

MONTEREY COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

Board Chambers, 168 W. Alisal St., Salinas, CA Thursday,

October 1, 2015

3PM

DRAFT MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Hertlein at 3:00 p.m.

<u>Commissioners Present</u>	<u>Commissioners Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Roger Soell Joe Hertlein, Chair Ken Husby Ruben Zurita	Brian Contreras	Mark Mariscal Lavonne Chin Vanessa Hernandez Nina DeMello

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 6, 2015

Commissioner Ken Husby made a motion to approve the August 6, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ruben Zurita seconded and they were unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. ACTION TOPICS

1. Support a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that continues on a month to month basis the existing Concession Agreement between the County of Monterey and the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP).

Parks Director, Mark Mariscal mentioned the existing Concession Agreement between the County of Monterey and the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula (SCRAMP) and ensuring the public is aware of its existence and to voice their concerns. He mentioned the article in the Monterey Weekly in reference to the Twilight Bike Rides conducted once a month on the Laguna Seca grounds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Weaver of Highway 68 Coalition referenced the letter he sent to the Board and the Parks Director regarding perspectives of traffic and development issues. Mike Weaver mentioned excessive traffic issues and the loud noise but not wanting the events to be shut down but the importance of balance.

Carl Anderson, SCRAMP Board of Director and serves in the role of government affairs. He thanked the Board for their service and introduced several of his staff accompanying him: Greg Curry President of SCRAMP; Lee Shepard, Finance of SCRAMP; Joel Campbell, Board Member and Staff; David Heart, Staff. He read a transcript that was read to the Board of Supervisors a week ago by Dennis Farver, the first Vice President of SCRAMP. Referring to the overall process of where SCRAMP is. “The Sports Car

Racing Association of Monterey Peninsula is very concerned of where they are going. Dennis Farver was there that day to thank the Board of Supervisors on behalf of SCRAMP for contemplating an open and public process with regards to a new concession agreement for the management and operations of Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. We at SCRAMP are proud of our 50 year legacy and at the same time we have heard the County's concern. They will be addressed at the upcoming proposals. We thank the board and look forward to working with the County in the future."

"Now, addressing the specific issue of how long the concession agreement should be: should it be month to month should it be something else? First of all, I hope you were all at the park last weekend. We had 57,000 plus people enjoying a wonderful wind sport reunion event. As you can understand, I'm sure, that trickled down throughout the economy of the impact of such an event. We had people from 24 countries purchase tickets. We had people from 49 states purchase tickets to our event. Those folks are staying at your hotels they're eating at your restaurant buying your gasoline and hope they're spending a lot of money on visitor serving facilities. SCRAMP needs a minimum of a one year agreement. There is a history prior to going into this month to month status we had 3 one year extensions as the County was working through the process. It would be very simple, Mark hasn't gone through the process yet but it is very simple for the Board to authorize a one year agreement. Listening to Mark I almost think we need a 2 year agreement based on how long this process is going to take. Our original estimate was that it would be 9 to 10 months but obviously we are contemplating a much longer process. We were able to get through a month to month agreement for the last 14 -15 months because nobody knew it until just recently. We were able to work with our vendors and suppliers and organizers and they didn't have this concern that a month to month agreement would bring. In our minds we know a month to month is going to last at least a year maybe a year and half or more. However, those people who we do business with all over the country and all over the world don't have the luxury of being here today and hearing this discussion. So, folks at the moment are a little reluctant of doing business with us and enter into contracts that will get us through the season because of the public knowledge. Understand that the racetrack isn't a year round operation. Our actual event season is generally from April thru October, we're finished with our event season. Everybody thinks we go and put our feet up and rest on our laurels until next year but trust me the work just begins now because to put the races in the quality that we do is a year round process because and our staff before the last race ends is well on their way to working on to next year. So an event calendar for the 2016 season is very, very important. The sanctioning bodies those are the people who bring the races to us need to know we are going to be business. They need an assurance, that if we booked an event for next year that they know who they're working with. So, it's extremely important. Television contracts, most of our events are televised those contracts are put in place months and months in advance. We begin selling tickets right after the first of the year, generally and that's extremely important for us in order to maintain our cash flow. We're very cash registry during the summer but by selling advanced tickets we are able to maintain a cash flow basis. Most sponsorship agreements are open year base or longer we are not entering anything longer than a year but we need that one year agreement in order to fulfill our obligations. We write an annual insurance

