Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES
August 3, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Rec Room, Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 584-4400; www.rsrpd.org

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The meeting was called to order by Chair O'Brien at 6:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Elia Haz.

2. ROLL CALL- Directors Abele, Freeman, Hostetler, Johnson and O'Brien were present. The following staff members were in attendance: Doug Duran, Elia Haz, Wayne Nakaoka, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson and Brian Pierik and Brian Reed. The following guests attended the meeting: Gary Hartung, Michelle Neff-Hernandez and Kelly Rogers.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS - Gary Hartung stated the temperature of the water at Rancho Simi Pool is too warm during the summer and requested that something be done about it. He said it is at an excellent temperature in the winter.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   a. Regular Meeting – July 20, 2017- Vice Chair Johnson moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2017; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS- None

6. CONSENT AGENDA

   a. Approval of Check Register: 7/15/17 (accounts payable) – Vice Chair Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS- None

8. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Recap Regarding 2017 Stars and Stripes 4th of July Fireworks Festival (Oral Report)- District Manager Peterson stated the use of the facility from staff's
perspective was great and he appreciates the Rotary’s efforts to prevent damage. Michele Neff-Hernandez from the Rotary Club stated there were some complaints about how high the fireworks were and the location of the launch site. Overall, the facility was great and the 2 day event was well received. Some residents were unable to be at the location for the 4th but were able to participate in events on the 3rd. She was impressed with RSRPD staff and stated they were helpful. The Rotary Club would like to continue the event next year and asked if there were any concerns. Chair O’Brien stated the overall event was great, however, the fireworks were too far away. Neff-Hernandez responded that safety was put first and in regards to the music, at the next event, there will be more speakers and they will increase the volume of the sound. The Rotary is looking at a few different fireworks companies. Director Abele said he toured the location and the fields were fine, and liked where the fireworks were, they put on a great show. Abele asked if the Rotary is satisfied with the outcome of the revenue from the 3rd of July activities and if it was worthwhile. Neff-Hernandez stated that the net revenue was $20,000, and the event opened new revenue streams with room to grow. Director Freeman said the event was great and had commented that the music wasn’t loud enough and the view was blocked west of the trees. Neff-Hernandez stated the Rotary appreciates RSRPD and the District’s ongoing support, they were very grateful. Director Hostetler asked if there were any complaints about the carnival rides and lights. Neff-Hernandez responded stating, yes, however, ambient lighting was helpful to avoid any issues regarding safety.

b. Review and Discussion Regarding Public Use and Safety at Rancho Simi Community Park (Oral Report)- District Manager Peterson provided an update indicating that beginning on July 10th, the District added Ranger coverage at Rancho Simi Community Park (RSCP) with an additional 109 hours extended at the park since that time. On July 13, 2017 he requested additional patrols of the park by Simi Valley Police Department, and in response their field personnel were directed to spend more time in parks during the summer months. The Ranger and Police presence acts as a deterrent which helps to reduce the issues that might otherwise occur in the parks. The lighting was also recently increased in the amphitheater area. Staff informed the Board that the electrical outlets to the Pavilion are only turned on during permitted uses and due to the current electrical limitations the Pavilion lights are also off when the outlets are off. The Rangers have requested the lights remain on during the park hours. Director Hostetler stated that the outlets shouldn’t be shut off to the public. District Manager Peterson stated this has been a practice to discourage inappropriate behavior in the area for a few years and there haven’t been any complaints and asked if it is the Board’s prerogative to leave the power on. Director Freeman and Chair O’Brien supported leaving on the power to the outlets.

Director Freeman stated that more needed to be done to enhance the reputation of the park, and Director Abele stated he supported that position and indicated the increased presence of rangers does help. Director Freeman suggested meeting with the City Council and getting more people involved. Chair O’Brien suggested a
citizen patrol would be helpful. Director Hostetler suggested the District trim trees
and bushes and add lights to make things more visible at night. Director Freeman
suggested the rangers do bike patrol at the location. Vice Chair Johnson asked what
problems are occurring from a police perspective. Director Abele offered his
opinion that the park does not seem to present a major issue from their perspective.
Staff reminded the Board of the upgrades and changes that have been made to the
park over the years, which have cost many millions of dollars. The park was
improved with the removal of the gazebo from the west end, the fencing in of the
softball complex and the securing of the restrooms. With the soccer field lighting
project more activity will occur in the park and the lighting will be greater. Staff
stated that the ranger logs reflect a large percentage of the undesirable activity
relates to homeless individuals with addiction and mental health issues. A brief
discussion occurred about the location of the park relative to the liquor store and
Samaritan Center which likely also impact the park. Director Hostetler stated more
regular patrol will help.

