



# PARKS AND RECREATION

Sonya K. Harrigfeld, Director  
Margarita D. Ramos, Deputy Director  
Ron West, Chairman  
George Sharp, Vice Chairman

MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_

## STANISLAUS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION June 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betty Parker  
David Fransen  
Ron West  
Warren Brumley

#### PARKS & RECREATION STAFF PRESENT:

Amanda Fife  
Cathy Gomez  
James Pursley, Jr.  
John Lamela  
Tim Steele  
Sonya Harrigfeld  
Margarita Ramos  
Mae Song  
Richard Morgan

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

George Sharp  
Ismael Saldana  
Patricia Segoviano De Pier

#### GUESTS PRESENT:

Alfredo Guerra  
Chris Sequeira  
Jerry Cooper  
Rodney Caetano  
Supervisor Jim DeMartini

#### A. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

- Chair Ron West called the meeting to order. Those in attendance introduced themselves.
- Roll call: excused absences were received for George Sharp, Ismael Saldana, and Patricia Segoviano De Pier.
- Deputy Director Margarita Ramos introduced David Fransen as a new member to Stanislaus County Park Commission. He is from City of Turlock Municipal Services which includes the Parks division. He will be representing district two.

#### B. COMMENDATION

- Chair commended James Pursley, Jr. and Richard Morgan with a Certificate of Recognition, Award of Excellence for going above and beyond the call of duty and doing a fine job in handling a difficult situation.

#### REPORTER

Ron West

#### C. GRADIENTS OF AGREEMENT

- Margarita Ramos presented the Gradients of Agreements, a useful tool to use in any meetings for participants within the meeting to be able to check in, make decisions and move forward.

#### ACTIONS & REPORTER

Margarita Ramos

#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes for the May 8, 2008 meeting were approved upon motion and second.

#### ACTIONS

\_\_\_ Brumley, Parker,  
unanimous approval

#### E. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- Jerry Cooper and Rodney Caetano from the Sheriff Department shared information about their current Neighborhood Watch program. County departments may track and label county owned properties i.e. hand tools, tractors, equipment, blowers, computers, etc. The Sheriff Department can work with the Parks Department in developing an inventory tracking system. Labels affixed are branded into equipment. Motion detector lights are suggested as a way of theft

#### ACTIONS & REPORTER

Jerry Cooper, Rodney  
Caetano  
\_\_\_ Add to agenda, to  
continue discussion on  
promoting neighborhood  
watch.

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prevention. Community involvement and communication is an important tool to assist in preventing vandalism/theft. Members discussed how the community can become involved, how one can start a neighborhood watch program, ways to invite participants, a suggestion of providing a comfortable location for the neighborhood watch meetings such as in a park, and promoting the continuity in meetings through the collaboration of other agencies with various demonstrations of interest. Chair suggested identifying current parks without a neighborhood watch program and thereafter attending the area's M.A.C. meeting to introduce and make the suggestion of developing a neighborhood watch program.

2. P.A.L. in collaboration with other agencies has provided lunch programs and various recreational activities within the parks at an increasing rate assisting in preventing several unwanted activities that once existed in a number of parks. Upcoming efforts will include promoting more community youth involvements. P.A.L. can further contribute to the neighborhood watch programs and community involvement through recreational outreach and having a representative at the M.A.C. meetings.
3. Ms. Ramos introduced the Eagle Eye Neighborhood Park Watch Program that began in Illinois presented at the CPRS Annual Conference a couple of years ago. It is an educational park safety awareness program free to the community and Park organizations. The catchy mascot Seemore Eagle Eye promotes and educates children by visiting various locations to teach how to take care of park properties and equipment. The program is to encourage children to be observant, to be responsible park patrons, to tell their parents if they witness wrongful activities, and to see the values in parks. This program can be potentially integrated into the current and upcoming neighborhood watch programs and P.A.L.

