

**Parks and Recreation Commission  
MINUTES**

Council Chambers, 990 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Jill Lemieux called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners: Gary Havas, David Hensinger, Rick May, Kylie Hatch and Ron Regier, Craig Kincaid

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Director Betsy Kiser, Doug Carscaden, Marti Reynolds

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**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

*MOTION:* (Kincaid/Regier) Approve the November 5, 2008 minutes as submitted.

**Approved: 7 yes: 0 no: 0 absent**

**1. Public Comment**

None.

**2. Volunteer of the Month**

None.

**3. Presentation to Outgoing Commissioner Rick May**

Chair Lemieux presented Commissioner May with a plaque commemorating his years of service with the Parks and Recreation Commission (2007-2008), the Joint Use of Recreation Facilities Committee (1999-2008) and the Council Compensation Committee (2004). Chair Lemieux spoke of being thrilled when Commissioner May came to the PRC from the Joint Use on Recreation Facilities (JUC) as his reputation had preceded him establishing himself as a vital part of the community. Lemieux stated she wished the Commission could have had him longer but was grateful for the time he shared of himself.

JUC Chair Michael Parolini, who was present in the audience along with JUC members Nancy Cochran and Colin Jones, spoke of how Commissioner May had served as a mentor to him for youth sports particularly during his involvement with the Little League while attending Cal Poly.

Committee Member Parolini stated the personal qualities that Mr. May exhibits are an inspiration to him as a young professional, representing a San Luis Obispo business person, family man, city servant and volunteer, the ultimate “all-around person” that everyone should strive to become. These qualities as well as his dedication to youth sports will be missed and a great loss to the City and the community.

The Commissioners remarked that they will miss Commissioner May’s presence and institutional memory, and congratulated him on the good job he has done.

#### **4. Goals for 2009-11 Financial Plan – Kiser**

Commissioners discussed the draft goals briefly with Director Kiser, clarifying and changing the wording of “special emphasis” in item 3 to “a greater degree of emphasis” in regards to the Senior Center and tennis courts needs study. Director Kiser explained that a capital improvement project has been created that communicates more specifically how these two special areas fit into the general needs analysis. Commissioners agreed it is the response to the goals that is most important and not necessarily the language. Chair Lemieux relayed that it is hard to have the PRC’s vision communicated exactly. Commissioner Kincaid stated he hopes Council can achieve even half of the goals listed.

1. Allocate funding to complete the skate park, which includes the development of plans and specifications and construction of the park.
2. Continue to support the acquisition of open space to include funding to complete the purchase of the Froom Ranch transaction.
3. Complete a Community Needs Assessment as a basis for updating the Parks and Recreation Element/Master Plan with a greater degree of emphasis on the need for a Senior/Community center and tennis courts and associated lighting.
4. Continue work to complete the Bob Jones Trail, in particular with emphasis on the City/County link between Los Osos Valley Road and the Octagon Barn.

Approve final draft of goals for recommendation to the City Council for the 2009-2011 Financial Plan.

*MOTION:* (Havas/May)

**Approved: 7 yes: 0 no: 0 absent**

## **5. Staff Report – Carscaden**

Recreation Supervisor Doug Carscaden gave a presentation on the Ranger Services division, highlighting their new headquarters and trail workdays with special focus given to the Stenner Springs Reroute trail and angled bridge installation there. A Cal Poly Week of Welcome group assisted in carrying cement in for the bridge. The nearby waterfall was used as a water source and recycled metal bus sign posts were used to make the foundation pieces for the bridge. Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers (CCCMB) has been assisting with the trail. The rangers are also in the process of finishing the bridge at Johnson Ranch. Ranger Carscaden commented on the good relationship ranger services has with the City's natural resources group. He works closely with Dr. Havlik on where the bridges should go and then ranger services builds and installs them. There are 7 to 8 more bridges to build in the next year.

Commissioner Hensinger asked about a structure he had seen up at the Stenner Springs open space. Ranger Carscaden explained it is a free ride style of mountain biking which originated in the Northwest that incorporates structures into the trail, such as a raised platform, similar to dirt trails but made of wood and adding challenges to trails. This group of approximately 20-30 Cal Poly students is known as FASTA (Free Ride and Sustained Trail Association). Their goal is to incorporate the safest sustainable and usable options and everything they have built so far could be easily removed. Ranger Carscaden stated he is impressed with their efforts at building their group, master plan and website, pursuing grants, talking to groups and incorporating classes into their cause. They have been of little burden to staff and he hopes to arrange for the group to provide a presentation to the PRC in the near future.

