



Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation
La Plaza Building A – Conference Room (Rm. 212)
January 16, 2009 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Jim Angelo called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

Present: Ramona Turner, Jim Angelo, Peter Kassebaum, Al Gilmour, Robert Harder, Andy Rodgers, Bill Trowbridge (ex-officio), Melissa Kelley, Jim Carruthers (by phone), Jim Gilliam, Les Crawford, Ginger Kelly, and Mary Jo Delos (Executive Director)

Absent: Linda Frank

Others present: Mary Burns, Jim McCray and Laura Cordes (recorder)

2. Approval of Minutes

VOTED to approve the minutes of November 21, 2008, as follows:

MOTION:	Al Gilmour	YES: 11	NOES:
SECOND:	Bob Harder	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN:

3. Announcements/Public Comment

The Foundation has been informed that it will be the recipient of a \$50,000 bequest. The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

Ms. Delos said that Al Gilmour is being honored by the Kenwood Education Foundation at the Big Heart Luncheon at the Quail Inn in Oakmont on February 11. Mr. Gilmour is being honored for his work as a past member of the Kenwood Education Foundation's board as well as his other numerous charitable activities.

Bill Trowbridge gave an update from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Foundation Commission. A Writ was filed January 8 by a Tolay neighbor regarding access issues. This will slow down the County's progress in opening the park to public access. A settlement is in negotiations.

Ms. Burns said that the County's budget is worse than ever. The department is looking at major cuts.

4. Old Business

a. 2008-2009 Year to Date Budget Results & Recommendations

Bob Harder discussed and reviewed the budget and year-to-date totals. Ms. Delos said that 2 sponsors of the Environmental Discovery Center (EDC)

have withdrawn their funding due to the tough economy. Mary Clemens and Mary Jo will seek grants from Medtronic, the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Ledson Harmony Foundation.

It was noted that the Foundation is holding \$25,000 in restricted reserves in support of the EDC.

An \$8,700 donation from was received for the Ragle Ranch dog park.

VOTED to approve the 2008/2009 budget, revising the income section to \$217,000, as follows:

MOTION:	Melissa Kelley	YES: 11	NOES:
SECOND:	Ramona Turner	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN:

Ms. Delos led the Board in discussion regarding completion of the Children's Memorial Grove, which is now eleven years in the making. The Board has collected \$69,000 during this time. The cost to complete the grove is \$35,000. Each year costs for completion of the project increase. Donors are upset that the grove is not finished.

VOTED to authorize the expenditure of \$35,000 for completion of the Children's Memorial Grove. The Board will continue to search for sponsors and seek in-kind donations. Future funds received for the Grove will go into the unrestricted funding account. Peter Kassebaum suggested approaching funeral homes to solicit funding for the project. Bob Harder informed the group about a flyer he picked up from the local library regarding classes in grant seeking.

Les Crawford noted that children are playing and climbing on the art sculpture that was installed.

The vote was as follows:

MOTION:	Les Crawford	YES: 11	NOES:
SECOND:	Bob Harder	ABSENT: 1	ABSTAIN:

b. Regional Parks Department Project Matrix & Board Development Next Steps

Ms. Delos asked for permission for Board members to contact Park staff regarding the projects on the matrix that individual board members are interested in.

Ms. Burns agreed and said the person to contact is Todd Holmes, Park Planning Manager.

5. New Business

a. 2008 Annual Celebration

The Foundation lost Frank Howard Allen Realtors and the Sonoma National Bank as sponsors of the annual celebration. Further discussion is tabled for the next Board meeting in March.

b. Board of Directors Recruitment

There are still openings for Foundation Board members. After the new members of the Board of Supervisors have settled in, the Foundation will seek new candidates.

Les Crawford is in his last year on the Board. This is his 4th term.

6. Adjournment

The regular Board meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.