



COUNTY OF YOLO

Department of General Services
Parks Division

Kevin Yarris
Director

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PARKS, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRWAC)

Summary of Minutes

January 8, 2018

Members in Attendance: Andrew Fulks, Karen Sutliff, Bridgette O'Flaherty, Nancy Ullrey, Catherine Portman (Chair), Anthony Volkar, Trini Campbell

Members Absent: Cliff Feldheim (Vice Chair), Jack Young, Thomas Procter

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 6:33PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Motion: Campbell. Second: Ullrey. Motion carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 9, 2017 minutes were adopted as presented.

Motion: Ullrey. Second: O'Flaherty. Abstention: Campbell. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John and Mary Helen Seeger thanked the committee and staff for installing the "No Hunting-No Firearms" signs at the Putah Creek Fishing Access Sites.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 Advisory Members appointments/reappointments/resignations

None.

5.2 Knights Landing Boat Launch Grant Update

Associate Parks Planner Anderson provided a status update. Director Yarris explained that staff filed a complaint with the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists against the previous engineer for not providing electronic files of the design plans and for not responding to the County's attempts to contact him. Director Yarris informed the committee that the Parks Division is requesting an additional \$100,000 from the Board of Supervisors at the January 9, 2018, board meeting, in order to hire a new engineer to recreate the plans and move the project forward. It is likely that 75% of the \$100k request may be refunded by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

5.3 Grasslands HCF Grant Update

Associate Parks Planner Anderson stated that plans to start trail and parking lot construction in Spring 2018 remain on track. Chair Portman mentioned that there may be some students available to help with the burrowing owl surveys.

5.4 Parks Marketing and Sponsorship Plans

Director Yarris explained an overview of the marketing plan put together by Consero Solutions. The plan calls for setting up social media sites and creating sponsorship plans. The plan also calls for a kick-off pilot event—possibly at one of the boat ramps. Staff is also exploring collaboration efforts with Yolo Arts about holding a local parks photo/art exhibit or contest. Director Yarris also mentioned that the County has set up an online donation system where people can donate to County Parks. Committee Member Ullrey recommended that the marketing plan should consider opportunities with the Capay Open Space Park grant project. Committee Member Campbell stated that permanent directional signage is needed in the Capay Valley as people often stop at the Guinda Corner Store asking for directions or how to access Cache Creek. Committee Member Campbell also recommended it would be a good idea to add an opportunity to donate to County Parks when booking a campsite online.

5.5 Renewable Energy Development (wind/solar) in County Parks

Chair Portman opened the discussion and explained her concern that the Public Open Space and Parks and Recreation zones are included in the wind and solar ordinances as permitted locations for solar and wind energy systems, and would like to see these designations removed from the ordinances. Committee Member Fulks mentioned that the committee should weigh the threats/potential energy development projects and effort involved to undertake such a change before committing to an action. It was recommended that the committee review the wind and solar ordinances at the next meeting and then decide what action to take. ***Committee Member Ullrey made a motion to bring this item back to the next meeting; Seconded by Committee Member Fulks. Motion passed unanimously.***

5.6 Status Report on CDFW Monies provided to Parks Division

Director Yarris explained that the Parks Division received approximately \$3,000 annually from CDFW from OHV green sticker registrations. Associate Parks Planner Anderson described some of allowable expenditures. Chair Portman asked for the report of expenditures to be provided to the PRWAC.

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 Putah Creek Fishing Access Signs Installed

Associate Parks Planner Anderson stated that 14 “No Hunting-No Firearms” signs have been installed throughout the Putah Creek Fishing Access Sites and two large plasma cut metal signs, created by CDFW, have been installed at sites 3 and 4.

6.2 Yolo Bowmen Contract Approved

Director Yarris explained that the Bowmen contract was approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 2017. Director Yarris also provided an overview of the improvements being made to the water system at Grasslands Regional Park.

6.3 Cache Creek Campground Update

Director Yarris summarized the recruitment process for campground caretaker and park host. Staff has received approximately 15 responses to the online advertisement and hopes to have someone in place within the next month in order to open the campground in spring. Committee Member Fulks mentioned that the lower site would be a good location for future campsites. Director Yarris stated that this idea is currently being explored as a future project. Director Yarris mentioned that staff is also exploring the option of purchasing a mobile home or “tiny home” to place at the campground for potential park hosts that do not have their own equipment. Committee

Member Campbell mentioned that many casino patrons stay at the campsite so it would be good to explore marketing opportunities with the casino.

6.4 OHV Public Outreach

Associate Parks Planner Anderson gave a quick overview of the OHV public outreach process. He explained that the process is being led by the County Administrator's Office and that workshops have not yet been planned, but expects at least two public workshops within the next few months. The goal of the workshops will be to listen to the suggestions of the public in order to guide the site selection and planning process.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Committee Member Ullrey reported the following:

- Cache Creek Nature Preserve and Yolo County Resource Conservation District are holding a community planting day at Capay Open Space Park on January 27, 2018.
- Public meeting tentatively scheduled for January 30, 2018, at Esparto library to discuss signage concepts for Capay Open Space Park.
- Cache Creek Nature Preserve recently launched an internship program and has five interns.

Committee Member Campbell reported the following:

- Andrew Fulks will be giving a presentation on Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument on January 17, 2018, at 6pm at the Guinda Grange Hall.
- A public celebration and groundbreaking for the Esparto Park and Pool Project will be held at the proposed site in Esparto on January 23, 2018, at 4pm.
- Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry procured \$800,00 for low water bridge survey and \$2mil for Clear Lake clean-up.

Director Yarris reported the following:

- Esparto park is now managed by the Esparto Community Services District. Yolo County Parks Division provides operational funding to ECSD in the amount it would have cost County parks maintenance crew to maintain, but it has allowed staff to focus efforts on other parks needing attention.

Committee Member Fulks reported the following:

- Tuleyome is holding another trail building work day at Valley Vista Regional Park on January 20, 2018.
- Caltrans has ceased dumping of debris at Valley Vista since the large debris piles were removed last year.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- A) Gibson House update
- B) Grasslands Regional Park ground squirrel problem
- C) Review of wind and solar ordinances
- D) County Road 40 (standing item)
- E) CDFW monies expenditure review

9. NEXT MEETING

February 12, 2018, Atrium Training Room in the County Administrative Office

10. ADJOURN

Chair Portman adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

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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.