Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

May 17, 2018

Activity Room No. 3
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Activity Center
4201 Guardian Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 584-4400; www.rsrpd.org

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnson at 6:30pm. 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: Tracy Engel, Lee Martin, Wayne Nakaoka, Renee Peace, Brian Pierik, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Reed, Gina Viecco, Abigail Windle and Family. Guests in attendance included: Stephanie Aguilar, John Baxter, Tamika Bridgewater, Mike Pugh, Shannon Pugh, Michael Sereno, Ed Toczynski, Katrina Veituno plus various coaches, players and parents from the Vikings Football Team and the NFL Flag Football League. Guests who submitted comment cards are listed under Public Statements.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA) - Chair Johnson notified the guests in attendance that the Board will listen to their comments but cannot make any decisions at this meeting until the item is agendized at a later date.

Shannon Pugh representing the NFL Flag Football League of Ventura County is concerned that they may now longer have a field to play on. The School District is planning to discontinue maintenance of the Apollo filed and leave it as an empty lot. They are desperate to find a new field for their games and are hoping that the Park District can help them. They currently have 1,200 members in Simi Valley alone and more kids are turning to Flag Football before playing tackle. She thanked all of the staff members at the District, especially Shana Moore who has been amazing to work with.

Mike Pugh part owner of the NFL Flag Football League of Ventura County addressed the Board. He and his wife both grew up here in Simi Valley and they are desperate for help to find a new location for their games. He feels that flag football and lacrosse are currently on the rise, similar to soccer in the past. Tackle football teams are losing kids rapidly to flag teams. They have not been pushy in the past, but now with the prospect of losing Apollo Field they really need the help. He closed by thanking the Board for their time and hoping that the District would reconsider maintaining the Apollo Fields.
Tamika Bridgewater, a team mom thanked the Park District for everything they do for the community. She moved her family here from the San Fernando Valley and feels that Simi Valley is a better community. Sports are an avenue to teach and develop the children and there are so many things available here through the Park District. It is also important that the Flag Football League employs the young people as referees, providing jobs in the community. She feels it is such an important part of the community as it brings everyone together.

Michael Sereno addressed the Board, representing the Simi Valley Vikings Youth Football League. They have played 55 years of football at Apollo field, there are now 2nd and 3rd generations of families that have played here. He acknowledged that they have an outstanding debt with the District and want to negotiate some way to pay down the debt. He agrees with the flag football representatives that there are so many improvements that could be made to the fields jointly between football, flag and lacrosse. Football is so important to the children and community, Apollo is their home.

Ed Toczynski has been part of the Vikings program for 28 years now. They’ve done many improvements to the field such as renovating the snack shack, planting trees and maintaining the facilities. They also provide a cheer program for young girls to get involved as well. He promised they would do their best to honor their commitment to the community and the District. He agreed with Mike Pugh that they would honor their commitment to the Park District.

Stephanie Aguilar is a parent with children on the Vikings League and a current Board Member for the team. The coaches and board members have personally stepped up to help the children in the community so that they can participate in a sports program. It’s really about the children and it is so important that they have this program available.

Parent of player (did not state her name or submit comment card) states that her son loves football, he has played with the flag league and then went on to play for the Vikings. It has given him so much confidence and made a positive impact on their lives. She pointed out that they were late to the meeting because the boys all came directly from practice, which show their dedication. It’s not just teaching football it is also teaching them to give back to the community. They have participated in the Stars and Stripes for the Veterans and For the Troops Community events.

Chair Johnson re-stated that the Board cannot make any decisions at this meeting. They will bring this issue to the District Staff and see if something can be done. Vice-Chair Freeman suggested that this could be agendized or discussed during the Budget meeting scheduled next Thursday.

Shannon Pugh added that they would really be interested in delaying the transfer of the field for several months until January so they can at least finish the current Season. All the guests were very grateful for the Board’s time and thanked them.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   a. Regular Meeting – May 3, 2018 – Director Freeman moved to approve the Minutes. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
   a. Presentation of the April 2018 Full-Time Employee of the Month to Alfonso Cadena – Mr. Cadena was not in attendance; his plaque will be delivered to him at work.

   b. Presentation of the April 2018 Part-Time Employee of the Month to Abigail Windle – Director of Administration Theresa Pennington presented a plaque and check to Ms. Windle, currently Site Director at the After-School Clubs. She has been with the District for 10 years, this is her first award. Ms. Windle gave a big thank you to the Board Members and her family, it is really nice to be appreciated. Renee Peace stated the Ms. Windle is such a shining star, she is so creative and organized. Tracy Engel added that she is also a student and she is so good at doing everything.

