



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

416 N. FRANKLIN, FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
PHONE 707/961-2823 FAX 707/961-2802

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 11, 2017
TO: Public Works & Facilities Committee
FROM: Tom Z. Varga, Public Works Director
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Receive Report and Make Recommendation to Council
Regarding Policy for Special Events in Coastal Parks**

ISSUE:

Noyo Headlands Park and its Coastal Trail offer the opportunity to support a range of special events and activities for the City and the community. Ongoing discussions and meetings have taken place including meetings of the Public Works and Facilities Committee on June 22, 2016 and August 18, 2016. Since the last Committee meeting, the strategy for policy guidance has been modified to incorporate public input and the Committee's direction. A variety of issues have been considered. While the initial focus has been on Noyo Headlands Park, Pomo Bluffs Park will benefit as well from the policies established.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Attachment 1 "Summary Table of Usage Guidelines" is a synthesis of previous discussion, public input and staff analysis. Events are categorized into three sizes depending on the number people expected to attend. A fourth type event does not need further analysis if it is small enough so that it occurs within the bounds of normal public recreation and does not adversely impact the enjoyment of the park by the rest of the public (e.g. small gatherings, picnics, etc.). In general, as events grow in size, a greater level of review and permitting is appropriate.

Smaller events involving 50 or fewer people would be required to obtain an encroachment permit from Public Works and make a deposit of \$400 to cover post event cleanup costs, if any. Remaining funds would be 100% refunded back to City residents and 50% refunded for event sponsors that are not City residents.

Larger events involving more than 50 participants may exclude the public from portions of the park as permitted by a Limited Term Permit (LTP) issued by the Community Development Department (following review by the Technical Advisory Committee) or the City Council. However, events would not be permitted at certain locations where public access must be maintained at all times: Glass Beach, Johnson Point, Otsuchi Point and any of the trails. The Public Works & Facilities Committee may wish to add to this list. In addition, these larger events would be required to make a monetary deposit in order for the City to recover the actual costs of processing any permits or approvals.

Large private events or for-profit events warrant special consideration during the permitting or approval process. The City may wish to charge a greater fee that reflects the special benefit large or for-profit event sponsors receive for holding their event in such a spectacular location.

Specific "City sponsored events" should be excluded from the permit or approval fees. Suggested events include: 4th of July celebration, Paul Bunyan Days, and (if repeated) Coastal Trail celebration. The Committee may wish to consider including other events.

Section 9.68.010 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code prohibits alcoholic beverages within all City parks. This Municipal Code section will need to be revised to permit alcohol within the Noyo Headlands Park with a Limited Term Permit (LTP) or if otherwise approved by the City Council. Alcoholic beverage service would require the completion of the proper City forms. The event sponsor would also be required to secure any necessary permits from the State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC).

A large portion of Noyo Headlands Park was purchased with funds from the State Coastal Conservancy and restrictions were placed on the deed limiting uses of the parkland to passive recreation. This has been interpreted to generally preclude commercial activities and highly developed improvements like ballfields, etc.

At some point, the City will likely acquire from Georgia Pacific land for parking and other access improvements for the central portion of the Coastal. This will be a multi-acre acquisition and potentially could include land to accommodate community events.

RECOMMENDATION:

After consideration of this matter, the Committee can either modify or make no changes and forward the recommendations to the full City Council for its consideration. Alternatively, the matter can be continued for further discussion.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Summary Table of Usage Guidelines