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

2. ROLL CALL - Directors Dennert, Johnson, O’Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Tracy Engel, Danielle June, Richard Lemmo, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Billiann Swopes, and Gina Viecco. Guests in attendance included: The Halub Family, Rebecca Badillo, Adam Swanson and Uday Khattar. Guests who completed Speaker Cards are listed under Public Statements.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – District Manager Dan Paranick requested Item 8.a be moved after Closed Session. Item 12 did not have the header printed. Item 12, Report by District Manager will not be included tonight. All Board Members agreed to the changes.

4. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Rebecca Badillo was here during a November meeting to discuss the Skateboarding situation in Simi Valley. She asked for details regarding the plans, funding, and building dates. She stated she did not receive any information from the District and is upset with the lack of communication. She stated skatelab is closed and there are over 30,000 skateboarders in their database, she would like to know what the District plans to do for this group.

Chair Freeman responded the Skate Park will be at Berylwood Park. The City has approved the plans, the District has a $650K budget, the park should be completed around mid-year. Any future recreation activities at the Skate Park are still to be determined.

Ryan Halub and his family, residents of Simi Valley, would like to discuss the Skate Park. He has seen the plans; the skateboarding community is very appreciative for the District’s work on this Project. They do feel the plans could use some additions. They feel it is lacking some elements that skaters would want. They are inquiring if it would be possible to add to the current plans or possibly add an additional location in Simi with different types of terrain. They would like to know what they have to do for the District to consider their suggestions. He thanked the Board and added Simi Valley parks and trails are known for being awesome and feels that the community also deserves a “rad” Skate Park.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. Regular Meeting December 20, 2018 – Vice Chair Abele requested a correction to page 5, fourth line down. Changing the word appointment to election. Director Johnson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

b. Regular Meeting January 3, 2019 – Director O’Brien moved to approve the minutes as written. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Presentation of the Full-time Employee of the Month Award for December 2018 to Brittany Wilson – Mrs. Wilson was unable to attend the meeting. Director of Administration Theresa Pennington will present a plaque to her at the office and she will receive a paid day off.

b. Presentation of the Part-time Employee of the Month Award for December 2018 to Billiann Swopes – Director of Administration Theresa Pennington presented Ms. Swopes with her plaque and check. She is always warm and welcoming to all guests at the Center. She went above and beyond to assist the Red Cross during the recent fire evacuation. Ms. Swopes thanked everyone, especially her co-workers. She grew up here in Simi Valley and loves working with the community. Director of Recreation Tracy Engel feels that Billiann puts the Community in Community Center. Her heart and dedication have really made Rancho Santa Susanna the Community Center that it is. Director Abele visited the Center in the evening, which is a very busy time. He was able to see the comments about her in action. She was very courtesy and polite in dealing with an issue one of the guests had that evening. She is very warm and engaging in the way she presents herself, the award is well deserved.

7. 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. 12/31/18 Accounts Payable Check Register; 12/7/18 and 12/21/18 Payroll Check Registers – Staff responded to questions from the Board. Director O’Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – Item 8.a was discussed by the Board members after the Closed Session.

a. Review and Approval of Oak Park Caretaker Agreement – The staff report was presented by Director of Administration Theresa Pennington. The Oak Park caretaker residence was completely destroyed during the Woolsey Fire. Until the District can enact a more permanent solution staff is requesting the Board approve the Caretaker Temporary Agreement providing rental assistance for a 12-month
approved period. Chair Freeman asked if this is currently being paid from the District Budget. Pennington replied the District has received insurance money to cover the expense. Director Johnson moved to approve the Agreement. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Resolution 1970 Accepting an Easement Deed for Riding and Hiking Purposes (Multi-Purpose Public Recreational Trail Purposes) within Runkle Canyon Residential Development from Ventura County Watershed Protection District – The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka. Staff is requesting the Board approve this Resolution accepting an easement deed from Ventura County Watershed Protection District which will allow riding and hiking within the Runkle Canyon Residential Development in Simi Valley. Director Johnson asked if this will be the last one in the area. Nakaoka responded that there is still one more easement deed. Director Dennert inquired about the markings of the trails. Nakaoka replied we can add signage marking the trails. Director Johnson moved to approve Resolution 1970. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Johnson, O’Brien
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

b. Approval of January 31, 2019 Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee Meeting and Scheduling of the Confirmation of Newly Appointed Oak Park Committee Members – The staff report was provided by District Manager Dan Paranick. The Oak Park Committee requested moving their January meeting to the end of the Month. This falls after the Election of the new Committee members but before the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Staff is requesting the Board approve the Committee meeting as scheduled for January 31, 2019 and the confirmation of the newly elected Members at the regular Board meeting on February 7, 2019. Vice Chair Abele moved to approve the meetings as scheduled. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE

