MINUTES
RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1692 SYCAMORE DRIVE, SIMI VALLEY, CA
SEPTEMBER 1, 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: Doug Gale, Barbara Meinel, Wayne Nakaoka, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierce, Brian Pierik, Brian Reed

Guests: Eric Clouser, Ken Gill, Jeff Quartararo, Kristin Quartararo

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

Ms. Kristin Quartararo presented the Board with a proposal to fence in one of the playgrounds in Simi Valley. She stated that there are currently no fenced in playgrounds in Simi Valley, and it is very hard on parents and others who take multiple children to the park or children with special needs to keep track of their children. She and her husband love taking their children to the park, but they currently do not use the parks in Simi Valley because of the lack of a fenced in playground. Anyone who currently wants to take children to a fenced in playground has to drive out of the area, and it would mean a lot to her and other residents to have a playground in their hometown where they could take their children without fear of them running off. Multiple children are hard to keep track of, and children with special needs can suddenly dash off into the street or other dangerous places. Ms. Quartararo also read statements from several other parents expressing their support and desire for a fenced-in playground in Simi Valley. Ms. Quartararo believes Simi Valley residents would benefit greatly from a fenced-in playground. When taking multiple children to a park, several adults must be present to keep an eye on them, and having a fenced-in playground would give parents the opportunity to take their children to a park to play without the fear that they will wander off, and the benefits for special needs children would be enormous.
Ms. Quartararo recommended Big Sky as a good location to fence in a playground as it is a beautiful area, it has one of the newest play structures in Simi Valley, it has a large play structure for all ages, it has a restroom, there is significant parking which is close to the park, the park is not on a busy street, there is a walkway from the parking lot to the playground, and the play structure and swings are in one tight area, which would be the most cost effective to fence in.

The Chair stated that staff would look into her proposal and get back to her.

Mr. Ken Gill, President of Simi Youth Baseball, addressed the Board to request additional field time for Simi Youth Baseball. In particular, he is asking the District to issue permits to Simi Youth Baseball for use of the Santa Susana Baseball Fields located at 4333 Township Avenue. Mr. Gill stated that Santa Susana Baseball only uses the fields on Sundays for fall football, and Simi Youth Baseball would like to use the Santa Susana Fields on Friday evenings and all day on Saturdays. He further stated that Simi Youth Baseball continues to grow at a rapid rate, while Santa Susana Baseball has been declining in numbers. Santa Susana Baseball has approximately 90 members signed up for their league, while Simi Youth Baseball has approximately 850+ players. When asked by a Board member if he has talked to Santa Susana Baseball representatives, Mr. Gill responded that he has tried to talk to Santa Susana Baseball about using their fields when they are available and about the possibility of having the leagues join together, but he has not had any success in communicating with them. He stated that Santa Susana Baseball has had some problems filling their Board positions, and currently the league does not have a President.

Chair Hostetler asked Mr. Gill if they have considered using the two fields at Santa Susana Park. Mr. Gill responded that they are in talks with the District’s Director of Recreation regarding using these fields, and most likely they will use them.

Mr. Gill stated that the situation will only become more severe in the spring, when they expect to have even more participants, and their goal is to serve the boys and girls of Simi Valley and give everyone who wants to play the opportunity to do so. He is requesting the Park District’s assistance in securing the use of the Santa Susana Baseball fields on Friday evenings and all day on Saturdays.

Eric Clouser, Mustang Field Director for Simi Youth Baseball also addressed the Board regarding the league’s need for additional ballfields. His division (for 9 and 10 year old boys and girls) alone has grown from 8 teams when he started with the league about 5 years ago to 14-16 teams for the fall league, which is the smaller of the leagues, with the spring league having even more participants. Participation in Simi Youth Baseball has grown by 10-15% every season since Mr. Clouser has been with the league, and they are very concerned with how they will facilitate practice time and games for the youth if more ballfields are not made available to them. They are excited about the possibility of having use of the fields at Santa Susana Park that were once Simi Valley Little League’s, and that will be a big help to them, particularly for their Pinto (7-8 year olds) and Mustang (9-10 year olds) Divisions, which are their largest divisions. That being said, their Bronco Division (11-12 year olds), where you usually see declining enrollment as
the children start finding other interests, now has almost 10 teams for fall baseball. They are not seeing declining enrollment for their Bronco Division in Simi Youth Baseball. They are also seeing teams from surrounding areas wanting to come to Simi to play, but in order to do so they need more fields for practice and more fields for play. As the league has grown and as they continue to improve their facilities, they have been able to do wonderful things for the youth and also for the parents and grandparents who attend the games.

