

El Dorado County Parks Commission
El Dorado County Center - Placerville
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 3, 2003.

**BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Joe and Jeanette D'Amico, John Thomson and Tom Stuchell represented BLAC at the El Dorado County Parks Commission regular monthly meeting held at the County Center in Placerville on August 3, 2003. The meeting started shortly after 10 o'clock. In addition to the park commissioners, there were present George Sanders, Interim Director of the General Services Department, Michael Gray, Airports, Parks & Grounds Manager, and Gary Hyden from the Parks Department

The minutes of the Parks Commission meeting of July 2, 2003, were distributed and changes and corrections were solicited. John, Joe, and Tom asked that the spelling of their names be corrected. John took issue with the statement in the minutes that said, "Bass Lake was identified as the prime site for a regional park in the 1991 Master Plan." John said that in 1991 the park site was proposed to be on the southwestern side of Bass Lake and only recently was the site moved to the Northeast side of the lake. Gary Hyden took issue with John, and a spirited discussion took place, ending with the intervention of the presiding commissioner, and it was agreed that there was a conflict as to where the park was sited in 1991. The complete minutes of that July meeting, as promulgated by the county, can be found at the following website address:

<http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/parks/ParksAndRecCommittee/MinutesJuly22003.pdf>

The minutes of the Parks Commission meeting of July 22, 2003 (which was a special meeting with the county supervisors and which took the place of the regular August meeting), were distributed and changes and corrections were solicited. Bass Lake Park was not mentioned in those minutes.

In the Staff Reports portion of the meeting, Gary Hyden commented on the Department's Park Project Update for September 2003. The written report included ongoing park projects throughout the county. With respect to Bass Lake Park, Gary said that the draft EIR for the park is expected to be completed at the end of December 2003 or the first of January 2004, with phase 1 construction to commence at a date depending on the outcome of the EIR.

At this time, Gary stated that based on the traffic engineer's report, the entrance to the phase 1 park site would be across from Madera Avenue, the entrance to Woodridge. He implied that the intersection so formed would be a four-way stop.

Discussion having been opened to Bass Lake Park, John asked for copies of the documents surrounding the purchase of the Bass Lake Park site. Michael Gray stated that they did not have the documents at the Parks Department. I asked who had custody of the documents. George Sanders said that those documents were probably in the care of Patricia D. Booth, Manager of Real Property Planning & Administration, and he said he would arrange with her to have the real estate department make the documents available to me. He said he would get back to me in a week to let me know where and when the documents would be available. I offered to contact Pat directly to save time and energy, but George demurred and said he would make the arrangements. For the record, I stated that I understood that George would contact me in a week to let me know where to get the documents.

Then I asked to get a copy of the siting study regarding the park. Gary Hyden replied that the General Plan called for the park to be at the site. I asked if there was a siting study done, and Gary again replied that the general plan set the park site. I took from that conversation that no site study was performed.

At some time in the discussion, Gary Hyden contradicted himself, and Tom Stuchell gently reminded him of his error, which Gary heatedly denied. After a brief contretemps, the general discussion was resumed.

During the period reserved for commissioner's remarks, Sandra Kay Dotson announced that she was tendering her resignation from the Park Commission, as she was going to be organizing opposition to the park among residents of Salmon Falls. She said that she felt that such activities would be in conflict with her duties as Park Commissioner.

Also during the period reserved for commissioner's remarks, Bob Smart, commissioner for District 3, remarked that he had met with Jack Sweeney, his new county supervisor, and that Jack recalled that in the past ball fields had been shared by schools and the parks department, and that there were at one time four ball fields at the county fairgrounds, which may have been lighted. The remark was also passed that the county had at one time shared costs on ball fields at some schools, but that eventually portable classrooms were erected on the ball fields and the county never recouped its investment in the property.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Thomson