MINUTES
RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1692 SYCAMORE DRIVE, SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065
APRIL 7, 2016, 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 Cavanaugh, Freeman, Johnson, Vice Chair O’Brien, Chair Hostetler

Staff: Alex Barsky, Miguel Chavez, Nikki Davy, Doug Gale, Tracy Heminuk, Teresa Moore, Wayne Nakaoka, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Robin Walker

Guests: Lydia Alvarez, Thomas Bergh, Kirsten Zeleny, Steve Zeleny, Curt

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

Lydia Alvarez, from the Chumash-Ohlone Indian Council asked the Board to consider a fence around the historical caves on Yosemite Avenue due to vandalism. This fence would be at no cost to Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and could help preserve the cave for future generations.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(A) Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting – March 17, 2016

ACTION: Director Cavanaugh moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 17, 2016; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

V. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(A) Presentation of the Full-Time Employee of the Month for February 2016 to Tracy Heminuk 35-16-g

Director of Administration reviewed Tracy Heminuk’s nomination. Chair Hostetler presented
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Tracy with the Employee of the Month award and congratulated her on behalf of the Board.

(B) Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the Month for March 2016 to Alex Barsky 35-16-h

Director of Administration reviewed Alex Barsky’s nomination. Chair Hostetler presented Alex with the Employee of the Month award and congratulated him on behalf of the Board. Alex expressed how honored he was to receive this award and thanked the person that nominated him.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

(A) Approval of Check Registers: 3/18/16 (payroll); 3/15/16, 3/31/16 (payables)

ACTION: Director Freeman moved to Approve Consent Agenda Item A; Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Approval of a Resolution Granting a Conservation Easement Deed Over a 6.5-Acre Portion of Property Commonly Known as Rocky Pointe Natural Park and Identified as Ventura County Assessor’s Parcel Number 637-0-070-340 Located in Simi Valley, California 190-16-a

Senior Management Analyst outlined the development of All Valleys RV Storage expanded RV storage facility and the mitigation planting to be performed on Park District property at Rocky Pointe Natural Park. A new DG trail, picnic tables and benches will be installed to allow the public to enjoy and appreciate the attributes of this natural park. The Resolution was reviewed and slightly revised by Legal Counsel. The revised Resolution was provided to the Board.

ACTION: Vice Chair O’Brien moved to approve Resolution Granting a Conservation Easement Deed Over a 6.5-Acre Portion of Property Commonly Known as Rocky Pointe Natural Park and Identified as Ventura County Assessor’s Parcel Number 637-0-070-340 Located in Simi Valley, California; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll-call vote:

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

(B) Request by Santa Susana Railroad Depot and Museum Director to Incorporate the Upstairs Portion of the Depot Into the Existing Museum 123A-16-a

Director of Planning and Maintenance introduced the proposal to incorporate the upstairs portion of the Santa Susana Railroad Depot and Museum into a period replica kitchen,
bathroom, dining room, living room and bedroom. The space is now vacant due to the retirement of the tenant caretaker and maintenance has been absorbed by buildings and grounds maintenance staff. A sophisticated alarm system with multiple cameras has been installed for security.

Staff then introduced the Depot Museum Director, Thomas Bergh to present his concept for incorporation of the caretaker’s quarters into the museum display. Mr. Bergh has been running and maintaining the current museum for the past 17 years and has donated many of the items in the museum himself.

Mr. Bergh explained the historical significance of the Depot to the Simi Valley community and talked about the original caretakers who lived there. Mr. Bergh’s idea is to enhance the upstairs with period pieces from the 1920’s and 1930’s that he would source from his extensive contacts in his field. Mr. Bergh explained that the Foundation is healthy and would be able to fund the cost of these improvements. With attendance at the Depot exceeding 50,000 in 14 years, this would enhance the visitor experience and draw more people to the site. Mr. Bergh then allowed Senior Museum Docent Curt to provide a brief historical overview of a couple of the past residents at the Depot.

Concerns were expressed by Director Johnson about the upstairs accessibility given the narrow stair way and about the safety of the building and its contents with no caretaker residing in the building going forward. Mr. Bergh and District staff responded by explaining the installed security system and the fact that tours of the upstairs portion of the museum would only occur with a docent escort, if the Board approved this proposed use.

Director of Planning and Maintenance stated that the proposed changes are considered renovations and therefore no permits would be required.

**ACTION:** Director Freeman moved to approve the Request by Santa Susana Railroad Depot and Museum Director to Incorporate the Upstairs Portion of the Depot Into the Existing Museum; Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried with only Director Johnson voting no.

**Discussion and Possible Approval to Install a Disc Golf Course Within the District’s Sycamore Park** 140-16-b; 56-16-a

Director of Recreation provided an overview of the recently installed Disc Golf Course at Sequoia Park and stated it is well used and appears to be cohabitating with the other park uses fairly well. Staff then explained that the popularity of the new amenity has lead staff to explore the addition of a second disc golf course at Sycamore Park. That park has adequate parking, hills, views and terrain which lends themselves well to this feature. The disc golf course at that location could be constructed mostly away from the walkways and park grassy areas. There will be a need to level some of the throw areas. The District’s existing funding allocation for disc golf is adequate to cover the installation of this proposed course.

