

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission

(PROS)

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 - 10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Kniffen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

B. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Commissioners Steve Kniffen, Adolf Atencio, Kermit Johansson, Jim Bahringer, Shannon Southerland, and Alternate John Nixon. Juli Amodei & Kitty Connolly, Ad Hoc Committee Members, were also present.

CCSD Staff: General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Administrative Analyst Haley Dodson, and CCSD Board Director Michael Thomas also present.

C. CHAIR REPORT

The Chair asked consensus from the Commissioners to change the order of presentations to enable the large public presence of individuals in support of the Swimming Pool to make their statements to the Board to avoid having to sit through the general meeting sequence which would waste their time; all Commissioners agreed. Presentation was made; see Section 4.B.

D. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Johansson reported that possible interest by the SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments) have reported interest in assisting in 2 pedestrian safety issues as prelude to their Safe Streets initiative competing for Federal Grant money in 2024. The two projects that he will be promoting will be the Eaton Street to Tin City Walkway allowing off road passage along Burton Drive and the Crossing of CA 1 at Santa Rosa Creek by crossing under the South Span of the Creek. More info next meeting.

2. EX - OFFICIO REPORTS

A. Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Report: Kitty Conley reported on numerous volunteer activities as well as status of the new trail connection which is competing for grant money.

B. Skate Cambria: Juli Amodei stated the grant has been approved for submission.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comments were made.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Disk Golf Course Presentation

Juli Amodei reported the ongoing activities continue, and when the public meeting June 10 occurs, decisions will be made by public consensus if more work needs to be completed.

B. Cambrians for Aquatics Presentation

Barbara Gray, spokesperson for the group identified the Group and purpose. Cambrians for Aquatics is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting lifelong safety, health and fun through aquatic activities for all ages. There is a 10-year history of the group but only the last 5 years with an active board. For more info see their website: <https://www.cambriansforaquatics.org/aboutus>.

Their purpose now was to request consideration and subsequent recommendation by PROS to the CCSD Board of a portion of land on the Cambria Community Park of a public pool which would be constructed, managed, and maintained by the Cambrians for Aquatics Non-Profit. Approximately 28 members/supporters were at the meeting.

Supporters brought up the following points:

- Visitor frequently ask for location of exercise pool – but there is none.
- Swimming instructions for students/non-swimmers is non-existent even though we live next to the ocean and water sports are ubiquitous.
- Chronic health issues for Cambria’s residents are common – pools for balance training, exercise and strength recovery are available only by distance driving which removes the water rehab option for most people.
- Currently handicapped persons have no options for water resistance training because the rehab bus in Cambria cannot transfer to a pool.
- The existing county pool has no dressing room and weather precludes many days of use opportunities.

Estimates for cost, use, maintenance, are not available yet. This is because a site has not been selected. Donations are difficult to solicit, although there are donations received, because there is no place to place a pool and donations for purchase cannot be easily collected because suitable location property in is not cheap.

Response from the PROS Commissioners:

- There has been a history of the Fiscalini master plan of the Tennis Court and Pool left out of the activities because of the noise – what has changed to allow this now. Response from B. Gray: Would like the pool to be reconsidered – it will be a covered pool.
- Would it not be more cost effective to find private land rather than attempt to assault the perceived public response to change the Fiscalini East Ranch plan? Also, based on the existing context of the EIR of Fiscalini ranch, a pool was evaluated but not found suitable to the constraints of the plan, a pool would have to have reconsideration of the EIR which may

be expensive/difficult. Response from B. Gray: We do not have any other easy options and we would like to have a site on the East Ranch considered in today's setting.

End of presentation.

5. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES MANAGER

District General Manager Matthew McElhenie made comments in place of Carlos Mendoza who will resign effective June 16, 2023. He praised the dedication and good work of Carlos who has been a dedicated and innovative manager of the CCSD Maintenance Department.

An advertisement for a replacement is being prepared.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 2, 2023

The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Discussion Regarding the Coastal Conservancy Letter Regarding Future of the Cambria/Lodge Hill Restoration Program

This program has been very responsible for retiring potential developable building lots throughout Cambria. The future of maintenance/purpose of this lots has been in question for quite some time. The PROS Commission has never been able to get a handle on the scope and location of the lots to start exploring any purposes for these lots.

Recently a new map has been created showing all the locations in Cambria. The PROS committee is going to explore the purchase of one on the new maps. Shannon Sutherland is going to explore how where we get one. The Commission can purchase a map with their annual allotment from CCSD.

B. Discussion Regarding East Fiscalini Ranch Site Assessment

Juli Amodei explained for the Ad Hoc Committees 3 proposed activities on East Ranch, neither were intended to trigger/change/violate the EIR Passive/Active, but the question always bounced up to what the county was willing to allow us to do by issuing a Compliance permit. Juli and Jim Bahringer did meet with the County to discuss what they are willing to let us do . The County stated it was not difficult to change what is on the plan if it falls in appropriate areas – they did like what we had proposed. What needed to occur is that the CCSD would have to apply for a Land Use Permit, which cost \$700, to have the County review the EIR for compliance. Juli stated that she understood that nothing could be done without completion of the bathroom.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Arrange a special meeting to vote to request holding the approximately \$19,000 funds allotted to PROS by the CCSD could be held in account into the next fiscal year. The meeting would have to be advertised. The meeting time was selected to be June 8 via Zoom.
- B. The presentation by the Cambrians for Aquatics group requested consideration of a land allotment be considered. The PROS Commission could ignore the request or make a definitive statement to be sent to CCSD Board. The question of how much space do we have to be responsive to picnic and playground needs as we are currently configured.
- C. Who is going to do the minutes needs to be addressed before the meeting. We have about 12 meetings a year. Suggest a rotating plan for each of the Commissioners doing a minimum of 2 meetings a year and 2 doing 3.

9. ADJOURN

Chairman Kniffen adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.