

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

May 26, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Griffin at 4:03pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair Terri Griffin, Board Members Logan Pitts, Carolina Spence, Pamela Van Halsema, MaDonna Cruz and Steven Spillman

Absent: Chair Carole Quandt

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes from the April 28, 2021 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 welcomed new Board Member Steven Spillman, highlighted the end of 'School of Rec' program, and alerted Board to upcoming Dutch Flohr Neighborhood Park community meeting.

6. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Deputy Director Santos announced that the current City Manager's last day is May 28. Interim City Manager is Jeff Kolin, former Santa Rosa City Manager. Water use must be reduced 20% but will not adversely affect parks. Budget hearing is scheduled for June 22. Council will re-visit PG&E settlement funds in mid-July. A nation-wide grant application for Martin Luther King, Jr. Neighborhood Park is going to Council June 8. Thirty applicants will be awarded.

7. SCHEDULED ITEMS

7.1 HOWARTH PARK

Recreation Coordinator Nicole Lowery will provide an overview of Howarth Park's seasonal activities and programs as well as how services can be offered during the pandemic.

Recommended Action: Information

Recreation Coordinator Nicole Lowery presented a synopsis of activities, amenities and accomplishments at Howarth Park in the last 2 years. Operations for K-Land, including train rides, carousel, bounce house, pony rides, animal barn and snack bar, and the boathouse, including boat rentals, boating classes, and camps, have various seasonal schedules. Park amenities include 138 acres, tennis courts,

pickleball courts, reservable picnic sites, Lake Ralphine, softball field, trails, climbing wall and playgrounds. Operations are managed by 1 Recreation Coordinator and 54 temporary employees. Park maintenance staff help support operations in the park. Howarth Park has an annual revenue goal of \$445K, but it may take 2 years to see the fulfillment of that goal post-COVID. Events held at Howarth Park include Fishing in the City, Fishing Derby, outdoor Movie Nights, and Halloween at Howarth. The boathouse opened in 2020 with safe distancing guidelines, although not all attractions were open. Upcoming operations in 2021 consist of the re-opening of the train and snack bar, carousel, animal barn and camps, and a new program called Reading Railroad, all respecting the COVID safety protocols. While many programs were placed on hold, including pony rides, jump house, movie nights and more, the boathouse did receive refurbishing, 4 new paddle boats, and a sanitizing fogger. A grant that was recently awarded will enable staff to purchase an electric motor for a rescue boat and will provide scholarships for some boating classes. The carousel was lowered for ease of access and a new ADA seat was added. The carousel opening is targeted for June 12. Howarth Park has won many awards over the years and 2020 was no exception. The Press Democrat's "2020 Readers' Choice Awards" named Howarth Park as the "Best Place to Take Kids", the jewel of Santa Rosa! Lowery praised staff for their level of customer service and commitment to continue showing how "Parks Make Life Better".

Discussion ensued.

Public Comment: None

7.2 CREEKSIDE OPEN SPACE RENAMING

Park Planner Assistant Emily Ander will provide a presentation regarding the request by son-in-law Travis Berding to change the name of Creekside Open Space to Mary Traverso Open Space.

Recommended Action: Discussion and Recommendation

Park Planner Assistant Emily Ander provided a brief history of the renaming process of Creekside Open Space from the time of the original request in 2018 to where we are today. Ander reviewed park naming policy, procedure and objectives and reviewed merits of Mary M. Traverso in the community. Community feedback by means of community meetings, polls and online surveys reflected the majority of respondents in the southeast quadrant of the City and those responding City-wide felt Traverso's contributions met the policy guidelines and were in favor of changing the name of Creekside Open Space to Mary Traverso Open Space. Staff recommends either approving the name change or retaining the Creekside Open Space name until the City adopts an updated Park Naming Policy & Procedure. If the latter, the Traverso family may resubmit their request under the new policy. Next steps include Board of Community Services' recommendation to Council, Council review in the summer, and if approved, update City media with new name.

Board discussion followed.

Public Comment:

Travis Berding hopes that the Board will move forward, and Council will approve the renaming of Creekside Open Space to Mary Traverso Open Space.

Board Action:

Board Member Van Halsema moved to approve the name change from Creekside Open Space to Mary Traverso Open Space. Board Member Spence Seconded.
Motion carried with 6 ayes.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Mayor's Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs

Recommended Action: Information

Chair Quandt absent-no report.

8.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee

Recommended Action: Information

Chair Quandt absent – no report.

Vice Chair Griffin asked Board Member Spence to report on the Merit Awards Committee. Spence reported the nominations are beginning to flow in. The public was encouraged to go online or pick up an application for this wonderful event. Deadline to submit applications is July 10.

9. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Griffin adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on June 23, 2021, at 4:00pm.