Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES
February 21, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
1000 N. Kanan Road
Oak Park, CA 91377
(818) 865-9304; www.rsrd.org

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

2. ROLL CALL – Director Dennert, Johnson, O'Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were present. Staff in attendance included: Tracy Engel, Tom Evans, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Renee Peace, Theresa Pennington, Legal Counsel Brian Pierik Brian Reed, and Gina Viecco. Guests included Oak Park Committee Chair John Watts and Vice Chair Sherri Wentworth. There were numerous Pickleball players in attendance, guests who completed a speaker card are listed under Item 9.a below.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – There were no requested changes to the Agenda.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   a. Regular Meeting February 7, 2019 – Director O'Brien requested a correction to her comments and stated she did not lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The requested change was made to her comments. However, after reviewing the audio it was confirmed she did lead the Pledge of Allegiance, that item was not changed. Director O'Brien moved to approve the minutes as amended. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

   b. Special Meeting February 7, 2019 – Director Johnson moved to approve the minutes as written. Director O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

   a. Update from Oak Park Advisory Committee Member – the oral report was provided by Committee Chair John Watts. He provided the Board members with an overview of the most recent Committee meeting. He thanked the Board for the work done to improve the Mae Boyar Building and the Maintenance staff for handling the recent issues caused by the fire and rain. He commented that the Budget Presentation provided by District Manager Dan Paranick has been the best one yet and very easy to understand.
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. 2/1/19 Payroll Check Register – There were no questions from the Board. Director Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Tennis and Pickleball Usage in Oak Park and Consideration of Usage Options – The staff report was presented by Director of Recreation Tracy Engel. An overview of the situation with court availability and usage was provided by Engel. Preliminary findings have supported the claims by the pickleball players regarding the number of players and the need for additional dedicated court time. Due to the holidays, weather and fire situation the survey by staff was not able to be fully completed. Engel outlined four different options for consideration by the Board. District Manager Dan Paranick provided the Board with copies of six emails that were received from people unable to attend.

Stacy (no last name provided) thanked Miguel Enciso for organizing Pickleball in Oak Park. She was an avid tennis player and appreciates that pickleball can be played by people of all ages. The sport is growing like crazy, she hopes that everyone can work together.

Mike Rieken has been playing for 18 months and is 1 of the original 5 players in the first pickleball class. There are a large number of players every night with a minimum of 12 people in attendance. It is an inclusive sport including all ages, men and women.

Miguel Enciso, the Oak Park Pickleball Instructor thanked the large group of players attending the meeting tonight. Their group has grown from 5 people to well over 100 in a short period of time. He stated Deerhill Park is the only place available in Oak Park to play. If tennis players are on those courts then pickleball players are forced to travel a far distance into Simi Valley or West Hills. The tennis players have alternatives within 5 mins of Deerhill Park. He would like the Board to at least consider Option 1, some dedicated court times at Deerhill Park for pickleball only. The idea of having additional courts striped would be great and of course down the road additional courts would be ideal.

Bobbi Westil does not agree with settling for Option 1, she feels it’s not a great alternative. Pickleball players need more courts, only 2 courts are not acceptable. She would like to see Option 2 enacted, dedicated times and the striping of additional courts.
Clyde Newman, a longtime resident of Oak Park remembers when the community was given choices on what was built. He feels pickleball is a worthy recreation. His family plays tennis regularly at Mae Boyar, due to the different measurements at the courts, he feels striping at Mae Boyar is probably not a good idea.

Lucy Castaneda proposed that Deerhill Park should be dedicated for pickleball only. She feels they need dedicated courts, pickleball can get 6 Courts out of 4 tennis courts.

Director O’Brien suggested the District start with Option 1 and then if needed in the future move to other options.

Director Johnson thanked the attendees. This issue has already been addressed in Simi Valley, pickleball is a lot of fun to play and offers great camaraderie as people get older. He would like to look at this a bit longer, to see if it is possible to convert the Deerhill courts to only pickleball. He doesn’t feel the Mae Boyar courts should be striped for pickleball.

Director Dennert likes that all ages can be involved with pickleball, he enjoys the game himself. He likes the idea of more people playing and using the parks; he would like to see the capacity increased. Increased capacity means more people are playing. He suggested the players reach out to the School District, possibly they can use the Middle School courts when school is not in session. If Option 1 is enacted then the District can look at the other options in the future.