Director Abele reported he received an email from Mayor Mashburn, which he forwarded to Dan Paranick and Wayne Nakaoka. The person has concerns about the condition of some of the softball fields. Paranick is in contact with the person and will be viewing the fields after the rains subside.

District Manager Dan Paranick reported the District received a written request from the Grand Jury for information regarding youth sports. It is a request for information, it appears that all Districts received the same request. Staff will respond accordingly.

Chair Freeman announced the meeting to Closed Session at 6:55pm, see Agenda Item 13 below.
11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien attended the Historical Society Meeting, she inquired if the Colony house at Strathearn is now covered. Paranick responded that it was taken care of. She attended the Community Action of Ventura County Meeting. During a Rotary meeting, a nonprofit group that runs a foodbank, and provides tutoring and shelter for homeless mothers spoke at the meeting. O’Brien expressed concern that the letter sent to the Land and Water Conservation Fund did not stress maintenance more. She recommended a show called The New Normal on PBS regarding wildfires.

Director Dennert accompanied Park Ranger Rosales on a ride along. He expressed a desire to mark hiking trails and open space better. He briefly attended the Community Coalition United Meeting at the Library. He was very impressed, it was a packed room. Next week he will tour several After School Clubs and extended an invitation to one other Board member to come along. Dennert inquired if the Golf Courses are using anti-coagulant or rat poison, he is concerned as this is a danger to other animals. Dennert introduced a former student of his to the Board, he is interested in how local Government operates. Dennert also requested the addition of a future Agenda item to review the District’s Social Media Policy and presence. He would like to invite some people from other organizations to provide some ideas. Director Abele agreed that this is an excellent idea.

Vice Chair Abele requested that staff add a discussion regarding the number of District Committees to an upcoming Board meeting agenda. Due to transparency, he feels it would be best to have this discussed at a regular meeting. Abele requested that all future Committee meetings be recorded. The Board would like to discuss this item and then direct staff if any action is needed. Abele did not agree with the wording of the letter sent to Land and Water Conservation Fund. He feels these types of letters are a bad idea. He also had an issue with the letter being sent on Jan. 3rd, 2019. He feels new Board Member Brian Dennert should have had a chance to comment. He attended the Leadership Simi Valley Social, he saw John Krieger there who is part of the program. He was happy to see the District had someone in this program. He also attended the Joint Neighborhood Council Meeting regarding filling the vacant City Council position. He visited with both Employees of the Month, he spoke about Billiann earlier. He also visited with Human Resource Specialist Brittany Wilson. Abele stated she is a terrific employee and specifically helped out with an issue he was having. He agreed with both of the recommendation letters she received and had fun visiting with her. He also spoke with Recording Secretary Gina Viecco, he feels it’s great having her as the Recording Secretary and appreciates the great job she does with the minutes. He really enjoyed learning more about all the employees.

Director Johnson attended the CARPD meeting, it was a fairly short meeting. The next Conference will be held in Lake Tahoe.

Chair Freeman attended the Historical Society meeting. The Civil War Days event at Strathearn will be held the 1st weekend in February, this is the only event in this area this year. The VCSDA Meeting is the 1st Tues in Feb, anyone can attend, it will be held in Oxnard. If interested please RSVP by January 22nd.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Item cancelled due to misprint of Agenda.
13. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Freeman announced the meeting to closed session at 6:55pm.

   a. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.95

      Claimant: Mr. Aristotle Qutami
      Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

   b. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8

      Property: 5600 Hollytree Drive, Oak Park, California
      Agency negotiator: District Manager
      Negotiating parties: Mario Delgado-Aguiar
      Under negotiation: price and terms of payment

Chair Freeman announced the meeting back to Open Session at 7:09pm and reported for item 13.a the Board rejected the claim.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Director Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 7:34pm.

[Signature]
Dan Paranick, District Clerk