*Alfredo Guerrero*

*Margarita Ramos*

**F. STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATE**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

1. The Parks Reservation System report was submitted to the Board on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Positive Technology, Inc. is the selected company the Parks Department will be working with to develop a 24-hour reservation system beginning with campground reservations at Modesto Reservoir, Woodward Reservoir and Frank Raines Regional Park. Completion date is estimated to be by March 31, 2009.
2. Waterfowl draw is coming up August 2, 2008 located at Harvest Hall. There are a selected number of picks for each reservoir. The numbers are in the twenties.
3. Fireworks celebration will be at Woodward Reservoir on Saturday, July 5, 2008. The cost for coordinating the show has increased this year. Flyers and posters are distributed and posted with an ad in the Modesto Bee. P.A.L. will also be present to provide recreational activities for visitors.
4. Acceptance of \$1.5 million dollars to renovate Heron Point was submitted to the Board and is moving forward to phase two. The first phase was estimated at \$200,000. Phase two will be the remaining \$1.3 million. Plans are underway. Pre-wiring for security cameras was raised as a concern if it will be included. An attempt to look into the wiring option can be taken however the plan's initial submitted request came before the pronouncement of the Park Commission and Parks Department's current goal of considering the option of security camera wiring in future park developments.
5. Comments/suggestions/questions/concerns can be submitted online to any County department. Ms. Ramos shared how the database worked.
6. Community Parks is currently focused in providing arborist assessments and treatment to areas of need. Tentatively, Hatch Park restrooms and concession

*Cathy Gomez, Margarita Ramos, Sonya Harrigfeld*

*Margarita Ramos*

*Cathy Gomez*

*Cathy Gomez*

*Margarita Ramos*

*Amanda Fife*

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stands are scheduled for demolition. Horseshoe pits were installed at the Grayson Community Center.

7. Quagga/Zebra Mussels, came in from Europe, has hit the Colorado River and now in San Benito County. It is one-fourth of the size of a quarter. It destroys water infrastructures and ecosystem. It can attach to anything, grow and live in many rough environments. Education and close monitoring of this species is at every reservoir.
8. Modesto Reservoir recently had a burglary incident. Several pieces of equipment were stolen including a trailer. 35 trees have been planted. Park revenue is low due to the weather, low water level, and economy. A torn tree was cut down near the La Grange restroom. An Oak tree was donated and planted at the Roberts Ferry Cemetery.
9. Woodward's water distribution system is up and running smoothly. All the new vacuum breakers have been installed. Fire hydrant upgrade project is ongoing. Weed abatement program is a continuous project.
10. Budget Update: Parks Department has been asked by the C.E.O.'s office to reduce this year's budget by two percent in the last four months; it looks great at this time. For fiscal year 2008/2009 Parks budget was reduced by three percent of the County contribution. The only unmet need funded in proposed budget was \$12,000 in additional utility cost. There were several items including state-mandated requirements left unfunded.

*John Lamela*

*Tim Steele*

*Margarita Ramos for Cheryl Jackson*

*Sonya Harrigfeld*

**G. P.A.L. UPDATE**

1. Recently opened up the pool beginning last Saturday with 112 customers. This week consisted of 26-36 swimmers. Lunch programs have started at the following parks: Keyes, Oregon, Parklawn and Empire Park. Anticipates an increase in participants after June 25<sup>th</sup>. Several trips coming up for P.A.L. kids.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

*Alfredo Guerrero*

**H. PARKS MASTER PLAN REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

1. Item No. 8 in the agenda will be tabled at this time.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

*Ron West*

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

1. None

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

**J. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. None

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

**K. COMMISSION COMMENTS & QUESTIONS**

1. Commissioner Betty Parker and on behalf of the Empire Community thanked the Parks staff, Board and P.A.L. for their diligence efforts in the Empire Pool Project.
2. Chair Ron West shared a comment from a community member skateboard park designer who was amazed at how fast graffiti was corrected as he witnessed an incident, therefore commends the Parks Department in the area.
3. Public Comments was suggested to be in the beginning of the meeting.
4. Mr. Fransen thanked all for having him at the meeting. He has already learned a lot.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

*Betty Parker*

*Ron West*

*Warren Brumley*

*David Fransen*

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**L. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned upon motion and second. The next meeting of the Parks Commission will be held on:

**Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**3800 Cornucopia Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Modesto, CA 95358**

PREPARED BY:

*Mae Song, Confidential Assistant III*

525-6723

7/1/2008