

August 11, 2021

Memo to: El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

Regarding: Meeting item for August 19, 2021

From: Julia McIver, Commissioner, District 4

Fellow Commissioners:

First, thank you so much for the thoughtful discussion at last month's meeting, and your decision to reconsider this item at our August meeting (blame my boat trailer, with a flat in the middle of nowhere). After looking at the lists and other documents from staff and watching the video of the July meeting, I began to question the prioritization of "park sites", rather than projects. Prioritizing sites can mean some parks get left in the dust, exactly what Jeannie says has been true for Forebay and something we should avoid.

It seems like we should be helping staff prioritize projects toward the goal of improving all our existing parks, providing for growing park needs, and guiding Parks Division steps to carry out Board direction. We also need to get a more detailed understanding of the grant programs staff is recommending, i.e. their criteria and time frames. Note too that the Parks and Trails Master Plan Update is not listed here, but it's been funded and will be a big part of staff's work in the next couple of years. And as our chair has noted, our parks have no long term maintenance plan/budget.

After watching the video of July's meeting, it was clear that the Commissioners had lots of detailed questions, and we now have more info on Chili Bar after the BOS considered it on 7/27. I would also mention that several commissioners noted that while a project may be located in one district, it may be visited by County residents from other districts, not to mention from further afield. And that tourism is of prime economic value to the County - projects like the Sports Complex or expanding river access at Henningsen are clearly not just going to serve residents of the district in which they're located, but the economic health of the County as a whole.

What follows is a reorganization of the information staff provided for last month's meeting that just helps me think about where projects are in their development, what further info is needed, what we might consider in order to move them forward. I offer it in case it helps any of you in your deliberations on the projects in front of us. I have also included my rankings.

It could be useful for us to develop some criteria for park projects, especially since we're about to embark on the master planning process. We have multiple sources to work from, including the General Plan. The GP states pretty clearly that recreation and outdoor activities are of prime importance to the County as a tourism draw and economic engine. You mentioned other criteria in your discussion, it could be useful to review them all at one time.

Active Projects Needing further BOS Action

Chili Bar - this is directly from the minutes of the BOS meeting on 7/27

“A motion was made by Supervisor Parlin, seconded by Supervisor Turnboo to Approve this matter and provide direction to staff to:

- 1) Work with the American River Conservancy;
- 2) Explore a concessionaire model; and
- 3) Explore grant and revenue generating opportunities.

The Board conceptually supports pursuing Option 3 and making it a high priority of the Board to explore building a restroom onsite. “

How does that translate into staff action? Is building a restroom and providing potable water a good candidate for either Prop 68 program? What is staff's proposed workplan from here?

Thomas property

This project should be on the grant proposal list, since the PRC already recommended pursuing the acquisition, it's clear that a grant will be necessary, and this is a good fit for the Regional Park Program in Prop 68. I listened carefully to Wayne's comments, and believe they can be readily addressed. The grant opportunity is the reason to move quickly, and given the current pressure at Henningsen it's impossible that the property would sit unused. We need to know what specific steps are needed to inform a good grant proposal and set them in motion. The grant will tell the tale - if successful, a specific plan for the property can be part of the Master Plan (like Forebay, perhaps), if not, we'll be left with unrequited desire.

Van Noord property - not a high priority and rumored no longer available for acquisition.

Joe's Skate Park lighting

Project description, significance, funding need and sources? Staff document shows match, not full cost?

Active Projects currently BOS Approved

Cronan Ranch

Is effectively on hold until we hear about BLM's success with its grant proposals to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Coloma Lotus Advisory Group has undertaken a public planning process. No funding has been reserved or allocated to this project, since we don't know what it is yet.

Forebay Park

Has reserved or received the following funding:

\$300,000 Prop 68 per capita funds

\$50,000 General funds for a playground

\$43,000 from ACO fund for ADA improvements

Waiting on a possible Prop 68 grant award for park improvements. What was applied for? If awarded, should that change any of the funding above? Staff will need to undertake construction and write the grant proposal for per capita funds, then implement the grant. Is this enough work to be going on with for this year? What more is needed, and is there a written description of that, or does Forebay need a specific plan as part of the Master Plan update to organize its needs?

Other projects

Given the funding by the County in FY 21-22, do Bradford Park Playground, SPTC, Henningsen, or Pioneer Park need further action in the coming year?

Sports Complex

Currently awaiting the County feasibility study/economic review and results of grant round 4. When is the study due to the public and BOS? What is status of the project (land ownership/ management agreements, etc) and what could be applied for given the status? What is needed to inform a good grant proposal? What is feasible to implement in the coming year? What was applied for from Prop 68 Round 4? This project seems a good fit for the Rural Recreation and Tourism Program in Prop 68, what steps are needed to inform a good grant proposal?

Old Depot Bike Park

Funded by Prop 68, under construction

Parks and Trails Master Plan - timing and steps forward?

Rail Park Playground - Current status?

Dog Park - Current status?

Ranking, in order

Thomas property acquisition

Chili Bar - building a restroom and providing potable water, further action pursuant to BOS direction?

Forebay - we need to develop a plan/written description of the park's needs and pursue funding

Joe's skate park lighting - lower cost, local benefit

Sports Complex - huge project, lots of steps and \$\$\$. Status unclear, total need TBD?

Cronan - on hold for now

Van Noord - not a priority

Other items -

Master Plan - how do we want to move forward?

Site tour dates?

Rafting trip?