MINUTES
RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SYCAMORE DRIVE COMMUNITY CENTER
1692 SYCAMORE DRIVE, SIMI VALLEY, CA
FEBRUARY 6, 2014

AGENDA
ITEM

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
   Led by Doug Gale

II. ROLL CALL:
   Present: Directors O'Brien, Hostetler, Cavanaugh,
   Vice Chair Freeman, Chair Johnson
   Staff: Doug Gale, Colleen Janssen, Barbara Meinel,
   Wayne Nakaoka, Theresa Pennington, Larry
   Peterson, Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Robin
   Walker
   Guests: Jim Anglin, P.J. Anglin, Donna Barney, John
   Barney, William Bowen, Glenn Buttner, Sue
   Buttner, Philip Chitwood, Angela Lee Cirocco,
   Joe Cirocco, Daniel Cordova, Rey D.C., Susan
   Deese, Roger Douglas, Judy Ettenberg, Ferry
   Family, Glenn Furs, Furs Family, William
   Fischer, Ernie Gilbert, Frank Gonzalez, Gary
   Gossett, Pippa J. Gossett, Elaine Hintlian, John
   Huff, Pat Huff, Jackie Hummel, Cathy Kaufman,
   Dawn Kelley, M.B. Kelly, Sheerie Kelly, Randy
   Ker, Henry Kraus, Jeff Kriz, Ignacio Lopez,
   Mark Luker, Gina Mazzipica, Doreene Morgan,
   Lydia Ritzman, Ashley Roberts, Ryan Roberts,
   Steve Schaub, Jay Seidemann, Sue Smith, Flo
   Trapani, Paul Trapani, Maggie Urpin, Marilyn
   Waidelich, Paul Walker, Stuart Watrick, Ann
   Wright

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

Chair Johnson told the speakers and other attendees at the meeting that the Board cannot
take any action at this time on the items brought before the Board under Public
Discussion. The Board can hear the comments, give direction to staff, agendize the items
for another meeting or for a Committee meeting. This is the first step in submitting a
request, and then the Board has to go through the process of getting things done as deemed appropriate.

Roger Douglas, Simi Valley resident, addressed the Board regarding Simi Hills Golf Course. He loves the course at Simi Hills Golf Course, and has been playing there for at least the past 10 years. He has seen steady improvements at the course until about two years ago, when the condition of the course began to deteriorate, with many bare patches appearing. He is in the Men’s Club, and he also organizes tournaments for some non-profit groups, and he is getting some negative input about having these tournaments at Simi Hills Golf Course due to the course condition. He said he has met with Golf Course Manager Brian Reed, who has been very patient with him and who he believes has the golf community’s best interests at heart. Brian has told him about the upgrades planned for 2015, and he really appreciates what is planned, but he would like to know if something can be done before the planned upgrades to get the grass back on the fairways. He also stated that the golf community wants to support the Park District in whatever way possible to improve the grass condition of the fairways. They will be happy to come to the table to discuss the situation.

Chair Johnson responded that the Board will take the matter under advisement. The Golf Committee will be touring both golf facilities on Friday, February 14 to go over some of the improvements that the Golf Course Manager would like to see done to improve the courses. Simi Hills Golf Course is over 30 years old, and the biggest problem that the Board is aware of is the irrigation system. The Board will be looking into this matter.

Reverend Maggie Urpin addressed the Board regarding Pause for Paws’ animal ministry and the permit request the organization has submitted to use one of the parks for a fundraising event one of the first weekends in June. The event is a fundraiser for animal rescues in no-kill shelters in the Ventura County area. They are planning to have a couple of bands and a few food trucks. The food trucks would be located in the parking lot. They are looking at Rancho Simi Community Park as it has an amphitheater. District Manager Peterson responded that he has received the permit request and it will be reviewed by District Management. Any comments or conditions regarding the permit request will be reported back to Pause for Paws after review by District Management.

