cache Creek Campground Update

Director Yarris explained that staff is looking at various options to staff the campground in the future, including having a series of camp hosts or changing Parks staff schedules to allow for greater coverage. Committee Member Fulks asked what the target opening date is for 2018. Director Yarris replied that camp hosts are usually hired in February and then open the campground in May. Director Yarris said staff is also exploring the option of employing a year-round caretaker so the campground can stay open all year.

6.2 Putah Creek Fishing Access signs

Director Yarris explained that this item is a follow-up to the issue that Cedar Segar addressed the committee earlier this year. Director Yarris explained that State Fish and Game Code (CCR Title 14) prohibits possession of firearms at the Fishing Access Sites and within the creek. California Department of Fish and Wildlife is making large metal signs, which state this prohibition, and will be installing very soon. Rich Marovich at Solano County Water Agency have fabricated smaller "no hunting/firearms" signs that will be installed at various locations

throughout the sites before duck hunting season, which opens October 21st. This signs will allow the Sheriff and CDFW wardens to more strictly enforce this activity.

6.3 Parks Marketing and Sponsorship Plans

Director Yarris informed the committee that a draft of the marketing plan and sponsorship plans were previously distributed to the committee, but both plans have since been revised. The sponsorship plan provides opportunities for individuals or groups to sponsor benches, memorial trees, or shade structures. The marketing plan addresses ways to increase social media presence and increase awareness of County parks and recreation opportunities. Committee Member Fulks mentioned that sponsoring groves of trees is better than individual trees, as they may die. Mr. Fulks also suggested there may be opportunities to coordinate with Capay Valley Vision about wayfinding sponsorships.

6.4 OHV Public Outreach

Associate Parks Planner Anderson explained that the Parks staff is working with staff from the Natural Resources Division to revive the OHV public outreach effort. Staff was not awarded the OHV grant they applied for earlier this year, but there still remains a need for sanctioned OHV opportunities in the County. Staff will hold public workshops in November to gather input and help define what types of facilities are preferred. Chair Portman inquired if the PRWAC OHV Subcommittee would be reinstated. Director Yarris said that staff will look into who was on the subcommittee and will let members know so the subcommittee could reconvene.

6.5 Yolo Emergency Communications Agency (YECA) Proposed Emergency Radio Tower at Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park

Director Yarris mentioned that this project has been 20 years in the making. YECA is planning to install a 30-foot tower to provide radio communication for fire and Sheriff for emergency communication. YECA is putting together a grant application to help fund the project. The tower is proposed to be located behind a cliff across from the campground, near Frog Pond Trail, on property owned by the County. The tower would not be visible from the highway or campground, but YECA will go through the CEQA process to address any potential impacts.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Committee Member Fulks reported that Tuleyome will host a volunteer trail construction day at Valley Vista Regional Park on October 21, 2017. Mr. Fulks stated Tuleyome will host approximately one volunteer day a month at Valley Vista through the winter.

Committee Member Ullrey reported that the Cache Creek Conservancy will host its annual Autumn Fest on October 26, 2017, from 5:00pm to 7:30pm at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- A) Wind farm/solar development in County parks
- B) Update on CDFW monies provided to Parks Division

9. NEXT MEETING

November 13, 2017, Atrium Training Room in the County Administrative Office

10. ADJOURN

Chair Portman adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

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Principal Park Planner as soon as possible and preferably 24 hours prior to the meeting. The county staff park planner may be reached at the telephone number or address listed above.

The Parks, Recreation and Wildlife Advisory Committee is responsible for providing advice and recommendations on matters within its jurisdiction to the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrative Officer, and the Director of Parks as appropriate. Any person who is dissatisfied with a recommendation of this committee may submit their comments to the Director of the Parks prior to a final decision being made on the issue. The appropriate body for making a final decision on a given issue, whether it is the Director of the Parks Division or the Board of Supervisors, may sustain, modify, reject or overrule any recommendations of the Parks, Recreation and Wildlife Advisory Committee. Final decisions may be appealed in accordance with Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Yolo County Code.