MINUTES
RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1692 SYCAMORE DRIVE, SIMI VALLEY, CA 92065
SEPTEMBER 5, 2013, 6:30 P.M.

AGENDA ITEM

I. CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Wayne Nakaoka

II. ROLL CALL: Present: Directors O'Brien, Hostetler, Freeman, Vice Chair Johnson, Chair Cavanaugh

Staff: Doug Gale, Colleen Janssen, Wayne Nakaoka, Carol Odenberg, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierik, Esq., Robin Walker

Guests: Dayanthie Calderon, Matthew Hennes, Valerie Hennes, Diana Riley, Elizabeth Zernik, and others representing volleyball

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA):

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(A) Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting — August 15, 2013

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 15, 2013; Director O'Brien seconded the motion. Director Freeman abstained. Motion carried.

V. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(A) Presentation of the Full-Time Employee of the Month for August 2013 to Steve Dorsey 35-13-y

Chair Cavanaugh stated that Steve Dorsey was unable to attend the meeting, but he was congratulated and will be presented with his plaque. She also said his award was much deserved.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

(A) Approval of Check Registers: 8/23/13 (payroll); 8/15/13 (payables)

ACTION: Director O'Brien moved to Approve Consent Agenda Item A; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None
NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Receive and Consider Request for Construction of Sand Volleyball Courts 116-13-c

The District Manager said a petition was presented to the District that was signed by approximately 350 people, including tournament and beach volleyball players. The group requested construction of 4-10 sand volleyball courts at Rancho Santa Susana Community Center and also the memorialization of Ramon Calderon. He said the District’s policy on memorials was provided to the group. He then briefly reviewed the types of volleyball courts currently located on District properties. He indicated adding sand courts would be a local and regional amenity and certain factors would have to be taken into account. Director O’Brien asked for information regarding when the courts would be used and whether lighting should be considered for this addition in order for it to be worthwhile for the public’s use.

Dayanthie Calderon spoke to the Board representing the group. She stated they are suggesting Rancho Santa Susana Community Center / Park as the best location for sand volleyball courts since there is available space there. She reviewed the current use of the Center’s indoor volleyball courts, and said nearly 100 people are using them during “open gym”. During the summer, the most desired time of the year, they are not available. She said the interest in this sport and formation of competitive teams for all age levels has been steadily increasing in Southern California. For play at RSSCC the interest has reached about 500, and there are 10 coaches, high schools and other schools in the area interested in having sand volleyball courts in Simi Valley. She said a minimum of four courts are needed at this stage and with lights so the courts can be used year-around and in the evenings. They would also like to have Ramon Calderon recognized for his dedication, involvement and recruitment of so many to this sport.

Diana Riley said volleyball is a lifetime sport for all ages such as bowling, tennis and golf; everyone also can play competitively. She said they would like to hold an all-terrain, weekend tournament in S.V.; it would bring people and revenue from outside the area to Simi Valley. She stated that lighted courts and a minimum of four courts are needed to run tournaments. Participants travel distances in order to play on sand volleyball courts, and many here travel to Dos Vientos in Newbury Park, which has two courts. They would like to raise funds for the sand volleyball courts and would assist with anything else in order to have the courts built.

The Board raised additional questions. Director Hostetler said there may be residency requirements to consider, such as with the soccer facilities. Director Freeman stated that the District has a 5-year capital improvement plan on its current budget; the budget and project priorities would need to be reviewed to see how a sand volleyball project may fit in. Director Johnson asked if the group had also approached the local high schools about the project, and said for the District just to maintain the courts could be expensive. The group pointed out that they would like the courts to stay a public facility for public use, which would be more likely if they were a Park District facility. There was further discussion regarding funding, surface area for the courts and other items. Dos Vientos was recommended as the location where the Board and staff may visit to view a good example of sand volleyball courts.

Valerie Hennes stated she is a novice volleyball player. She provided input regarding the condition of courts at Berylwood and Knolls Parks. She said participants go outside the area to play as there are not enough volleyball facilities nearby. She also would like to see Ramon honored and commented that he was very inclusive to all levels of players and had a “spirit of welcoming”.

Elizabeth Zernik attended from the Dos Vientos area, and she thanked Diana Riley for starting the women’s’ indoor volleyball league. She stated that she would love to have more volleyball
courts locally for the whole family to enjoy, and asked the District to begin at least with two and plan for more. She commented on the importance of having quality sand, a level ground and no trees nearby.

Matthew Hennes mentioned that Simi High School’s volleyball team uses the S.V. Fitness facilities for their practices. He said they are focused on indoor court playing and there are no school leagues currently here, indicating they would not be competing for use of sand courts.

District Manager provided the initial cost estimate for sand courts: $35,000-$37,000 per court; $45,000-$47,000 for lighted courts. He said the District would need to explore available locations for the courts and evaluate their potential affect on surrounding neighborhoods. Other items such as District projects/renovations that need to be addressed and the District’s limited resources would need to be considered. Director of Recreation asked why sand is a more desirable surface over grass for volleyball. The group stated that sand is a more forgiving surface and also does not get torn up as with grass courts.

Chair Cavanaugh stated that cost is the major issue with the project. Rancho Santa Susana Community Park has yet to be completed, but limited amenities may be put there. She recommended the group continue to keep organizing their cost raising activities as this would help with any project moving along quicker. She said instructions will be provided to staff, and the matter will go to the Advance Planning Committee for review before it will be brought back to the Board. She thanked the group for coming and answering the Board’s questions.

Dayanthie Calderon thanked the Board for sharing their thoughts with them.

