

Sonoma County  
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

DATE: Monday, June 15, 2009  
PLACE: Bodega Bay Grange Hall  
1370 Bodega Avenue  
Bodega Bay, California

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Trowbridge called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Stafford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Pam Stafford, Bill Trowbridge and Director Mary Burns  
Commissioners Absent: Bill Wheeler, Karen Collins and John Mills

**4. Acceptance of Minutes**

The minutes of May 18, 2009, will be approved at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting due to a lack of quorum.

**5. Comments from the Public**

None

**6. Comments from Commissioners**

None

**7. Director's Report**

Ms. Burns reported better news about the budget. The Department was looking at a 15% cut. Now, \$221,000 will be added back from the Transit and Occupancy Tax (TOT) funds. There will be no impacts on maintenance or the number of hours the parks will be open. Plus, the Occidental Community Center received funding to remain open one more year.

The Marina Manager position was approved by the Board of Supervisors and the recruitment will open soon. The Department hopes to hire someone who can operate the marina and assist with longer-term planning.

Once the freeze is removed from state funding, Parks will receive around \$450,000 in project reimbursement.

The Tolay Settlement Agreement has been finalized. Projects at Tolay can now move forward.

The Sunset Beach Dedication is scheduled for July 16 at 5:30pm.

8. **Action Items**

None

9. **Reports and Division Updates**

• **Review and Possible Recommendation of the Bodega Bay Coastal Trail Project**

Todd Holmes, Park Planning Manager, discussed implementation of this section of the 2005 Bodega Bay Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail Study. The Bodega Bay trail system will ring around the bay and is also a part of the California Coastal Trail. This trail will connect the community in Bodega Bay. It will be a Class 1 asphalt trail that is separate from the street. The project has been conceptually approved and grant monies have been applied for. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to share the plan and receive feedback so comments can be taken into account. State Parks is a partner in this project and representatives are present to answer questions.

Joe Kase, Parks Planner, discussed the details of the project:

- The multi-use trail will be approximately four miles on the highway and 4 miles off the highway
- The trail will start at Keefe Avenue with a small parking lot for 6 vehicles, and another 14 vehicle lot on Highway 1
- There will be a portable restroom site
- Picnic areas

Comments from the public:

Sylvia Darling said that Keefe Avenue is a one-lane road. In the past, she has requested that it be widened.

Mr. Kase said that the Planning Division has worked with a traffic consultant and this project did not trigger any impacts.

Mr. Randall said if the entrance to Keefe Avenue would be sufficient if it were broader.

Jerry Leddy said it is very dangerous to make a left-hand turn. In addition, this project could change his quiet neighborhood, which leaves him with mixed feelings. He said it would be great to have a trail. It is the parking lot that bothers him. If the parking lot becomes full, neighbors will be competing with parking in front of their own houses because the overflow will go into their neighborhoods.

Mr. Holmes said the rationale is to keep parking out of the neighbor hoods.

Mr. Kase said it is a possibility, as with previous projects, that parking could be restricted on the streets.

Mr. Holmes stated that the lot will be an unpaved permeable surface.

Lillian asked if consideration has been given to having an extended beach parking lot that the trail could connect to.

Gary Shannon, from State Parks, joined the discussion on the proposed project and discussed the bigger picture, which was to have a trail that continues to the north. This project and parking lots are part of the interim and it hasn't been determined how long the lot will be there.

There was discussion about moving the parking lot to the end of Keefe Avenue, further from the community. Salmon Creek has always had water issues. A section of Keefe Avenue "falls in" because a spring runs across it, which is why it is always being repaved.

Access off Highway 1 at the *entrance* to Keefe Avenue is suggested.

Mr. Kase said that he would take into consideration issues regarding left-hand turning.

Richard Retecki said that moving the parking lot will not solve the traffic issue. He inquired whether the 14 car lot could be enlarged. He asked if it was possible to widen the lot but not install a sign.

Mr. Kase said that the lot could be enlarged but there will still be traffic impacts. He explained that a Class 1 trail is a Caltran standard that separates the trail physically from the road.

Mary McChristian said that the lane is wide enough for 1 car at a time and residents already park on it. Of biggest concern is the traffic coming from the north. She asked how many are estimated to use the lot on a daily basis.

Mr. Holmes invited the group to tour Keefe Avenue to look at the proposed project. He stated he appreciated everyone's coming and thanked those in attendance.

- **Tolay Interim Access Permits**

Mr. Holmes said that the permit program is a work in progress. The curriculum will be finalized at a meeting of the stakeholders. Park users will go through training before they are able to access the park on their own. He stated that the interim plan is a bridge to the masterplan.

- **Volunteer Update**

John Ryan, Volunteer Coordinator, showed a brief Powerpoint highlighting the volunteer statistics for fiscal year 07/08:

- 459 individual volunteers monitor trails, act as camp hosts, docents, mounted assistance, festival volunteers and gate openers
- 800+ workday volunteers
- Total volunteer hours: 32,335 for a value of \$643,000
- Camp hosts volunteered over 15,000+ hours
- Group volunteers (Eagle Scouts, Spring Clean, beach clean-up days, trail maintenance groups volunteered over 5,000 hours)

Ms. Burns commented that she has received excellent feedback from volunteers regarding their experience volunteering with Parks and coordinator John Ryan. Regional Parks has now surpassed our chief rival in the number of hours volunteered.

**10. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Laura Cordes, Executive Secretary