## **6. Director's Report– Kiser**

Director Kiser briefed the Commission on the following projects:

- Skate Park – Second design meeting held Saturday, November 8; due to the number of alterations the stakeholders made to the design post-meeting, the Master Plan will not be presented to PRC until January 7; to Council on January 20.
- Mitchell Park Senior Center – due to ongoing issues with the contractor failing to perform, the kitchen renovations won't be complete until December 16; Council approved a smaller parking lot design at last night's meeting.
- Golf – finishing up the irrigation control system, renovating hole #6 and the putting green.
- Jack House Fence foundation work going well, with just a few additional cracks in the walls due to lifting the foundation for repairs; sprinkler system to follow the foundation work.

- **(2009-11)** First round of CIP's submitted and include completion of Sinsheimer Park Master Plan implementation, Laguna Lake Master Plan implementation, Santa Rosa Skate Park design and construction, fleet addition for Golf and Rangers (tractor and attachments), Community Needs Assessment with emphasis on senior/community center needs and tennis court and lighting needs, playground equipment replacement, golf course administration software, fleet replacement mower.
- **Future (2011-13)** Parks and Recreation Administration Software, French Park playground shade structure, wash water recycling system, Golf Course Master Plan.
- Roller Hockey Rink Renovation – stakeholders and staff met with the Ice Court representative to review product; Council approved the remove and replace alternative, so surface selection is not as critical.
- Public Art – RFQ was released for the Marsh/Higuera Fountain project; walk through is this Friday, December 5 at 10:00 at the site; expecting a large response due to funds available (\$125,000)
- PRC members met on November 14 for field trip to Cal Poly to review synthetic turf. Director Kiser thanked Commissioner Regier for putting the trip together.
- Reminder: Commissioner's Training, February 21 Hearst Castle. Flier forthcoming.
- The SLO Rattler's agreement for stadium use has been signed. The SLO Baseball Enterprises paperwork was not received in time for tomorrow's meetings. Is unsure of current ownership but will clarify this month.

## 7. Committee Reports

Commissioners provided the following reports:

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▪ Tree Committee – Kincaid         | ▪ Joint Use Committee – Lemieux |
| ▪ Mayors Youth Task Force – Regier | ▪ Jack House Committee – Hatch  |
| ▪ Open Space – Havas               | ▪ Golf – Hensinger              |

Commissioner Kincaid gave a brief report for the Tree Committee stating there are quite a few applications that have been received.

Commissioner Regier reported on the Mayor's Youth Task Force saying the November meeting was cancelled and all other future meetings suspended due to the lack of a budget.

Commissioner Havas reported on Open Space stating he met with Natural Resources Manager

Neil Havlik earlier in the day and discussed in particular the Stenner Easement, From Ranch acquisition grant, next year's opening of the Johnson Ranch, the Tank Farm conservation efforts that are still underway, the continued Filiponi family conservation efforts and Stenner Springs. Commissioner Havas commented on his appreciation for Dr. Havlik's dedication and enthusiasm.

Chair Lemieux attended the Joint Use Committee, as she will for the next few months in Commissioner May's place: Will seek to fill the JUC position in the spring. The Committee discussed their goals as well as the subject of folding the JUC into the PRC which was originally brought up for discussion because of the difficulty in filling all seven positions over the past year. City Clerk, Audrey Hooper, also attended this meeting and explained the process as somewhat complicated. The JUC will take another look at the subject later.

Commissioner Hatch reported on the November Jack House Committee meeting which was held prior to the annual docent appreciation dinner and reminded that the house will be back open in the spring.

Commissioner Hensinger reported on the Golf Course. Revenues are still up for the year; with the new bridge in place, will be close to the original routing of the course; that there was no response to the RFQ for concessions. Director Kiser briefly discussed Commissioner's questions regarding the condition of the greens. With the use of reclaimed water, which is has a high salt concentration, staff has had a difficult time maintaining green turf. Todd is working to balance the system with increased amounts of calcium, but we are really waiting for the rains to leach the salts through the soil.

## **8. Communications**

None.

## **9. Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. to the January 7, 2009 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission at the Council Chambers.

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on January 7, 2009.

/Sgd/

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Martha M.S. Reynolds

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Supervising Administrative Assistant