



City of Santa Rosa

Finley Center
2060 W. College Avenue
Cypress Room

Board of Community Services Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

4:00 PM

4:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Quandt called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Member MaDonna Cruz left at 5:30pm.

Chair Quandt welcomed new Board Member MaDonna Cruz and thanked Sandra Wandel for her past service to the Board.

Present: 6 - Chair Carole Quandt, Board Member Pamela Van Halsema, Board Member Madonna Cruz, Board Member Terri Griffin, Board Member Logan Pitts, and Board Member Carolina Spence

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3.1 Public Comment

Duane DeWitt advocated for increased funding for more park maintenance staff and the expansion of Roseland Creek Community Park.

Mikko Bojarsky on behalf of Coffey Strong would like BOCS to make recommendation to City Council to add two abandoned parcels of land where Hopper Avenue meets Coffey Lane, into City parks system.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 24, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

5. REPORTS ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

5.1 Upcoming and Accomplished 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 the upcoming Kentucky Derby Drive-Through at Finley Center and the Senior Car Bingo event that continues through May 26th at Franklin Park.

6. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Deputy Director Santos introduced Deputy Director of Recreation, Kelley Magnuson. Listening sessions were held with Council Member Alvarez regarding Roseland Creek Community Park. We are currently working on updating the Master Plan and looking forward to returning to the Board this summer. The second in a series of Neighborhood meetings for Dutch Flohr redesign options will be held May 27th at 5:30pm. Santos welcomed new Board Member MaDonna Cruz and thanked Board Member Sandra Wandel for her past services. Deputy Director Magnuson added that registration for summer activities begins May 6th. The online Activity Guide will be released on Monday, May 3rd, offering more variety and space at summer day camps, a variety of swim lessons, senior activities starting June 21st and much more! No printed copy will be available, but you can browse online at santarosarec.com. An email will be sent to 30K online customers. Magnuson praised staff who managed to assemble the Activity Guide in a short amount of time and with ever-changing COVID restrictions.

Chair Quandt welcomed MaDonna Feather Cruz who was appointed by Council Member Alvarez. Cruz acknowledged her ancestors; Southern Pomo, Lakota and Pomo, and gave a brief background bio.

7. SCHEDULED ITEMS

7.1 SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Recreation Supervisor, Jeff Tibbetts will provide an update regarding the status and future plans regarding Special Events

Recommended Action: Information

Recreation Supervisor Jeff Tibbetts began by showing an event-filled Community Events Calendar in a typical year, contrasted with a blank COVID year calendar. Staff had to re-think community events, which is one area of programming without

designated staff. More than just placing events on a calendar, it was about working with the community. Creative ways of event modifications are seen in the staff Halloween costumes. The robot hat doubled as a safety shield and robot arm extensions were used to safely hand out treats. Past Halloween events had 1,500 guests, so it was no small feat to imagine a drive through event complete with booths and decorations. Pride in a day's work had never been higher. They experienced learning curves, but overall, it was very successful. The same kind of creative thinking led to inspired new events like Caravan to Candyland, held at the Finley Center roundabout. Thank a Hero, Be a Hero, was tied to the Thanksgiving Season and included a food drive. Staff distributed greeting cards thanking our heroes, that were dropped off by the public. Cruisin' Candy Cane Lane was originally scheduled at A Place to Play park as a parade, but was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Staff immediately began re-constructing the event as a Finley drive-through event, but that too was cancelled due to a mandated shelter in place at the last minute. Staff began placing hundreds of calls to isolated seniors, checking up on them and letting them know how much we care. They partnered with School of Rec for a "Snowball Fight" with foam snowballs and brought in cohorts one at a time for a great event. BINGO was played in the comfort of vehicles, honking to announce a winner! They held a Leprechaun Hunt and virtual St Pats 5K. They held Social Media Events like a Halloween costume photo contest, decoration contest, Attitude of Gratitude event for Santa Rosa, Battle of Carolers in December, Santa Rosa Love Story for Valentine's Day, and Lemonade from Lemons in January. Tibbetts recognized the efforts of staff, including Jeanne Pugh, Nicole Lowery and Kim Hatch and vowed to continue some of the new events enjoyed by the public well after COVID.

Public Comment: None

7.2 MEASURE M - PARKS FOR ALL - PRIORITY PLAN

Parks Deputy Director, Jen Santos will provide background and overview of the Measure M - Parks for all current and proposed priorities.

Recommended Action: Discussion and input

Deputy Director Jen Santos furnished the background of Measure M and provided an overview of the preliminary results for proposals regarding Measure M/Parks for All priorities. Measure M was approved by voters in 2018, calling for a 1/8 cent sales tax for 10 years, which provides approximately \$1.9M annually and requires a baseline commitment. A Fiscal Oversight Committee oversees expenditures to ensure compliance with the Tax Measure's baseline commitment. Council approved the Priority Plan in 2019 and the first community meeting was held in February 2020, just before the COVID pandemic hit and normal activities came to an abrupt halt. The Glass Fire erupted in September 2020, which diverted staff

attention to emergency operations. Council approved a contract for deferred maintenance in February 2021, and community meetings were held City wide by the end of April. Next steps include additional public meetings to gather input from various demographics. Santos reviewed the language for possible uses of Measure M funding, provided statistics on parks and park amenities per quadrant and documented the type and extent of community outreach conducted by the City to date. Data analysis of the surveys was provided along with the number of responses. Various options for funding analysis and ranking were also provided. Recommendations included the dedication of 50% of all estimated funding for years 3-10 towards maintenance and fuel reduction, 40% towards improvements and 10% towards recreational needs. In conclusion, additional time is required to develop specific expenditure plans. Expenditure plans will be brought before BOCS for recommendation to Council for approval. It is hoped that expenditure plans will be developed as follows: Maintenance and fuel reduction plan in the next few months, Improvements plan over the next year, and Recreation plan developed each year.

Q & A followed.

7.3 Public Comment

Duane DeWitt encouraged the allocation of funds to begin work on the Roseland Creek bikeway/greenway on the south side of Roseland Creek between Burbank and McMinn Avenues.

Sheila Bell is concerned that funding from Measure M for maintenance will eventually end. Maintenance should be funded by City's General Fund.

Thea Hensel worries that Measure M will not be renewed in 10 years without 'bright, shiny objects' to show for it. Maintenance should come from General Fund.

Erin Rineberg advocates for more parks and open space in SW quadrant of City and urges safe preservation and maintenance of heritage trees.

Robert Gaiser requests some Measure M funding for the Southeast Greenway for maintenance, fire fuel reduction and improvements, along with staff involvement.

Kathy Kerst advocates for funding construction of additional pickleball courts.

Brian Bushon would like to see more public participation in surveys and believes Measure M funding of maintenance will balance inevitable budget cuts to staffing.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Mayor's Lunch for Committee/Board Chairs

Recommended Action: Information

Chair Quandt reported the Mayor met with Governor Newsom, so no lunch was held.

8.2 Santa Rosa Waterways Advisory Committee

Recommended Action: Information

Chair Quandt stated the Committee visited a waterway behind Piner Road.

9. WRITTEN AND/OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Two written public comments were received from Duane DeWitt, submitted to the Board members and uploaded to the agenda for public access.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

More Information regarding the two abandoned parcels adjacent to Coffey Park
Information about fuel reduction on park property
Monthly updates on drought impacts to park maintenance and what adjustments are required
Volunteer options for park maintenance

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Quandt adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on May 26, 2021, at 4:00pm.