MINUTES
RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1692 SYCAMORE DRIVE, SIMI VALLEY, CA
MAY 5, 2016

AGENDA ITEM

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Brian Reed

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

Staff: Dan Atwood, Doug Gale, Richard Lemmo, Barbara Meinel, Wayne Nakaoka, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Andrea Skinner, E.J. Summers

Guests: Lisa Atwood, Nancy DeLong, Vincent Frankhouser, Allegra Reid

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

Nancy DeLong and Allegra Reid addressed the Board as representatives of a group of residents concerned about the delays in filling the lagoon at Rancho Simi Community Park and more importantly, the welfare of the wildlife that inhabit the lagoon. They are aware that biologists, along with Fish and Game, suspended the project due to nesting birds on the endangered list. An okay to proceed with the project was received last September, but additional delays occurred due to problems with the building of the pumps. The ladies stated that because of these delays, last year several baby Canadian geese died in the holding pools and some drowned in the sludge left by the draining of the lagoon. The concerned residents relocated some of the ducks after contacting the District. There were 16 Chinese geese who also called the lagoon their home. Chinese geese cannot fly and were shuffled into the area of the Arroyo. The geese have become pets of the concerned citizens. During the winter rains, the geese were in severe danger of being washed down the Arroyo. Now with minimal water in the lagoon due to the recent rains, Canadian geese are starting to return and some of the residents have seen some babies on the lagoon’s island. The Chinese geese are also making their way back to the lagoon. The baby geese located on the island and the returning Chinese geese are protected from predators, mainly coyotes, only by the water surrounding the island. Without the protection of the water, the wildlife are literally sitting ducks at nighttime. The concerned residents realized about a month ago that there are some openings in the
fence that allow bigger creatures to get into the lagoon area, and now two Chinese geese are dead. Another danger from the water that has accumulated in the pond is that it will stagnate and may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae. It was the ladies' understanding that the District had permission to refill the pond before the project was started. Several volunteers have spent several thousand dollars of their own money feeding the geese and hours tracking them and making sure they are safe. They feel that a compromise to get the lagoon filled might be to get permission to use reclaimed water. The contractor would then be able to test the pumps but more importantly, there would be a barrier around the island to protect the wildlife from predators, and the danger of mosquitos growing in stagnant water would be eliminated. The speakers also requested that signs be placed around the lagoon similar to the ones along the Arroyo describing the various wildlife that make the lagoon their home. The signs could also educate the community about healthy food and reduce the use of bread, which is bad for the wildlife and pollutes the water.

District Manager Peterson responded that the District is working on ways to fill the lagoon. The use of reclaimed water is more complicated than it seems, and whether or not the District could obtain state approval to use reclaimed water is questionable. How to get reclaimed water to the lagoon is also quite complicated, expensive, and also increases pollution with truck traffic. The better way is to fill the lagoon with potable water, and the District Manager and Director of Planning and Maintenance will be meeting with City staff on Tuesday, May 10, to discuss a solution. The goal is to get the lagoon filled in a manner that meets everyone's requirements and expectations. The District has exceeded the requirement at Rancho Simi Community Park to cut water usage, and staff is hopeful that this will provide additional justification to fill the lagoon. In addition, irrigation will remain constrained, so that the required water reductions will continue to be achieved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 7, 2016

ACTION: Director Cavanaugh moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2016 as amended; Vice Chair O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

V. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(A) Presentation of the Part-time Employee of the Month for April 2016 to Andrea Skinner 35-16-i

Director of Administration Theresa Pennington announced that Andrea Skinner was selected as Part-time Employee of the Month for April 2016. She is the Director of the Medea Creek Teen Club in Oak Park, and this is her first award for employee of the month.
The person who nominated Andrea stated that she has a tireless work ethic and is committed to each and every participant in her program. She is also very creative. She has created content that is both educational and fun for the teenagers involved in her program as well as managing staff in a manner that encourages growth within the field and makes work fun. Andrea has made it a mission to make an impact on the lives of her young participants. Her supervisor received a letter from a parent who stated that when she had to go back to work, she was worried about the effect it would have on her children. But when her son was enrolled in the Medea Creek Teen Club, he got not only a place to go after school, but a place where he is welcomed and loved. He is happy and growing as a person in the teen club, and the parent added that Andrea has been an outstanding role model, strong support system, and a trusted friend to her son. The parent stated that instead of the teen club being something her son “has” to do, it is now something that he “gets” to do, and this is in large part due to Andrea’s efforts.

Chair Hostetler presented Andrea with her award and thanked her for all her contributions to the success of the Teen Club. Andrea responded that she is grateful for all the opportunities the Park District has given her. She started with the District as a counselor, and now is a site director.

Director of Recreation Doug Gale added that the District is happy to have her. She is the site director for the largest teen club and the first of its kind for the Park District.

Director Freeman commented that it was very special that a parent wrote such a complementary letter to the District about Andrea.

Oak Park Recreation Coordinator Richard Lemmo stated that a lot of people are good at their job, but Andrea rises above that. She eats, breathes, and sleeps teen club, and is making a real difference in children's lives.