Vice Chair Abele feels some action should be taken tonight, either Option 1 or 2. The issue is about having the parks used. He commended Director of Recreation Tracy Engel for the excellent report tonight. He stressed how much he likes having options presented. He does not care for a recommendation being forced onto the Board. He hopes to see future reports with options provided. He also commended Oak Park Recreation Supervisor Renee Peace. She has a great way of emphasizing events and feels she is a great representative for Oak Park. When this issue came up in Simi Valley, he personally went out to survey the park activity and found the tennis courts were not being used, while the pickleball courts were always full. Due to his own research he feels that Engel and Peace’s report is accurate as he has seen this first hand. Abele had a few questions for Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka. He inquired what a rough cost estimate would be for striping existing courts as opposed to building or converting a court to pickleball only. Nakaoka responded roughly $4,000 for striping and up to $100,000 per court to convert or build. Abele added local governments are facing a shortage of funding, it is not feasible to spend the amount needed to convert or build at this time. Striping the courts however is a small cost. He stated he is heading for Option 2, at a minimum Option 1.

Chair Freeman feels the Board will be back dealing with this issue if action is not taken today. She feels there are plenty of tennis courts available in Oak Park with the High School courts included. She would like to see Option 3 as the selection tonight.
Vice Chair Abele likes the idea of enacting Option 3. He inquired what the Pickleball community's feeling was on Option 3.

Previous speaker Miguel Enciso was really excited about this possibility. He came in with reasonable expectations, hoping for Option 1 or 2. Option 3 would be great for the pickleball community. He inquired if this would happen immediately and if they could keep the nets on the courts. Nakaoka responded it would happen right away and the District will leave the nets on the courts. Peace stated she currently has Tennis lessons scheduled on the Deerhill Court so those will have to finish before the courts can be dedicated for Pickleball only.

Director Johnson clarified that this would make the Deerhill courts, which are already striped for pickleball, exclusive pickleball use only not just dedicated hours. Johnson would like this to be reviewed at some point in the future, in anticipation of the tennis players not liking this arrangement.

Director Dennert also likes Option 3. He requests District Staff reach out to the School District and provide information on optional tennis courts for public play at the schools.

Director Abele moved to implement Option 3 including placing signage for alternate tennis courts, leaving the nets in place, and a review in 6 months. The timeline for implementation will take place after the scheduled tennis classes. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

b. Confirm the Appointment of Candidates to Serve on the Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee – The staff report was presented by District Manager Dan Paranick. The most recent election was held on January 22, 2019. Staff recommends that the Board confirm the appointment of the individuals voted to serve on the Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee: John Watts, Sherri Wentworth, Carolyn Cass-Barton, and James Ebert. Committee Member Wentworth stated she is happy to be part of the Community and is looking forward to serving the Community.

Director Johnson moved to confirm the appointments. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

c. Approval of Lease Agreement between Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and Yamaha Financial Services for the Golf Cart Fleet Lease and Analysis of Golf Cart Rental Rates for Simi Hills Golf Course – The staff report was provided by Golf Course Manager Brian Reed. Yamaha Golf Car Company provided the lowest bid as well as the best value. In regards to the rental cost, the goal has been to be not the cheapest or most expensive. There has not been much pushback on a $1 increase on rack and senior rates. Simi Hills Twilight/Sunset rates are a bit higher than other courses so those will be unchanged. Staff requests the Board approve the Lease Agreement with Yamaha Financial Services and approve a $1 increase to rack and senior cart rental rates.
Vice Chair Abele stated Golf Course operations are excellent thanks to Brian Reed. However, he feels the District needs to address increasing revenue. He would have liked to see an analysis of a $2 rate increase along with the $1 increase, he does not see anything in this report that indicates a loss of any golfers with a $2 increase. He thinks this is the best timing to increase the fees for the next several years. He feels this was already decided at the January 3rd Board Meeting which shows a systemic problem in the way the District is doing business right now. While he likes offering a senior discount, no other courses offer that and he feels there is no reason the Senior Rate could not be increased by $2. While this report is well thought out and thorough with the information, it did not address the concerns that Abele had brought up with the rate increase at the previous meeting. There are several points Abele would like to stress: He will be voting yes on the lease agreement but it is an empathic no on the $1 increase. He requests items dealing with District revenue be placed on meeting agendas in a timely manner to allow for decisions. He also requests the Board be provided with multiple options, similar to Tracy Engel’s report from earlier, as opposed to being presented with only one option in the future. Abele asked if the green fees are reviewed annually. Reed responded not necessarily, the last increase was July 1, 2018; he monitors the current consumer trends to gauge when to adjust rates. Abele would like to see this item come before the Board well in advance. Abele asked if when surveying the golfers regarding the increase, did anyone ask about a $2 increase as opposed to $1. Reed responded they did not.

