

# MONTEREY COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

## DECEMBER 1, 2022 MEETING ACTION MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Getzelman at 3 p.m. and conducted via teleconference using *Microsoft Zoom*. C-MCPC called the roll to verify a quorum was present. Chair Getzelman announced that this is a public meeting, and it was being recorded.

<p><b><u>Commissioners Present</u></b>  <input type="checkbox"/> time joined after meeting started                  Sergio Sanchez                  Eric Rozance [3:03 p.m.]                  Paula Getzelman, Chair                  Kelly J. Stracke                  Claudia P. Tibbs                  Supervisor John M. Phillips</p>	<p><b><u>Commissioners Absent</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>County Staff Present</u></b>                  Ryan Bell, AOM-LSRA                  Bryan Flores, COP                  Arika Garcia, S-PWPF-P                  Rita Hickman, C-MCPC                  Nate Merkle, AOM-SCP</p>																					
<p><b>Guests:</b> None. <b>Members of the Public:</b> A. Linder</p>																							
<p><b><u>Meeting Notes Abbreviation Legend</u></b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>Administrative Operations Manager-Laguna Seca</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>AOM-LSRA</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>Lake San Antonio</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>LSA</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Administrative Operations Manager-South County Parks</i></td> <td><i>AOM-SCP</i></td> <td><i>Monterey County Parks Commission</i></td> <td><i>MCPC</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Board of Supervisors</i></td> <td><i>BOS</i></td> <td><i>MCPC Clerk</i></td> <td><i>C-MCPC</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Chief of Parks</i></td> <td><i>COP</i></td> <td><i>Public Works, Facilities, &amp; Parks</i></td> <td><i>PWFP</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><i>Secretary -PWFP-Parks</i></td> <td><i>S-PWFP-P</i></td> </tr> </table>				<i>Administrative Operations Manager-Laguna Seca</i>	<i>AOM-LSRA</i>	<i>Lake San Antonio</i>	<i>LSA</i>	<i>Administrative Operations Manager-South County Parks</i>	<i>AOM-SCP</i>	<i>Monterey County Parks Commission</i>	<i>MCPC</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>BOS</i>	<i>MCPC Clerk</i>	<i>C-MCPC</i>	<i>Chief of Parks</i>	<i>COP</i>	<i>Public Works, Facilities, &amp; Parks</i>	<i>PWFP</i>			<i>Secretary -PWFP-Parks</i>	<i>S-PWFP-P</i>
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### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commission Chair Getzelman asked for public comments on matters not on the agenda, and she advised that the public may also comment for three minutes on any matter on the agenda during that item by using the *raise hand* feature to be recognized to speak.

Public Comments: None

### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, REQUESTS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Getzelman asked for any comments, requests, or recommendations from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Rozance requested that the Commissioners receive a report on the Fee Waiver Program next year. Chair Getzelman made a brief statement. MCPC worked to forge a collaborative relationship with new COP Flores and Parks staff where MCPC assumes a more participatory role by becoming more engaged in the process. At the February 2023 MCPC meeting, per the prescribed rotation, Commissioner Stracke will be appointed Chair. She looks forward to the MCPC’s continued efforts for the mutual benefit of Parks staff and Commission.

### ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS BY COMMISSION CLERK

None.

## ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MCPC MEETING ACTION MINUTES

### **1. October 6, 2022 MCPC Meeting Action Minutes**

### **2. November 3, 2022 MCPC Special Meeting Action Minutes**

Commission Chair Getzelman announced that the minutes for both meetings had been distributed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. Taking each set of minutes separately, Chair Getzelman called for comments, questions, or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, she announced the October 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes and November 3, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes were deemed approved as submitted.

## SCHEDULED MATTERS

### **3. Discuss 2023 Parks Commission Meeting Dates, including: a) Designating certain meetings to be held at park sites, and b) Approve 2023 Parks Commission Meeting Dates as presented or as modified by the Commission.**

To begin the discussion, Chair Getzelman posed two questions: 1) Which parks sites have facilities to hold meetings? 2) Are the Commissioners available to arrive at the various park sites by 3 p.m. for scheduled Commission meetings? COP Flores identified two park locations within the general travel corridor, San Lorenzo Park, where Wi-fi technology is limited, and Laguna Seca. He stated he did not see any benefit to holding meetings at the various parks; however, special meetings could be scheduled for specific needs.

Commissioner Comment: Supervisor Phillips opined that it might be tough for working people if MCPC meetings were held at the various parks. Commissioner Rozance stated there could be a benefit if a particular project was proposed. Commissioner Sanchez stated there is value to going to the parks as tours of the parks would be very informative, and there is enough interest from the Commissioners to tour the parks facilities at special meetings. Commissioner Sanchez stated due to heavy traffic and limited parking at the Schilling facility, the 168 W. Alisal Street government center is better situated to hold MCPC meetings.

Public Comments: None.

Motion: Commissioner Sanchez moved that the 2023 MCPC Meeting Dates be approved with the modification that meetings would be held at the government center-168 West Alisal Street. Supervisor Phillips seconded the motion.

Vote: ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

### **4. Discuss Revenue-Generating Opportunities for Parks Events.**

Public Comments: None.

Commissioner Comments: None

Action: Commission Chair Getzelman tabled the item as no one had comments.

### **5. Discuss E-bike Policy for County Parks; Consider creating an Ad Hoc Committee to develop the policy; Provide feedback to Staff**

COP Flores advised since his December 2021 report, there have been various legal challenges and various community groups going forward with State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, National Forest Service, etc. He requested that an MCPC ad hoc committee be formed to investigate different agencies policies related to E-bikes, meet with community members, and draft a policy/ordinance for E-bike use in County Parks.

