1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnson at 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wayne Nakaoka.

2. ROLL CALL - Directors Abele, Freeman, Hostetler, Johnson, and O’Brien were present. The following staff members were in attendance: Laura Ballantoni, Miguel Chavez, Tracy Engel, Eric Erazo and family, Dylan Gunning, Bryan Horstmanhoff, Brittany Lopez, Wayne Nakaoka, Kelly Negrete, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Gina Viecco, and Lisa Weagly. Guests in attendance included Carolyn Cass Barton and husband, John Baxter, and John Watts.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA) – John Baxter, Work Experience and Career Co-Ordinator at Simi High, requested that the Board consider turning the grass area (approximately the size of a football field) at the recently closed Simi Elementary School into a small community park. Simi Elementary was the oldest school in Simi and the community would like some part of it preserved, they suggest calling it Simi Valley Elementary Historical Park. Chair Johnson responded that the District will consider the possibility.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   a. Regular Meeting – April 19, 2018 – Director O’Brien requested the minutes be amended to reflect that the Full-Time Employee of the Month does not receive a check but a day off. Director Abele requested that a comment attributed to him on Page 3 regarding the Oak Park meeting be removed as it was Brian Pierik who actually made the comment. Director Hostetler moved to approve the minutes as amended. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

   a. Presentation of the Full-Time Employee of the Month for March 2018 to Eric Erazo - Director of Administration Pennington presented a plaque and day off with
pay to Mr. Erazo who currently works for the Planning and Maintenance Department. This is the 2nd award in 2 years that he has received. Mr. Erazo thanked the District for letting him be part of the team. His goal is to work hard and stay positive. Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka commented that Mr. Erazo is one of the hardest workers you’ll ever meet. He does an excellent job without complaint every day and thanked him for his hard work.

b. Presentation of the Part-time Employee of the Month for March 2018 to Dylan Gunning - Director of Administration Pennington presented a plaque and check to Mr. Gunning, currently a Site Director at the After-School Clubs. Mr. Gunning thanked the Board and Staff for his award. Tracy Engel commented that he started with an internship and worked into formal employment. She also commended him for all the work he has done for the City of Moorpark through the Rotary. She is excited to have him and his exceptional skills and thanked him for his hard work.

6. CONSENT AGENDA (Matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be acted upon without discussion by one motion approving the Consent Agenda. If discussion is desired the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon a Director’s request.)

   a. Approval of Check Registers: 4/15/18 (Accounts Payable); 4/13/18 (Payroll) – Director Freeman commented that this was the second meeting in a row that the copy was much easier to read and she appreciated having the correct format. Director O’Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda (Item a.) Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

   b. Receive and File Audit Results and Basic Financial Statements for Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017 – Chair Johnson wanted to draw attention to certain Budget items, especially the items that are negatives. Johnson feels the Board should be aware of the Budget items and review the documentation. Another large permanent tax reduction to the District could cause a serious problem to the Budget. Chair Freeman moved to approve the Consent Agenda (item b.) Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS- NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Summary of Impact from Oak Park Unified School District Decision to Create an After-School Club Program on our Financial Position and Reconsideration of Decision to Stop Maintaining Simi Valley Unified School District Athletic Fields - A written staff report was presented by District Manager Peterson. Chair Johnson stated that it is unusual to bring back a topic once the Board has voted and made a decision.
Director Freeman felt it was necessary to review this topic again due to confusion with the budget cuts. She thanked Peterson for the detailed staff report and found it very useful. She suggests that it should be brought to Oak Park and reviewed with them. She felt the Board’s decision to reduce expenses by no longer maintaining school fields benefits Oak Park, as placing all the reduction on the Oak Park budget would mean near elimination of maintenance and recreation efforts.

Chair Johnson stated that Oak Park was built by development funds as the developer really wanted to get it built. He thanked Freeman for her expertise in building. He acknowledged that not everyone has the knowledge and experience that the longer-term Board members have. He feels that this Board has really worked together to make the Park District the best it could be and serve Simi Valley and Oak Park. Oak Park is part of this District, we are one District not two separate Districts. Johnson also thanked Peterson for preparing all of the information.

Director Abele started his comments by stating that he will not make any motion to reconsider the budget cuts. He really appreciates Peterson putting together all the information in the report. He is concerned about the Simi Valley Unified School District and that both of the entities viewed the cuts negatively. Since the last meeting Abele spoke with Dr. Peplinski personally and they were not happy about how the information was presented to them. Abele is concerned about maintaining good relations with Oak Park and the Simi Unified School District. He feels that Peterson has now given a really good explanation about why the budget cuts are necessary. Abele then asked how much revenue Simi Valley After School Clubs bring into the District. Peterson stated that it would be more than what was coming in from Oak Park but not by much. Abele is concerned that the Simi School District might get the idea to follow the example of Oak Park. Abele also feels that our District was frustrated by the way that Oak Park School District communicated with us and we then went and did the same type of thing to the Simi School District. Abele is most concerned about the communication process that was used. After his review of the extensive report, he does feel that the budget cuts were necessary.

