



## **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission** (PROS)

REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 - 10:00 AM

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. OPENING**

- A. CALL TO ORDER: by Chair Commissioner Kniffen
- B. ESTABLISH QUORUM: Present Commissioners Atencio, Johannsen, Lord and Renshaw. Alternates: Commissioner Bahringer present, Cooper absent.
- C. CHAIR REPORT: None

#### **2. EX - OFFICIO REPORTS:**

- A. Jo Ellen Butler to Provide a Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Report: JoEllen's update for PROS was the following:

##### **Leffingwell Students Field Trip**

- Brian Morgan lead a fun 3-hour forest and grassland walk with the students who got more involved as they walked the Ranch. There were a decent amount of forest wildflowers, and a few late blooming mushrooms, to see and talk about
- Their teacher, Justin, is very interested in a Ranch stewardship day for his students...need to plan this for a day with them in the future.

**Improving the Watershed** will be the goal of two Americorps Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) volunteer workdays – members of the community are invited to help

- Saturday, April 6, from 9 am until 1 pm - fuels management workday to remove downed material from the forest floor to be chipped nearby.
- Sunday, April 7, from 9 am until 1 pm - removing invasive vegetation and planting native plants near Santa Rosa Creek to

help enhance steelhead habitat by stabilizing streambanks, providing shade and creating organic matter to increase the stream ecological food web.

- Meet at the Hiway One entrance near Santa Rosa Creek either or both days to help.

### **New Date for Cambria Wildflower Show**

- The show will be held at the Cambria Vet's Hall on the weekend of April 13<sup>th</sup> from noon til 5 and 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 til 4. We anticipate that the show will be a great one, as the wildflowers also seem to be on an earlier schedule than normal.
- Set up will be on Friday, April 12 so if you would like to volunteer to help – please call Jo Ellen at 805-927-2856 or email [ffrpcambria@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ffrpcambria@sbcglobal.net)

### **Monitoring the Ranch**

- Each year we walk the Ranch, take photos and describe what we see to monitor for compliance with the conservation easement.
- We will do that in April/May depending on the weather.
- The 2018 report is now available.

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA:** Laurel Stewart reported that they are moving forward with their plans to move the school house to the old dog park property/ Theresa Desmond alerted us that a meeting will be held at 10:00 April 3, 2019 on the issue of the homeless in Cambria at the Premier Bank conference room.

## **4. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES SUPERVISOR**

- A. Report on the Transient Camps on the Fiscalini Ranch and CCSD Properties:** A report was given by Carlos Mendoza, Facilities and Resource Supervisor, on the transient Camps on the Fiscalini Ranch and CCSD Properties: It was very comprehensive and also discouraging. He reported that the camps pose numerous risks to our environment, including our water, forest and Community. There is the huge danger of fire as these camps have camp fires and propane tanks in the middle of our forest. There are many legal issues and liability issues with the clean up of the camps. It is also costly for which there is no budget. A contractor removed 40 yards of trash ,including drug paraphernalia, at a cost of about \$10,000 not in the current budget. Carlos and his crew are now patrolling the areas three times a week and trying

to block easy access to the camps by piling logs etc. This is a Community issue and not just a CCSD problem. It also is a County problem. The County must weigh in on this issue of homelessness in Cambria. There is a huge cost involved as well as the issues mentioned above and perhaps the County should bear some of this cost? A discussion was held on who is responsible for the creek and the protection of our watershed. There was a discussion on creating a conservation zone around the creek. However, the issue of who is responsible for the creek is an important one. The Creek is not under CCSD jurisdiction.

## **5. REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meetings held on February 5, 2019 and March 5, 2019: A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded and unanimously approved. Lord/Johannsen
  
- 6. Discussion and Consideration Regarding East Ranch Plans: A discussion was held on what the next steps in the development of the East Ranch should be. It was decided that development depended on Finances. We will continue this discussion another time as Homelessness has left us somewhat discouraged of moving forward but moving forward we must.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Continue to look for financial help with the development of the East Ranch.

**8. ADJOURNed: at 11:00**