Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
February 1, 2018
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 – Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. 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: Doug Gale, Douglas Duran, Tom Evans, Theresa Pennington, Larry Peterson, Brian Pierik and Brain Reed. There were approximately 150 guests in attendance, those that completed a speaker card are identified under public statements.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Bob Branan spoke in support of the BMX track. He has been racing for 4 years and stated it is a sport the whole family can do together. He requested the Board keep the track in Simi Valley.

Chair Johnson asked the District Manager, Larry Peterson, to provide an update on the BMX track. Peterson thanked the guests for attending the meeting. He notified them there is a statement on the table with an update which has also been posted on Facebook. Peterson stated the matter is not on the agenda this evening, however it will be on the February 15 agenda and the public is welcome to address the Board this evening. It was determined a few years ago that it was necessary to find an alternate location for the District’s headquarters. The Park District has operated out of the Sycamore Drive location for 55 years; the District has outgrown this location, it is make shift and now in disrepair. After considering options and viewing available properties, it became clear that purchasing a used building was the best and most cost effective decision for the new headquarters. The new location is on Guardian Street between Tapo Canyon and Tapo Street. The Sycamore Drive location is zoned as residential property and the Park District is under contract to sell the property. The developer is working with the City of Simi Valley and is currently scheduled to complete the purchase by April 30, 2018. The developer has agreed to allow BMX to operate on a month to month basis. The District had identified a location for the BMX track. It is a 57 acre parcel the District owns on Tapo Canyon Road. Unfortunately,
after further evaluating the site and spending $60,000 the District learned the property is on a potential landslide. The County of Ventura won’t make an exception for public facilities to be located on or near landslide areas. There are ways to mitigate the landslide; it can be recompacted and a wall can be built underground, however, the expense of such an undertaking makes the location infeasible. District staff members Peterson and Nakaoaka together with track operator Tony Nigro drove around town to look at possible locations, however, each comes with considerable obstacles and expenses. The District has long known the BMX track was important to the public and in a show of support for the facility has not raised permit fees in 20 years. The efforts to date have focused on replacing the amenity at a new location. On February 15 staff will present the things we learned about the sites we evaluated which will include an update on the Equestrian Center location, which unfortunately has limited access. If we were to get the approval to construct at the Equestrian Center, it potentially opens the entire location to all new building codes. There is a dirt parking lot, access is limited on a small residential street; the park closes at dusk and the BMX track would generate traffic, noise and dust. These are major obstacles. The District is a government agency and we have many requirements to follow.

Robert Branam—stated the track is nice and is the closest track to his house.

Rick McClure—stated he wants to see the BMX track stay in town. He grew up on this track in the early 1980s. It kept him and his friends out of trouble and it was something to do with their fathers. He owns a bike store in town and said the track kept him in business. It is important for kids to have an activity so they are not roaming the streets. He asked the Board to not give up on the track.

Michelle West—stated she grew up in Simi Valley and her children ride at the BMX track. The Nigro family has done so much for the community and for people who have raced across the country and internationally. Her child does not want to lose his home track. She offered to fundraise to help the Board.

Dave Clinton—stated his family started going to the track in 1975, and was the first #1 rider in the history of the sport. He offered to fundraise and will do anything to keep the track open.

Michael Lapraik—stated he resides in Thousand Oaks and has been racing with his children for two years at BMX. He is an Engineer for the City of Simi Valley. He became concerned when heard of the issue. The track has been open for four decades. He spoke with Director Freeman and received an update. The District’s Mission Statement fits the BMX need. He stated the BMX relocation project is in the budget and he complimented staff.

Tirell Lazada Smith—stated it would be helpful to know how the Board makes its decisions. He requested the Board push forward and make up the budget difference. There are assets for soccer, there is an awesome pool, however, BMX should be part of that picture. He moved to Simi Valley in 2003 and said he loves to live here and applauds the
parks and recreation district and believes BMX should be part of the parks system. He wants to partner and fix this.

Jaedyn Smith – stated she is #4 in the district. Her home town is Simi Valley, and the Sycamore BMX track is the best track ever. She has been riding for one year. She switched from soccer to BMX because she wanted a greater challenge.

Amanda Burden– stated she is 10, years old and has been riding since she was 4. She is #1 in the district ad want to be an Olympic medal winner. The track is close, and there is nowhere else to ride. It would be difficult to accomplish her goal without the track. She asked the Board to help save her local track.

Kole Berg - stated he is 7 years old and has been racing since he was 4. He is at the track 5 times a week and stated it is his dream to be a AAA pro and go to the Olympics and get a gold medal.

Makayla Walia – stated enjoyed every moment at the BMX track while growing up, she made lifelong memories and experiences. She asked the Board to keep BMX in Simi Valley.

Dillon Walia– stated he is 14 years old and has been riding since he was 5 and became an expert at age 8. He grew up racing and training at the BMX track. He has so many memories and hopes the Board can keep this track open.

Katina Walia– stated she was born and raised in Simi Valley. It is important to provide activities so the kids are safe. There are lots of team sports and asked the Board to please look hard at options to keep the track in Simi Valley.

Taylor Rungaitis – stated he is the #1 world champion and to become the 2028 Olympic champion is his dream. Please don't take the track away.

Chris Gadbois – stated he is not a Simi Valley resident and is perplexed as to how it can’t get done with so much talent on the Board. He asked the cost to mitigate the land and if a track impact survey was done. He asked if the Equestrian Center was surveyed. He stated the park hours can easily be accomplished. Kids stay out of trouble and are not on electronics because they are on bikes.

