

SONOMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (SCARE)

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Minutes of the SCARE Membership In-Person and ZOOM Meeting

May 24, 2022, 1 p.m. Meeting

Note: This was our first in-person meeting since COVID hit in 2020. It was held at Finley Community Center and we had 23 people in attendance at Finley. We also had access for people not able to attend in person by using Zoom (9 people joined us). We tried out Meeting Owl which is supposed to be good for hybrid meetings. Since this was our first time trying to hold a hybrid meeting and our first time using Meeting Owl, it was a learning experience. Meeting Owl has a camera that is supposed to focus on whoever is talking but that did not always work. We will continue to use it and work out the kinks so that we can have hybrid meetings.

In celebration of resuming in-person meetings, SCARE provided box lunches for attendees prior to the meeting.

1. Call to Order: President Alix Shor called today's in-person/Zoom Meeting to order and introduced guest speakers from Sonoma County Regional Parks and Sonoma County Parks Foundation.

2. Sonoma County Regional Parks

We had 3 speakers from the Sonoma County Regional Park at our May 24th Membership Meeting. Melanie Parker and Mark Morley represent the Regional Parks whereas Melissa Kelly is the director of the Sonoma County Parks Foundation which helps to support the parks. There are more than 62 facilities under the Regional Parks with more than 16,000 acres. This is 1/3rd more than 5 years ago and they continue to add new ones.

The facilities include parks, river and lake access, beaches, and many trails for hiking, walking and biking throughout the county. The website <https://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/> is a great source of information. It lets you search for parks with beaches, camping, fishing, boat launch, paddling, picnic areas, hiking and walking trails and more. For instance, if you click on beaches, it shows 20 different parks – along the ocean or rivers or lakes. There are special programs for families, youth (especially underserved), seniors, and the disabled.

The Sonoma County Parks Foundation (<https://www.sonomacountyparksfoundation.org/>) helps to support the programs for underserved communities, including people of color, and for youth development including environmental education, summer camps and teaching kids to swim. It also supports other activities in the parks. The Foundation is supported by some grants but mostly by individual donations. You can donate to them through the annual Combined Fund Drive held by the County.

As a retiree, if you are looking for something to do with your free time, they have a great need for volunteers from camp hosts to single day workdays.

Both Parks and the Foundation work collaboratively with other organizations. For instance, Sonoma Land Trust may purchase land, or have it donated to them, and then donate it to the Regional Parks which provides ongoing maintenance and services.

The cost to use most park facilities is \$7/visit/car but you can get an annual pass for \$69 or for \$49 if you are 62 or older. Park passes are available online, at a few of the parks, at their County center office, or at many stores. The website has all the information on it. As a member, you can use the parks for exercise, or you can take your grandchildren to the beach or camping or to play frisbee golf or just for a hike. Camping does cost extra.

Most of us attending the Membership Meeting were surprised at the variety of services and programs provided by the County's Park Department even though many have been using some of the parks.

JLMBC Report: Phyris reported that there will be another deposit to their HRA for members covered by the SCARE lawsuit. Deposit will be made July 1st and will probably be around \$30-\$35. It is a good idea to see if you have any outstanding claims at P&A. If you don't, it is a good idea to submit something before July 1st so it will be paid immediately.

General: Alix asked if people enjoyed meeting early to eat lunch and socialize. Consensus seemed to be that they did. The Board will have to make a decision on continuing to have food at the Membership Meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyris Tobler, Vice President

SCARE 2022 Calendar

July 6 – Board Meeting
 August 23 – Membership Meeting
 September 7 – Board Meeting
 November 2 – Board Meeting
 November 15 – Membership Meeting
 December 7 – Holiday Luncheon??