Scott, a resident of Simi Valley, spoke on behalf of Disc Golf and has been playing for 20 years. Scott stated that playing disc golf can keep a positive presence within the park, and that he is very excited about the addition of the course at Sequoia Park and the possible addition of the next course at Sycamore Park.
Mr. Steve Zaleny, a resident of Simi Valley, thanked RSRPD for installing the course at Sequoia Park and said that people of all ages can play. He said that currently there are a few conflicts with the soccer groups as they cannot play disc golf when they are onsite and the addition of Sycamore Park would help with these conflicts. Mr. Zaleny also stated that the PDGA professional organization holds a tournament with a $200,000 purse and it would be great to have it here in Simi Valley one day.

Kristen Zaleny, Steve’s daughter, also said a few words on how much she enjoys playing disc golf with her dad and how much she is looking forward to the new course.

**ACTION:** Director Freeman moved to Approve the Installation of a Disc Golf Course at Sycamore Park, Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(D) **Authorization to Solicit Bids for Weed Abatement Services at Various District Parks and Open Space Areas 7-16-d**

Director of Planning stated that four more areas in Oak Park have been added to the areas that are referred to as Fuel Modification Zones.

**ACTION:** Director Cavanaugh moved to Approve Authorization to Solicit Bids for Weed Abatement Services at Various District Parks and Open Space Areas, Director Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(E) **Discussion and Possible Approval of an Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement Between the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura, and USA Properties for the Purchase and Sale of the District’s Property Located at 1692 Sycamore Drive in Simi Valley Extending the Contingency Date from March 31, 2016 to April 29, 2016 53-16-b**

**ACTION:** Director Cavanaugh moved to Approve a Second Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement Between the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura, and USA Properties for the Purchase and Sale of the District’s Property Located at 1692 Sycamore Drive in Simi Valley Extending the Contingency Date from March 31, 2016 to June 3, 2016, Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

IX. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

X. **REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:**

Director Johnson did not have any Committee meetings this period.

Vice Chair O’Brien attended a Youth Council Summit meeting, a VSCDA meeting, and a CSDA conference call.

Director Cavanaugh did not have any Committee meetings this period.
Director Freeman attended a CSDA Legislative meeting in Sacramento, where 2000 items were reviewed. Some Districts are being challenged for inadequate representation, leading some agencies to determine elected leaders by area. District Manager stated that some consideration of that issue had been given at Rancho Simi – the District would have to be divided into five areas of the same approximate number of residents, which would mean one Board member may be elected from the communities of Wood Ranch and Oak Park.

Director Freeman stated that VCTC has proposed a ½ cent sales tax that would fund Capital Improvement, which in turn would likely fund LA Metro Link and potentially raise $70 million. This measure will appear on the ballot for the next Statewide election.

Director Freeman expressed concern about the amount of projects that are currently being worked on given that staffing levels have not been increased, and suggested contracting out more of the work to help facilitate completion of the projects and ease the pressure on staff.

Director Freeman attended the Youth Summit and enjoyed the activities group.

Chair Hostetler did not have any Committee meetings this period.

XI. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER:

District Manager provided a brief response to Director Freeman, acknowledging the very large number of projects currently underway and the complexities of many of them. He stated that efforts are underway to fill the vacancies arising from a number of retirements, and that some of the projects should be winding down in the near future which should free up additional time to complete remaining items and provide some relief to staff.

District Manager attended a Youth Summit at Reagan Library.

District Manager provided an orientation for the two new Oak Park Committee Members with Director of Planning and Maintenance and Recreation Supervisor.

District Manager attended a MRCA Special Meeting.

The Chair called a Closed Session at 8:02 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

(A) 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
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642-0-280-095

Agency Negotiators: District Manager, Director of Planning and Maintenance and Legal Counsel

Negotiating Parties: Area Housing Authority/USA Properties

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

(B) Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Conference with Real Property Negotiator:

Re: Land Acquisition: Property Located in Ventura County Commonly Referred to as Alamos Canyon Located West Adjacent to the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 615-0-150-37

615-0-150-32

615-0-150-14

615-0-110-13

500-0-292-25

500-0-292-23

500-0-292-17

500-0-292-10

500-0-291-28

615-0-150-35

615-0-150-28

615-0-150-13

500-0-292-26

500-0-292-24

500-0-292-18

500-0-292-15

500-0-291-32

500-0-291-26

Which together total approximately 326 acres

Agency Negotiators: District Manager, Director of Planning and Maintenance and Legal Counsel

Management Negotiating Parties: The Nature Conservancy and Waste

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

Chair Hostetler stated there were no reportable actions taken on Items XII. (A, B).
XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Director Cavanaugh moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm; Vice Chair O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

[Signature]

Larry Peterson, District Clerk