1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The meeting was called to order by Chair Johnson at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Johnson.

2. ROLL CALL - Director Abele, Director O’Brien, Vice Chair Freeman and Chair Johnson were in attendance, Director Hostetler was absent. Staff in attendance included Nikki Collier, Douglas Duran, Tracy Engel, Paul Friedeborn, John Krieger, Greg Laranjo, Jeannie Liss, Robert Mendez, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Cindy Richards, Jim Rosales and Gina Viecco. Guests in attendance included Catherine Montgomery and her family.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA) – NONE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   a. Regular Meeting – September 6, 2018 – Director O’Brien requested a correction to Dante Acosta’s name, it was incorrectly listed as Dan Acosta. Director Abele motioned to approved the Minutes as amended. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with Directors Abele, Johnson and O’Brien in favor; Vice-Chair Freeman abstained and Director Hostetler was absent.

5. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

   a. Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the month for August 2018 to Catherine Montgomery – Director of Administration Theresa Pennington presented Ms. Montgomery with a plaque and check. Ms. Montgomery is an Assistant Site Director at Wood Ranch, she is a great all-around employee and a pleasure to work with and deserving of this award. Ms. Montgomery thanked Nicole Silberstein, current Site Director at Wood Ranch for the opportunity. Tracy Engel thanked her as well. Ms. Montgomery is currently on a sub status as she is currently attending UCLA and studying to be a civil rights attorney. Everyone is very proud of her and wish her all the best in college.

   b. Homeless, Vandalism, Graffiti, and other Adverse Activities Affecting District Park Safety – Oral Presentation was presented along with a PowerPoint
Presentation by the following staff members: Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka, Maintenance Department staff members John Krieger, Paul Friedeborn and Robert Mendez, and Senior Park Ranger Jim Rosales. Nakaoka gave an overview of the different adverse issues in Simi Valley, including vandalism, graffiti, homelessness, drugs and gang activity at multiple park locations throughout the City.

Krieger, Friedeborn and Mendez provided reports on the multitude of problems the Maintenance Crews address on a daily basis. They spend many hours cleaning up homeless encampments and fixing issues caused by the vandalism and graffiti. The Pavilion area at Rancho Simi Community Park and the Arroyo Bike Path are the main areas for local drug activity and drinking. This type of activity creates a safety hazard for the workers due to the possibility of coming in contact with drug paraphernalia.

Ranger Rosales reported that we currently have five Part Time Rangers and have four new hires currently being processed for employment. The Rangers work closely with the Simi Valley Police Department and their Gang Unit Division. Rosales collaborates with the Samaritan Center, they are the hub for the homeless people in the community and provide basic services to assist them. The Rangers work closely with the Maintenance Crews to address these issues. Rosales outlined some solutions to tackle the problems identified: divide the parks into two areas, East and West with Sycamore Drive being the dividing line; work to saturate those areas with increased Ranger presence, increase patrols with more use of foot and bike patrols in the community. It is important to have a consistent presence to deter the criminal elements. Vice Chair Freeman asked if this will help alleviate the burden on the Maintenance Crews. Rosales responded yes, he feels by working together with staff, the Rangers will know where to address the problems. Freeman stated she is very concerned about the safety of the parks for the crews and the community. Friedeborn added it is very helpful to have Ranger Rosales available and it is reassuring for the public to see the Ranger’s quick response to the different issues. Rosales added once we have more Rangers in place it will be easier for the District to have a constant presence in the community. Director Abele commented he loves some of the things he heard such as the foot and bike patrol and Ranger saturation. He added it was a great presentation by everyone, he appreciated the time and effort put forth by staff.

District Manager Dan Paranick contributed his input on the issues, stating this effects the core foundation of our community. He reminded everyone that homelessness itself is not a crime, they have a right to use public spaces. However, once a homeless person commits a crime, then it can be addressed and enforced legally. Paranick will be working closely with Ranger Rosales developing an operational plan to address the various issues. He stated we are lucky to have the Ranger Program available in the City and once we have the Department back to full staff and trained properly they will be an even greater asset. Paranick will be focusing on the following areas right away: fully staffing and providing training to the Ranger Program, working with Ranger Rosales on an operational plan, enhancing patrols in hot spot areas especially at Rancho Simi Community Park which is near the High School, partnering with the Police Department to have plans
in place and consider possible use of surveillance cameras. He is aware this is a high priority with the Board and will come back with an update regarding plans and data that is collected. Both Directors Freeman and Abele felt this is a great start and really appreciated the time put in by the Staff and the information presented. Chair Johnson thanked the Maintenance staff for their work and wanted everyone to be careful and safe, especially with the handling of the drug paraphernalia. The Board once again thanked the staff for the informative presentation.