Nicole Berg – said she has 3 kids who have a passion for BMX. It is a journey of a family that makes sacrifices 4 to 5 times a week to go to the track. She builds relationships with the people she meets. It is like a home to the kids. BMX has built a foundation that spans generations. Her 7 year old wants to become an Olympic athlete.

Garry Boswell – said he was born and raised in Simi Valley. He rode the track at age 12. And his 10 year old son and he rode together. He suggested alternate locations such as the
7 acres of City property off the freeway; the Oak Park County Park, and a location in Thousand Oaks.

Courtney Kimball – stated she lives in Santa Clarita. She started riding at 17. She was a troubled kid, started racing BMX, fell in love with the sport and it helped her turn her life around. She asked the Board to find location, fundraise and pull resources.

Shawn Decloedt stated he grew up at the track. His sons race all over the country. There are quality people at BMX. The track is important to kids and parents. His kid’s goal is to race in the 2020 Olympics. He stated the City does not need another soccer field and said he is willing to work with the Board or against it.

District Counsel Pierik explained the Brown Act and notified the guests the matter will be on the February 15 agenda. At that time the Board will have the opportunity to discuss the matter and give direction to staff. In the meantime, he suggested sending comments to the District Manager.

Chair Johnson called a recess at 7:39 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:43 pm.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   a. Regular Meeting – January 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm
   b. Special Meeting – January 18, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Director Hostetler moved to approved the amended minutes for the Regular Meeting on January 18, 2018. Vice Chair Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Director Hostetler moved to approved the amended minutes for the Special Meeting on January 18, 2018. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

5. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
   a. Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the Month for December 2017 to Belinda Bragginton – Belinda was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Johnson will present the plaque and check to her in person.

6. CONSENT AGENDA
   a. Approval of Check Registers: January 15, 2018 (Accounts Payable); January 5, 2018 (Payroll)
b. Receive and File California Special Districts Association 2018 Professional Development Catalog

Director O'Brien 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. Approval of Letter to Congressman Knight Thanking him for Supporting and Co-sponsoring H.R. 4086 - Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act – Vice Chair Freeman moved to approve the letter to Congressman Knight. Chair Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Directors Freeman, Hostetler and Johnson in favor and Directors Abele and O'Brien voting no.

b. Approval of Candidates to Serve on the Oak Park - Park and Recreation Planning Committee – Director Hostetler moved to approve the candidates to serve on the Oak Park - Park and Recreation Planning Committee. Director O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

c. Resolution Calling Regular General District Election for November 6, 2018 and Requesting Consolidation of the Regular General District Election with the Statewide General Election – the staff report was presented by District Manager Peterson. Resolution 1945 passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

d. Review and Discussion to Determine Official Name and Conceptual Monument Sign Alternatives for District Owned Building Located at 4201 Guardian Street, Commonly Referred to as the Guardian Building – The staff report was presented by Landscape Designer Duran. The Board provided comments and feedback and selected option #2 from the staff report. The Board requested an increase in the size of the sign to make the fonts bigger and requested two options be presented to the Board at a future meeting: (A) increase the size of the sign in order to make the font a bit larger- as is typical on options A and B, retain the address number as shown at the top of the sign (it was suggested to relocate the numbers at the small pilaster but later the idea was dismissed), and keep the wording the same showing 4201, Rancho Simi, Recreation and Park District, Activity Center; (B) same size and font changes with three lines of information showing 4201, Rancho Simi, District Offices and Activity Center.

e. Approval of Names for Rooms within the Office Area of the District’s New Headquarters Location at 4201 Guardian Street – District Manager Peterson presented the staff report. The Board directed staff to move forward with option B
to name the office areas at the new District headquarters location as Activity Rooms 1-4, Lobby and Atrium.

f. Approval of Resolution 1946 Modifying District Policy Manual, Chapter 12. Facility Use, Fees and Conditions – District Manager Peterson presented the staff report indicating the changes reflect a 3% increase in rates. Director O’Brien moved to approve Resolution 1946. The motion was seconded by Director Abele. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

8. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE - NONE

9. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Abele reported he had no meetings. He visited Rancho Tapo Community Park and Rancho Simi Community Park. The tennis courts were in use, but not extensively. The entire horse shoe area was being used and is in use every time he visits the park.

Director Hostetler had no meetings to report.

Director O’Brien attended the Westlake Park dedication ceremony. She stated she is glad the BMX group showed up, they had good ideas. She received a letter from The El Rancho Simi Historical Cemetary District which wants to use Park District land to expand. District Manager Peterson stated the Board has informally considered and rejected the idea previously. After a brief discussion it was decided that the item should be placed onto a future meeting Agenda.

Vice Chair Freeman attended the CSDA legislative committee meeting. They discussed the indoctrination on how the legislative process works. She is also going to the monthly Chamber legislative meetings.

Chair Johnson attended the Santa Monica Conservancy Meeting. He also stated that given the significance of the anticipated loss of revenue from the Oak Park Before and After School Clubs he requested the District Manager to present to the full Board the proposal to reduce District expenses.

10. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – District Manager Peterson reported the Rotary Club hosted a meeting on January 31 regarding the 4th of July event. Representatives from the Knights of Columbus, Simi Valley Days Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, and Police Foundation were in attendance. The consensus is to have a simple event. Given the anticipated time it will take to identify a partner and determine and memorialize each partners role the District will use the authority given by the Board to solicit bids for fireworks. Peterson also asked if Board Members could use a device such as a tablet to view the agendas and conduct other District business, and stated further research would be
performed. Director Abele stated he needs a paper copy of the agenda; Director Hostetler said he would not use the device.

11. CLOSED SESSION – the closed session was cancelled.

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
12. ADJOURNMENT – Director Hostetler moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Johnson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Larry Peterson, District Clerk