
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Robert Bailey
Mark Barry
Dana Curran, Vice Chair
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Richard Hunn, Chair
Diane Kindermann
George "Buzz" Link
Margie Namba
Eric Rivero- Montes
Mark White

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:
County of Sacramento
City of Sacramento
City of Isleton
City of Folsom
City of Galt
City of Elk Grove

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016
10590 ARMSTRONG AVE. MATHER, CA 95655
6:00PM.

1 Call to Order- Chair Hunn

The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2 Roll Call- Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Richard Hunn, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Anthony DeRiggi, Dana Curran, Mark Barry, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes

3 Introduction of Commissioners-Chair Hunn

4 Public Comment- Chair Hunn

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

5 Approval of April 2016 Minutes

1. A motion to approve the April 2016 minutes, was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Anthony DeRiggi.

Ayes: Anthony DeRiggi, Robert Bailey, Richard Hunn, Margie Namba

Noes: None

Abstentions: Mark White, Mark Barry, Eric Rivero Montes, Dana Curran (1st vote was aye, changed to abstention before meeting was adjourned)

April minutes were not passed and will be carried over to the June 2016 meeting.

6 AB 1716 Language Discussion- Corey Brown, Conservation Advocate, Attorney, Worked on Multiple Ballot Measures and State Bonds

Corey Brown is a community resident that has been very active in creating hundreds of millions of dollars for river parkways and other open space projects over the past twenty five years. He explained that the Lower American River Conservancy Bill is in the appropriations suspense file where bills with an annual cost of \$150,000 or more are placed and considered right before the deadline for bills to be moved onto the floor of their respective chamber. Mr. Brown expressed that the American River Parkway is a national model for urban river projects. He distributed a graph showing funding for California river parkways to illustrate that the most highly funded parkways are those managed by conservancies that are actively soliciting grants, donations and other contributions from federal, state and private sources for the purposes of management, maintenance and protection and restoration of the resource. The staff members would be funded by the State of California and fall under the California Natural Resources Agency. The American River Parkway receives very little in state funding.

The formation of a Lower River American Parkway Conservancy will enable expert agency resources to be utilized such as Department of Fish and Game, and water experts. The Conservancy would provide a state partner to work cooperatively with local agencies to help fund projects and provide grants to restore, enhance and protect the Parkway. AB 1716 stipulates that any action taken by the Conservancy must be consistent with the American River Parkway Plan.

Maintaining local control is provided for in the last paragraph of AB1716. Actions of the Conservancy have to be consistent with the American Parkway Plan and calls for 3 Supervisors from Sacramento County to be seated on the Conservancy Board, out of a total of 16 representative which also includes Directors or designees from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources Agency, Wildlife Conservation Board and State Lands Commission.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors has outlined a letter stating priorities that they wish to see included in AB 1716 and will be sending that to Assemblyman McCarty soon.

The Commission decided to rescind the action of writing a letter of concern to Assemblyman McCarty regarding the bill's language that was approved during

May's meeting and modified the action to only sending a letter in support of AB 1716 to Assemblyman McCarty. A motion to approve was made by Mark White and seconded to Anthony DeRiggi

Ayes: : Richard Hunn, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Anthony DeRiggi, , Mark Barry, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes

Noes: Dana Curran

Abstentions: None

7 Sacramento County Parks Management/ Maintenance- Jeff Leatherman, Director of Sacramento County Parks and Recreation

Sacramento County Regional Parks owns and is responsible for approximately 15,000 acres extending from north County south to the tip of the Delta, including 4 golf courses. There are 8,000,000 visitor days per year at the American River parkway, 23 miles of which Sacramento County is responsible for managing.

Regional Parks is in the process of rebuilding the capacity of department that was reduced In 2010 when the recession forced cuts in maintenance, rangers, and recreation staff. The Regional Parks Service Review Report presented to the Board of Supervisors is the benchmark for explaining the current and long terms service delivery of Sacramento County Regional Parks.

Regional Parks utilizes partnerships and concessions to optimize service delivery, such as Elk Grove Regional Park which is owned by the County but run and operated by Consumnes CSD. Golf course management is also contracted out by Sacramento County Parks and Recreation. Preserves owned by the County are managed in coordination with other agencies such as conservancies. Deer Creek Hills preserve is owned by the County but primarily managed by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. Effie Nature center is run by nonprofit partners because the Parks budget can't support this service. A community funding district (CFD) funds the bike trails at Mather Independence. The Parks Department performs the landscaping and maintenance of all county owed buildings.

Regional Parks maintains relationships with other expert organizations such as the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Bureau of Land Management as many of the functions of preservation and management often cross agency boundaries. A creative funding opportunity occurs

at The Consumnes Preserve where an organic rice farm operation funds the position of the volunteer coordinator.

Rangers in the Regional Parks Department work closely with the Sacramento Police Department and other law enforcement. Accident rates are now being tracked as fire department, rangers and emergency responders are working together and sharing information to respond to accidents and collect data. 311 can be used to report dangerous behavior on the parkway such as speeding bicyclists or illegal camping.

Over the next 3-5 years, Regional Parks will take on the operations of more parks; assuming operations of the Mather Preserve and managing the contract, management of Alder Creek Parkway of the Easton Development, 106 acres of parks in the future Cordova Hills Development and planning for trails in the Jackson Corridor project. They are collaborating with the Department of Transportation working to connect trails in all parts of the county in order to alleviate traffic on the Parkway. Fees and revenues have remained flat and there is no intention of raising the yearly park pass fee of \$50.00 or parking fees of 5.00 at this time.

Deferred maintenance is an important and costly issue as Regional Parks looks to repairing asphalt on trails and buildings containing asbestos. They are partnering with the Department of General Service to categorize deferred maintenance priorities.

Commissioner DeRiggi asked about installing recycling containers put on trails. Director Leatherman responded that although the receptacles are high maintenance for staff, the perception of recycling is important and he is planning on having more bear proof recycling containers put along the trail.

Director Leatherman explained that \$2,000,000 of the annual \$6,000,000 budget, and 2 full time ranger teams, are needed to address the widespread problem of illegal camping. The root causes of homelessness and illegal camping are managed by Sacramento County DHA, DHHS, and Sacramento Steps Forward.

Action: The Commission agreed to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors that supports staffing requests submitted in the Regional Parks Budget before the June Preliminary Budget Hearings.

A motion was made by Robert Bailey, seconded by Anthony DeRiggi

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Anthony DeRiggi, Dana Curran, Mark Barry, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Mark White, Anthony DeRiggi and Eric Rivero Montes volunteered to draft the letter.

8 **Sacramento County Environmental Management Director's Report-** Val Siebal, Director

9 **Agency Monitoring Report Back**

Commissioners reported back on issues they are monitoring from other local government entities.

10 **Commissioner Comments**

Tour of the Arena

Airport Update

11 **Adjournment-** 8:14 p.m. Next meeting June 20th, 2016 at 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655.