Director Dennert asked why a Senior Discount is offered. Reed answered it was offered before the District took over operation of the courses, he added there is also a discount for young adults and students. Dennert feels this is the time to raise rates with the new carts, possibly splitting the increase amongst different rates. Dennert is open to raising rates past the current suggestion for the Rack and Senior Rates only.

Director Johnson moved to approve the Lease for new Gold Carts as written. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Vice Chair Abele moved to approve a $2 increase to the Rack and Senior rates, leaving all other rates the same with a 3-6 month follow up report provided for the Board. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 3 to 2 vote as follows:

Ayes: Abele, Dennert, O’Brien
Noes: Johnson, Freeman
Abstain:
Absent:

Chair Freeman called a brief recess at 8:27pm. Chair Freeman announced the meeting back to open session at 8:32pm.

d. Consideration and Approval of an Award of Contract for the BMX Dirt Hauling Project - The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoa. Staff is requesting the Board award a contract for the BMX dirt hauling project to the lowest bidder, Unlimited Engineering Contracting, Inc. of
Simi Valley. The project is scheduled to begin on March 1, 2019 but the contractor wants to start this Tuesday.

Vice Chair Abele asked how this cost compares to the Budget and where the District is at with the entire budget for this project. Nakaoka responded it is $9,000 less than the amount budgeted. So far, the project is around $120,000 in design and permitting fees. Nakaoka feels the project should finish around $1 million.

Director Dennert asked who will pay the utilities. Nakaoka answered it is not known at this time but it looks like BMX will be paying.

Director Dennert moved to approve the Contract. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

e. Approval of the Purchase of Four (4) Chevrolet Colorado Extended Cab Pick-Up Trucks through California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) – The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka. To continue with the District’s vehicle replacement program, staff is requesting the Board authorize the purchase of 4 additional vehicles. These vehicles will go to the Maintenance Department, it is important to have the 4-wheel drive vehicles available especially in emergency situations.

Director Johnson moved to approve the Vehicle purchases. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – District Manager Dan Paranick reported the District has received a written request for nominations for the CSDA Board.

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Dennert was following the Social Media pages for other Districts on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. He requested the other Board Members take a look at other Districts as well to get ideas before the next meeting. He would like staff to identify the approximate cost to allow discounts for those employees eligible for the part-time Holiday to enroll in District programs. He will be attending the Teen Night held next Friday and invited any other Board members to come along.

Director O’Brien had no meetings to report. She did report on the possible Borderline Memorial Bench. The families would like the bench to be easily accessible. She would like to be kept in the loop for the Community Cleanup Days for Oak Park. Paranick responded staff will notify the entire Board of the dates.

Director Johnson attended the Finance Committee Meeting and the Soccer Foundation Meeting. He was impressed by Shana Moore getting the Soccer Foundation to agree to a quarterly schedule. Johnson will be leaving for Hawaii but will be back for next scheduled Board meeting.
Vice Chair Abele attended the Finance Committee Meeting and the City Council meeting for the swearing in of the new Council Member. He liked that the City was transparent in the process of selecting the new member and felt that worked well. He met newly Elected Council Member Ruth Luevanos, he was very impressed by her. He also spoke to Recreation Supervisor Richard Lemmo. Abele feels Lemmo is a star, very knowledgeable with a creative mind.

Chair Freeman announced CSDA has openings on their Board if anyone is interested. She is requesting a discussion regarding the District Committee process, which has been in place for 50 years, be added to a March Board Meeting. Vice Chair Abele requested staff please provide options with this report. District Manager Paranick responded this item will be added to the March 21, 2019 meeting.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by District Manager Dan Paranick. The District has received the quote for the cleanup of Challenger Park due to the recent mud flow, the estimated cost is $280,000. This will be covered through insurance or FEMA. The Simi Valley Leadership class will be preparing bleed control kits for public buildings in the community. This coming week will be the transition of the remaining staff from Sycamore Drive to the Activity Center. The March 7th Board meeting will include discussions regarding: District Social Media presence, Cell Tower Agreements, Assessments, After-School Clubs Rates, Investment possibilities, and Easements.

13. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm.