

San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes: January 17, 2013

Chairman Ralph Mihan called the meeting of the San Rafael Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mark Bustillos, John Gamblin, Eric Holm, Jeff Jones, Mark Machado, Ralph Mihan, Chair, Tom Oblatz, Commissioners, Patricia Bassett, Alternate

Commissioners Present: Bustillos, Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz, Bassett

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Director Carlene McCart, Parks Superintendent, Dave Davenport

1. Action Items

A. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ralph Mihan congratulated Commissioner Jeff Jones on his reappointment to the Park and Recreation Commission and welcomed newly appointed John Gamblin and Tom Oblatz, Commissioners, and Patricia Bassett, Alternate Commissioners. Commission members introduced themselves.

B. Measure A: Protect Marin's Parks, Open Space and Farmland

Director McCart introduced the item with background on the voter approved Measure A. The ¼ cent sales tax increase will generate approximately \$10 million annually for nine years. Funds collected will be utilized to support Marin County Parks, Open Space and local cities, towns and specific County Service Districts.

Before Measure A was placed on the ballot, Marin County Parks Department convened a series of public meetings to establish how the proposed Measure's funds would be allocated. The public process determined:

- 65% of the funds would be available to Marin County Parks to restore natural resources, maintain county parks and open space preserves, restore and improve public access, and protect natural lands
- 20% would be dedicated to saving family farms and ranches
- 15% would be available to cities, towns, and special districts to manage their parks, nature preserves, recreation programs and vegetation to reduce wildfire risk

The first funds from Measure A will be available for distribution next June. Approximately \$1.5 million will go to cities/towns and County Special Districts with park and recreation services (Marinwood, Strawberry, Tamalpais Valley, and Marin City).

The Board of Supervisors has asked the Marin Managers Association (MMA) to facilitate a discussion among the cities/towns/ districts to determine how the funds are allocated among the agencies and then propose the consensus to the Board of Supervisors for approval. There is significant support for a per capita allocation, but a grant type process is another option under consideration.

This is the Measure language related to the local allocation:

City, Town, and Applicable Special District Program (15%)

The purpose of this program is to assist Marin's municipalities and applicable special districts in managing their parks, open space preserves, recreation programs, and vegetation to promote biodiversity and reduce wildfire risk. Fifteen percent (15%) of the revenues generated annually by this Measure shall be made available for the following uses:

a. Provide grants to cities, towns, and applicable special districts (special districts that provide for parks, open space and/or recreation in unincorporated areas), to maintain, restore, and/or renovate existing parks, preserves, and recreational facilities; to construct new parks and recreational facilities or acquire parklands; or to engage in vegetation management to reduce wildfire risk, promote biodiversity or control invasive non-native weeds on private, municipal or district lands.

b. Funds shall be available through a grant allocation process that will be designed in concert with the cities, towns, and applicable special districts. The grant allocation process, but not the individual projects, shall be subject to approval by the Marin County board of Supervisors. This program is expected to generate over \$13,500,000 over the life of the Measure, nine years.. This program's annual amount, or its balance, may be accumulated, carried over, and accrued for expenditure in future years, not to exceed ten (10) years after the termination date of the sales tax increase.

The County will provide the CSD population information to MMA to determine what the per capita option is for each entity. MMA will meet next on January 24 to begin their discussions.

A per capita distribution estimate may afford San Rafael approximately \$300,000 per year. The Directors of Fire, Public Works, and Community Services are meeting with the City Manager currently to draft a recommendation for the priority use of these funds. The final recommendation to the City Council is expected to include designation of portions of the funds to Open Space protection, park operations, and recreation facility repair/renovation.

Mihan added that the County Board of Supervisors is creating an audit and oversight system to provide checks and balances for the expenditure of Measure A funds. The tax is effective April 1. Funds will flow back to the agencies as of July 1. The land preservation program will involve Marin Agricultural Land Trust, and Marin Open Space Trust will contribute to Measure A projects. There are many opportunities for land preservation currently on the eastern portion of the county.

