Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

January 18, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Oak Park Community Center
1000 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377
(818) 865-9304; www.rsrdp.org

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL – Directors Abele, Freeman, Hostetler, Johnson and O’Brien were present. The following staff members attended the meeting: Dave DeMaio, Doug Gale, Richard Lemmo, Wayne Nakaoka, Renee Peace, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierik and Jorge Ramirez and family. Guests in attendance included: Dennis Argulis, Carolyn Cass-Barton, John Childress and family, Janna Orkney, Ryan Valencia and John Watts.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

John Childress stated the Simi Valley Days Foundation would like to host the 4th of July event. He feels they can cut the price by $10,000. The Foundation would propose craft and food vendors; there would be no beer served. They suggest shooting fireworks from Simi Valley High School to reduce the cost of fencing.

Janna Orkney from the Oak Park Planning Committee stated the senior population is underserved in Oak Park. She would like a senior center, possibly an alternate use of the Mae Boyer building. She said it would be welcomed by the community.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   a. Regular Meeting – December 21, 2017 – Vice Chair Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 21, 2017; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS.

   a. Presentation of the Full-time Employee of the Month for December 2017 to Jorge Ramirez – Director of Administration Pennington presented the staff report; Chair Johnson presented Jorge with a plaque. Jorge stated it is a pleasure working for the Park District and he thanked the Board for the opportunity. Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka stated Jorge is the sole mechanic for 74 vehicles as well
as gators and other equipment. He is an excellent employee and does a fantastic job. District Manager Peterson stated Jorge is instrumental in our District; he hit the ground running and hasn’t looked back. He works hard and works well with others. He thanked him for being an excellent team member.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Check Register: 12/31/17 (Accounts Payable); 12/21/17 (Payroll)

b. Receive and File Special District Board Member/Trustee Handbook Produced by the California Special Districts’ Association

Director O’Brien moved to approve the consent agenda; Vice Chair Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS

a. Continued Discussion and Possible Approval of a Letter in Support of H.R. 5467 - Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act

Ryan Valencia from the Simi Valley Conservancy spoke in favor of SB 4086, he pointed out the educational aspects, the protection of mountain lions and stated that Steve Knight is a cosponsor of the bill.

Dennis Arguelis from the National Parks Conservation Association spoke in favor of the bill and mentioned the recreational benefits and stated there is no impact on property rights.

Chair Johnson stated he supports the Rim of the Valley concept as it has been developed over many years, and expressed his opinion that it does not take away property rights.

Director O’Brien expressed concerned about the potential for federal government encroachment.

Director Abele stated he can’t support the bill or letter.

Vice Chair Freeman moved to send a letter to Congressman Knight thanking him for his co-sponsorship of H.R. 4086 and stating that the District supports the Rim of the Valley Concept and favors the preservation of open space; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion passed with Directors Freeman, Hostetler and Johnson voting in favor and Directors Abele and O’Brien voting no. Director Abele stated he does not want the letter to imply the full Board supports it. At that time the Board requested staff to prepare a draft letter for its approval.
8. NEW BUSINESS

The Board Chair next called New Business item b.

b. Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection Pump Station – Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka presented the staff report. The Manager of Engineering from Calleguas Water District, Kristine McCaffrey, presented a slide show describing the proposed pump station. She responded to questions from the Board and reported she will also present the concept to the MAC.

Janna Orkney stated that she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Triunfo Sanitation District and that she is speaking as an individual tonight and stated that she supports the project solidly, 100% of the Oak Park water comes from Calleguas. This pump station would allow redundancy and she applauds their effort. She also stated the project was approved by the Oak Park Planning Committee with a vote of 6 to 1.

Vice Chair Freeman moved to direct staff to work with Calleguas Water District on a concept and bring it back to the Board for further consideration. Director Hostetler seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Director Abele asked if the Board could still deny the project.

Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka stated that the concept was being presented at this time and that approval would be before the in the future and that a lot of time and money will be spent in the meantime preparing the updated proposal.

District Manager suggested the Board consider a motion in regards to the concept.

Director Abele stated it is coming too fast, and that it would be difficult to turn back, and this concerns him.

District Legal Counsel stated that the staff report was presented as informational with no board action recommended.

Director Freeman stated it is a significant issue for water supply for the Oak Park area. She said she is personally knowlegable about the Calleguas and Las Virgenes Water Districts and is confident they will be thorough in their planning. If there is one tragedy it could effect thousands of people.

