



COUNTY OF YOLO

Department of General Services
Parks Division

Ryan Pistochini
Director

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PARKS, RECREATION AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRWAC) MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday September 19, 2023

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Norton Hall, 70 Cottonwood St, Woodland, CA 95695

1. CALL TO ORDER

No quorum established.

Present: Campbell Cline, Trott, Cruz, Ullrey

Absent: Risher, Portman, Fulks

Staff Present: Pistochini

2. ADOPTION OF CURRENT AGENDA

No action taken. Quorum was not established.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No action taken.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Opportunity for members of the public to address the PRWAC on subjects relating to committee business. The PRWAC reserves the right to impose a reasonable time limit on any topic or to any individual speaker. None present or received.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 Esparto Community Park, Play Structure Update – Ryan Pistochini

Pistochini reviewed Option 1 selected by community vote held on July 12th with SUP Barajas office, and the selected pour in place rubberized surfacing to replace the existing wood chips. PRWAC discussed the pros and cons of rubberized surfacing, specifically bringing up thermal retention.

5.2 Movie in the Park Night, Esparto Community Park – Ryan Pistochini

Pistochini updated PRWAC Movie in the Park Night held August 5th, that was co-hosted with the Esparto Chamber of Commerce. Suggestion was made to mail out a flyer with event details if there were to be another event.

5.3 Tuli Mem Pool Update – Ryan Pistochini

Pistochini shared details with the committee about the closure and reopening of the rec pool at Tuli Mem Aquatics Center from the line actuator equipment failure.

5.4 CA State Library Parks Pass Grant: Story Walk Siting – Ryan Pistochini.

Pistochini shared the Parks Division's partnership with the Yolo County Library through the California State Library Parks Pass grant program and future siting selection for the Story Walk to be installed at Capay Open Space.

5.5 Putah Creek Fishing Access Tour with Sup. Frerichs – Ryan Pistochini

On July 6th, Parks hosted Supervisor Frerichs and his staff on a site tour at Putah Creek Fishing Access and shared project aspects of the WCB grant pre-application that was recently submitted. PRWAC expressed support of the application and discussed potential additional uses.

5.6 New Grant Updates – Committee

Committee encouraged Parks Division to look at DPC or Delta Conservancy for grant opportunities.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS/PARKS DIVISION STAFF UPDATES

6.1 Grasslands Dog Park Foxtail Issue –Ryan Pistochini

Pistochini read the two public comments received by email regarding the foxtails at Grasslands Dog Park. Pistochini updated PRWAC that staff and Yolo County Resource Conservation District is working on a few land management options to better address foxtails and weeds in the upcoming rainy season. PRWAC was open to all presented options.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Reports by Committee Members and/or Director 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' and/or Director 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.

- 7.1 Ullrey shared that the Cache Creek Conservancy will be hosting a fishing event, a Cal Fire Grant program, and reported that Bat Night went well and they will do another similar event.
- 7.2 Campbell Cline attended a Tiechert tour and saw active mining alongside restored areas.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- 8.1 Campground Season Update
- 8.2 Grasslands Dog Park
- 8.3 Movement from monthly to quarterly meeting
- 8.4 Schedule Knights Landing Community Park site visit during construction phase
- 8.5 OHV Status
- 8.6 Gibson House Update for Q1, 2024

9. NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting Scheduled for October 17th, 2023 at Norton Hall.

10. ADJOURN

N/A

Emily Huerta

From: ratattacka@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 12:37 PM
To: Emily Huerta
Cc: Susan Bennett
Subject: Comments regarding Grasslands Dog Park for the Parks and Rec Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting

Hi Emily,

Here are my comments/concerns regarding Grasslands Dog Park for the Parks, Recreation, Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting. I will be out of town starting Tuesday so I will not be able to attend the meeting.

Thanks for your help,

Sue Bennett 530-848-4995

Grasslands Dog Park is only useable for 3-4 months out of the year because foxtails have rendered it too dangerous to enter. The county's lack of an effective invasive weed abatement program for Grasslands Regional Park is astonishing. Stating that "foxtails are everywhere" is an unacceptable response to this ongoing hazard and is not a substitute for the lack of an effective abatement program.

Mowing foxtails is not an appropriate management practice as it only serves to spread the seeds and after mowing the new seed heads will erupt lower to the ground making all future cutting impossible. As of now, a controlled burn would be the only way to reduce the enormous load of foxtails and seeds present. It would serve to eradicate the bulk of the foxtails and provide nourishment to the soil. A burn would then be followed up with a shallow disking and planting a mix of ground cover. Disking without burning first would just plant more foxtails.

In the spring, when the new grass sprouts, the dog park field should be rotated with the sheep pasture, so invasive weeds are grazed before seeds erupt. This would save the county time and effort by letting the sheep do the work of removing the weeds.

The county not only lacks an abatement program but also the staff and equipment needed to execute it. Proper equipment should be in place to allow for catchment of mowing debris, for watering new plantings and controlling burns plus temporary fencing and gates that can be moved/installed with minimal effort.

There should be an Environmental Management internship/volunteer program for assisting staff in these efforts. The proximity to UC Davis/Cooperative Extension provides immediate consultation and an endless supply of students looking for research projects, units and experience. There is also the California Conservation Corps, Boy/Girl Scout Troops and mandatory community service youth begging for projects to tackle. And locally there is the Yolo PBA and Grizzly Corps to assist with controlled burns and revegetation projects.

The managers of the levees along the Sacramento River and causeway are able to conduct controlled burns/replanting on the levees each year, the county should reach out to them for help developing an abatement program and assisting with the burns.

An effective abatement plan would be on-going year-round management with a mixture of mowing, weed whacking, sheep rotation, safe-herbicide use, controlled burns, disking and replanting. Because of the current lack of effective management, intense measures will be required for the next few years. When significant progress has been made these efforts can be dialed down to maintenance level.

Grasslands is a very popular destination for dogs and people to recreate in the county. The parking lot is full most of the time and everyone enjoys visiting the park. The goal should be to have a safe, usable place for families and dogs to enjoy year-round.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sue Bennett

[THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED FROM OUTSIDE YOLO COUNTY. PLEASE USE CAUTION AND VALIDATE THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE EMAIL PRIOR TO CLICKING ANY LINKS OR PROVIDING ANY INFORMATION. IF YOU ARE UNSURE, PLEASE CONTACT THE HELPDESK (x5000) FOR ASSISTANCE]

Emily Huerta

From: Alexandra Jordan <alexandra.w.jordan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:03 AM
To: Emily Huerta
Subject: Grasslands Dog Park June 18th meeting COMMENTS

Hello Emily,

Thank you very much for agreeing to take comments to the Committee for those of us unable to attend tonight's meeting.

My comment is regarding the fencing on the North perimeter.

The squares of the fencing along that perimeter, which is adjacent to the sheep grazing area, are so large my medium sized dog hopped right through and took off towards the sheep! Luckily I called her back successfully and neither she nor any sheep were harmed (they were quite a ways away) but it was a very tense 15 seconds! Had I not been able to recall my dog I am sure she would have chased the sheep, endangering them and her.

We have not been back to Grasslands since.

I strongly urge the committee to audit the fencing and ensure the metal mesh is ALL the same small(est), dog proof size.

The larger metal mesh size, adjacent to the sheep grazing area is a hazard to dogs and sheep. I can't believe my dog is the only one smart/athletic enough to size up the opportunity and slip through those larger openings.

Thank you to the Committee for your service. I appreciate Emily's assistance and being given the opportunity to share my comments when I am unable to attend.

With gratitude,

Alexandra Jordan
Davis, Ca

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