

# CROCKETT RECREATION COMMISSION

of the Crockett Community Services District

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR RECREATION MEETING ON DECEMBER 2, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Cusack called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. Commissioners Airoidi, Cusack, Leuba, and Valentini were present. Commissioner Choquette was absent (excused).  
  
Staff in attendance included District Secretary (DS) Rivas, Interim General Manager (IGM) Goodman, and Events Supervisor (ES) Morales.
2. CALL FOR REQUESTS TO CONSIDER ITEMS OUT OF ORDER: None.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Commissioner Quade has changed her last name to her maiden name Leuba.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR: The minutes for November 4, 2024, were approved as presented. (Valentini 1<sup>st</sup>, Airoidi 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4/0, 1 absent).
5. BUDGET AND FINANCE: As reported by the IGM
  - a. RECREATION TRANSMITTALS: IGM Goodman explained payroll, checks and balances process for invoices, and cost splitting for Commissioner Leuba.
  - b. UPDATE ON DISTRICT FINANCES: The IGM is working on a six-month budget. Ms. Goodman provided an overview of the tree lot event. Home Depot provided a very small discount for the trees. The trees were sold at just above cost.
6. ADMINISTRATIVE:
  - a. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Commissioner Choquette was not in attendance, but she had previously notified the DS that she would serve as vice-chair if appointed. A motion was made that Commissioner Cusack remain as Chair and Commissioner Choquette be appointed as Vice-Chair. Approved. Leuba 1<sup>st</sup>, Airoidi, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4/0, 1 absent)
  - b. DISCUSS PICKLEBALL AS A RECREATION SERVICE: DS Rivas introduced Darlene Rios Drapkin, a US Pickleball Ambassador. She founded the East Bay Pickleball Association non-profit and has raised funds to install courts mostly throughout Richmond. Pickleball is the love child of tennis and ping pong, but it utilizes a court the size of a badminton court. The sport has become so exponentially popular because it uses a very, very light paddle that is much gentler on the body. Pickleball is played on a court the quarter the size of a tennis court (less running around). Tennis requires a lot of stamina, while pickleball is a strategy game and requires more of the brain. Up to four pickleball courts fit on a tennis court. The courts can be temporary or permanent. Pickleball can also be played indoors. As a revenue source, Albany and El Cerrito reserve courts at \$10 per hour. Games can be as short as 10 minutes, whereas tennis games can last longer than an hour. Crockett currently only charges a one-time key fee of \$25.  
  
Location, noise, and maintenance concerns were discussed. Ms. Rios Drapkin suggested that the District host a community day or weekend to play on temporary courts to gauge community interest and offered to assist with such an event. She suggested that the Commissioners visit the

Craneway in Richmond for free nights to get a better understanding of the sport. Ms. Goodman suggested that Staff could apply for a grant from the Crockett Community Foundation for temporary pickleball courts before committing to permanent courts. Commissioner Airoidi suggested considering the Crockett schools for Pickleball court locations.

- c. CONSIDER MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2024: The schedule was reviewed. No changes were made.
  - d. RECEIVE REPORT ON ANNUAL RECREATION USE TAX FOR FY 23/24: Each parcel in Crockett and Port Costa is levied \$110 annually for recreational uses. The Recreation Department received \$136,400 in taxes for 2024. One hundred percent of the levied taxes were applied toward the pool, park, tennis courts, and bocce ball courts. The rate has not changed since 2012. Staff has previously recommended increasing the rate as it has not adjusted for inflation, cost of goods, cost of materials, and minimum wage increases. DS Rivas reminded the commissioners that a rate hike will require a measure ballot in 2026 and will require time to create a campaign for community support. The new recreation manager will be expected to expand recreation services through revenue-generating programming
  - e. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT BOARD: DS Rivas reported that the Board did not take any action. Dale McDonald has resigned from the Crockett Sanitary Commission. Both Mr. McDonald and former general manager, Gaunt Murdock were elected to the Board. Their tenure will begin at the December meeting.
7. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT MANAGER: IGM Goodman reported that ARM was unable to attend because she was attending a CAP meeting – a volunteer seat formally held by the former recreation manager. The tree lot sold \$3,000 in sales. The tree-lighting event was very well attended, and the community center was packed.

The men's restroom and office floors were repainted. A heater is being replaced (\$700). There are several inquiries regarding the New Year Polar Plunge event. This event is contingent on fixing the filter and sand issue. The Memorial Hall structure falls under Recreation but has not received much attention. As chair, she has been speaking with people informally regarding the building and has received a bit of interest from volunteers in helping with repairs. The structure has historical significance. Although the ultimate use for the space is undetermined, repairs have been deemed important. Two hundred thousand dollars have been allocated toward its repair. She explained that the Walk of Honor funds are being held in the LAIF (Local Agency Investment Fund) account and accruing interest.

Six applications for the recreation manager have been received; three live in town. She will assess the applications focusing on experience with supervision, recreation, and experience managing minors. The GM hires staff, the Board may approve or adjust the GM's salary recommendation. The salary ranges significantly but based on industry ranges.

8. REPORTS/COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS: None.
9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
  - Recreation Use Tax for FY 25/26.
  - Aquatics report (January).
10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM until January 6, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sonia Rivas, MBA  
District Secretary