Director Freeman suggested the District talk to the city again and possibly create
an Ad Hoc Committee. Chair O’Brien suggested involving the neighborhood
council. Director Abele suggested extra patrol for 2 weeks and possibly beyond and
asked if access to power should be allowed. Director Freeman asked if anyone was
in touch with Ms. Dennert. Staff confirmed they were in touch, provided copies of
the ranger logs as requested and notified her of the extra patrol that has been
scheduled. Director Freeman requested this item be continued to the next Board
meeting.

Director Hostetler suggested the rangers indicate how many police cars they see in
the park and extend the extra patrol another two weeks. Guest Kelly Rogers stated
a lot of soccer clubs use the fields daily at RSCP, Hillside, Berylwood, RSSCP and
more. He stated lights are needed at the soccer fields at RSCP. He can bring the
subject up to the foundation members and ask them to report to rangers of any
problematic activity. Director Abele stated if there is more activity like pickle ball
or tennis it may deter issues. Director Freeman asked if the District can expand the
number of rangers. Director Abele asked the cost for additional coverage. Staff
stated an additional full-time ranger would cost about $75,000 and additional part-
time ranger coverage is paid at the rate of $25 an hour. Vice Chair Johnson
suggested scheduling the rangers there five days a week with staggered hours.

**c. Approval and Adoption of Part-time Employee Pay Schedule by Rancho Simi
Recreation and Park District Board of Directors with Effective Date of January 1,
2018** - District Manager Peterson presented the staff report. Vice Chair Johnson
moved to approve the adoption of the part time pay schedule; Director Hostetler
seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**d. Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Runkle Canyon Park Storm Water
Improvement Project** - Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka presented
the staff report. Director Freeman asked if the modifications affect the permit with the city. Nakaoka said it did not. Vice Chair Johnson moved to approve the authorization to solicit bids for the Runkle Canyon Store Water Improvement project; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

c. Approval of Award of Contract for the Guardian Building Phase One – Office Improvements Project- Nakaoka presented the staff report. The Green Building act went into effect January 1, 2017 it states that 65% of the waste material from the building project needs to be recycled. Director Freeman asked why is there a big difference in the additive bid. Nakaoka explained that the District gave bid packets to 8 other contractors. 3 came back with the best price which didn’t include carpet removal. There included the price for painting with a single color with airless sprayer vs. hand painting which makes the price lower. Freeman asked what the timeline would be. Nakaoka explained that in approximately 1 month they will start working but there could be delays with the glass needed. Freeman inquired if the architect was coordinating with the contractor. Nakaoka confirmed they are working together. District Manager Peterson added that this doesn’t include the wall separation within warehouse and the improvement of the maintenance area. Vice Chair Johnson moved to approve the award of contract for phase one of the Guardian Building to Monet Construction; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE

a. Thank you Letter from Leadership Simi Valley Class of 2017 for District’s Participation in Program – the letter was reviewed by the Board.

b. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Abele attended the Safety Committee Meeting and discussed the safety issues previously mentioned. He went to RSCP to check out the pool area and saw staff member Bryan McQueen there who he had known a long time and spoke with him regarding the amenities there. The pool gets extensive use. A couple of the tennis courts as well as the horse shoe pits were in use at the time.

Director Freeman attended the memorial for Tom Bergh along with Director Hostetler and Vice Chair Johnson. She took one of her grandsons to the train depot, the docent was really good and engaging. She also took him to Corriganville as well. On July 27th she attended a meeting with USA Properties and reported that their revised plans seemed to satisfy the City. There are some design issues, for instance every window facing Sycamore Drive requires a treatment, and there are 40 units facing Sycamore Drive. They spent about 2.5 hours going over plans and the goal is to have the whole package (to include floorplans, elevations, and engineering) resubmitted by September 7th. The parking details have been worked out. The City postponed the affordable housing committee meeting. She also
attended the VCSDA meeting and saw a presentation on financing projects through bonds, it was a good meeting.

Vice Chair Johnson attended a Personnel Committee Meeting, the minutes have been distributed.

Director Hostetler- attended the Personnel Committee Meeting and the Memorial for Tom Bergh at the Depot.

Chair O’Brien attended the VCSDA meeting and said it was very good and informative. She toured the Oak Canyon Community Park lagoon after the last meeting with Committee Member Cass-Barton. She attended a Community Action of Ventura County and she suggested a prize wheel similar to the RSRPD one for their booth. She also received a thank you certificate from the Rotary Club for the District’s support of the July 4th event.

c. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER- District Manager Peterson notified the Board that the Closed Session matter can be pulled from the agenda, there are no updates to report.

10. CLOSED SESSION- This item was pulled from agenda by the Chair.

a. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: One Case

11. ADJOURNMENT- Director Freeman moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.