Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

November 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Rec Room, Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive, Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 584-4400; www.rsrd.org

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

2. ROLL CALL - Directors Abele, Freeman, Hostetler, Johnson and O’Brien were present. Staff members Douglas Duran, Doug Gale, Elia Haz, Wayne Nakaoka, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierik and Brian Reed attended the meeting. Guests in attendance included: Jane Forrester, Libby Santos and Deborah Singer.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Jane Forrester expressed her surprise at all the hostility when the tennis vs. pickleball situation came up. She suggested building the courts at Rancho Madera Community Park (RMCP) rather than tearing up Rancho Simi Community Park courts. Tennis is a CIF sport this is not the case with pickleball. High school tennis athletes have the ability to get scholarships, this is short changing the public for the use of tennis courts and the future of students that are hoping to make the high school team. Jane Forrester questioned Doug Gale about the number of classes that are held at RMCP for beginning Quick Start tennis classes. Doug Gale responded stating the classes were cancelled due to low enrollment. Jane Forrester continued that the courts are being misused for the Quick Start program and that the pickleball courts are better suited. The pickleball courts are perfect for Quick Start and give more options to the adult leagues if the courts are kept open at RMCP for adults to play on Saturday.

Director Freeman explained that no decision has been made. In regards to the comment about courts at Rancho Madera Community Park, there are other plans for a building going into that location which would not be able to house more courts. There is a lot to consider.

Director Abele expressed his appreciation for the comments from the public. At this time nothing has been decided. The proposal of converting two tennis courts to six pickleball courts while making improvements to the remaining tennis courts at Rancho Simi Community Park was well received at the recent Board meeting. Multiple people commented during the break that they supported the idea. Many tennis advocates were
supportive and agreeable to the idea as well. A decision has yet to be made. All sides are being listened to and taken into consideration.

Libby Santos wanted to be sure the use of courts at Royal High School was not the solution for giving up four tennis courts to pickleball at Rancho Simi Community Park. She stated it is not an equal trade.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting – October 19, 2017, 6:30 pm- Director Freeman moved to approve the minutes; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Vice Chair Johnson abstaining.

b. Special Meeting – October 19, 2017, 7:00 pm- Director Freeman had one change to item III, ninth line down: remove Chair Johnson’s name since he was not in attendance. Director Hostetler moved to approve the minutes as amended; Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Vice Chair Johnson abstaining.

5. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the Month for October 2017 to Rylan Hansen- Rylan Hansen was unable to attend the meeting, his plaque will be presented to him in person.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Check Registers: 9/29/17 and 10/13/17 (Payroll); 10/15/17 (Accounts Payable)

b. Receive and File Summary of Park Dedication Fees and Summary of Projects Primarily Funded by Park Dedication Fees

Staff responded to inquiries from the Board. Director Hostetler moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Director Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Permit Agreement for Use of Recreational Facilities by Santa Susana Baseball League – The staff report was presented by Director of Recreation Gale. Director Freeman agreed that this was a good idea and stated her opinion that the groups are not going to merge since they have different approaches that are valued by their participants. Director Hostetler moved to approve the staff
recommendation. Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

b. Rejection of All Bids Received for the Tree Pruning Services at Various District Parks Project and Authorization to Resolicit Public Bids for the Project – Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka presented the staff report recommending the rejection of bids received for tree trimming. Director Freeman asked Nakaoka why it was so expensive. Nakaoka explained that the contractors were in high demand and overbooked. Chair O’Brien inquired if this project can wait. Nakaoka explained that it can wait. However, some trees need to be trimmed for safety reasons. Director Freeman moved to approve the staff recommendation; Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

c. Approval of Additional Construction Funds for the Interior Office Painting for the Guardian Building Phase One Construction Project – Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka presented details regarding the construction project at the Guardian building. On July 20, 2017, the Board approved a contract for Phase 1 which included 14 new offices, room partitions, multipurpose room, etc. On August 17, 2017 Douglas Duran and Tracy Engel prepared a presentation for the color scheme and office furniture; the Board selected one of the color options. Staff was authorized to solicit bids for carpeting and painting. The contractor that is currently working on the Guardian building agreed to the paint project for $23,000 with an additional 10% contingency. The amount falls within the allotted budget which was originally estimated at $22-28,000. Director Hostetler moved to approve the staff recommendation; Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Approval of Resolution No. 1942 Adopting Annual Budget for FY 2017-18 – District Manager Peterson presented the staff report. Director Freeman moved to approve Resolution 1942 Adopting the Annual Budget for FY 2017-18. Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