Cathy Kaufman presented the Board with a petition signed by 167 pickleball players requesting more permanent pickleball courts in Simi Valley. The pickleball players love the four pickleball courts at Rancho Tapo Community Park (RTCP). She plays in tournaments, and people who hear that Simi Valley has dedicated pickleball courts are blown away. However, they would like some additional permanent pickleball courts. The existing courts are very crowded, especially on the weekends, Saturdays, and Sundays. The one tennis court at RTCP that has been lined for pickleball is not adequate as players can run into fences and nets. The pickleball players would be happy to have more courts anywhere in Simi, but would prefer keeping them all together. They would like to propose taking tennis court #1 and turning it into four pickleball courts by taking the corner of the fences and making them straight instead of at an angle. Another option would be to create two pickleball courts, one on each side of the tennis net. By getting more courts, they could also hold tournaments.
Anne Wright also addressed the Board regarding getting additional pickleball courts in Simi Valley. She comes to play pickleball in Simi Valley as there are no courts in Newbury Park, where she lives. She can only play on the weekend, and stated that the existing courts are very crowded and players can only play one game and then must sit out for a few games. She commented that she and others who don’t live in Simi but who use the courts also bring business here as they eat at restaurants in Simi and shop at stores here. Ms. Wright presented the Board with a packet which included a handout on the value of exercise for seniors and mentioned that playing one game and then sitting out for two games is not adequate as exercise as you have to play more games in a row to maintain an elevated heart rate. Ms. Wright also presented the Board with a copy of an article that appeared in Parks and Rec Association Magazine describing how Rec Departments can maximize their facilities by making them multiuse. You can paint lines on tennis courts so they can be used by both tennis and pickleball players. That way more of the public is getting exercise and it is also a cost savings to have courts be multiuse. Some tennis players may object to the additional lines, but on indoor courts there are many different lines painted, and the human brain is able to adapt to different lines. USAPA has advice on how to make lines that are less obtrusive to tennis players but that pickleball players can use.

Paul Walker addressed the Board and stated that he is here to support pickleball. He told the Board that pickleball is very important to him as his welfare is dependent on the physical exercise he gets from playing pickleball. He also commented that the Park District’s Recreation Program is probably the best in the county and in the state. He said the Park District is an innovator in the United States regarding pickleball, as he believes the courts built last year are probably the best in the nation. Mr. Walker also commended Stan Kalsman, PT Recreation Coordinator, for the wonderful work he does.

Flo Trapani of Simi Valley told the Board that she is in favor of more pickleball courts. She can also only play on the weekends and due to the crowded conditions, can only play one game and then must sit out for two games. She said pickleball reaches all ages and people, and seems to be the up and coming sport.

Phil Chitwood spoke to the Board regarding the future of pickleball. He said it is a grassroots sport that is in its inception and is exploding in popularity. It is being taught from the elementary to the high school level, and as its growth accelerates, there will be a need for more courts. Mr. Clintwood added that he is a member at Sunset Hills Golf and Tennis Club and they have a pickleball program there because they see the potential and growth of pickleball. Sunset Hills has lined their tennis courts for pickleball and he has not heard any complaints from the tennis players who play on the multi-lined courts. Mr. Clintwood stated that the popularity of tennis is declining while the popularity of pickleball is growing. He urged the Board to consider making the tennis courts into multiuse courts.

Chair Johnson stated that the information that has been presented to the Board will go to the Advance Planning Committee first. Staff will look at what its options are and then report back to the Board.
Jim Anglin addressed the Board and voiced his opposition to making the tennis courts into multiuse courts. He presented the Board with a handout discussing the history of the tennis and pickleball courts at RTCP. He stated that tennis court #1, which was painted with pickleball lines in order to make it a multiuse court, is seldom used by the pickleball players. Mr. Anglin said the pickleball lines are confusing for the tennis players and have created great difficulty for players who are trying to determine if the ball is in route. He is requesting that the Park District paint over the pickleball lines on tennis court #1, thus restoring tennis court #1 to its original condition. He feels that the pickleball players already have sufficient courts as they have four dedicated courts at Rancho Tapo Community Park and have the exclusive use of the gym at Rancho Santa Susana Community Center from September to June on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. He added that during July and August, tennis court #1 at RTCP is reserved for pickleball use only on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, but that the pickleball players rarely use it. He feels that the pickleball players are requesting more courts but aren’t making use of all the courts currently available to them. He suggested that the Park District consider laying down a large area of asphalt, which shouldn’t be too expensive, and lining the asphalt for multiple pickleball courts instead of using the tennis courts and interfering with the tennis players. He stated that tennis is a sport for a lifetime and feels that the tennis courts should not be made multiuse.

P.J. Anglin thanked the Park District for building the tennis courts at RTCP and also for the good job that is being done maintaining the courts. At one time, 6 courts were being discussed for construction at RTCP, but unfortunately only 4 courts were built. Tennis is the originator of most racquet sports, and she loves the game. She has been playing for over 40 years. Tennis began in the mid-1800’s, while pickleball has been around for about 50 years. The four tennis courts at RTCP are the only courts available on the east end of Simi Valley. She is at the park every day at different times of the day, and stated that the pickleball courts are seldom used. Tennis players don’t want to use the court with the pickleball lines on it because it is confusing. Tennis is enjoyed by all ages and families, and she believes that pickleball might be a fad. She stated that Simi Valley needs more tennis courts and would like to see the pickleball lines removed on tennis court #1 at RTCP.

