



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks and Recreation Commission



**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 5, 2014**  
Meeting Location was the Carriage House at Wunderlich Park

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

Commissioners Present: Cooney, Enriquez (Vice Chair), Merrilees (Chair), Okelo, Pincus, Ruehl (Youth Commissioner)

Staff: Finley, Arechiga, Bennett, Hallett, Herzberg, Kraemer, Schoof

**Oral Communications**

Chair Merrilees recognized the Honorable Mayor of Daly City, David J. Canepa, to speak on item 5.A regarding real property commonly known as the Daly City Dunes as the Mayor had to leave for another meeting.

Mayor Canepa noted he was a fourth generation San Mateo County resident. He said Daly City was completely built out and the largest city in the County with over 100,000 residents. He said the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park provided an oasis from city residents to get away from the density. He said the parcels being offered to the County was important not only because of the habitat but also as open space use for residents. He urged the Commission to recommend acceptance of the donation.

**Agenda Amendments**

There were none.

**Consideration of Minutes**

Regular Meeting of April 3, 2014

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

### **Presentations**

#### *Introduction of Recently Hired and Promoted Personnel- Eduardo Castillo, Management Analyst, and Katherine Wright, Park Ranger II*

Director Finley introduced Eduardo Castillo, Management Analyst, who transferred from the District Attorney's Office and will lead the Parks Department's fiscal and administrative team. She introduced Katherine Wright noting she had four years with County Parks as a park aide, graduated from UC Davis with a degree in conservation biology, and is studying GIS. She noted that Katherine's position is as a Park Ranger II for an up to three year term and would lead the Department's interpretive program, environmental literacy, and community engagement.

#### *Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks*

Ms. Leah Goldstein and Ms. Lisa Raskin, co-Presidents of the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks distributed informational material to the Commissioners and provided copies for members of the public to take. Ms. Goldstein noted the restoration of the Folger Stable by the group and the provision of programs at the parks. She said they actively recruit docents to manage the programs including school programs at Huddart Park and Folger Stable. She noted the Carriage Museum was open on Saturday. They noted an upcoming fundraiser and distributed information on the event.

#### *Daly City Dunes*

Mr. Ken McIntire, San Bruno Mountain Watch, said the property was 3.25 acres and was a remaining significant piece of dunes in the area most of which has been developed. He said this property adjoins Hillside Park and San Bruno Mountain State and County Park has part of the dune already. He said there are seven schools within walking distance of the site, which was an environmental education opportunity. He urged the Commission to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to accept the donation.

Mr. Joe Cannon, Stewardship Director, San Bruno Mountain Watch, said an endangered species San Francisco *Lessingia* was present on the parcels but noted other very rare habitat were present on the parcels. He described the geologic history of sand dunes on the peninsula. He said other sand dune areas were fragmented and these parcels of dunes were unique in that they were located next to open space.

### **Director's Report**

Director Finley said the County will acquire 174-acres of second growth redwoods in Loma Mar through a variety of funding sources including Peninsula Open Space Trust and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and Coastal Conservancy that will become the Loma Mar Redwood addition to Memorial County Park.

Director Finley provided an update on Friendship Park noting there are 31 community garden plots that the organization Collective Roots is working with local families to plant and that Rebuild Together laid rock and installed the water system. She said there was now a Vision Plan that the Trust for Public Lands helped develop for the North Fair Oaks area. She said there were not many parks or open space in the 1.2 square miles which was home to over 15,000 residents. She said surrounding areas such as Menlo Park, Atherton and Redwood City average about 1,800 residents per square mile. She said that 73% of population in North Fair Oaks is Hispanic and over 50% of the residents were renters. She said staff would continue to work with the Commission's mini-parks working group and that she had suggested to the group that since Trust for Public Lands would no longer be involved that perhaps the North Fair Oaks parks working group would want to join with the Commission's mini-parks subcommittee to continue the work.

Director Finley reported on the Upper Barn renovation at Wunderlich Park and noted the efforts of CHAPS, Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, Volunteer Horse Patrol and the Woodside Horsemen's Association to make that happen. She recognized Ms. Linda Rizzoli, a senior project manager, who donated much time to the project.

Director Finley reported that the County received a Project of the Year award from the American Public Works Association for Devil's Slide Trail.

