

**BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MINUTES - draft**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**In-person and Via ZOOM, SANTA ROSA, CA**

**March 20, 2024**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pitts at 5:07 PM

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Chair, Logan Pitts

Vice Chair, Paul Castillo

Board Members:

Omar Lopez

Carolina Spence

Guido Boccaleoni

Carole Quandt

MaDonna Cruz

(Also present: Parks Deputy Director, Jen Santos, Recreation Deputy Director Recreation, Jeff Tibbetts, Director Recreation & Parks Donte Watson, Parks Planer Scott Wilkinson and Parks Crew Supervisor, Lorenzo Paran)

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS NON-AGENDA MATTERS**

Duane De Witt spoke about funding opportunities for Roseland neighborhoods in conjunction with Pomo Park Preserve partnership.

Thea Hensel spoke about Southeast Greenway Project. Sonoma Land Trust and Open Space District would also like to support some of the vegetation management and maintenance costs in the next year. Asking for you to communicate and support it in City Council setting.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of March 20, 2024**

Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the Board.

**5. REPORTS ON ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

A list of accomplished and upcoming events was distributed to the Board and made available to the public prior to the meeting. Acting Director, Jen Santos

highlighted the following:

### **Upcoming Highlights:**

April 14, 2024, Nominations are due for merit awards.

### **Accomplishment Highlights:**

Annual Arbor Day Volunteer event that took place March 9, 2024, at Skyhawk Community Park. There were 64 volunteers and 34 trees planted.

## **6. DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Deputy Director Santos provided the following updates:

- Officially welcome Donte Watson, Director of Recreation & Parks Department. And welcome Ursula Swan our new recording secretary for the Board and the Administrative Secretary for Parks.
- Southeast Greenway is running close to having the final acquisition completed in May.
- Meeting with California Transportation Commission in mid-May. Once this happens, they escrow and last few things to acquire the land. It'll be the City's property within a couple of months.
- Working with the Greenway partners and keeping the communication open going forward.
- Council approved City-wide policy on March 5, 2024, landscape maintenance throughout the city, that's more environmentally friendly of integrated pest management system, which includes herbicide use for removal of weeds.
- Landscape contract went out for bid and are due May 9, 2024. If fully funded and awarded it will assist the city with landscape units of all park sites.
- Remind everyone that the Bennett Valley Golf Course is open for restaurant and banquet services, golf and driving range. New Happy Hour from 2-5 pm Monday through Friday. Prime Rib every Friday from 3-7 pm.

Director Donte Watson wanted to recognize Neighborhood Services who hosted a large event last weekend called Springfest, well over 270 attendees.

Public Comment:

Duane De Witt from Roseland, landscape contract and include Roseland neighborhood. Special event April 20, 2024, Earth Day event.

## **7. CHAIR/BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS**

- Vice Chair Castillo – Has checked out the ridgeway pool.
- Board Member Lopez – Thanked parks for hospitality and maintaining parks, especially cleaning up after storms. Welcomed Donte Watson.
- Board Member Quandt – reader at the Holiday Craft Fair. Attended s successful Community meeting hosted by Scott Wilkinson at Franklin Park for North Park Volunteer Group
- Board Member Spence – Merit Award nominations will open at beginning of April.
- Board member Boccaleoni – Would like to get information on the proposed Community center at the end of Hearn Ave. Proposed putting Center in Southwest Community Park. Move Library to McMinn & Hearn Ave.
- Board Member Cruz – Plaque on for the young Native women. Concerned with trash in different areas of the city. Invite everyone to City Council meeting on May 7, 2024, proposed proclamation for Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW).
- Chair Pitts – Plaque legal issues involving the property. Requested update on that from City Attorney's office. Unofficially re-appointed as chair by Mayor Rogers at last Mayor's lunch. Possible coordination with the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory board to schedule meeting. Visited Brandon Park, Fur Ridge Park, Pioneer Park and Southwest Park. Welcome Donte.

Dep. Director Santos disclosed the renaming of the Parks policy. Future updates after May 2024.

Public Comment:

Duane De Witt – spoke on behalf of Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board and if more funding available propose a Southwest Greenway.

## **8. SCHEDULED ITEMS**

### **8.1 RECREATION FEES**

Recreation Deputy Director, Jeff Tibbets will provide a presentation regarding proposed Recreation Fee Update.

Board discussed and questions ensued.

Recommended Action: Information

Public Comment:

Duane De Witt - All children in Community to be given opportunity of swimming lessons. Vendors out at parks. Bring Pony express back for the kids.

## **8.2 PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Parks Planner, Scott Wilkinson will provide a presentation regarding proposed budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 capital projects and provide a general status update of Parks Capital Improvement Projects.

Board discussed and questions ensued.

Recommended Action: Information

Public Comment:

Duane DeWitt – spoke on providing new parks within the city.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **9.1 Mayor’s Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs**

Discussion on Fremont Park  
Mayor interested in the Park Re-Naming Policy

Recommended Action: Information

### **9.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee**

No Update.

Recommended Action: Information

### **9.3 BOCS Governing Documents Subcommittee**

Chair Pitts - Update on policies presented at April meeting.

Recommended Action: Information

## **10. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

NONE

## **11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Update on Northwest Community Park
- Quarterly Updates to the Board
- Formal Presentation of Future Volunteer Groups

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting April 24, 2024, at 5 pm.  
Chair Pitts adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Approve on:

Ursula Swan, Administrative Secretary