Director Freeman inquired if this report was sent to Oak Park and when the next Oak Park meeting is being held. Peterson responded the meeting is in July and that he had received no response from the Oak Park Committee after sending them the report. Freeman wants to be sure that all questions that Oak Park has had will be answered. Freeman again commended Peterson for an excellent report.

Director O’Brien inquired as to what was the process of notifying the Simi School Board of the Budget cuts. Peterson responded that they were sent a letter 120 days in advance but there was not an advance phone call made, and that the contract required 30 days advance notice. Peterson did meet with the School Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and did apologize at that time for not using a more personal notification. No action was taken by the Board.
b. Approval of Lease Agreement between Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura and USA Properties Fund, Inc., Providing for Continued use of Sycamore Drive Community Center for the BMX Raceway Operations and for the Park District Maintenance Functions after the Sale Closure Date - The staff report was presented by District Manager Peterson. This agreement provides the District with the ability to continue with its maintenance and BMX use of the Sycamore Drive property after the anticipated closure of the sale. It will extend that time through February 2019 and then a 90-day notice after that will be required. There is one small language change from Landlord to Tenant, which is basically a typographical error. Director Freeman moved to approve the Lease Agreement with the proposed language change. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

c. Approval of Land Lease Agreement between Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and City of Simi Valley Providing for use of a 5-Acre Portion of City Owned Property for the BMX Raceway Operation – The staff report was presented District Manager Peterson. The City owns a 21-acre parcel at the west end of Simi Valley that is undeveloped and industrially zoned. Across the street Developer Eric Rasmussen has excess dirt that he needs to remove. The City Manager, Mr. Rasmussen and District Manager and Director of Planning and Maintenance met to discuss the use of the City’s site for the placement of the extra dirt, which would then bring the proposed BMX track location out of the floodplain. All three parties reached tentative agreement on terms which are now memorialized in the proposed agreement presented. If the Park District Board and City Council approve this agreement the Park District may then proceed with the environmental study.

Director Freeman inquired if there is special dirt needed for the BMX track. Peterson responded that the operators of the BMX track are aware that the dirt stays at the current site and will be used by USA Properties and the Housing Authority. They are confident that they will be able to craft the new track with the dirt that will be there from across the street and make improvements to it over time. Director O’Brien moved to approve the Land Lease Agreement including authority for the District Manger to make any final adjustments that may be necessary as the City considers the language. Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE - NONE

10. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Abele commended the District staff on the excellent job of handling two big back to back events. Both Doug Gale’s retirement party and the Ribbon Cutting event were well done. Abele feels that the new building really represents past, present and future of the District. Abele extended his congratulations to Tracy Engel on her first official meeting in her new position. He is really impressed by her enthusiasm, passion and dedication to the
District. He had a great discussion with Engel and is looking forward to working with her in the future.

Director Hostetler thanked Director of Administration Pennington and the staff for the last two events. He heard that the Huck Finn Fishing Derby went really well. Tracy Engel stated it was great, the park looked amazing and it was a beautiful day. It is a great tradition and such a fun family event. Engel also stated that the fish were catfish this year and the kids were really excited to catch the larger fish. Hostetler congratulated Engel on a successful District event and her promotion.

Director O’Brien congratulated Tracy Engel on her promotion and welcomed her to her first official meeting. She also congratulated the entire District staff for the two awesome events. O’Brien also attended the lunch and fashion event Hats Off to Women, it was a great event. O’Brien was asked about the possibility of a model airplane landing strip and wanted to know if we could find a place for one. Chair Johnson commented that this has been brought up several times but is not really possible. Director Hostetler suggested they look at Tierra Rejada Park.

Director Freeman thanked the District staff for the two really great parties, she appreciates the time and energy put in by the entire staff. She attended the CARPD conference call. She gave the Board an update on the items and current bills that were discussed on the call. She will be attending the CSDA legislative conference via a webinar tomorrow.

Chair Johnson dittoed everything that had already been stated by the other Board members and the information on the bills that Director Freeman covered. He was also on the CARPD call but just checked in and out quickly. Johnson thanked the entire staff and encouraged everyone to keep up the great work.

11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER - District Manager Peterson had nothing further to report, the meeting will proceed to closed session.

The Board Chair announced the meeting would go into Closed Session at 7:33pm

12. CLOSED SESSION

a. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9

   Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

   Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (One Potential Case)

b. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

   Conference with Labor Negotiator:
Agency Negotiators: District Manager and Director of Administration

Employee Organization: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Middle Management Association

c. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiator:

Agency Negotiators: District Manager and Director of Administration

Employee Organization: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Employees Association ("Bargaining Unit")

d. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiator:

Agency Negotiator: District Manager and Director of Administration

Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees

e. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Conference with Real Property Negotiator

Re: Land Disposition: Property Located in Ventura County at 1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley, Ca

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 642-0-231-285
642-0-231-295
642-0-280-075
642-0-280-085
642-0-280-095

Negotiating Parties: District Manager, Director of Planning and Maintenance and Legal Counsel

Negotiating Parties: Area Housing Authority/USA Properties

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

Board Chair Johnson reconvened the meeting to Open Session at 8:15pm, and announced that no reportable action was taken by the Board of Directors as to items a, b, c, d and e.
13. ADJOURNMENT – Director Hostetler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Larry Peterson, District Clerk