Director Finley reported on the replacement of amphitheater benches at Memorial Park by a volunteer group; dashboard performance measures reporting; and request by the Board of Supervisors and County Manager to review budget for the second year of the two-year budget for adequacy. She said some of the add-ons being requested either directed by the Board, County Manager's Office, or the department were for Moss Beach Playground, shade structures and vegetation at Friendship Park; expanding natural resource program with GIS and a database; vehicle replacement; connector trails at both Pedro Point and Green Valley Trail and secure additional parking nodes; interpretive signage and brochures; computer replacement; a project coordinator on Public Works staff; and uniform allowances.

Director Finley reported that several staff had attended important conferences recently such as the Bay Area Open Space Council and Society of Outdoor Recreation Planners conferences and shared current trends in parks and outdoor recreation, use and demand. She highlighted water supply and that the department was working on a project with the County's Resource Conservation District and other partners on storing water from Pescadero Creek due to incidents of short-term high flows and also water conservation measures. She noted there were new ways and tools for doing community engagement instead of or in addition to meetings. She said the department would sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Bay Area Healthy Parks Healthy People Initiative. She called out the trend for rentals and asked how the department could use those to create a more sustainable revenue stream.

**Action Items**

*Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Acceptance of a Donation of Real Property Known as the Daly City Dunes*

Staff Comment: Natural Resource Manager Arechiga noted there were two parcels being offered totaling 3.25 acres.

Questions of Staff: Commissioner Pincus asked if the property was accepted by the County what funding would be needed. Director Finley said funds for title exchange would be required. She said beyond that partners San Bruno Mountain Watch and Friends of San Bruno Mountain have offered to help steward the property. Commissioner Pincus noted that if the Commission recommended approval of the donation that the donor's name (Richard Haskins) should be included for the record.

Commissioner Okelo asked about the ownership of the properties adjacent to the dunes parcels. Ms. Arechiga said two parcels were privately owned. Commissioner Okelo asked about the engineering work done on the slope stability. Ms. Arechiga said the work was stamped by a certified engineer and inspected by Daly City and their engineers. Commissioner Okelo said the report mentioned potential development on the upslope, and potential instability if not properly engineered and asked for clarity on that. Ms. Arechiga showed the area on the Power Point and that if not developed appropriately could create a problem.

Commissioner Ruehl asked about connections to parks besides San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. Mr. McIntire noted there was Hillview Park on the other side of the parcels.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the jurisdiction of the surrounding parcels. Ms. Arechiga said they were within the City of Daly City. Senior Planner Herzberg noted that they were also within the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan which has requirements for development.

Chair Merrilees asked if the land would be usable or preserved only because of the endangered species. Ms. Arechiga said this was a conservation/preservation parcel that the goal would be to restore the ecosystem and the full variety of dune vegetation re-established. She said however that dunes moved and disturbance was needed to support the unique vegetation and it had been observed that the establishment of San Francisco Lessingia may have been enhanced by the disturbance of soils by children playing in the area.

Chair Merrilees asked about potential liability by taking the parcel related to the surrounding residences. Ms. Arechiga said according to the engineer's report there was not.

Public Comment: Mr. Del Schembari, Board of Directors, San Bruno Mountain Watch, noted there were seven schools in the area and they would be doing environmental education. He said the area and neighborhood was very diverse, and encouraged the Commission to recommend to the Board of Supervisors acceptance of the property.

Ms. Pamela DiGiovanni, Daly City Community Leader, emphasized the rich diversity of the residents of Daly City and how important open space was to those residents. She said on behalf of all the residents in Daly City she urged the Commission to recommend acceptance of the property.

Mr. Doug Allshouse, California Native Plant Society, said these parcels were essentially in his backyard. He said he was working on a book about San Bruno Mountain. He encouraged action to accept these properties as a wonderful addition to the San Bruno Mountain State and County Park.

Ms. Lennie Roberts, Committee for Green Foothills, offered support for acceptance of the dune parcels. She said they were an amazing story of geology, history, archeology, native plants, and Native Americans and would be wonderful to interpret to the public.

Ms. Terry O'Connell, Mayor Pro-tem City of Brisbane, but was speaking as an individual. She said she supported recommending acceptance of this very important piece of land for addition to North County park lands.

Mr. Ken McIntire, San Bruno Mountain Watch, related many efforts toward preserving the dunes and urged the Commission to recommend that the Board of Supervisors accept the property.

Mr. Danny Camacho said he was a resident of Daly City and lives on Thiers Street. He said the dunes were his backyard. He said he and his children pick up litter regularly from the area and that he and his neighbors cherish the open space.