policy that not only insures SCRAMP but ensures the county of Monterey and we can't do that on a month to month basis, it has to be an annual policy. The literature that we put out, the marketing pieces that we establish those are either going to print this next month that has to happen now. Event planning, if you're out there you've heard they have different bands, different kinds of entertainment going on all of that needs to book well in advance in order to secure peoples availability. The infrastructure, we've been criticized that the infrastructure to SCRAMP is in dire need of help. Well we haven't recognized the wonderful things we have done in the last dozen years but there are some projects immediately on the radar. The paddock restroom is in dire need of replacement, we have a schematic design. We are waiting to meet with the Parks Department to start moving in a process to the approval process but before we'll commit hundreds of thousands of dollars we need to have some insurance at least through the end of the year. Talk about vendor contracts but the bottom line is for SCRAMP to operate through this next review period we need a minimum of one year. And this is not only for SCRAMP but for the County the County is a major benefactor in the result of our endeavors and in order to ensure that we have to have an agreement. Think about the local economy, so many of our hotels, restaurants other visitor serving facilities in the city or in the county are dependent of what SCRAMP does and to be able to work on a month to month basis these things are very much in question. The other thing is we got some hospitality folks here I used to work with them quite closely when I worked with the city of Monterey. We filled up all of our hotels this weekend and those people who booked those hotel rooms did so up to a year in advance and this is not just the Spectators, this is the team, the vendors who are coming from all over the country. Last weekend we sold tickets to 49 states the only state that was not represented from our knowledge was Vermont and we decided they were all looking at fall leaves. Most of them have Priuses not Porsches so they might not be interested. We also had 24 Countries represented and that's just in ticket sales and not in the racer paddock, I'm sure there was more countries. Bottom line is SCRAMP is a major economic engine that works very hard to support a local economy, not just a racetrack and not just the race fans but the overall local economy and in order for us to do our job we need a one year agreement. I will be happy to answer any of your questions."

Sam Teal the Co-Chair of Government Affairs Committee for the Monterey County Hospitality mentioned his concern with the month to month basis with SCRAMP and would like to see an open, transparent and in depth with the process.

Gary Cursio the Chairman of the board for the Monterey County Hospitality Association thanked the Board and mentioned his support in finding the most capable operator capable of operating MAZDA Raceway Laguna Seca and bringing it the public's attention. He mentioned the importance of maintaining the volunteers that have been there.

Jay Donato a citizen of the county of Monterey suggested SCRAMP start their contract when the new RFP takes place in July 2017.

John Narigi the Vice President and General Manager of The Monterey Plaza Hotel and a

member of the Monterey County of the Hospitality Association mentioned the need of a RFQ and RFP taking place and being out in the public. He also mentioned the TOT Dollars, Hospitality, and Tourism being of critical importance to the success of the SCRAMP races. As a highway 68 resident, he does not share the ideas of Mike Weaver in respect to the traffic or noise.

Motion: Commissioner Joe Hertlein made a motion to recommend a one year extension agreement to go out until December 31, 2016. Commissioner Ken Husby seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

2. Discussion on the Referral to the Parks Department by the Board of Supervisors (issued on September 22, 2015) regarding a RFQ/RFP process for a Concession Agreement at Laguna Seca Recreation Area.

Parks Director, Mark Mariscal mentioned that during the RFP/RFQ restrictions will be made available to potential concessionaires. Parks Director, Mark Mariscal mentioned involving the public when the RFQ is released. He also mentioned three dates in discussing and possibly the development of the RFQ process with the Board of Supervisors to review: November 3rd, November 10th and November 17th. This will smooth out the process so that the RFP will move faster and present it to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Weaver mentioned that the local people are better at becoming SCRAMP stewards because they are locals and know the area. He also mentioned that the RFP/RFQ does need to be examined.

Motion: Motion was postponed until next meeting.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Update on Department Budget

Director Mariscal reported that he originally planned to bring a potential fee increase. He also mentioned the Department needs additional funding to get through the fiscal year. He is planning to give the Commission an outline of the restructuring plan on November 5th.

2. Strategic Plan

The person who was assigned to it, Casey Neilsen, is leaving county employment for a new job tomorrow in San Luis Obispo. The Director mentioned working on ways to enhance Toro Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Kwiek the Hydrologist for Monterey County Water Resources reported to the Commission an update of the unauthorized trail activity at Toro Park since May 2015. He showed a power point presentation with detailed pictures of the illegal trail activity.

Commissioner Joe Hertlein asked if there was some type of enforcement to catch this

illegal type of activity.

Director Mariscal mentioned that Park staff has tried to go out to the site to enforce this action and if anyone is seen with tools are questioned. He also mentioned not being sure of the citing codes.

