

**Parks, Recreation and Open Space Committee
(PROS)**

REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 - 10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

B. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established with all Committee Members present: Michael Thomas, Steve Kniffen, Jim Bahringer, Kermit Johansson, Shannon Sutherland, and Jeff Wilson.

Staff members present: General Manager Matthew McElhenie and Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson.

Public physically present: CCSD Director Farmer, Tony Church, Shelly Becker
Public on Zoom: Laura Swartz, Kitty Connolly, Juli Amodei, Keith Seydel

C. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Thomas requested Committee Members and Staff, Facilities & Resources Manager David Aguirre, Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson, and of course General Manager Matt McElhenie when attending, to sit around the table. Chair Thomas requested that members of the community sit on the chairs around the perimeter.

D. AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Thomas asked for any Agenda changes. There were none.

E. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Thomas referred to the table of Ad Hoc Committees in the agenda packet, currently 2 PROS Ad Hoc Committees which were formed at the last meeting: 1) Community Park Signage and 2) East Ranch Community Park Plan.

Community Park Signage Committee: Committee member Sutherland reported she and F&R Manager Aguirre met, and included Juli Amodei and Kitty Connolly. They plan to bring 3 font style choices back to the full committee at the January meeting.

East Ranch Community Park Plan Committee member Thomas reported a kick off meeting with Committee members Sutherland and Wilson, with initial work beginning on a plan framework initially being developed in Google docs.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Committee member Bahringer re-stated his recommendation that a PROS Committee member represent our interests on ongoing basis with the County of SLO, in particular Parks and Recreation.

Committee member Johansson reiterated his need for support on 3 pedestrian safety projects, the Burton Drive walkway, a walkway under the Hwy 1 bridge near the Santa Rosa Creek connecting East Ranch and West Ranch, and 4 Walkways that cross Hwy 1.

Responding to questions regarding PROS Committee jurisdiction, Chair Thomas confirmed to that PROS Committee scope includes both advising the Board regarding use of District owned property as well as interfacing with other organizations to meet the parks, recreation and open space needs of the community, working cooperatively with the County and other entities.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Laura Swartz provided 3 comments:

- a) Agreement with Mr. Bahringer on joint use of the playing fields.
- b) Suggestion to coordinate with the CA Coastal Conservancy should any changes be anticipated to the existing Ranch Management Plan.
- c) Has observed some of the weed abatement activities in the community have adversely affected deer habitat, trimming all the way down to the dirt.

Julie Amodei reported the successful award of a \$600,000 CA State Parks grant for the Skatepark. GM McElhenie clarified next steps to finalize the award requires National Park Service review and approval. Mr. McElhenie and his staff will be submitting paperwork and whatever else is needed to the NPS as soon as these next steps are clear.

3. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES MANAGER

Mr. Aguirre reported that his team has been checking on trees on the Ranch ahead of winter storms. Also searching out homeless encampments. Working with CA Coastal Commission regarding Santa Rosa Creek tree/brush blockages and trail damage.

4. BRIEF REPORTS FROM GROUPS WITH ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO PROS WITHIN CCSD JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES

Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, Executive Director Kitty Connolly reported that the wooden Harootunian Bench near the Ridge Trail in the West Ranch will be replaced with a stone bench; F&R continues to provide wood chips to the FFRP Trails team for erosion control; Another round of iceplant removal on West Ranch is in the works; discussions regarding replacement of trailhead signs.

Friends of the Dog Park, Shelly Becker reported she has a sketch showing the proposed locations for 3 gazebos in the East Ranch Community Park.

Forest Committee, Laura Swartz reported the CFC continues to advocate for healthy forests and forest management in the region.

Kenneth Norris Rancho Marino Reserve Director Keith Seydel attended, but had no report.

5. CONSENT AGENDA (Estimated time: 15 Minutes)

- A. Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on November 7, 2023

Committee member Bahringer moved to approve the minutes.

Committee member Johansson seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Ayes 4, Nays 0, Abstain 0, Absent 1 (Member Kniffen briefly stepped out)

6. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. Presentation and Discussion Regarding CCSD Grants Policy and Processes

Chair Thomas introduced this subject and discussion ensued that all Members understood the policy and processes, as well as the need for active grant funding for our work, which will be executed through GM McElhenie so grant writing resources and funding are prioritized and overseen.

- B. Discuss and Consider PROS Committee 2024 Goals & Objectives

Chair Thomas introduced this subject for the Committee moving into 2024 and beyond and led the Committee through a goal setting and prioritization process. The outcome was the establishment of a set of DRAFT Goals for 2024 and beyond, as well as their respective initial levels of priority. The draft goals and priorities will undergo further review and discussion, with objective to finalize at the January PROS meeting.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Thomas asked for any future agenda items. There were none.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.