Public comment closed.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Enriquez asked if a cost analysis for maintaining the property had been done. Senior Planner Herzberg said a geotechnical evaluation had been done and there were no liens on the property. Commissioner Pincus confirmed with staff that no additional rangers would be needed.

Commissioner Okelo said he thought it was a wonderful property and its uniqueness was fascinating. He said it would give a chance to work with the partners and to create a go-to place for the younger generation and education.

Commission Action: M/S Okelo/Cooney to recommend acceptance of the Daly City Dunes to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion carried 6-0.

*Review and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Acceptance of Direct and In-Kind Donations from the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation for FY 2013-2014*

Ms. Julia Bott, Executive Director, San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, said that the donation amount for acceptance was \$123,000 and noted \$300,000 donated earlier in the fiscal year for the Promenade repair at Coyote Point. She noted there was \$25,000 for the Volunteer Program. She said funding comes from a number of sources, primarily from private individuals, foundations, and events such as Tour de Peninsula which raises money for Bicycle Sunday. She introduced Ms. Margaret MacNiven, Bucks of Woodside, who are one of the sponsors for the Tour de Peninsula this year. She said the Foundation has \$500,000 banked to be used as a match for the Phase 2 Promenade project.

There was no public comment.

Commission Action: M/S Cooney/Enriquez to recommend to the Board of Supervisors acceptance of direct and in-kind donations from the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation.

*Review Disc Golf Proposal for Possible Inclusion in Parks FYs 2015-2017 Budget*

Staff Comment: Senior Planner Herzberg noted that there had been two proposals made previously for disc golf in County Parks. He said the proposal made for Junipero Serra County Park was opposed by a number of neighbors. He said at that time the need for public engagement, project study and more detailed plans was determined to be infeasible due to budget and staff time constraints. He said another proposal was made for Mirada Surf East noting there were constraints but perhaps some opportunities, which would need evaluation. He said that the County was acquiring the Wicklow property and that in the future there was an opportunity to do a Master Plan for that property, Mirada Surf East and West, and Quarry Park. He noted that disc golf had never been studied in any of the master plans prepared for County park facilities. He said any study of the feasibility of disc golf on County park property would require funding.

Mr. Michael Infusino said he was not involved with the original disc golf proposal for Junipero Serra Park. He provided the Commission with a handout. He said he works with schools to introduce disc golf to children in San Bruno where he resides. He said that Junipero Serra Park was an underutilized park. He said illicit activities in areas

such as parks were discouraged by the presence of people. He noted the similarities of disc golf to regular golf and that it was not a boisterous activity. He said they were proposing to work with County Parks to bring this activity into the parks system. He said for a course at Junipero Serra Park the Peninsula Golf Association (PGA) would pay for the installation and maintaining of the course.

Mr. Perry Petersen, San Bruno, said the last proposal for disc golf had the course right behind the homes in San Bruno and Millbrae adjacent to the park lands, which would create noise, discs possibly going into backyards, and a general loss of the peace and quiet residents have enjoyed for the past 50 years. He noted a petition of neighbors protesting an increased intensity of use as it would put wildlife and plants and trees at risk. He noted photos showing damage to trees from repeated hits from the discs. He said if there was to be a disc golf course in Junipero Serra Park it should be far away from the neighboring homes.

Mr. Bill Giusti, San Bruno, said his concern about potential fire was disc golfers smoking near dry grassy areas. He said he was concerned with the disc, a very heavy Frisbee, causing injury to people, homes and the vegetation. He said perhaps there were other locations for disc golf but Junipero Serra County Park should be taken off the table.

Ms. Lennie Roberts said the Half Moon Bay Disc Golf Association had proposed a course at Mirada Surf. She said this property was a sensitive habitat and because of wetlands could not be developed nor was active recreation allowed on wetlands. She suggested that the area needed a master plan before any discussion about use. She said also that mowing should not be done in wetlands.

Commission Comment: Commissioner Okelo asked about process for considering new uses at parks and whether the Commission should develop policy to recommend to the Board. Senior Planner Herzberg said that was the intent of Master Plans to define policy and use of land and facilities. Director Finley said that defining new uses for County Parks and considering ideas coming from the public on how the lands and facilities should be used required a combination of community engagement through the Parks Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Enriquez asked what the next step was. Senior Planner Herzberg said it was to review the disc golf proposal for possible inclusion in the next budget cycle. He said they were looking for direction from the Commission as to what to recommend to the Board of Supervisors regarding funding for further study if the Commission thought that was appropriate. Director Finley said her proposal was to address the use through a Master Plan such as amending a plan if it was for Junipero Serra Park or a new Master Plan for the Mirada Surf property. She said that would be transparent and the work would be with the public to make decisions on parks. She said there were a lot of ideas regarding new activities in parks noting mini-parks that might warrant a Board of Supervisors' public workshop with the Commission on new uses in County Parks.

