



SAN BENITO COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION

Jesse Garza	Jaimie DeLaCruz	Richard Wagoner	Fred Paganan	Reb Monaco
VFW	Chair Board of Sup.	American Legion	Vice-Chair San Juan Bautista VFW	Board of Sup.

San Benito County Board Chamber – 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023

REGULAR MEETING Action Minutes Monday, August 3, 2009

1. Call To Order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman De La Cruz.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Garza.

1.2 Roll Call: Commissioners present were: Jaime De La Cruz, Jesse Garza, Reb Monaco, Fred Paganan and Richard Wagoner.

Staff Present were: Steve Wittry, Public Works Administrator; Mike Hodges, Staff Analyst; and Renee Flores, Office Assistant III.

Guests Present were: Steve Ferranti, President of Babe Ruth, and Sam Flournoy, Babe Ruth Board Member.

1.3 Acknowledge Certificate of Posting:

The agenda was posted on July 30, 2009 by 3:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Courthouse and the lobby of the Administration Building.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Monaco, the certificate of posting was unanimously approved.

2. Public Comment:

Steve Ferranti, President of Babe Ruth, stated that the squirrel problem is not getting better and wanted Commissioners' feedback. Commissioner Monaco suggested setting traps. Steve Wittry expressed concern that a cat or possum might be trapped or a child might be caught and break an ankle. Chairman De La Cruz directed staff to talk to the Ag department.

Mr. Ferranti then asked that when the City is determining the water usage fees, it keep the user groups in mind. Babe Ruth would like to be included in these discussions. Chairman De La Cruz directed staff to invite the leagues to a roundtable discussion with him regarding water use.

Mr. Ferranti next stated Babe Ruth has been having problems collecting fees totaling \$600 (3 teams x \$200) from Adult Hard Ball League teams. They are currently past due from November 2008. Commissioners Garza and Monaco suggested drafting a reminder letter. Chairman De La Cruz directed staff to get the parties together and work on a payment schedule. Steve Wittry asked if the Adult League is still in existence. No one knew, so he said he would check into it.

3. Consent Agenda: Approval of minutes of June 1, 2009

On motion made by Commissioner Monaco and seconded by Commissioner Pagaran, the minutes of June 1, 2009 were unanimously approved.

4. Staff Announcements—information only

Steve Wittry introduced himself as the new Public Works Administrator. Commissioner Monaco welcomed him on behalf of the Commission.

5. Commission Announcements, Introductions, and Presentations

Commissioner Garza asked for an update to the program Janelle Cox, Acting Public Works Administrator, mentioned during the last Commission meeting regarding the naming the ball parks after fallen Veterans in the community. He also inquired if the light meter at the basketball court has been completed, and whether the warm-up area by Hollister Heat small field was complete.

Commissioner Monaco asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission has looked into a policy for naming parks and fields. Steve Wittry stated they are currently working on formulating a San Benito County Naming policy.

Commissioner Monaco then asked if, since the Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory committee, would a proposed policy require Board of Supervisor action at some point. Steve replied that the Parks and Recreation Commission will recommend the policy to the Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Supervisors will make the final approval of the policy.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 Berm Clearing Reuse

Mike Hodges reported that he has checked with the Historical Society, and the tunnel located in Veterans Memorial Park has no historical value. Steve Wittry said the tunnel is used to access the Babe Ruth fields, and the berm shields the snack bar, stands, and fields from the wind.

Commissioner Monaco said maybe it would be wise to keep the berm, and more cost effective to create a Hall of Fame instead. Commissioner Monaco asked staff to do research on the cost of demolition and make recommendations.

Chairman De La Cruz mentioned that he would like to see the tunnel remain, and requested that the Babe Ruth Board of Directors take on a special project to determine the best use of the tunnel for the community and report back to the Commission next year.

Sam Flournoy, serving as a member of the Board for Babe Ruth, stated the board is proposing gating the tunnel to help reduce vandalism. The gate would be installed on both sides of the tunnel, and would restrict access when the field was not in use. He also mentioned that a member of the park has donated an awning for use with the tunnel. Mr. Flournoy also mentioned that Babe Ruth has a volunteer

artist, Kenny Sabatte, who will donate his time and materials to create a mural inside the tunnel as a tribute for the Babe Ruth Hall of Fame.

Mr Flournoy went on to say that he is opposed to filling the back side of the skatepark with the excess dirt if the berm is removed. He believes the skatepark serves our community, and suggested installing infrastructure for concessions instead. This would be a greater benefit to the community. He also said greater regulation at the skatepark is needed.

Commissioner Monaco stated that the skatepark is a City project, and the area where they would put the berm dirt is an abandoned BMX track.

Steve Ferranti reiterated the Babe Ruth Board's desire for keeping the tunnel. He added that lighting is installed in the tunnel, but due to recent vandalism, is in need of repair.

Commissioner Monaco asked Mr. Ferranti if the removal of the berm would create a problem for the league. He replied that there were trees planted in this location that he would like to keep there. The trees were planted as a sun block to assist third basemen during the early evening games.

Commissioner Monaco requested a drawing of how much berm should be removed and asked if staff could give a presentation on this topic to gain a better idea of what the area would look like after the project. Commissioner Wagoner agreed with Commissioner Monaco's request.

Chairman De La Cruz directed staff to work in partnership with Babe Ruth and create a proposed plan, and then make a presentation to the Commission that would include sketches, draft recommendations for legal and safety issues, and anything else pertinent to the berm.

6.2 Cell Tower Operators

Mike Hodges reported that Clearview Wireless was originally interested in adding their communications equipment to the existing Verizon cell tower. The two companies could not reach an agreement, so the issue is currently dead.

6.3 Playground Safety Barrier

Mike Hodges reported to the Commission that currently no barrier is in place between the new playground and the parking lot. He suggested that some type of fence or rock barrier be installed to separate the two areas. Commissioner Monaco mentioned that rocks are better in a park area. Commissioner Garza commented that during the Easter egg hunt, the children would forget to watch the parking lot for cars, and some other type of fencing is needed. He suggested a type of block fence may slow the children down. Commissioner Garza also wanted to know the cost estimate for this type of fence. Chairman De La Cruz stated that kids find a way to climb and play on rocks, and that might not be the best material for building a fence.

He mentioned that the City has installed fencing and directed staff to look into the issue.

7. Adjournment

There was a motion by Commissioner Monaco and a second by Commissioner Wagoner to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2009.