



Brian Michaelson <brian.michaelson@edcgov.us>

Fwd: comments for Parks and Rec meeting

1 message

Vickie Sanders <vickie.sanders@edcgov.us>
To: Brian Michaelson <brian.michaelson@edcgov.us>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:30 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sarah Henjum <cleosquared@msn.com>
Date: January 21, 2021 at 1:03:40 PM PST
To: Vickie Sanders <vickie.sanders@edcgov.us>
Subject: comments for Parks and Rec meeting

Good afternoon Vickie,
I hope I can be part of the meeting long enough to make the following comments.
Do the Park and Rec commissioners have to follow any type of Parliamentary procedure? If so, which one? I'm trying to find one that allows items not on the agenda to be voted on and also doesn't require persons with a conflict of interest to not recuse themselves.

Would also like y'all to consider this:

Dear El Dorado County Park & Rec Commission,

I appreciate that you are getting a jump on the budget this year! However, reviewing and passing a recommended budget early, during a contentious election and holiday season without outreaching to the public doesn't seem transparent and inclusive.

Reviewing the December meeting left even more questions. Why would the Park & Rec Commission create and fund a new railroad park in one meeting, without ever noting it on the agenda? Is this park in the Parks & Trails Master Plan? No. Has this Park & Rec Commission ever had the item on an agenda? No. Was it on the December agenda? No. So with no previous public input, this commission has created a new park that has no new recreational amenities, and has pushed it to the top of the priority list above everything else in the Parks & Trails Master Plan, a document which requires extensive public input and outreach.

The county already has a railroad park in El Dorado. The public has invested over \$100,000 to have this park built, which promised the public a working railroad park where they can see the operation and maintenance of trains, and have a complete railroad experience. After 12 years of being approved, this park is open on average 2

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days a month for a total of 8 hours. In 2016, the museum stated they would build a Restoration Shop and Display Track between 2017-2018. They said between 2018-2020 they would build a Display Building with exhibits and an interpretation center for school groups. None of this is built. When is this park going to be built and deliver it's promise to the public? Why spend valuable park funds on a second train park that 1) has no park amenities and does not help complete the Parks and Trails Master Plan – a public driven document, and 2) the museum has demonstrated no ability to build.

As a point of transparency, the commissioner who proposed this last minute park, is a long standing board member of the El Dorado Western Foundation, who owns the building on this property, and his organization stands to profit from the approval of public funds being spent on this park.

Next, I'd like to understand how the commission allocates it's budget? Is it driven by already approved projects that need to be finished? By the Parks & Trails Master Plan that receives extensive public input? Does it have a 5 year plan to implement? Does it consider the limited available staff time when planning the next year?

Lastly, I'd like to understand if a Parks & Trails Master Plan update is needed? Is this required for the county to go after more grants and funding options? I think this commission needs to consider an updated SPTC Master Plan. There are wide sections of the SPTC and county owned parcels along the corridor that could help implement the short fallings of the Parks and Trails Master Plan. A local popular trail that connects multiple parks to serve the greater community is desirable. The SPTC needs to be looked at as a big picture to serve the larger community, and not as an available land grab for special interest groups.

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