6. CONSENT AGENDA (Matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be acted upon without discussion by one motion approving the Consent Agenda. If discussion is desired the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon a Director’s request.)

   a. 9/15/18 Accounts Payable Check Register; 8/17/18 and 8/31/18 Payroll Check Registers – The Staff responded to questions from the Board. Vice Chair Freeman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with Directors Abele, Freeman, Johnson and O’Brien in favor; Director Hostetler was absent.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Authorization to Solicit Bids for Tree Trimming and Pruning Services at Various District Parks – The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka. Trimming and pruning of trees is probably the most important of all tree maintenance. Helping to keep them healthy and better able to withstand adverse conditions. Staff has proposed a total of 740 trees be included in this year’s bid. There was no trimming last year due to high bid amounts. Vice Chair Freeman motioned to approve the authorization to solicit bids. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with Directors Abele, Freeman, Johnson and O’Brien in favor; Director Hostetler was absent.

   b. Consideration and Possible Approval of Resolution 1963 of the Board of Directors of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Approving Purchase and Sale Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions For 28 Acre Parcel Located at 4730 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, California and Finding of CEQA Exemption – The staff report was presented by Brian Pierik, District Legal Counsel. The owners of the property have offered to sell 16 acres and donate an additional 12 acres to the District. This transaction will help to preserve open space in Simi Valley. Director O’Brien motioned to approve Resolution 1963. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call vote:

   Ayes: Director Abele, Director O’Brien, Vice Chair Freeman and Chair Johnson

   Noes:

   Abstain:

   Absent: Director Hostetler

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE
10. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien attended the Community Action of Ventura County meeting in Oxnard, sat in a ROMO presentation which had an interesting discussion on finding the fine line between helping or enabling.

Director Abele attended the Policy Committee Meeting with Vice Chair Freeman. There was discussion regarding changes to employee access to Golf Courses, crisis management policies and marijuana policies.

Vice Chair Freeman attended the Policy Committee Meeting with Director Abele and had nothing further to add to his comments. She received a Resolution from the Simi Valley Chamber in honor of the District’s 52 years of membership, she passed the document along to Dan Paranick.

Chair Johnson attended the Soccer Foundation meeting with District Manager Dan Paranick.

11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER - The report was provided by Dan Paranick, District Manager. The District received an offer to purchase 140 acres of open space, he will have more details for the Board in the coming weeks. He, along with Pennington and Rosales, had a good meeting with the Police Department, they had a great discussion and are very positive about the Ranger Program. He is still working with Lacrosse; their season starts in January and staff is still trying to find a spot for their practices. Director Abele asked if the NFL Flag Football League had been taken care of. Paranick responded they have been, it is not optimal but they do have a spot at least for the short term. Paranick met with Oak Park School District, they are working on developing a plan for joint use and defining what the shared uses are. They are in the process of trying to work out a new agreement. The District opened bids for Phase 2 of the Activity Center. We received a favorable bid and Wayne Nakaoka should be bringing that to the Board at the next meeting. Paranick and Nakaoka are also working with the Simi Valley School District to place modular buildings at the RSCP Pool facility. Paranick has information to review regarding the Prop 68 grants and is aware this is a high priority with the Board. Chair Johnson added there are still no Prop 68 seminars being held in our area. Paranick continued there is ongoing interest in adding cell sites to some areas, including the Golf Course. The Veteran’s Day Ceremony is coming up and we are on track with that event. The Park Ranger Program is a high priority, getting them fully staffed with the new hires.

Chair Johnson called a recess at 7:49pm. Chair Johnson called the Meeting back to order and then announced the meeting to Closed Session at 7:52pm.

12. CLOSED SESSION

a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2) -- one case
Chair Johnson announced the meeting back to open session at 8:01pm and announced there was no reportable action taken by the Board.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm in honor of Michael Howard, a Trail Blazer here in Simi Valley who recently passed away.

[Signature]
Dan Paranick, District Clerk