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: 4/30/18 (Accounts Payable); 4/27/18 (Payroll) - Staff responded to questions from the Board. Director O’Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Selection of Candidate for Countywide Oversight Board – The Board discussed the selection of Chair Johnson as the Candidate. Director Freeman moved to support Mark Johnson for the Candidate. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

   b. Review and Possible Approval of Letter in Support of the Project Proposed by USA Properties Fund and Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura for the Development of 1692 Sycamore Drive Property – The staff report was presented by District Manager Peterson. The letter is intended to provide some background information to the City Council regarding the sale of Sycamore Drive and the selection of USA Properties. Peterson inquired if there is any information that the Board would like added to the letter. Freeman suggested adding that the Planning Commission endorsed the project. Legal Counsel Pierik suggested adding the
Neighborhood Councils were also in support. Peterson agreed that there was a lot of positive support for the project and would amend the letter to include those points. Director Freeman moved to approve the Letter with amendments. Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

c. Review and Possible Approval of Response to Ventura County Grand Jury 2017-2018 Final Report Regarding Independent Special Districts Dated April 26, 2018 - The staff report was presented by District Manager Peterson. Peterson visually reviewed the District website with the Board Members illustrating information that is currently available and discussed where to add any information that may be missing. Directors Freeman and Abele both suggested adding a link on our website to Elections Division, County of Ventura. Abele feels that all information is very easily accessible on the website other than the Ventura County Election information. Peterson stated that the District does not have a Reserve Fund policy. Freeman commented that per state legislature if we had too much reserve they would take it. Peterson agreed that historically there has been focus and criticism of agencies that have held large reserves, and said that the District is not in that position. Given the sale of Sycamore Drive and the District’s receipt of sale proceeds in the near future Peterson suggested it may be time for the District to consider developing a reserve policy. Johnson inquired if we actually have the money for a reserve. O’Brien suggested that it be considered but we should probably keep it the way it is since the current system seems to be working. Freeman recommended that the Finance Committee review the suggestion of a Reserve Fund policy. Peterson will have a link to the LAFCO page added under Contact Information/Community links and a link to the election information on the Board Page. Director Freeman moved to approve the Response. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE

10. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Abele attended the Oak Park Committee meeting. Freeman inquired if the Budget was discussed at the meeting. Abele responded that it was but he would let Peterson provide more information on that item.

Director Hostetler attended the Oak Park Committee meeting. He feels that Peterson reviewed the Budget and explained it perfectly, two members still did not get it but the rest of the Committee seemed to understand. He also attended the Simi Valley Street Fair noting it was very crowded and a successful event. He thanked Jeannie Liss and the volunteers, she was there from 5am to 5pm and did a tremendous job. The parking was crazy, they will need to make some changes for next year.

Director O’Brien attended the Historical Society Meeting but did not have her notes so she will allow Freeman to discuss. She also attended the Planning Commission meeting and reported that the USA project was approved four to one. She also attended the Street Fair,
it was a great event, and gave a shout out to Jeannie Liss and her crew for all of their hard work.

Vice-Chair Freeman attended the Historical Society Meeting, they discussed the timing, expectations and details regarding the restoration for the Printz house with Pat Havens. They also discussed the need for additional docents at the park. She also attended the LAFCO meeting on Wednesday and provided the Board with an update on what was discussed regarding Oak Park. She also drafted a letter to the Acorn that she wanted to share with the Board. Legal Counsel Pierik advised that it must be from Freeman alone and not include the entire Board as it was not an agendized item. She received a mailer about Prop 68 and wanted to bring that to the Board’s attention. The Ventura County Special Districts Association want to have their August meeting here (Guardian Building) so they can see the new building. Peterson inquired as to the date so that they can check the availability and get back to her, Freeman responded that it would be August 7th. The Street Fair was great a great event, everyone worked really, really hard.

Chair Johnson complimented Shana Moore, she ran a meeting for the Soccer Foundation group. She presented a bullet by bullet agenda and really ran the meeting efficiently. Johnson asked Tracy Engel if we found out who FCU was, she responded that they are Football Club United.

11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER - Peterson attended the Planning Commission for the USA proposal and Sycamore Drive. He also attended the City Council meeting and reported that the BMX location lease was approved and that he is anticipating a signed agreement shortly. Director of Planning & Maintenance Nakaoka has already received a quote for the Environmental Study, it’s a very conservative quote and Peterson was pleased. He attended the Oak Park Committee meeting which included a review of the project list and the impact of Oak Park Unified School District decision. Peterson reviewed the budget with them and feels he made progress with four members, there were still two members that did not seem to understand. Peterson responded to some additional questions via phone and email after the meeting and that he has a meeting scheduled with one Committee Member tomorrow.

The Board Chair announced the meeting would go into Closed Session at 7:57pm.

12. CLOSED SESSION

a. 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
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 Employees Association ("Bargaining Unit")

c. 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

d. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Conference with Real Property Negotiator

Re: Land Acquisition: Property Located in Ventura County Northeast of the Intersection of Tapo Canyon Road and Bennett Road in Simi Valley, Ca

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 620-0-320-095

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

Report and Instructions to Staff Regarding Price and Terms of Payment

The Board Chair reconvened the meeting to Open Session at 8:27pm and announced that the Board provided direction to staff related to items a – c. No reportable action was taken on item d.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Director Hostetler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm in honor of our District Manager Mr. Larry Peterson. Director O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Theresa Pennington, Deputy District Clerk