He reported that Cal Fire was using a section of Toro Park from Sunday through Friday for firefighting purposes, a total of 550 individuals.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hertlein adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Susan Rosales-Nava, Secretary

Monterey County Parks Commission
Meeting, Monday, November 9, 2015
3:30 PM
Monterey Room
168 W. Alisal St., 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Parks Commissioners:
Brian Contreras, District 1
Ken Husby, District 2
Ruben Zurita, District 3
Roger Soell, District 4
Joe Hertlein, (Chair) District 5

Re: Your November 9, 2015 Agenda, Item #1, Approval of Parks Commission Minutes, from October 1, 2015

This is a letter to the Parks Commission requesting corrections to the Draft Minutes of 10/1/15. It is being sent to you via email c/o the new Parks Department Secretary, Susan Rosales-Nava (Email: Rosales-NavaSJ@co.monterey.ca.us)

November 8, 2015

Dear Chair Hertlein and Commissioners,

On behalf of The Highway 68 Coalition, I attended your October 1, 2015 Parks Commission meeting held in the Board of Supervisors chambers. I spoke twice, for the record, regarding Laguna Seca County Park issues and SCRAMP management of the raceway. I also submitted a copy of a letter dated August 25, 2015, for the record, previously sent to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, SCRAMP, and our new Parks Director, Mark Mariscal.

Subsequently, I received a call from a neighbor who said he watched this October 1, 2015 Parks Commission meeting video on his home TV on Comcast cable last week. He reported the sound quality was poor and somewhat garbled. I attempted to find the video on the County website and can't find it. I tried again this morning. I can't find it, I don't believe it has been uploaded to the County site for the public yet.

I received the written Draft Minutes of the October 1, 2015 meeting via email from the Parks Department's new secretary, Ms. Rosales-Nava. I read these Draft Minutes and was shocked that my reported comments are abbreviated to a couple/few sentences. My comments are incomplete on Item #1. My comments are incomplete and inaccurate on Item #2. Further, there is no copy of the letter I submitted, although there is a complete transcript included of a letter submitted to the Board of Supervisors, from Carl Anderson of SCRAMP. I called the Parks Department and asked how best to contact the Parks Commissioners with a letter outlining problems with the Draft Minutes. I was advised

by Ms. Rosales-Nava that the Draft Minutes were put together by "a former Temp", who also expressed having difficulty with the sound quality of the recording of the meeting. This was prior to Ms. Rosales-Nava's very recent employment as Parks Secretary. There may be another recording that was used to assist this effort. The Temp is no longer working at the Parks Department. However, the Draft Minutes put together were sent to the Parks Commissioners for their consideration on November 9th, as well as to some interested members of the public, such as myself, who have asked to be kept notified.

There follows some of Mike Weaver's comments, from his notes, that are needed clarification to the October 1, 2015 Minutes for your Parks Commission's consideration:

Re: October 1, 2015 Agenda

Action Topics IV,

1. Support a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors of a continuing month-to-month existing Concession Agreement to SCRAMP.

Mike Weaver opened his comments wanting to make it clear that no one he knows wants to see the racetrack shut down completely. He welcomed the fact that the Parks Commission was getting their first-time-ever opportunity reviewing issues at Laguna Seca County Park. He commented the last time a Laguna Seca Park use was reviewed, to his knowledge, was the Beach Boys Concert, this by the Monterey County Planning Commission in year 1984.

Mike Weaver's comments to the Commissioners included an explanation of his recent Public Record's Request for all Use Permits for the Laguna Seca Racetrack, their dates of approval, who approved them, and for all environmental review done.

Mike Weaver reported this Public Record's Request produced a total of 17 pages by the County. Of these, the last Use Permit was signed by former Monterey County Supervisor, Sam Farr, many years ago.

Further, the current schedule of events, and days allowed, at Laguna Seca is inconsistent with this Use Permit.

There were no environmental review records produced by the County.

Traffic issues, noise issues, scheduling issues, size of event issues, and water use at the Park all need analysis, environmental analysis, prior to any RFP being considered or going out.

Mike Weaver's comments about "balance" were that the neighboring people of the Park are entitled to some "domestic tranquility" in relation to the number, size, and noise of events.

Mike Weaver's comments included support for local control of the racetrack, locals like SCRAMP volunteers. Perhaps SCRAMP needs some reorganization. Volunteers should be recognized for their contributions.

The Park belongs to the residents of Monterey County. Discussions of uses and impacts

need to be discussed in open transparent forums. The Parks Commission is a good start.

**October 1, 2015 Parks Commission Meeting, Action Topic #2
Discussion on an RFQ/RFP process for a Concession Agreement at Laguna Seca
Recreational Area.**

Under Comments, Mikes Weaver's comments printed in the 10/1/15 Draft Minutes are inaccurate.