Mark Luker addressed the Board regarding Simi Hills Golf Course. His foursome has been playing there every Saturday year after year. The course has really taken a beating recently, and he would like to see some funds allocated to the golf course to get the fairways back in good condition.

Chair Johnson reiterated that they will give direction to staff regarding the matters brought before the Board during Public Discussion. He told the speakers and other guests at the meeting that they can check the Park District’s website to see what is being done or they can provide their email address or phone number to be informed of what is being done regarding the matters brought up at tonight’s meeting.

Jim Anglin asked where to get authorization to circulate a petition at the tennis courts as the Park District’s policy prohibits the circulation of a petition on the courts unless it is authorized. Chair Johnson advised Mr. Anglin to contact Larry Peterson, the District Manager, regarding obtaining authorization to circulate a petition at the tennis courts.
Twenty-two additional speaker cards were submitted by persons who did not wish to speak but who are in favor of additional pickleball courts being created. These cards will be retained by the District in accordance with the District’s record retention policy.

Director Cavanaugh recognized the members of the Leadership Class who were in attendance at the Board meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 16, 2014

ACTION: Director O’Brien moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2014 as amended; Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

V. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(A) Presentation of Simi Valley Historical Society Annual Report Oral

Joe Wade, President of the Simi Valley Historical Society, gave the Historical Society’s 2013 Annual Report to the Board. He announced that the Civil War Reenactment held in 2013 drew significantly more visitors than the previous year. There were 812 visitors and a net income of over $3,000. In 2012, there were 345 visitors and a net income of about $1,750. This year’s Civil War Reenactment will be held at Stratheran Historical Park on February 15 and 16.

Mr. Wade mentioned that there was no Friendship Tea held in 2013.

History Day brought in 267 guests. The event gate was just over $2,000, compared to about $2,350 in 2012.

Ghost Tour attendance, which had been down, did pick up in 2013. There were 2006 visitors to the Ghost Tours in 2013 as opposed to 1291 in 2012. Income to the Historical Society, including sponsors and gift shop revenue, was almost $10,500 compared to $9,600 in 2012.

One thousand, three-hundred sixty-two 3rd graders from 23 schools took a tour through the park last year and learned about the Chumash way of life.

Mr. Wade stated that Carolyn Phillips, Strathearn Park Coordinator, has done an outstanding job managing the park rentals. In 2012, there were 25 rentals with income to the Historical Society of $10,943. In 2013, the park rentals were maximized with income to the Historical Society of about $18,000. There will not be much more growth in this area as the park rentals are now maximized.
Mr. Wade stated that 2014 will be an exciting year. The new “Tiara Garden Party” event will be held at the park on May 18, and this year will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Simi Valley Historical Society. A celebration is being planned to mark the 50th Anniversary, and additional information will be forthcoming.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

(A) Approval of Check Registers: 1/10/14, 1/24/14 (payroll); 1/15/14, 1/31/14 (payables)

(B) Approval of Notice of Completion and Final Acceptance for the Tree Pruning Services at Various District Parks Project 7-14-a

(C) Receive and File California Special District’s Association 2014 Education Catalog 23-14-a

(D) Receive and File Summary of Park Dedication Fees and Summary of Projects Primarily Funded by Park Dedication Fees 41-14-a

ACTION: Vice Chair Freeman moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A-D; Director Hostetter seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Easement Deed Granting to Ventura County Watershed Protection District a Non-Exclusive Easement and Right-of-Way In, On, Over, Under, and Across a Portion of Arroyostow Park for Access Road and Related Purposes 40-14-a, 193-14-a

ACTION: Vice Chair Freeman moved to Approve Resolution 1876 Authorizing Execution of an Easement Deed Granting to Ventura County Watershed Protection District a Non-Exclusive Easement and Right-of-Way In, On, Over, Under, and Across a Portion of Arroyostow Park for Access Road and Related Purposes; Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll-call vote:

Ayes: Directors O’Brien, Hostetter, Cavanaugh, Freeman, Johnson
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
(B) Approval of Resolution Adopting Annual Budget for FY 2013-14 124-14-a

ACTION: Director Cavanaugh moved to Approve Resolution 1877 Adopting Annual Budget for FY 2013-14; Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll-call vote:

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

(C) Approval of the Planning and Maintenance Projects Fiscal Year 2013-14 and the Three-Year Capital Improvement Program FY 2013/14-2015/16 124-14-b

ACTION: Director Cavanaugh moved to Approve the Planning and Maintenance Projects Fiscal Year 2013-14 and the Three-Year Capital Improvement Program FY 2013/14-2015/16; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(D) Receive and File Report on District Financial Matters in Oak Park Area 51K-14-c

Report was received and filed.