(B) Receive and File Annual Marketing and Community Outreach Report for 07/01/12 through 06/30/13 164-13-b

Marketing & Community Outreach Specialist Janssen stated that NRPA has had an interest in the District’s Volunteer Program. The District’s conference sessions that she has presented on this subject at their conferences have ranked as one of the highest per attendees and evaluations. She has been working with NRPA to create an online learning module that other agencies will be able to view, and by participating, they will be able to earn CEUs. It will be launched soon. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on the various aspects of the module, such as: Course Objectives; District’s Programs; Who Volunteers; How Volunteers Are Used; Organizing Volunteers; Expanding Use of Volunteers; Where to Find Volunteers; People to Avoid; Scenarios/Resolutions; Retention Techniques; Annual Recognition; Budget Stretchers for Agency; Developing a New Program; Evaluating Your Program; Where to Find Volunteers; Top 10 Tips to be an Excellent Volunteer; The Volunteer Scoop Newsletter; Fingerprinting; Know Your Labor Laws; NRPA’s Website/Resources; Final Acknowledgement Assessment Test. A PDF of each document is also offered at the end of the module.

The Board thanked her for her efforts and the presentation.

(C) Review and Approval of Monumentation for the Sprite Spark Parks Project Artwork Located at Rancho Tapo Community Park 63-13-b

Director of Planning Nakaoka reviewed the various examples of monumentation for the Sprite Spark Parks Project Artwork Located at Rancho Tapo Community Park.
ACTION: Director Freeman moved to Approve the Example Inscription using upper and lower case letters with all supporting information as the Monumentation for the Spring Spark Parks Project Artwork Located at Rancho Tapo Community Park; Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board stated that they approved the inscription being added so that the person on the artwork may be identified to the public.

(D) Rejection of Bids for the Arroyo Simi Greenway Project Phase One and Authorization to Solicit Bids through Specialty Contractors and Trades 176-13-b

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Reject All Bids for the Arroyo Simi Greenway Project Phase One, and Authorize Staff to Solicit Separate Bids for the Arroyo Simi Greenway Project Phase One Through Specialty Contractors and Trades; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(E) Approval of Resolution Modifying District Policy Manual, Chapter 7 Board of Directors; Section 7-100 84-13-h

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve Resolution No. 1872 Modifying District Policy Manual, Chapter 7 Board of Directors; Section 7-100; Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll-call vote:

Ayes: Directors Freeman, Hostetler, O’Brien, Johnson, Cavanaugh
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

(F) Approval of Board Members and/or District Staff to Serve as a Volunteer on One or More of the California Special Districts Association’s 2014 Committees and Expert Feedback Teams 23-13-c

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve Director O’Brien to Serve as a Volunteer on the Audit Committee and Fiscal Committee, and Director Freeman to Serve as a Volunteer on the Legislative Committee of California Special Districts Association’s 2014 Committees and Expert Feedback Teams; Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IX. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

X. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Director Freeman did not have any Committee meetings this period.

Director Freeman enjoyed the Ranger article in the Star newspaper. She mentioned that the Simi Valley Police Department had asked about having police mounted horses in District parks. District Manager Peterson said he has meeting scheduled next week with the Simi Valley Police Department regarding this subject.

Director O’Brien attended a CSDA Fiscal Committee meeting on August 16th. They discussed the investment policy, and an Ad Hoc Committee was formed. Director O’Brien will be sitting on that Committee, which will have a conferenced meeting in October.

Director O’Brien requested that the Board adjourn the meeting in memory of Virginia Nelson.
Vice Chair Johnson attended a Finance Committee meeting on August 16th.

Vice Chair Johnson attended a Golf Committee meeting on August 22nd. He provided some interesting information about the sport of golf in the United States. He mentioned that Golf Course Manager / Head Golf Pro Brian Reed will have increased responsibility as he will be managing both Simi Hills and Sinaloa Golf Courses.

Vice Chair Johnson attended a Neighborhood Council #4 meeting, and stated that the group asked about the Chumash project. Director of Planning Nakaoka said that staff is finishing up on one project item and will then schedule a meeting with the Council.

Vice Chair Johnson attended a Tree Foundation meeting along with Chair Cavanaugh. The Foundation is currently reviewing the Foundation’s purpose, where they are going, how they can do more, and how they can get more people involved.

Director Hostetler had a Golf Committee meeting with Vice Chair Johnson.

Director Hostetler visited the Simi Dog Park and mentioned that staff has been working on a grass replacement project in an area of the big dogs’ side of the Park.

Chair Cavanaugh asked about the project at the 9th hole of Sinaloa Golf Course. Staff explained that the project area had been a lake, but the lake liner breached. The area was allowed to dry up and it is being converted to an alternative feature. Director Hostetler also discussed the status of the netting around the driving range and the added handicapped accessible stalls.

Chair Cavanaugh attended a Finance Committee meeting on August 16th. She said the District had a very good audit and thanked staff for their work.

Chair Cavanaugh attended the “Topping Out Ceremony” at Simi Valley Hospital on August 23rd, which celebrated the raising of the last beam for the Emergency Services and Hospital Expansion project.

Chair Cavanaugh attended the Tree Advisory meeting, and said a majority of their discussion was on Arbor Day. She also shared with the City the committee’s concern about over plantings in certain areas and provided their recommendation to stop the plantings in those areas or limit them to a maximum of one tree per year.

Director Freeman relayed some information she had received about Simi Youth Soccer and AYSO.

XII. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER:

District Manager did not have any additional items to report.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION:

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: Director O’Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. in memory of Virginia Nelson; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Peterson, District Clerk