Chair Hostetler asked how many children are on a team. Mr. Clouser said there are 12 per team. The Chair suggested increasing the number of participants per team to 15, to which Mr. Clouser responded that the parents, who are their customer base, would be unhappy with their children having less play time. Also, regarding the fields at Santa Susana Park, Mr. Clouser stated that these fields need some work, which Simi Youth is more than willing to take care of, but these fields will not be ready for play in two weeks, when the fall league begins play.

Along with Mr. Gill and the other members of the Simi Youth Baseball Board in attendance at tonight’s Board meeting, and on behalf of the youth participating in Simi Youth Baseball, Mr. Clouser is asking for the District’s help in obtaining more fields for their league.

Chair Hostetler stated that the District would get back to the league regarding their request.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 18, 2016

ACTION: Director Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2016; Vice Chair O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with Directors Cavanaugh and Freeman abstaining.

V. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(A) Presentation of the Full-time Employee of the Month for August 2016 to Brian Pierce 35-16-x

Director of Administration Theresa Pennington announced that Brian Pierce, Recreation Coordinator, had been selected as Full-time Employee of the Month for August 2016. Brian has been working for the District for over nine years, and this is his second employee of the month award.

The person who nominated Brian stated that he has been an awesome boss. He manages 8 clubs and 8 directors, and gives them space to create their own styles at each club. When there is a complaint, he listens first and then handles the problem.
During the last school year when there was a rare rainy day, thanks to Brian's fast thinking, staff was able to get all of the District's After School Club kids back to their location without being rained out by the sudden downpour. Just minutes after calling Brian, two RSRPD vehicles were waiting to give them a ride. The parents who were calling were delighted with this service!

The Chair presented Brian with his award and thanked him for his service.

Brian thanked the Board and stated that it is always nice to be recognized. Brian added that he enjoys his work and the people he works with. The After School Clubs provide a wonderful service for the community.

Director of Recreation Doug Gale added that Brian has a big job dealing with so many parents and students, and he is very organized and good at his job.

The Board members thanked Brian for his hard work.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

(A) Approval of Check Register: 8/19/16 (payroll)

(B) Receive and File Summary of Park Dedication Fees and Summary of Projects Primarily Funded by Park Dedication Fees 41-16-a

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

VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Approval of Contract for the Valley View Playground Renovation Project 51E-16-b

ACTION: Director Freeman moved to approve the Contract for the Valley View Playground Renovation Project; Director Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(B) Approval of Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Construction Staking, Engineering Construction Phase Support and QSP Services for the Arroyo Simi Greenway Phase 2 Construction Project 176-16-e

ACTION: Director Johnson moved to approve the Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Construction Staking, Engineering Construction Phase Support and QSP Services for the Arroyo Simi Greenway Phase 2 Construction
Project; Vice Chair O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(C) Recommendation for Approval of a Freeway Maintenance Agreement Between Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and State of California Department of Transportation in Connection with Alamos Canyon Trail Access 178-16-e

ACTION: Director Johnson moved to approve Recommendation for Approval of a Freeway Maintenance Agreement Between Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and State of California Department of Transportation in Connection with Alamos Canyon Trail Access; Vice Chair O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

(D) Approval of Resolution Confirming that Larry Peterson is the District Manager of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and Confirming the Authority of District Manager Larry Peterson to Sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Acquisition of Alamos Canyon and Confirming the Authority of Larry Peterson to Sign All Other Documents and Take Other Necessary Actions Pertaining to the Alamos Canyon Transaction 178-16-f