Commissioner Tom Oblatz inquired if the funds could be utilized for acquisition. McCart responded yes, although San Rafael has unfunded deferred maintenance in the park and recreation inventory that is estimated to be over \$1.5 million. The City is also reduced in park maintenance capacity, so acquisition of property or new construction would be competition for existing resources. Commissioner Mark Bustillos suggested tangible evidence of expenditure of these funds is important for accountability to the voting public. Project signs and other reporting mechanisms should be incorporated into the San Rafael use of Measure A funds.

McCart The role of the Park and Recreation Commission is to design and conduct the public process associated with selection of recreation facility repair/renovation project priorities. After initial discussion, the process should take two additional meetings. The Commission will make a recommendation for City Council approval. With the San Rafael priorities in place, the City will administratively apply for the Measure A funds each year. The goal is to apply this funding in an equitable manner throughout our community, for the greatest good, in the spirit of the Measure A.

The Commission asked staff to prepare a needs inventory for the next meeting

C. California Park and Recreation society Community Awards Nomination

After discussion, it was

M/s Bustillos/ Jones to nominate San Rafael Youth Soccer Club for the 2013 Community Service Award.

AYES: Bustillos, Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Obletz
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

D. 2013 Issues Review

McCart offered a list of preliminary Agenda Items and probably timing to allow the Commission to review and prepare for upcoming items.

2. Commission Items

A. Director's Report

McCart reported contact with the management of Terrapin Cross Roads over potential partnership for improvements and maintenance to Beach Park. The organization donated \$5,000 to the Boro Center, generated by a December fundraiser. Marin County Office of Education is seeking permission to utilize Bernard Hoffman Park to support the physical education curriculum of the Marin Community School. The Canal Community Garden is nearing completion and will have a Grand Opening on March 30. program highlights include over 300 players enrolled in youth volleyball programs, 65 afterschool classes launched in the Youth Enrichment Program, and upcoming theater productions of Alice in Wonderland and Pippi Longstocking are attracting large number of cast participants. Terra Linda pool lockerooms are in need of replacement. Partial roof replacement at San Rafael Community Center was necessary after the December storms created significant leaking. Carol Jacobs-Courtz is retiring after 40 years of service to the City of San Rafael.

Current city-wide issues include the approval of the indoor soccer facility at Smith Ranch airport, development rights to Loch Lomond Village have been sold to Signature Properties, Fenix dinner club has opened on Fourth Street, Bio Marin is poised to move into San Rafael Corporate Center, the Homeless Street Team has been funded and Whistle Stop has announced plans to add housing and parking to the existing site, ensuring continuation of services to senior adults.

B. Falkirk Report

McCart reported the Auction netted \$8,000 for Falkirk; the Library is under design to host a new historic interpretive display; over 30 rental reservations have been secured for 2013; the architectural firm leasing space in the mansion is moving; Marin Academy will host a fundraiser concert for Falkirk in February; Pacific Sun is trading advertising space for photo sessions in the mansion; homeless presence around the house and on the grounds has not diminished with the winter weather; Master Gardeners continue to replace windows in the Greenhouse upgrading the facility for increased use.

C. Parks Report

Parks Superintendant Dave Davenport reported on the successful renovation of the infield and other areas of Albert Park baseball field with new sod, irrigation improvements and grading; re-landscape of the median at Yacht Club Drive, completion of the annual street tree planting (37

trees) program, and over seeding of the Pickleweed Park soccer field. The Parks Division spent the majority of December working with the Streets Division on winter storm preparation and during the two major storms, removing debris and fallen trees, the most serious at Hacienda Drive. They hosted a marsh renovation project with 90 students from Bahia Vista School at Pickleweed Park. Clearing of encampments on Porta Suello Hill continued with the removal of five tons of debris. Commissioners inquired about the progress toward partnering for maintenance of the smaller, "pocket park" No viable partnerships have been established and City crews are performing maintenance tasks for safety. Spinnaker Homeowners Association has agreed to assume maintenance for the City owned landscape areas in the neighborhood.

M/s Machado/Holm to accept reports.

AYES: Bustillos, Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

D. Report from Committees
After discussion it was

M/s Holm/Machado to elect Ralph Mihan as Chair of the Commission and Eric Holm as Vice Chair.

AYES: Bustillos, Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

E. Approval of Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2012

M/s Jones/Holm to approve minutes.

AYES: Bustillos, Gamblin, Holm, Jones, Machado, Mihan, Oblatz
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.