(E) Approval of FY 2014-15 District Budget Calendar 138-14-a

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve FY 2014-15 District Budget Calendar; Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(F) Approval of Candidates to Serve on the Oak Park Recreation and Park Planning Committee 51K-14-d

ACTION: Vice Chair Freeman moved to Approve Candidates to Serve on the Oak Park Recreation and Park Planning Committee; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(G) Authorization to Solicit Proposals for Simi Hills Golf Course Food and Beverage Concession 120-14-a

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve Authorization to Solicit Proposals for Simi Hills Golf Course Food and Beverage Concession; Vice Chair Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

IX. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None
REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Director Cavanaugh attended the Neighborhood Council #4 meeting on January 21 along with Chair Johnson regarding Chumash Park. It was interesting to hear what people had to say about the park and the change in attitude about the park from a lot of negative comments in the past to many positive comments expressed at the meeting.

Director Cavanaugh also attended the Finance Committee meeting with Chair Johnson on January 30. The changes to the budget were reviewed at the meeting.

Director Hostetler met with Salute to Arms, the group that is bringing Antelope Valley’s Mobile Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to Rancho Tapo Community Park the week of Memorial Day. The opening ceremony will be on May 22 and the wall will be taken down on May 28. Salute to Arms is raising the funds to cover all costs of bringing the wall to Simi Valley.

Director O’Brien attended the Historical Society meeting on February 3rd. She reported that an offer has been made to a new caretaker couple for the park.

Director O’Brien attended the Ventura County Special Districts Association (VCSDA) annual dinner meeting. She enjoyed the meeting and the speaker at the meeting.

Director O’Brien reported that Rotary is presenting the Park District with a Certificate of Appreciation for the help provided by the District with the 4th of July event.

Vice Chair Freeman attended Neighborhood Council Meeting #4.

Vice Chair Freeman also attended a Santa Monica Mountains Advisory Committee (SMMC) meeting. The SMMC is working with the Nature Conservancy and Waste Management to purchase and preserve about 1200 acres in Alamos Canyon as public open space. There was also some discussion and controversy at the meeting on some projects being proposed for Los Angeles County hillsides.

Vice Chair Freeman attended a California Special Districts Board meeting. The Board is very solid, with a balanced budget and a lot of good programs being planned for the coming year.

Vice Chair Freeman also enjoyed the VCSDA annual dinner meeting.

Chair Johnson attended Neighborhood Council Meeting #4.

Chair Johnson also attended the Finance Committee meeting.

Chair Johnson attended the VCSDA annual dinner meeting along with the other Directors.
XI. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER:

District Manager Peterson attended two MRCA meetings.

District Manager attended the January 28 Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council meeting to conduct an election for the Oak Park Advisory Committee.

District Manager attended a meeting at the Interface offices in Camarillo. Interface is a non-profit organization providing children and family services, and they and other agencies, including the Ventura County Probation Department, are preparing for the release of returning offenders and how best to ensure their successful return to their respective communities, including Simi Valley.

District Manager also attended an Agency 101 fair in Camarillo. The fair was attended by the many agencies in the County that provide resources for families of at-risk youth and children.

District Manager recognized Marketing and Community Outreach Specialist Colleen Janssen, who talked about the planned tribute to Dan Gesell for his efforts in the area of soccer. The Foundation meeting where the tribute will take place is planned for February 12 at 7 p.m.

The Chair called a Closed Session at 8:00 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

A. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Ms. Kimberly Mirzakhanian
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

B. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Law Offices of Neustadt & Berriz on behalf of Dolly Chowdhury
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

C. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Law Offices of Neustadt & Berriz on behalf of Jasmin Chowdhury
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
D. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Law Offices of Neustadt & Berriz on behalf of Aaron Chowdhury
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

E. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Law Offices of Neustadt & Berriz on behalf of Joshua Chowdhury
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

F. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Law Offices of Neustadt & Berriz on behalf of Blanca Chowdhury
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

G. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Law Offices of Neustadt & Berriz on behalf of Issac Chowdhury
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

H. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Law Offices of Neustadt & Berriz on behalf of Sam Chowdhury
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

ACTION: The Chair reported that the Board moved to reject Item XII. (A) with Vice Chair Freeman voting no, and the Board moved to reject as a late claim Items XII. (B) through (H) with a unanimous vote.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Director Hostetler moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

[Signature]
Larry Peterson, District Clerk