Public Comments: A Linder

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Tibbs expressed that it is important to remember Commissioners are ambassadors for County parks. The County's older demographic is purchasing E-bikes, and E-bikes present an accessibility component. MCPC needs to encourage education and outreach and work within our community to ensure proper usage of parks. MCPC has an opportunity to engage local community members from shop owners to park users. MCPC could instill a culture of education, awareness, and respect for the outdoors as well as safety for all users. The Commissioners expressed interest in forming an ad hoc committee.

Motions:

1) Commission Sanchez motioned that MCPC form an ad hoc committee to develop a draft E-bike policy for County Parks. Commissioner J. Stracke seconded the motion.

Vote: ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED

2) Supervisor Phillips motioned that the ad hoc committee be composed of the following members, Commissioners Sanchez, Stracke, and Getzelman, with the members from the public to be selected by MCPC Chair in consultation with the Chief of Parks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rozance.

Vote: ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED

#### DEPARTMENT UPDATES

COP Flores thanked Supervisor Phillips for his service on MCPC.

##### **a. Staff Introduction**

COP introduced a new member of the Parks Division, Parks Secretary Arika Garcia.

##### **b. Laguna Start-Finish Bridge and Track Overly Project**

AOM-LSRA Bell reported that the Bridge has been demolished, and the Contractor is currently working with PG&E on pole relocation. The Project is on time/on budget.

##### **c. Friends of Laguna Seca Concession Proposal**

COP Flores reported that on November 8, 2022, Parks staff went to BOS to discuss Laguna Seca finances. Staff brought forward a proposed concession agreement with Friends of Laguna Seca (Ross Merrill, Bruce Canepa, et al.). The County is in negotiations with this group to establish a concessionaire agreement. The proposed agreement would have a nonprofit organization running the track (unpaid directors/paid staff) for an initial term of 5 years, with \$5 million in operating funds and \$10 million investment for necessary deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects. The new group would assume all existing contracts. Two optional 25-year terms are proposed, which could bring an additional \$50 million to the LSRA facility. Supplemental funding is greatly needed as the County General Fund cannot support the level of improvements and maintenance required at LSRA. Under such an agreement, the County could step back from daily oversight, and the COWCAP costs would be greatly reduced. The proposed concessionaire agreement is scheduled to be brought for BOS consideration in February 2023. Supervisor Phillips advised that the BOS is totally supportive with moving forward with negotiations. He qualified that major capital changes would still have to come through the County and could require an EIR.

**d. ARPA Projects**

COP Flores advised that the ARPA projects are going well, some slower than others. Water tank projects at Jacks' Peak and Royal Oaks parks have been completed. AOM-LSRA Bell reported that the large water tank replacement at LSRA is scheduled to be completed by May 2023. The bathroom project is close to completion. AOM-SCP Merkle advised that large projects are also underway at both lakes. At Lake Nacimiento, a 100,000-gallon water tank is being replaced. At LSA, a large project is underway to bring potable water back to LSA. The facility has been without potable water for eight years. Restoring potable water should enhance park visitation.

**e. Fuel Reduction-Goat Grazing at former Fort Ord Open Space and Toro Park**

COP Flores advised that the goat grazing project at the former Fort Ord properties ended with 1400 acres grazed. Currently, 700 goats are grazing in the back country of Toro Park providing fuel reduction under a cooperative agreement where Parks provides property/graze, and the goats' services are provided at no cost to the County. Parks has saved approximately \$85,000 on former Fort Ord properties and likely will save more at Toro Park utilizing this fuel-reduction method. When the grass turns green, the company will resume charging for the goats' services.

**f. San Lorenzo Park Campground Reopening**

Parks has reopened, and campers are using the facility again. Parks' grounds team did a great job with the pond rehabilitation.

**g. Toro Park Eagle Scout Project/Quail Meadows Dog Park**

An eagle scout project to install a Leash Free Dog Area near the back portion of Quail Meadows will be completed by December 15, 2022. The dog area surrounding a willow tree is enclosed with a 4-foot-tall chain link fence with double gate. The project's cost, ~\$5,000, was financed through a GoFundMe campaign.

**h. Depredation of Wild Pigs**

Parks has had significant issues with wild pigs at Toro Park, San Lorenzo Park, and Lake San Antonio. County Park Rangers provide some depredation services. As a last resort, Parks contracted with Urban Trapping Wildlife Control to trap and humanely dispatch the pigs.

**i. 2022 Equal Opportunity Report**

COP Flores shared that he spoke with the County Civil Rights Office and was advised that all information available and requested over the last year can be found in the May 3, 2022 Board Report. The Equal Opportunity Plan is available on the Civil Rights Office website. Commissioner Sanchez reminded everyone that his request was to have a presentation. COP Flores stated he could ask the Civil Rights Office to make a presentation; however, they are under no obligation to make a presentation.

**NEW FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Rozance - Report on Day-Use Fee Waiver Impacts/Increased Visitorship; Update on Proposition 68 grant status and Per Capita projects.

Commissioner Sanchez - Presentation on Volunteer Program, specifically on Parks' outreach and efforts to re-energize the program. He offered to help by contacting the Superintendent of Schools to ensure local schools and students living in urban areas are involved in the program.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Getzelman thanked Supervisor Phillips for his service on MCPC. Commissioner Sanchez thanked Chair Getzelman for the great job done as Chair. Chair Getzelman announced that the next meeting is a special meeting tentatively scheduled for January 5 or 12, 2023, at 3 p.m., to make an AB361 finding. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation in the 2022 meetings and wished everyone happy holidays. The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.