

MINUTES  
RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT  
OAK PARK – PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
OAK PARK COMMUNITY CENTER & GARDENS  
1000 N. KANAN ROAD, OAK PARK, CA 91377  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

ITEM

I. CALL TO ORDER                      The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm  
Committee Members Present; Shayna Charter,  
Peter Coopersmith, James Ebert, Derek Ross,  
Michael Sklar and Mike Paule

Others Present:                      District Board Members Dee Dee Cavanaugh and  
Gene Hostetler  
District Legal Counsel Brian Pierik  
District Staff Members Wayne Nakaoka and Renee  
Peace

Guests Present:                      None

II. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (items not on the agenda)

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of July 9, 2015.

Vice-Chair Paule requested a change on page 3 item F of the draft of the July minutes. Minutes originally stated "Mr. Paule asked Committee Members to consider one of the guests' comments to make a new building

look the same”, Mr. Paule requested the minutes be corrected to remove this sentence.

**ACTION:** Vice Chair Paule moved to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2015 meeting as amended; Committee Member Sklar seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Report on the Oak Park Recreation Programs**

Recreation Supervisor Peace highlighted new and successful programs including special events. Ms. Peace fielded questions from the Committee Members regarding the current wait list.

##### **B. Report on Planning and Development Issues In Oak Park**

Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka fielded questions regarding Verizon and new cell towers. Mr. Nakaoka reported that the Deerhill Park walkway will be illuminated with solar lighting, which prompted questions by Vice Chair Paule regarding the possibilities to light up the Oak Park welcome signs with solar power. Mr. Nakaoka agreed to send Vice Chair Paule the specs for the solar lighting.

Chair Ross briefly described how the Ad Hoc Committee would move toward the development of a concept for the Mae Boyar recreation building replacement project.

District Legal Counsel Pierik fielded questions from Committee Members regarding the Brown Act with reference to communicating between members and open meeting laws with reference to the Ad Hoc Committee.

Committee Member Coopersmith asked if the Park District had a time frame for completion of the Mae Boyar building and asked if the monies

budgeted so far for Mae Boyar move into the next fiscal year. Mr. Nakaoka and Board Member Cavanaugh stated that the unexpended Mae Boyar allocation will roll over and be reflected in the next budget.

Mr. Nakaoka also presented an idea for an inexpensive way to provide water to dogs at the park. Mr. Nakaoka displayed a steel dog bowl connected to a chain on the back side of the drinking fountain as an option for hydrating dogs at the park. Mr. Nakaoka agreed that this item could be tested at Chaparral and Indian Springs Park.

#### C. Grounds Maintenance Report

Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka fielded questions from Committee Members regarding the report. Vice Chair Paule reported an email received from a resident regarding him falling off his bike due to an abundance of pine cones on the path. Mr. Nakaoka referred to a similar problem in Simi at the Park District office. Mr. Paule raised another issue with the drought and its effect on trees. Mr. Nakaoka also clarified that tree trimming is an annual project.

Committee Member Ebert inquired about the Park Districts preparations in case of El Nino this winter. Mr. Nakaoka reported that grounds maintenance staff would be identifying and working in areas that may run off into private resident areas.

Chair Ross requested confirmation for which parks were using Roundup in Oak Park. Mr. Nakaoka stated that this product was not being used at any parks adjacent to schools in Oak Park.

#### D. Reports by Committee Members Regarding Park Inspection Results and Consideration of Additional Park Adoptions

Chair Ross identified a problem with mulch piling up at Indian Springs. Mr. Nakaoka will check into spreading it out for ongoing projects at the park. Mr. Ross noted the cleanup project at the park looks good.

Committee Member Ebert adopted Valley View Park and will report his observations at the next Committee meeting.

Committee Member Charter expressed concern over the dark areas at Mae Boyar Park. Mr. Nakaoka said he would look into it.

Committee Member Coopersmith inquired about replacement of the playground equipment at Chaparral Park and if an assessment was done to identify the best equipment. Mr. Nakaoka described the replacement process and Committee Member Sklar pointed out that the standard is to stay current with upgrades and modernity of equipment. Mr. Sklar suggested a survey to residents closer to another replacement phase.

Committee Member Sklar reported Deerhill looks great. Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka said he was working on popped out tennis court pieces that occurred after recent resurfacing was completed.

Vice Chair Paule asked staff if Rattle Snakes had been observed this summer at Oak Canyon Community Park. Mr. Nakaoka and Ms. Peace reported no sightings have been reported. Mr. Paule also inquired about swarms of bees near pavilion areas. Mr. Nakaoka informed members of the Committee that the Park District has a contractor that can take care of bee hives and encouraged members to notify staff if they observe any hives near the public gathering areas.

V. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

## VI. ITEMS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Coopersmith expressed concerns about revenue and how it compartmentalizes in comparison from 2008/2009 budget to current. Committee Member Coopersmith proposed that excess revenues be separated out and retained for that program only. Chair Ross advised members of the committee not to send emails such as the one from Committee Member Coopersmith to other members. District Legal Counsel Pierik concurred and Chair Ross asked that a discussion of this be agendaized at the next meeting. Vice Chair Paule advised Committee Member Coopersmith to correspond with staff to request this item be added to the next agenda. Committee Member Coopersmith replied that he was really ~~only interested in laying down some philosophical points for discussion.~~ Vice Chair Paule spoke briefly about the Brown Act in reference to violations by Committee Member Coopersmith and the negative effect on all members of the Committee.

Vice Chair Paule commended staff for staying grey and using recycled water at the parks. Vice Chair Paule also commented about the importance of public outreach and appreciates the Park District maintaining the community's park.

Chair Ross shared the same support for comments that were made regarding the Brown Act. As representative of the school board, Mr. Ross thanked everyone for working together and expressed an appreciation for the open line of communication.

Committee Member Sklar asked District Legal Counsel Pierik about personal liability on alleged Brown Act violations and whether or not members of the Committee were insured. Board Member Cavanaugh said she would look into it. Legal Counsel Pierik fielded questions by Committee Members and again advised regarding inappropriate communications. Mr. Pierik stated that his is available for refresher trainings on the Brown Act and will inform

District Manager Peterson of any other types of training that may become available.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm, the next meeting is scheduled to occur on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee Peace", is written over a horizontal line.

Renee Peace  
Recreation Supervisor – Oak Park