

**BOARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Via ZOOM, SANTA ROSA, CA**

December 9, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Griffin at 4:05pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Terri Griffin, Board Members Carol Quandt, Carolina Spence, Pamela Van Halsema, and Sandra Wandel

Absent: Kathy Hayes

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeremy De La Torre advocates for the renaming of Oaklake Green Park in memory of local hero Tim Gillaspie under the current park renaming policy.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes from the October 28, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

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. Deputy Director Jen Santos highlighted an upcoming community meeting on December 17 for public input to replace the playground equipment at Colgan Creek neighborhood park. 'Cruising Down Candy Cane Lane' is a fun event coming up.

6. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Deputy Director Santos reported on the addition of two new Council members; Eddie Alvarez, District 1, and Natalie Rogers, District 7, who is also named Vice Mayor. Chris Rogers is Mayor. Council approved the termination of the Legends restaurant agreement (at Bennett Valley Golf Course). City is working with consultant to evaluate the best use of the building moving forward. Considering option of temporarily offering food trucks for golfers. Update in January. Measure M oversight committee approved parks expenditure plan. Community outreach is ongoing with hopes of bringing feedback to Council in January. Santos congratulated Park Supervisor Dean Hamlin who is retiring after almost 32 years with City.

7. SCHEDULED ITEMS

7.1 AQUATICS PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE

Recreation Supervisor, Don Hicks will provide an overview update regarding the status of Aquatics programs and activities.

Recommended Action: Information

Recreation Supervisor Don Hicks reported on the impact the COVID restrictions have made on the swim community, when pools were deemed 'non-essential' services. Instead of being complacent about the ruling, the aquatic supervisors and managers of pools in

our state and county contributed to a proposed plan incorporating best practices for re-opening local aquatic facilities in a safe manner. The collaboration resulted in the County Health Officer approving limited programming on June 15th beginning with water exercise only. Gradually, more programs were included in the safe opening. County Health Inspectors have visited Finley pool twice and were so impressed with the protocols in place, one inspector stated he wished other pools would follow our example. Hicks reported on the pros and cons, and where we go from here. Safe swim lessons are planned for Spring and a safe training program was created to re-certify lifeguards and is currently being tested in hopes of offering it to the public soon. Two special water rescue mannequins were purchased, along with rescue breathing and personal protective equipment. Some emergency action plan procedures were revised. The bottom line is that the aquatics staff have stepped up to the plate in terms of providing and maintaining super safe swim programs. After being closed for 13 weeks, the public is extremely happy and appreciative of the ongoing efforts by staff to keep aquatic facilities open as they serve approximately 500 swimmers per day.

7.2 CREEKSIDE OPEN SPACE RENAMING

Park Planner Assistant, Emily Ander will provide a summary report of staff findings and public outreach efforts regarding the citizen request to change the name of Creekside Open Space to Mary M. Traverso Open Space.

Recommended Action: Discussion and recommendation

Park Planner Emily Ander reviewed the history of the Creekside Open Space renaming request by Travis Berding from April 2018 to present. The Board requested staff conduct further public outreach. Outreach was conducted by several methods; a virtual community meeting which included community polling, a community survey posted on the City website, signs at Creekside Open Space, Matanzas Park and Strawberry Park, the City Connections e-newsletter, the City's social media platforms and postcards were sent to a half mile radius. Ander reviewed the current park re-naming language and the contributions made by Mary Traverso and reported on the feedback received by the community. The survey included input for the revision of Council Policy 000-25 Park Naming Policy and Procedure. Three options were outlined for staff recommendations; approve the name change, solicit additional community input, or retain the name Creekside Open Space and defer the renaming request until after the Park Naming Policy and Procedure is revised. Another option is that the Board could provide recommendations for staff. Next steps: BOCS recommendation to City Council, Council review in early 2021, and if approved, update City media with new name. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment:

Jeremy De la Torre: In favor of renaming Creekside Open Space in memory of Mary M. Traverso. Advocates having Oaklake Green Park renamed in memory of Tim Gillaspie under the current renaming policy rather than wait for the policy revision.

Travis Berding: In favor of renaming Creekside Open Space in memory of Mary M.

Traverso and supports the renaming of Oaklake Green Park in memory of Tim Gillaspie.

Board Member Van Halsema made a motion that parks staff return to the community living within a half-mile radius of the park to seek additional feedback to achieve 50-75% support for renaming Creekside Open Space in honor of Mary M. Traverso. In addition, it was requested that staff include members of Bennett Valley Vision.

Board Member Wandel seconded. Board members Griffin, Quandt, Van Halsema, Spence and Wandel voted aye. Board member Hayes was absent. No nays. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Mayor's Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs

Recommended Action: Information

Board member Quandt attended the Mayor's lunch in place of Chair Griffin. Quandt reported this was Mayor Schwedhelm's last luncheon with this group. Quandt read a prepared statement regarding the success of the newly rebuilt Coffey Park. The mayor commended Recreation staff for their efforts in supporting our youth during COVID. There was potential for parks to shut down due to abuses of current policy in place for COVID, but staff took number of measures to ensure rules are being observed.

8.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee

Recommended Action: Information

The Waterways Committee did not meet.

9. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Renaming of Oaklake Green Park

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Griffin adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 27, 2021, at 4:00pm.