Any new Agreement proposal first needs review of the uses at the Park.

Mike Weaver's comments from his notes, included a brief history of the gift of the Laguna Seca County Park to the residents of Monterey County from the Army, and, that this gift was arranged by former United States Congressman Burt Talcott.

Mike Weaver stated Mr. Talcott felt that the County of Monterey would be a better steward of this gift, than the Federal Government would be. And, that is the issue, the residents of Monterey County own the Park. It should have local control, like the volunteers of SCRAMP are, locals, rather than some corporate entity from out of the area or out of State. For example, some corporate entity from Florida!

Please include this letter as part of your meeting record of November 9, 2015.

Please consider amending the Draft Minutes of October 1, 2015, to accurately reflect Mike Weaver's comments made.

Please recommend getting meeting videos online on the County website in a timely way.

Please recommend repairing or improving County recording equipment.

Please keep me on the notification list for all things concerning our County Parks.

Thank you,

Mike Weaver
831-484-6659

c.c.

Monterey County Board of Supervisors, c/o Clerk to the Board
Monterey County Parks Director, Mark Mariscal
SCRAMP, c/o Gill Campbell

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
168 W. Alisal St.
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: November 10 Board of Supervisors meeting, agenda item 1b

Closed Session

1. Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:

b. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8, the Board will confer with real property negotiators:

(1) Property: Concession Agreement regarding Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca

Agency Negotiator(s): Nick Chiulos, Assistant County Administrative Officer

Negotiating Parties: Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

November 9, 2015

Dear Supervisors,

Two months ago I sent a Public Records Request to the Monterey County Parks Department, in care of Lavonne Chin, the Special Events Manager for Laguna Seca County Park. I am attaching a copy of that Public Records Request at the bottom of this letter. The request asked for several records regarding the Use Permit for Laguna Seca and associated actions. The County Administrations Office provided a partial response that was 17 pages of the Use Permits and Amendments for Laguna Seca approved by past Boards of Supervisors.

The most recent Use Permit Amendment was Resolution 79-100. It is titled "Amendment to Agreement Between County of Monterey and Sports Car Racing Association of Monterey Peninsula". This Amendment was signed by then Board Chair Sam Farr on the 13th day of March 1979.

I do not find where this agreement extends the end date of December 31, 1980 approved in previous Board Resolution 78-335. However, it does amend Paragraph 4 of that document. It says:

"4. In lieu of the five non-spectator events and five special use events authorized by the agreement for SCRAMP each calendar year, SCRAMP shall be permitted four non-spectator events only, one of which shall be for and include muffled vehicles."

Resolution No. 77-573 clarifies "Special Use Events" in its attached Exhibit B.

"Permit Conditions, Special Use Events"

Some of these are:

3. Events shall be limited to organizations directly connected with SCRAMP racing program.

4. Events shall be scheduled **weekdays** and between the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Page 2

Resolution 77-574 further clarifies in "Permit for Use of Laguna Seca Raceway by SCRAMP". Under PURPOSE, the second paragraph states:

"The five spectator races are events the general public may attend by ticket purchase under the conditions established by SCRAMP. Of the five spectator races, three will be 3-day events and two will be 2-day events."

The uses at Laguna Seca County Park have greatly exceeded past Use Agreements. They've been allowed to do so with little oversight by the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Parks Commission. Times have changed in the past 35 years since 1980. There have been significant changes to traffic conditions, water availability, noise, event size, and event scheduling.

Please have open hearings. Please do environmental review.

Sincerely,

Mike Weaver

Attachment:
Public Records Request of September 9, 2015

Monterey County Parks Department

c/o Lavonne Chin

September 8, 2015

Good afternoon LaVonne,

This is a Public Records Request, and is a follow up to a letter sent to the Board of Supervisors and the Monterey County Parks Department on August 25, 2015

Letter attached below.

I have the following questions regarding Mazda Raceway at Laguna Seca:

How long does the current use permit last?

I request a full copy of the current Use Permit. Is this something that can be scanned and emailed to me?

When was a Use Permit for Laguna Seca initially approved? By who?

How many changes have been made to the Use Permit for the race track, and when?

What public meetings were uses and changes to a Use Permit for the race track discussed at?

Regarding a Race Track Use Permit, What environmental review was done?

When was environmental review done?

Were water use and traffic impacts considered in an initial Use Permit?

I request copies of all historic Monterey County Use Permits for Laguna Seca to date. I request being able to view and possibly copy them.

Thank you. Please let me know when these records will be available to see.

Mike Weaver

831-484-6659