

County Denies Park Funds, City Riled

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

Expansion of the Santa Cruz harbor to more than twice its size and development of Watsonville's Pinto lake park were virtually assured yesterday with two county grants.

But George Washington Memorial park in DeLaveaga park was left out on the street without a cent in the split of \$217,000 in state Proposition 1 funds by the county board of supervisors.

Supervisors rejected the recommendation of its county parks and recreation commission to give the harbor \$100,000 and split the rest equally between Pinto lake and George Washington park.

It was a recommendation the parks commission had spent more than a year developing.

Instead, supervisors gave the harbor the \$125,000 asked for and granted Pinto lake \$92,000.

With Seaside Supervisor Russ McCallie breaking from the majority, the board agreed with a statement it "has done enough by turning DeLaveaga park over to the city," at least for this year. McCallie said DeLaveaga should be granted some funds.

"DeLaveaga has been there 50 years," commented Supervisor Vincent Locatelli. "It'll be there another year till we can get around to it."

Taking the attitude that the harbor project is also within the city, the board cut out the \$58,500 recommended for George Washington.

The money would have gone for improvement of the entire area from the covered bridge to the picnic grounds. It would have been part of a \$125,000 city program to build new roads, parking space, lights, children's playground, picnic facilities, and planting turf and grass.

Harbor officials were happy over their own portion of the fund split.

Harbor commissioner Don Starr said the funds will make it possible to "tieup" most of the necessary property for expansion into north Wood's Lagoon. The harbor already has verbal approval for a \$2-million state grant for expansion if it buys the properties. Another \$400,000 for dredging and alteration of the railroad bridge would come from the federal government.

Starr said construction is expected to begin within two years, and the harbor may have its additional 500 slips by 1969.

John Cooper, Watsonville public works director, said the Pinto lake project already has been granted \$81,300 in state development funds. Both amounts will become available in the 1967-68 state budget next June.

Watsonville City Councilman Bill Johnson added he was "personally disappointed" in the attitude of Santa Cruz city officials over the fund split. "We feel that the \$125,000 for the harbor was for the city, which meant that half went to the north county and half to the south county."

Johnson declared that of the 5000 boats now launched yearly at Pinto lake, far more are from the Santa Cruz area than Watsonville.

Eventually, more than twice or three times as many boat launchings are expected at Pinto lake. Completion of the project is expected by mid-1968, Johnson said, if additional funds can be won from the federal department of the interior.

Pajaro Supervisor Francis Silliman, who moved for the fund split yesterday, said "I can't see where this kind of money would do the city of Santa Cruz any good anyway."

By John Elliott
Sentinel Staff Writer

A full-scale, long range "feud" between Santa Cruz city and county officials was predicted today, in the wake of the refusal yesterday by the county board of supervisors to allot money for development of DeLaveaga park.

Mayor Eugene Fleming, who serves as the city council's park and recreation liaison member, said supervisors have broken faith with the city and that their action was an excellent example of poor representation.

City Manager David Koester, visibly angry today, went even further, saying the action was "highly insulting to the city . . . it's just unbelievable."

Supervisors yesterday approved a two-way split of State Proposition 1 Park funds, with \$125,000 going to the port district commission and the remaining \$92,000 for Pinto lake development near Watsonville.

The city had requested \$120,000 for development of DeLaveaga park, following the county's relinquishment last summer of their deed for a portion of the park to the city, which is now the sole owner.

Koester said that if the \$120,000 or a lesser amount had been designated by supervisors it could have been matched dollar for dollar through federal funds. The county's action, he said, "kills any prospects for development in the near future—for several years, as far as I can see."

He said the city has no funds budgeted for development and that the only other monies available are through state or federal matching-fund arrangements.

Koester said denial "was strictly a political move and not related to merits of the programs."

He claimed only 30 per cent of the visitors at DeLaveaga park are from the city, the remaining 70 per cent are from the county or other areas. DeLaveaga "is a regional park, not a city park," he said.

Koester said he will recommend "against spending a dime (by the city) out there under these conditions, until the attitude of the board of supervisors is clarified."

Both Koester and Fleming indicated they felt supervisors had indicated earlier they would aid the city in development of the park when possible, and both said they felt the county, yesterday, has violated good faith.

Mayor Fleming said, "I definitely feel this act was passed with very poor judgment and in complete disregard of recommendations by numerous committees and individuals."

Koester, saying he was "disgusted" with the action, suggested "maybe we should just give the park back to them (supervisors)."

Fleming echoed the sentiment, saying, "it would appear at this point they (supervisors) have thrown us the ball on DeLaveaga park, without any help from themselves" to be expected.

Working relationships between city and county government had been improved during recent years, Koester said, but yesterday's action "has knocked them down for years to come."

SV Bonds Passed

Scotts Valley Elementary school district voters yesterday gave overwhelming approval to a \$350,000 building package.

A \$310,000 local bond issue was approved 832 to 316 for 72.4 per cent and a \$40,000 state aid request was okayed 833 to 307 for 73 per cent. Both required a two-thirds majority to pass, and passage of the state proposal was dependent on approval of the bond issue.

A total of 1148 of the approximately 3205 registered voters turned out, for a 35.8 per cent showing at the polls.

Passage of the bond issue now bonds Scotts Valley once again to capacity, so previously-approved state aid totaling \$98,000 is freed to the district, also to be used in the building program.

The total of \$448,000 will be used to build seven classrooms and supplementary facilities at Brook Knoll Elementary school and to purchase a fourth elementary school site in the Scotts Valley district.

Superintendent Edwin (Pete) Swanson today thanked the voters for supporting the school issues. He termed the outcome "most pleasing."

"It will enable us to provide facilities for increasing enrollment," Swanson said. He gave special thanks to citizens who worked to pass the two propositions.

Absentee ballots fared even better. Of nine cast for the bond, seven were in favor, two against, for 77.8 per cent.

Bus Route To Serve UC, High Street

A new city bus route to serve the High street area and the University of California will start running Monday, following state Public Utilities approval of the route, announced today.

The new route will run hourly, starting at 7:30 a.m. at the intersection of Pacific and Soquel avenues, with the last run at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

It will run on Pacific to Mission to Bay to UCSC to the campus and back to Moore to Laurens to King to Walnut to Mission to Pacific, one minute.

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