

County of San Mateo
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2017
4:00 p.m.
Board of Supervisors' Chambers
400 County Center, Redwood City

MINUTES

Chair Meda Okelo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Barbara Bonilla, (Vice Chair), Marico Enriquez, Neil Merrilees, Meda Okelo (Chair), Eeshan Bhat (Youth Commissioner), and Kevin Huo (Youth Commissioner)

Staff Present: Sarah Birkeland, Brenda Bennett, Scott Lombardi, Ramona Arechiga, Eduardo Castillo, Ed Hallett, Sam Herzberg, Carla Schoof, Nirit Eriksson (Deputy County Counsel)

3. Public Comment

There was none.

4. Parks Director's Report

Acting Director Birkeland said there were no additions to her written report.

Chair Okelo noted on page 4 under Programs, 4th paragraph that the last sentence in the paragraph ended abruptly. Staff indicated it was intended to refer to the Pacific harbor seal pupping season starting.

Chair Okelo said the release of the Flood Park Environmental Impact Report for comment was expected to occur in late June/early July. He asked how constituents were being advised of the schedule change. Acting Director Birkeland said the information was posted on the Parks website and staff would respond to individual inquiries.

5. Action Items

5.1 Review for Approval the Minutes of the February 2, 2017 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Action: M/S Bonilla/Enriquez to approve the minutes of February 2, 2017 as presented; passes 4-0 with Youth Commissioners Bhat and Huo affirming.

6. Commission Subcommittees

6.1 Dog Management in County Parks

A. Report by Commissioner Merrilees and Carla Schoof

Commissioner Merrilees said that the varied perspectives on dog management arising from the committee and community meetings were interesting. He said the committee was starting the policy development process. Community Programs Specialist Schoof said the subcommittee would tackle a policy statement at its next meeting. She said that communications were being received via direct email to the committee and from the community meetings held in February. She agreed with Commissioner Merrilees about the varying perspectives in the emails. She said 130 emails had been received since December 15. She said some writers were commenting on the process and some were providing ideas. She said main themes from the community meeting in South San Francisco were that more access was desired and, with that, providing education to dog owners. She said in Pacifica, speakers wanted more access, both off and on leash, for dogs and also wanted limits on the number of dogs that professional dog walkers could walk at one time. She said in Belmont, speakers suggested looking at areas adjacent to parks for potential pilot sites, and expressed their feelings that dogs fostered a sense of community.

Chair Okelo said he would like to see records of citations for dogs in the parks. Ms. Schoof said lands more recently acquired by Parks that had a history of allowing dogs had that use grandfathered in, noting as examples Quarry Park, the Bay and Coastal Trails, and Pillar Point bluff. Park Superintendent Lombardi said staff tries to educate dog owners rather than cite them. He said citations were given when dog owners ignored numerous educational warnings or had a dog or dogs off leash creating a disturbance or threat to human and wild life.

6.2 Commission Bylaws

A. Proposed Revisions to Bylaws for Consideration at June 1, 2017 Meeting

Deputy County Counsel Eriksson said that the Chair had requested some changes to the Commission's Bylaws. She said in reviewing those proposed changes other items were identified in the Bylaws that needed some revision. She said revisions to the Bylaws require 14-day notice to the Commission of any proposed changes and revisions were subject to County Counsel review and approval. She said that Commissioners Okelo and Merrilees, the Bylaws subcommittee, met with staff and her to discuss the County's Standing Rules for Boards and Commissions (Rules), and review proposed revisions to the Bylaws. She said that the Rules state such bodies will have an annual work plan so the proposed changes to support a two-year work plan were removed. She said the proposed changes to the Bylaws as attached in the agenda packet were for discussion and if no other changes were desired, would return to the Commission at its June 1 meeting for approval.

No additional changes were suggested to the Bylaws and the proposed revisions to the Bylaws will come to the Commission for its approval at the June 1 Commission

meeting.

6.3 Commission Work Plan

A. Report by Commissioners Bonilla and Enriquez

Commissioners Bonilla and Enriquez asked clarifying questions of Ms. Eriksson regarding an annual, as opposed to two-year, work plan and when committees needed to meet Brown Act requirements which needed additional staff support. They said that they would have a full work plan report for the Commission at its June 1 meeting.

7. **Parks Foundation Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Michele Beasley, Executive Director, Parks Foundation, said that the ribbon cutting for the riding ring at Wunderlich Park would be April 23 noting the Foundation's donation of a harrow to the facility. She said the Foundation would bring another donation to the Board of Supervisors before the end of the fiscal year. She said REI has "adopted" San Mateo County Parks and stocks all of the free park brochures and maps for their customers to take.

8. **Commissioner Reports**

Chair Okelo said he met with Ms. Beasley to discuss the Commission and Foundation's relationship. He said fund development was an area the Commission could support as well as marketing and communication, and membership. He noted also the Foundation was planning for its 20th anniversary in 2018.

Chair Okelo said he attended an Arts Commission meeting at which he proposed some ideas for the two commissions to collaborate, including a project for artwork at Wunderlich Park for marketing purposes.

Youth Commissioners Huo and Bhat reported on a Bee event the youth sponsored at Edgewood Park.

9. **Items for Future Agenda**

Items for the June 1 agenda:

- Revised Commission Bylaws as discussed and presented at the April 6, 2017 Commission meeting
- Report and recommendation by Work Plan subcommittee
- Arts Commission and Parks Commission joint efforts

10. **Adjournment**

Chair Okelo adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.