Director Freeman modified her motion and requested Calleguas to return with a revised presentation; Director Hostetler seconded the amended motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

a. Report on the Oak Park Recreation Programs – Recreation Supervisor Peace presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Board.
The Board Chair announced a break at 7:57 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:08 pm.

c. Report on the Planning and Development Issues and Grounds Maintenance Report for Oak Park – The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka. He thanked the District Manager and the Oak Park Committee for their support in delaying the Deerhill Park fence project in Oak Park to keep the cost down and assign the project to staff.

d. Mae Boyar Building Replacement Project Update – The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka. He recommended proceeding with the permit and while also looking for changes that could be made to reduce the cost of the project. The Oak Park Committee approved staff’s recommendation. Staff responded to questions from the Board.

District Manager Peterson reminded the Board how many projects come in higher than estimated. He also reported the Oak Park Unified School District voted to run after school programs on their campuses and that this will have a financial impact to the Park District. The school district will likely not allow the Park District to continuing operating the current programs on three of their campuses. Eighty five of the Oak Park revenue is from the After School Club program. This change will reduce the number of participants in the Mae Boyar After School Club program if the program continues to operate at that location. A lot of time was spent designing the Mae Boyar replacement building, including 16 public meetings. The design reflects the use of the building for the After School Club. If attendance is down due to the school district’s decision we don’t need a building that large. There will be many discussions and decisions based on the school board’s decision. He stated the recommendation before the Board is to finish the permit process and review options, which will include assessing the impact of the school district’s decision and how best to address the financial impact.

Vice Chair Freeman moved to approve staff’s recommendation. Director Hostetler seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

e. Report on District Financial Matters in Oak Park – The staff report was presented by District Manager Peterson. He responded to questions from the Board.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE - NONE

10. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Hostetler attended the CARPD Board Meeting in Sacramento with Chair Johnson. He reported they plan to cut down on awards and focus more on individual awards. The information will come in the mail. Registrations are due by March 12, 2018; the conference will take place at the Lake Tahoe Resort. They are still in need of speakers.
Director Abele attended the Oak Park Committee Meeting with Director Hostetler; the details of the meeting have already been discussed. He stated the After School Care program is an issue and is likely driven by financial need for the school district. He said the Park District has two things going for it: an excellent District Manager who will deal with the loss of revenue and Recreation Supervisor Renee Peace. He stated that if the school district rises to the occasion, the kids will benefit, and if they don’t the program will come back to RSRPD. He suggested the District look at the positive side going forward.

Vice Chair Freeman attended a CARPD legislative conference call and provided an update on SB5. A campaign budget has been developed and satellite groups are being set-up. She also reported the VCSDA subcommittee was never incorporated. They are in the process of becoming incorporated now using the services of a retained professional. She attended the Historical Society meeting with Director O’Brien. The Simiopolis fundraiser is scheduled for February 3. The Civil War Days will take place February 10 and 11. The Historical Society will present its annual update to the Board on February 15. There is a miniature Simi replica on display at Strathearn. Freeman reported the new supervisor for building and safety is a BMX fan, she anticipates the BMX people at the next Board meeting.

Director O’Brien attended the Historical Society meeting which was reported by Vice Chair Freeman. She also attended the Advanced Planning meeting with Chair Johnson. She said BMX will be an issue.

Director Freeman asked the status of the City’s Greenway Phase 3 project. Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka said it is complete and the bridge is open.

Chair Johnson stated he participated in the CARPD legislative conference call.

11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – District Manager Peterson reported the Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka, the BMX operator, Tony Nigro and himself toured and assessed locations for the BMX track and determined issues with all of them. The Advanced Planning Committee considered the Equestrian Center. It would take up a lot of parking. They went to the City to get their reaction. It would open up the whole park to improvements which would increase the cost of the project. Peterson met with Nigro and showed him the graphics; he knows exactly where we are at with the BMX track. The matter will come before the Board.

The Board Chair announced a break at 8:48 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:54 pm.

The Board Chair called a closed session at 8:55 pm

12. 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 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

b. 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

c. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation; One Case


Case No. CV17-09182-GW(KS)

d. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Conference with Real Property Negotiator
Re: Land Disposition: Property Located in Ventura County East and 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 Parties: Mark Joncich

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

e. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Conference with Real Property Negotiator

Re: Land Acquisition: Property Located in Ventura County North of the 118 Freeway at the East end of Simi Valley, Ca

Assessor Parcel Numbers: 620-0-080-025

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

Report and Instructions to Staff Regarding Price and Terms of Payment

The Board Chair reconvened the meeting from closed session at 9:20 pm.

The Board Chair announced that no reportable action was taken by the Board as to closed session items a. through e.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Director Hostetler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm, all Board Members seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Larry Peterson, District Clerk