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 Vice Chair Abele.

2. ROLL CALL – Directors Dennert, Johnson, O’Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were in attendance. Staff is attendance included: Douglas Duran, Tracy Engel, Tom Evans, Danielle June, Richard Lemmo, Jeannie Liss, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Renee Peace, Theresa Pennington, Legal Counsel Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Carolyn Valdez, and Gina Viecco. Guests included: Oak Park Committee Chair John Watts, Kristy Fowler from the Acorn, Pickleball Instructor Miguel Enciso, a large group of supports for the Tennis Courts. The guests who completed Speaker Cards are listed below under item 9.a.

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 21, 2019 – Director O’Brien moved to approve the minutes as written. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

   b. Special Meeting February 26, 2019 – Vice Chair Abele 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 February 2019 to Carolyn Valdez- Director of Administration Theresa Pennington presented Ms. Valdez with her plaque and she will receive a paid day off. Carolyn has been with the District for 8 years, this is her 2nd Employee of the Month Award. Carolyn thanked everyone for her award. District Manager Dan Paranick appreciates all of the hard work and her passion for the Historical Society. Chair Freeman added Carolyn really deserves this award, she brings so much value to the District. Vice Chair Abele was very impressed with Carolyn when he met with her, the award is
amended - approved

very well deserved. Chair O’Brien commended Carolyn on the way she handles events at the Park, she hosted a Red Hat get together for her one year ago and did an excellent job. Director Dennert appreciates all of the hard work and dedication. Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka concluded by stating Carolyn is an excellent employee who gets the job done and requires little supervision.

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. 2/15/19 Accounts Payable Check Register; 2/15/19 Payroll Check Register – Staff responded to questions from the Board.

   b. Approval of Notice of Completion and Final Acceptance for the Rancho Simi Community Park Pool Modular Building Expansion Project.

   c. Approval of Notice of Completion and Final Acceptance for the Irvine Road Bridge Replacement Project.

   Director O’Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Consideration of Setting a Meeting in Oak Park and other options for the shared use of District operated courts for Tennis and Pickleball – The staff report was presented by District Manager Dan Paranick. Staff requests the Board consider setting a meeting in Oak Park to address the concerns of tennis players. The community felt they were not given the opportunity to weigh in on the topic. Chair Freeman attended the MAC Meeting in Oak Park and received a lot of input from the tennis community, she feels there is cause to re-evaluate the decision made by the Board. Chair Freeman opened the topic to public comments.

   Nena Suwara, a resident of Oak Park is concerned the decision was made without input from the community. She is disappointed at the process and is concerned that people will be coming from other areas into their neighborhood.

   Drew Koval has been playing at these courts since he was 3 years old. This park is the main location he trains at.

   Lois Koval, a resident of Oak Park does not feel they were adequately notified of the meeting. It is difficult for working parents to attend meetings. She requested the Board to not close these courts to tennis players.
John Koval, resident of Oak Park thanked the Board for allowing the public comments and for delaying the decision to allow further discussion.

Linda Kapitz has been playing tennis at Deerhill for 17 years. She has no problem sharing the courts but does not agree with the exclusivity for pickleball. She added the parking situation needs to be explored as there is not enough space for cars and emergency access if needed.

Janice Smets, new Member of the MAC Board, was not aware of the decision process. She needs time to make a decision, does not like having a deadline. They need to evaluate the community impact, she represents her community not pickleball players.

Kelly Mills is on the Park property 6 out of 7 days per week, she does not feel the community was given fair notice of the previous meeting. She asked the District to try to find a way to notify the community regarding decisions.

Anil Gupav plays tennis with his daughter almost every day. He feels there are too many pickleball players in the Park. He thanked the Board for reconsidering.

Marc Weisman, resident of Oak Park, does not play either game. He is concerned about the impact on the parks due to the influx of people. He feels there is too much traffic and too many pets.

Carol Henry has 2 boys that play tennis almost every day. She welcomes a meeting to address the situation. She feels the District needs to notify the community through the Acorn Newspaper.

Ted Volk, resident of Oak Park was trying to play tennis this Monday. He could not because the Deerhill lights were not working and the High School and Mae Boyar Courts were full. He feels the tennis and pickleball communities can work together.

Michelle Billing, resident of Oak Park, stated the item on the previous Agenda only stated a discussion about pickleball without mentioning tennis. They play tennis weekly, she has no problem sharing but they will not be displaced by pickleball only.

Ming Fei’s children play Tennis at Deerhill. She was not aware of any additional meeting and was disappointed the community was not notified. She feels it is difficult to access the courts so they are not able to play as often as they would like. She stated most pickleball players are not Oak Park residents.