ACTION: Director Johnson moved to approve Resolution No. 1925 Confirming that Larry Peterson is the District Manager of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and Confirming the Authority of District Manager Larry Peterson to Sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Acquisition of Alamos Canyon and Confirming the Authority of Larry Peterson to Sign All Other Documents and Take Other Necessary Actions Pertaining to the Alamos Canyon Transaction; Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll-call vote:

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

(E) Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the California Wildlife Conservation Board for the Acquisition of the 371-acre Joncich Simi Hills Property and Entering into a Grant Agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board 178-16-g, 125-16-b

ACTION: Director Freeman moved to approve Resolution No. 1926 Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the California Wildlife Conservation Board for the Acquisition of the 371-acre Joncich Simi Hills Property and Entering into a Grant Agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board; Vice Chair O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll-call vote:
Ayes: Directors Johnson, Freeman, Cavanaugh, O’Brien, Hostetler
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

(F) Selection of Candidate to Serve as Special District Alternate Member to the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) 46-16-b

ACTION: Director Cavanaugh nominated Al Fox as Candidate to Serve as Special District Alternate Member to the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”); Vice Chair O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

IX. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE:

None

X. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Director Johnson attended a Golf Course Committee meeting. Staff reviewed the progress of projects at Simi Hills Golf Course and discussed plans for future projects. The Committee also approved a $1 increase of fees at Sinaloa and a $2 increase of fees at Simi Hills Golf Course.

Vice Chair O’Brien attended a CSDA Fiscal Committee meeting in Sacramento where they approved the budget for next year.

Vice Chair O’Brien stated that she has a certificate from the Rotary thanking the District for its participation in the 4th of July event.

Director Cavanaugh did not have any meetings to report.

Director Cavanaugh stated that she would like to have the meeting adjourned in memory of Thomas Michaels, who passed away on Wed., August 17, 2016. Thomas coached Little Miss Softball in Simi Valley, enriching the lives of many young people, including Director Cavanaugh, as a role model and mentor. In the 1970s, his team, The Spartans, was unstoppable. He contributed much to the community and will be sadly missed.

Director Freeman stated that she had a couple of reports. Some years ago the Little Hoover Commission did a report on the “lack of value of special districts”. They had a hearing recently and CALAFCO and CSDA both testified on the value of special districts. The Commission has not come out with their report yet.

Director Freeman announced that AB2444 was pulled this week.
Chair Hostetler attended the Golf Committee meeting with Director Johnson.

Chair Hostetler also attended an Advance Planning Committee meeting along with Vice Chair O’Brien.

District Manager stated that the Closed Session – Items XII. (B) and (C) would be pulled from the Agenda as there is nothing to report.

XI. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER:

The District Manager stated that he had no items to report.

The Chair called a Closed Session at 7:40 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

A. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Conference with Real Property Negotiator

Re: Land Acquisition: Property Located in Ventura County East North East Adjacent to Sage Ranch

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 646-0-170-040 649-0-010-415

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

Negotiating Party: Mark Joncich

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

The Chair stated that there was no reportable action taken on Item XII. (A).

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  615-0-150-35
615-0-150-32 (portion)  615-0-150-28
615-0-150-14  615-0-150-13

615-0-110-13 (portion)  500-0-292-26
500-0-292-25  500-0-292-24
500-0-292-23  500-0-292-18
500-0-292-17 (portion)  500-0-292-15
500-0-292-10  500-0-291-32
500-0-292-28  500-0-291-26

Which together total approximately 326 acres

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

Negotiating Party: Waste Management

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

This item was removed from the agenda.

C. 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 Cochise Street and Indian Hills Drive in Simi Valley, Ca

Assessor Parcel Number: 628-0-192-015

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

Negotiating Party: Bruce Finnegan

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

This item was removed from the agenda.
XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Director Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. in memory of Mr. Thomas Michaels; Vice Chair O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

__________________________
District Clerk