(B) Presentation of the Full-time Employee of the Month for March 2016 to Dan Atwood 35-16-j

Director of Administration Theresa Pennington announced that Dan Atwood was selected as Full-time Employee of the Month for March 2016. Dan is a Groundskeeper II in the Planning and Maintenance Department, and this is his second award for employee of the month.

Dan actually received two nominations for full time employee of the month. The first person who nominated Dan stated that he does an outstanding job in all areas of responsibility. He is a hard worker with a positive attitude who takes pride in all that he does. He is always willing to help out his co-workers and park patrons. He has been working on the Central Crew for over nine years, and has helped with many park improvement projects.

The second person who nominated Dan stated that he is a team player and works well with all members of his crew. In addition, he does a great job on special projects. He works as hard as any employee and never complains about tasks or assignments he is
given. His pride in his work is evident by looking at any of the parks he has been involved with.

Both of the people who nominated Dan talked about how he recently aided a co-worker. On February 24, 2016, Dan noticed a District employee sitting in his truck who was in need of assistance. He stopped what he was doing, called 911, assisted the employee, and called his crew leader and his supervisor. His actions may have saved this employee's life, and they are a reflection of his generous character and how he truly cares about his fellow employees.

Chair Hostetler presented Dan with his award. Dan thanked the Board for the honor and stated that he is happy to work for the District.

Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka stated that he is an outstanding employee. He makes life easier for everyone, loves his job, and does it very well.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

(A) Approval of Check Register: 4/1/16 (payroll); 4/15/16 (payables)

(B) Approval of Notice of Completion and Final Acceptance for the Rancho Simi Community Park Lagoon Renovation Project – Phase 1 43-16-a

ACTION: Vice Chair O’Brien moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A and B; Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Approval of Agreement with RMA International Inc. for the Design and Construction of Lost Canyons Park 189-16-a

ACTION: Director Cavanaugh moved to approve Agreement with RMA International Inc. for the Design and Construction of Lost Canyons Park; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(B) Approval of Creation of Full-time Building Maintenance Worker I Position in Oak Park 35-16-k

ACTION: Director Johnson moved to approve Creation of Full-time Building Maintenance Worker I Position in Oak Park; Vice Chair O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
IX. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

X. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Director Johnson attended a Soccer Foundation meeting.

Director Johnson also attended a Personnel Committee meeting with Chair Hostetler. The Committee went over the various changes in personnel at the Park District.

Director Johnson also attended a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) meeting. The main topic of discussion at the meeting was the Green Solution Program. Director Johnson also mentioned that Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director for the SMMC and Deputy Executive Office for the MRCA, is being recognized for her outstanding work by the Conejo Recreation and Park District on Monday, May 9, 2016.

Director Johnson also was a judge for the Simi Valley Days contestants.

Vice Chair O’Brien attended an Advance Planning Committee meeting along with Chair Hostetler. Filling the lagoon at Rancho Tapo Community Park was a topic of discussion at the meeting.

Vice Chair O’Brien also attended a Joint Park District/Historical Society Committee meeting with Director Freeman. The Committee discussed the upcoming Tiara Garden Party to be held at Strathearn Historical Park.

Vice Chair O’Brien commented that the new website looks good.

Vice Chair O’Brien attended the State of the City lunch, which was very good. She reported that the Mayor stated that the City’s finances are in good shape.

Vice Chair O’Brien reported that she attended the Hats Off to Women Event and it was a wonderful event. Judy Pepiot was honored as Volunteer of the Year.

Director Freeman attended the Joint Park District/Historical Society Committee meeting held on May 2, 2016. She reported that the Strathearn House is all painted except for the shutters. The Committee also discussed the adobe house floors and adding a Children’s (Chumash) Classroom expansion in the small barn. She reported that Lee Martin, the District’s Computer Support Specialist, is working on getting Wi-Fi throughout the park.

Director Cavanaugh reported that she attended the State of the City luncheon with Directors Freeman and O’Brien.

Chair Hostetler attended the Advance Planning Committee meeting with Vice Chair O’Brien.
Chair Hostetler also attended a Personnel Committee meeting.

XI. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER:

District Manager reported that he attended a Linkage Implementation meeting at the National Park Service.

District Manager attended an Oak Park Committee meeting, at which time the Committee voted to recommend a design for the Mae Boyar building replacement project. That matter will come before the Board together with a recommendation to retain an architect, likely at the July meeting.

District Manager reported that he and the Director of Planning and Maintenance have attended approximately 40 interviews for the various staff vacancies over the last couple of weeks.

District Manager also attended a regular MRCA meeting.

The Chair called a Closed Session at 7:32 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

(A) Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Dr. C. R. Joshi

Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

ACTION: The Chair reported that the Board agreed unanimously to accept the claim pending verification of damage for Item XII. (A).

(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

The Chair stated that there was no reportable action on Item XII. (B).
(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")

The Chair reported that there was no reportable action on Item XII. (C).

(D) Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiator:

Agency Negotiators: District Manager and Director of Administration

Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees

The Chair reported that there was no reportable action on Item XII. (D).

(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

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

The Chair reported that there was no reportable action on Item XII. (E).
(F)  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:

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Which together total approximately 326 acres

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

Negotiating Parties: The Nature Conservancy and Waste Management

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

The Chair reported that there was no reportable action on Item XII. (F).

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chair O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.; Director Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

[Signature]

District Clerk