Commissioner Okelo said if there would be funds allocated he thought it should be used to update the 1981 Junipero Serra Park Master Plan and the discussion of new uses should be part of that update.

Commissioner Cooney said there had to be openness to new ideas. He said they had looked at disc golf before and the proposal had not addressed the concerns of the residents nor had the Commission ever seen a plan delineating the location of the proposed course. He said they needed to consider uses that benefit the public however.

Chair Merrilees said he had visited Junipero Serra Park the day before at lunchtime and his was the only car in the lot. He said they had to promote use of the park noting it was not a preserve but a park for active recreation. He suggested setting up a temporary course one Saturday at a good distance from the residences and invite the neighbors to try playing, and then meet and discuss if there were impacts. He asked Mr. Petersen if he would be willing to participate in a demo. Mr. Petersen said it would be ok to try a demo if only on the other side of the mountain. Asked by Chair Merrilees, Mr. Petersen and Mr. Giusti said they would meet with him at the park to discuss the areas of concern.

Commissioner Pincus said he thought money should be budgeted so discussion and planning could happen.

Commissioner Ruehl left the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Commissioner Cooney moved to recommend funding in the next budget to study adding disc golf use to the Master Plan. Commissioner Enriquez seconded the motion.

Commissioner Okelo made a friendly amendment to allocate funding in the next budget cycle to update the Junipero Serra Park Master Plan including discussion on appropriate uses including disc golf.

Commissioner Cooney withdrew his motion.

Commission Action: M/S Okelo/Cooney to allocate funding in the next budget cycle to amend the Junipero Serra Park Master Plan including discussion on appropriate uses including disc golf.

Motion carried 5-0 with Commissioner Ruehl no longer in attendance.

### **Parks Commission Subcommittee**

*Mini- and Pocket-Parks Subcommittee Report \**



Chair Merrilees said the subcommittee met to consider mini-parks in the system. He said they realized they did not know where these were needed and wanted more people on the committee who need parks. He said also they have to work with staff so these do not stress the parks budget. He said they were looking at unincorporated areas of the County to see who should be invited to participate in the discussions.

### **Marina**

#### *Harbormaster's Report*

Harbormaster Hallett reported on the completion of Dock 29 and 17 of 22 slips rented. He said they were working on the Fuel Dock project to get final plans and specifications.

Commissioner Okelo left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

### **Operations and Maintenance Activities**

#### *Superintendent's Report*

District II Ranger IV Kraemer said he had no additions to the written report but was available for questions.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the parking situation at Devil's Slide Trail. Ranger Kraemer said he travels from his home in El Granada past the Trail and it appeared the parking had calmed. Director Finley said the supervising ranger for District IV has reported that weekday parking was at 75% capacity and weekend parking was calmer than it was directly after the trail opened.

#### *Volunteer Programs and Activities*

Community Programs Specialist Schoof said Salesforce.com has committed 2,000 volunteer hours to Junipero Serra Park through the end of the year. She said Ranger Wright and she have done six Devil's Slide Ambassadors training, and there were Ambassadors able to do the training of future ambassadors. She said the 4-H Million Tree project have chosen County Parks to plant their millionth tree.

### **Natural Resource Management**

#### *Natural Resource Manager Report*

Natural Resource Manager Arechiga said she had no additions to her written report.

Chair Merrilees thanked Ms. Arechiga for her presentation on the Cypress Grovet at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

### **Support Services**

#### *Planning Report*

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Senior Planner Herzberg said work on the Pigeon Point guardrail should start in the next month. He said construction on Crystal Springs Trail South of Dam project should start in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Pincus asked about the conference topic *Economic Opportunity Assessment to Determine Opportunities to Maximize Revenue* and if Parks was looking at that. Director Finley said it was very important and was being considered.

Commissioner Enriquez said there were inaccuracies in the history signage at Devil Slide Trail that were brought to his attention by a teacher at Serra High School, and asked that staff respond to his letter to resolve the issue. Chair Merrilees noted he had received the letter and would provide to staff.

### **Friends and Subcommittees**

*Parks and Recreation Foundation*

There was no report.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Enriquez said he was hosting a Day in the Park on June 7.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.