- Ayes: Directors Abele, Freeman, Hostetler, Johnson and O’Brien
- Noes: None
- Absent: None
- Abstain: None

e. Approval of the Planning and Maintenance Projects Fiscal Year 2017-18 and the Three-Year Capital Improvement Program – the staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka. Director Freeman asked the timing on permits for the skate park. Nakaoka explained that the City is requiring a Conditional Use Permit application, which will then go to the Planning Commission. Reports are being completed and staff is waiting on the soils and noise reports. All of the information should be back around the first of the year for submission to the City thereafter. District Manager Peterson explained that there are enough funds in the 2017-2018 budget to allow the permitting process to
continue without delaying the project. Adam Swanson follows the skate park issues and follows up regarding its progress; the District provided him with an update on the project and let him know about the limited resources and the need to temporarily reallocate a portion of the funds to another project. Director Hostetler moved to approve the staff recommendation; Vice Chair Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE - None

10. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS –

Director Abele attended the Youth Activities Committee meeting regarding the baseball fields. He noted that the sharing of the Houghton fields did not work very well. The focus was making the situation better and hopefully the continued use of the Knolls and Santa Susana Fields by Simi Youth will work fairly well.

Director Freeman attended the senior games. There were 400 people participating. She asked if it was possible to increase the exercise classes at the Senior Center. Director of Recreation Gale acknowledged the possible addition and will look into it. She attended a Rotary meeting at which Carolyn did a great job presenting Strathearn Historical Park and noted that half of the people at the meeting had never been to Strathearn. Freeman also attended the Chamber’s Legislative Committee meeting and reported on the District and its current projects. She also attended the CalLAFCO conference in San Diego where the primary topic was how to explain what LAFCO is; there were about 200 people in attendance.

Director Hostetler attended the senior games. He reported the upcoming CARPD conference will be in Lake Tahoe in May 2018 during the week.

Vice Chair Johnson noted he was on vacation. He attended the Youth Activities committee meeting and stated that outside teams are coming in with greater frequency. He also attended the Advanced Planning committee which included a discussion regarding the tennis and pickleball court changes or additions and expressed his frustration that there was not more appreciation for the existing well maintained facilities the District is providing in this area at no charge for use. He also stated that the committee discussed the feasibility of installing the BMX track at the Equestrian Center, and indicated staff will present the idea to the City to receive its initial reaction to the idea.

Chair O’Brien attended the Advance Planning meeting and also had a meeting regarding the 4th of July with the Rotary Club. She stated that the Rotary Board decided to pull the plug on the fireworks festival. It has been hard to get volunteers and they had a disappointing net gain, making only $6,000 in 2017. They are hoping that the Park District and the City will continue to put on the fireworks show in 2018 and beyond. Director Abele asked if the Rotary wants to pull out of the event entirely. Chair O’Brien explained that they are pulling out completely and not sure what they will replace the fireworks fundraiser. Director Freeman mentioned that it seemed like a large part of the expenditure
was having the two-day carnival and other unnecessary things. Chair O'Brien mentioned that the Rotary Club had lost several large sponsors over the years and asked if the Park District would work with the City. Director Freeman expressed that not having the fireworks would be a great loss for the community. District Manager stated a meeting would be scheduled with the City Manager to further discuss.

11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – None

The Chair announced the Closed Session at 7:15 p.m.

12. 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
642-0-280-085
642-0-280-095

Negotiating Parties: 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 Northeast of the Intersection of Tapo Canyon Road and Bennett Road in Simi Valley, Ca

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 620-0-320-095

Negotiating Parties: District Manager, Director of Planning and Maintenance and Legal Counsel

Report and Instructions to Staff Regarding Price and Terms of Payment
The Chair reconvened the meeting from Closed Session at 7:31 p.m. and announced that no reportable action had been taken as to Closed Session items a. and b.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Johnson move to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Larry Peterson, District Clerk