

MONTEREY COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

November 4, 2024 ACTION MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was in-person and called to order by Chair Kite at 3 p.m. and was also conducted via teleconference using Zoom. Lisa Harris called the roll to verify a quorum was present. Chair Kite announced that this is a public meeting, and it was being recorded.

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Sanchez  
Commissioner Getzelman  
Commissioner Stracke  
Commissioner Kite, Chair  
Commissioner Church, Vice Chair

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Garcia

County Staff Present:

Bryan Flores, COP  
Lisa Harris, Clerk  
Samantha Barnhouse, Clerk

Guests: None

Members of the Public: 3

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Kevan Urquhart made a request to the Parks Commission to consider a mobile office trailer at the Laguna Seca Range for a Hunter Education Instructor support grant.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, REQUESTS, RECOMMENDATIONS**

Commissioner Kite commented on a flyer for the Blue Zone Project.

Commissioner Kite commented that it was hard to get a quorum.

**ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS BY COMMISSION CLERK**

None.

**SCHEDULED MATTERS**

- 1. Receive a report regarding a draft ordinance for E-bike and electric transportation use within the County of Monterey parks and open space; and provide comment or recommendations to staff.**

Action:

COP Flores updated commission on increasing interest in E-bikes, and that other committees have done research on the subject. Recommended that all E-bike and other electric vehicles should have a max speed of 25mph with a passing speed of 5mph.

Commissioner Getzelman asked how 2 bikes would pass if going the same way.

COP Flores answered at 5mph.

COP Flores commented that the technology was outpacing enforcement and was hard to enforce 20mph.

Motion:

Commissioner Kite moved to approve the ordinance without the 25mph speed limit and 5 mph safe passage limit.

Seconded by Commissioner Sanchez.

Vote: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

COP Flores provided verbal updates on the following items:

a. **Friends of Laguna Seca Concession Agreement**

COP Flores reported that the project will be finished by the end of December 2024 with the hauling of leftover junk. The money made from the junk would go into an Enterprise fund. Commissioner Sanchez asked if the Friends of Laguna Seca were being paid through a subsidy for the rest of the project. COP Flores answered that any payment from the County of Monterey to the Friends of Laguna Seca would come from the enterprise fund and that any other services would be paid for by the Friends of Laguna Seca.

b. **Parks Master Plan**

COP Flores reported meeting with 2 consultant groups and showing them the parks in preparation for the Parks Master Plan. According to the consultants, the Master Plan will take approximately 1 – 1.5 years to complete. Due to the holidays, COP Flores suggested, a meeting in January to review the proposals with the Commission. COP Flores reported that each consultant firm would be broken down into themes and goals and then further divided, and that the Watsonville Master Plan was used as an example.

c. **Lake San Antonio Fish Die Off**

COP Flores reported that many tests were done regarding the algae bloom that took place

over 4 days, but no definitive cause was found. Local wildlife and park staff have finished with the cleanup and people are coming back to the lake. Commissioner Getzelman asked about plans for when this happens again. COP Flores answered there was not much that could be done, and while the water could be treated, treatments would have their own impacts on the ecosystem. Commissioner Getzelman asked if the lake would be restocked. COP Flores answered that stocking the lake was to be decided by Fish and Game.

d. **Royal Oaks Park Disc Golf Trial Course**

Commissioner Kite reported on a 'Udisk' app used to track scores and is used by 30% to 50% of Royal Oaks park goers, including both local and out of state visitors. COP Flores recommended looking into more disc golf clinics and expanding to Toro Parks and Lake San Antonio. COP Flores suggested printing maps of the disc golf course for Royal Oaks and use of social media to spread awareness.

e. **Lake Nacimiento Lodge Renovation**

COP Flores reported that lodge sidings have been replaced with hardy board and paint and that there are new windows, decks, trim, and interiors in all rooms. A retaining wall is being worked on. The project cost \$3.1m which is projected to be made back in 3 to 4 years by renting the lodges. Commissioner Getzelman asked how many lodges and bedrooms there are. COP Flores reported that most lodges have 2 bedrooms and that there are about 16 units.

f. **Parks Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget**

COP Flores reported that the fish die off at Lake San Antonio did not make much of a financial impact but will still be a tight fiscal year. COP Flores suggests renting the lodges more and that increased improvements at the lakes would equate to more revenue. There are 2 rangers currently in the vetting process for hiring. Supervisor Church commented that Measure A may alleviate some financial strain.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Supervisor Church suggested an anniversary event for Royal Oaks.
- Commissioner Getzelman asked for an update on the Volunteer Program such as how many volunteers the program has, how long they have worked in the program, and whether or not they are live-on. Commissioner Getzelman also suggested and wanted an update on digitizing the program.
- Commissioner Getzelman asked for an update on the department's marketing strategy, whether it is being done externally or internally, and requested the update include information on logos and branding.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

4:12 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

December 5, 2024.