

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

SKA

BOARD AGENDA # *B-10

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE October 21, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval to Authorize the Naming and Dedication of a Trail Head at Frank Raines Regional Off-Highway Vehicle Park and Recognize Three Volunteers for Their Service to the Off-Highway Vehicle Area

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the naming and dedication of a trailhead at Frank Raines Regional Off-Highway Vehicle Park in honor of John Balbach.
2. Recognize Walter Kohler, Loyde Kee, and Jewell Kee for their volunteer services at Frank Raines Regional Off-Highway Vehicle Park.
3. Authorize a Naming and Dedication Ceremony at Frank Raines Regional Park on October 25, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost of the recommended recognition totals \$2,261 which consists of \$2,200 for the trailhead sign and \$61 for two plaques to recognize the three volunteers. These expenses will will be funded from the existing Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget and be used as the match for the 2008-2009 Off-Highway Vehicle Grants for Frank Raines and La Grange Regional Parks.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-719

On motion of Supervisor Grover, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, and Vice-Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Mayfield

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

County Policy for Naming Parks and Recreation Areas

In accordance with the County's policy for naming parks and recreational areas, the Department of Parks and Recreation is directed to bring any such request to the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission for discussion and consideration (Attachment A). If the Commission finds that the request meets all specified criteria, it may take action to recommend final approval and adoption of the request to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

Naming and Dedication of a Trailhead in Frank Raines Regional Off-Highway Vehicle Park

During its December 13, 2007 regular meeting, the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to recommend that a trailhead sign at Frank Raines Regional Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park be named after John Balbach, a long-time community leader, volunteer and advocate for parks and recreation in Stanislaus County. The recommendation was based on findings made by the Commission consistent with the County's existing policy.

As recommended, the sign would read as indicated in Attachment B.

John Balbach was appointed to the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission on July 11, 1995. He served as a member-at-large for Supervisorial District 5 from July 11, 1995 to December 31, 2004. In 1980, he joined California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA). A letter was written on behalf of John Balbach from CORVA supporting the trailhead at Frank Raines Regional OHV Park (Attachment C). He began enjoying the trails at Frank Raines Regional OHV Park and working with other volunteers, he helped to provide a safe and exciting experience. In 1994, he served as the Northern Director of CORVA. Working with Stanislaus County, he was a part of the decision making team that purchased additional land for the regional park and was instrumental in securing additional grant funding on behalf of the County for this regional facility. He was a member of work parties that helped to beautify the park by painting tables, pouring concrete in front of the Recreation Hall, painting bathrooms and the entrance station, cleaning signs, constructing the helicopter pad, building water bars, trail management, and planting trees and flowers.

For over 20 years, as a lifetime member of the East Bay Hi-Tailers and the OFF-ROAD/OFF-HIGHWAY Buggy Club, John Balbach has been an integral part of the success and growth of Frank Raines Regional Park. He has also assisted with projects at La Grange Regional Off-Highway Vehicle Park where he helped to install 4,000 feet of irrigation pipe to water the new trees that were planted in the area. In addition, his group, the East Bay Hi-Tailers, put new shingles in the bathroom and helped to beautify the entrance station.

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Also, John Balbach has been a member of the Sheriff's Department STARS Program for fourteen years. The STARS program is a volunteer program, in which active adult citizens give of their time, knowledge, and life experiences. STARS objectives are to organize senior citizens in a volunteer program to benefit the community. Volunteers are utilized to promote better community safety and to become the "eyes and ears" for law enforcement.

Recognition of Three Volunteers for their Commitment to Frank Raines Off-Highway Vehicle Park .

Additionally, on December 13, 2007, Parks and Recreation Commissioners voted and approved the presentation of plaques for three volunteers at the next CORVA Jamboree to be held Saturday, October 25th, 2008 at Frank Raines Regional Park Off-Highway Vehicle Area. The three volunteers are Walter Kohler, Loyde Kee and Jewell Kee.

Walter Kohler has been enjoying the Off-Highway Vehicle experience and volunteering with Stanislaus County for many years. He is a United Way volunteer and for the past six years has graded the trails at both Frank Raines and La Grange OHV areas. He has also participated in painting tables, clearing the 16-mile road leading into the area, painting the Recreation Hall, and clearing brush after the fires in 2003.

Both Loyde and Jewell Kee have spent the past fifteen years as volunteers and park hosts at the Frank Raines Regional Off-Highway Vehicle site. They are responsible for greeting customers, and orienting them to the park, OHV area, and region. They handle light maintenance, are accessible to campers for comments and concerns--while understanding and explaining rules and regulations, assist with producing reports for the parks staff on items that needed to be addressed, and charged with keeping the bathrooms clean and the Recreation Hall locked down and safe. They set examples for others by keeping the host site clean and neat and help maintain the campground by picking up litter and replenishing restroom supplies. They also contact park staff and other law enforcement personnel in the event of emergencies or situations needing response.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board should consider whether the approval to name a trail head, honor volunteers and the associated dedication ceremony supports the Board of Supervisors' priority of effective partnerships and the efficient delivery of public services.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item. Existing staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation will handle the planning of the dedication ceremony.



