

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 22, 2009
SAN LUIS OBISPO VETERANS HALL
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA**

Commissioners Present: Paul Teixeira, Pandora Nash-Karner, Rick Mathews and Bruce Hilton.

Commissioners Absent: Deanne Gonzales

Staff Present: Curtis Black, Josh Heptig and Ernie Del Rio

Other Staff: None

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

OPENING

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comment.** Janette Pell thanked the commission for the get-well card.
3. **Commissioner Comments. Commissioner Hilton** was reviewing the Beach Cities Trails feasibility study stating they have received a variety of contributions and that this is a good sign for trails. **Commissioner Mathews** said an Atascadero Planning Commissioner is concerned about the level of maintenance at Heilmann Park and asked Parks Deputy Director **Curtis Black** to investigate. **Commissioner Teixeira** thanked Parks Staff for putting on the volunteer picnic. He commented on the outstanding events at the Botanical Gardens, Dana Adobe and Nipomo Park. He thanked Parks staff for coordinating and attending volunteer events at Cuesta Park and Botanical Gardens. **Commissioner Pandora Nash-Karner** said a meeting of stakeholders will take place soon to discuss putting together a survey to determine the need for an aquatic center on the north coast. Also stated that the Celebrate Los Osos group is now a 501 (c) 3 and looks forward to working with County parks on various projects.
4. **Approve Minutes from September 8, 2009 meeting.** Motion to approve September 8, 2009 minutes as amended was made by **Commissioner Hilton**, seconded by **Commissioner Teixeira**. Motion approved 4-0.
5. **Approve Minutes from September 24, 2009 meeting.** Motion to approve September 24, 2009 minutes as amended was made by **Commissioner Mathews**, seconded by **Commissioner Hilton**. Motion approved 4-0.
6. **Discussion with Director Pell regarding 2009 Commission Report to Board of Supervisors.** **Janette** introduced Jennifer Colvard as a GSA staff member who will be working with Parks staff. **Janette** commented on the **Park Commission** report to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) indicating action items as a result of the report will include a direction from BOS to conduct a needs assessment and pursue possible

Parks funding mechanisms. **Janette** said the item would be on BOS agenda for next Tuesday, and asked if the **Park Commission** could be in attendance. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** commented on painful process for submitting the report. She asked why the letter took on different look and feel than what was in the originally submitted. **Janette** said the letter is a staff letter to the BOS. She said this is how staff reports so BOS knows what they are consenting to. **Commissioner Hilton** thanked **Commissioner Nash-Karner** for her work on the report. Said he would go over the report with **Supervisor Hill** and thanked staff for their efforts. **Curtis** thanked the **Park Commission** for their efforts as well.

7. **Discussion and recommendation to the Board regarding Proposed 2010 Parks and Golf Fees.** **Curtis** introduced Golf Advisory Committee and Golf Superintendent **Josh Heptig**. **Curtis** explained the methodology for illustrating changes to fees. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** asked about increased expenditures in operations. **Curtis** said this was nominal but that salaries may be down. **Commissioner Mathews** asked about marketing techniques for increasing golf play. **Curtis** explained staff's marketing strategy. **Josh** further explained that the concessionaire has a responsibility to advertise. **Josh** said there is also a combined effort by all local courses to attract visitors from outside the area. **Nancy Brown**, Morro Bay Women's Golf Club, commented on the website to promote golf. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** thanked GAC for their involvement. **Commissioner Hilton** moved to approve the golf fees; **Commissioner Teixeira** seconded. Motion passed 4-0. The **Park Commission** suggested strategic marketing plan. **Josh Carmichael** (public) said he would like to help promote parks. **Commissioner Teixeira** made a motion to accept Parks recommendation, seconded by **Commissioner Mathews**. **Discussion:** **Commissioner Hilton** suggested a surcharge. **Ernie** explained the negative impacts of surcharges that were in place in the past: such as the electrical surcharge and the golf course debt service surcharge. Motion passed 3-1. **Commissioner Hilton** opposed.

8. **Discuss and recommendation to the Board regarding:**

a. Drought Tolerant Plant Lists.

b. Replace lawns at County Courthouse and other public areas with drought tolerant plants.

c. Use the plants (8-b above) as demonstration gardens for the public.

Commissioner Nash-Karner said the state is concerned about the shortage of water. Said she is concerned about local jurisdiction taking the lead in reducing water use. She introduced **Josh Carmichael** of Carmichael Environmental to help stimulate conversation on development of drought tolerant planting concepts. **Josh** gave a overview of drought tolerant concepts. **Commissioner Hilton** made a motion to move the concept forward to develop a demonstration garden at the County Courthouse to be explored by a **Park Commission** subcommittee. **Commissioner Mathews** seconded. Motion was approved 4-0. **Commissioner Nash-Karner** and **Commissioner Mathews** were selected to serve on the subcommittee.

STAFF REPORTS

- 9. Deputy Director's Report. Curtis Black** said, 1) the volunteer BBQ and the Botanical Garden events were a success and that he enjoyed the Dana Adobe event. 2) Curtis informed the Commission that the October 13, 2009 storm affected services and there was significant damage. 3) He also said the simplification of fees will facilitate implementation of new Parks Reservation and Accounting system. 4) Personnel issues were updated; Golf Course Supervisor Tom Massey, Supervising Ranger Chuck Lowe and Golf Course Mechanic Tom De Marco are retiring, one groundskeeper is quitting and a Ranger II spot is still vacant. Staff will be looking at restructuring in order to provide a continual high level of service. **Curtis** also said that the County overall is looking at significant financial shortfalls this fiscal year.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 10. Approve letters of donation.** Motion to approve letters of donation made by **Commissioner Teixeira**, seconded by **Commissioner Mathews**. Motion approved 4-0.
- 11. Adjourn meeting.** 9:30 p.m.