POLICY FOR NAMING COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

I. POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission to review and initially approve names for county parks and recreation facilities using the following criteria:

II. CRITERIA

- A. The name of a park or recreation facility should, if possible, have geographic, botanic, zoologic, agricultural, or historic significance. The significance of the name should be generally recognized and known throughout the County, and if possible, recognized and known in the area or neighborhood in which it is located.
- B. A park or recreation facility should not be named after an individual unless one of the following exceptions applies:
 - 1. The park was acquired by means of a substantial gift or donation by an individual, family, organization, or corporation. Such gifts or donations may carry a stipulation, if acceptable to the Board of Supervisors and the Parks Commission, that a certain name is used to identify the park.
 - 2. An individual who has made a substantial contribution in terms of volunteer services, providing a broad recreational or environmental benefit to the residents of Stanislaus County. In most instances, the person should be honored posthumously.
 - 3. It is determined an individual or family has made a significant historical impact to the area or region.

- C. A park or recreation facility should not be named after a person whose contribution to the park system was or is a part of that individual's normal duties as an employee of an agency under the jurisdiction of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. An exception may be made for former employees who have contributed volunteer services of an exceptional nature beyond their normal duties.
- D. Parks should not be named after the predominant ethnic group of its surrounding neighborhood, since the ethnic composition of residential areas frequently changes. However, names with historic significance for the area which happen to be ethnic names are certainly permitted.
- E. A park or facility name should be of reasonable length and easy to pronounce and spell, so it will be readily used and easily displayed. Names that are controversial should be avoided.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. The Parks and Recreation Department will encourage input from historical societies, community groups, or other groups having special knowledge when considering a name to highlight an area's geographic or historic significance.
- B. Temporary designation of names will not be permitted. Temporary designations oftentimes emerge as permanent names by default. The selection of a park name should occur during the acquisition or development processes, or at an appropriate time for the situation..
- C. Naming areas of a park shall be permitted to honor a person or organization that has worked for and distinguished themselves in their dedication to the parks system, or in the efforts towards acquisition or development of a park site. Good evidence should be presented to substantiate such a request.
- D. Community input and park naming contests are highly encouraged to stimulate public interest and obtain name suggestions. Only suggestions which meet policy guidelines will be considered.
- E. To avoid duplication and confusion, all proposed names for parks or recreation facilities should be checked against other park and facilities names found in the County.
- F. Names submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department shall be given to the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission for selection and initial

approval. The selection will then be forwarded to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for final approval and adoption.

- G. Ground-breaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies shall be held by the Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors. These should take place when the land for a park is donated, when construction commences, or when a new park or facility is ready for public use.

IV. NAME CHANGES

Once given, a name is usually as enduring as the property itself. Therefore, a park or facility name should be selected with the intention that it will be permanent. Change for the sake of change shall not be permitted. Name changes shall only be approved if there is a serious and substantial reason for requiring a change in a name. It is the responsibility of those who select the names of parks and recreation facilities to do so with the awareness that this name will be on maps and in the community for many generations to come.

V. SPONSORSHIPS

Non-profit groups, civic groups, and community organizations may ask to sponsor a park. For example, they may donate the land or agree to take care of ongoing maintenance of the park. In return, the Parks Commission may agree to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Board adopt the name of the property of facility after that group. A written agreement should be reached as to how and in what form the group will fulfill the sponsorship agreement. A long-term agreement should be agreed upon whenever possible.

VI. DONOR RECOGNITION

Plaques and markers will be considered for the purpose of recognizing individuals or groups who have given substantial donations to the parks and recreation system.

- A. All proposals for gifts of funds or park improvements shall be reviewed by the Parks Commission to determine if the improvement is needed and is in keeping with the plan of the park.
- B. If the gift is less than \$500, a Certificate of Appreciation shall be issued by the Parks Commission.
- C. If the gift is over \$500, the name of the donor and the name of the person the gift honors shall be placed on a plaque board at the individual park where the funds were used. The plaque board shall be placed in a prominent place accessible to the public.

- D. If the gift is a major facility such as a building, or playground equipment, or other improvement which is in keeping with the plan of the park, individual plaques shall be affixed to the improvement in such a way that they will be visible to the public. The Board of Supervisors will also receive and acknowledge all major gifts of this type.

REV. 9/00

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Stanislaus County
Department of Parks and Recreation
Frank Raines Off-Highway Vehicle Park

The John Balbach Trailhead

“The world is hugged by the faithful arms of
volunteers.”

William O'Brien, District 1 ♦ Thomas Mayfield, District 2 ♦ Jeff Grover,
District 3 ♦ Dick Monteith, District 4 ♦ Jim DeMartini, District 5

Debra Campbell
C/O Northern CORVA
1040 Springfield Way
Modesto, Ca 95355

9/24/08

Cathy Gomez
c/o Stanislaus Parks/Recreation
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, Ca

Dear Cathy,

On behalf of Northern California Off Road Vehicle Association, we totally support the honoring of John Balbach for a Trail Head at Frank Raines OHV Park. We believe that John is a great support for this OHV park and has given many hours of hard work, going to meetings and supporting Frank Raines.

Thank you for this opportunity to give back to one of our off-roaders.

Sincerely,



Debra Campbell
Secretary NCORVA