Hong Yu thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the community. She is a new resident of Oak Park and has recently learned tennis. She does not want to fight pickleball players, however last Thursday all courts were being used by pickleball players. She suggested building new courts for pickleball players.
Ning Rosenthal thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She feels they made a big impactful decision without consulting the community first. Please make sure all residents are notified of future meetings. She questioned why Total Tennis Academy is able to reserve courts. She also brought up an unrelated item, concerning damaged trees falling during the last storm.

Chris Ruan thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He was not aware of this issue previously, feels the residents need to be fully notified prior to any decisions. He supports delaying the decision and holding another meeting.

Bing Xu Liu, daughter has played tennis for 7 years. Monday, they drove around for 1 hour looking for a court to play on but they were all full.

Victoria Zhu lives near the Deerhill Courts. She feels it is so difficult to find open courts especially in the Summer. She feels the pickleball players cause disruption to the neighborhoods.

Steve Hu thanked the Board for listening. He is concerned that private lessons are being allowed for pickleball. He is concerned about traffic and disruptions to the community.

Panchey Wang lives near Deerhill Park, she had no idea about the previous meeting. She attended in October, there were many pickleball players but only 4 tennis players at that meeting. She feels the meetings have not been fair to the tennis players. They were shocked and disappointed on how this process was handled, they want to have their voices heard. She requested the Board delay the decision and hold a Special Meeting for further discussion.

William Tang, a 10 year old Oak Park resident and tennis player is concerned they will not have access to their local tennis courts. He feels they could find a way to share the courts.

Kerry Scherzay was not aware of the meetings. She is a longtime resident of Oak Park and raised her son there. She feels that Pickleball is louder and more disruptive than tennis. However, she feels there is enough room for all players. Her son is new to tennis and he loves it, it would be a disservice to the community to take away courts.

Lingyun Lu, is part of a tennis family. The only time they have to play is after work, and feels they do not have enough courts for the residents of Oak Park. They were not aware of the previous 2 meetings. Please delay the decision and hold an additional meeting.

Yi Tu requests the Board please keep Deerhill Courts open to tennis players.

Vice Chair Abele requested the evaluation of the courts started by District staff continue and be completed. He clarified the previous Agenda Item did include Tennis, as follows “Review of Tennis and Pickleball Usage in Oak Park.” He feels the topic needs to be opened back up to the community. Abele would like to
see some research regarding safety to the community. However, the parks are there to be used by the public.

Director Dennert understands the frustration at not being informed of the meetings, he stated the District will do better. He commends previous speaker William Tang for offering a compromise. He requested the attendees to please review the topic and be prepared to offer compromises in looking for solutions.

Director Johnson has been with the District for over 26 years. There is an advisory Committee in Oak Park with 5 elected Members and a representative from the School Board and MAC Board. They are supposed to be the liaison between Oak Park and the Board Directors.

Director O’Brien stated the meetings are posted in public and on the District website. She personally loves to see people using the parks.

Chair Freeman made a commitment to the people who attended the MAC Board Meeting to hold a special meeting and allow further discussion on this issue.

District Manager Paranick apologized on behalf of District staff for the issues with notifying the community of the meetings. He added there will be no changes to the District policy regarding the Courts until the matter is discussed further.

Director of Recreation Tracy Engel commented there is some surveying of the courts already done and that will be picked up again prior to the next meeting.

Director O’Brien moved to delay the implementation of the dedicated Pickleball Court schedule and to re-agendized the Tennis and Pickleball discussion for the Board Meeting to be held on May 2, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Oak Park Community Center. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chair Freeman called a brief recess at 8:09pm. Chair Freeman called the meeting back to order at 8:15pm.

b. Review of Before and After School Club Fee Structure and Proposed Fee Increase for 2019-20 School Year and 2019 Summer Day Camp – The staff report was presented by Recreation Supervisor Danielle June and Richard Lemmo. An overview of the Programs and structure was provided to the Board by June. Staff is recommending the Board approve a 3% fee increase for all After-School Club Programs and increasing Teen Programs by 5%.

Director Johnson commented this is the first time the Board has been asked to approve a fee increase for the After-School Clubs. He feels the District has a Manager selected by the Board to make the day to day decisions. The Board sets the policies, but the District Manager runs the District while keeping the Board informed. He added this is a completely different process than in the past.
Director Dennert commented as a new Board member he appreciates the information being presented at a Board Meeting. He expressed some concern with the 5% increase for the Teen Program as they could just walk home as opposed to participating. He suggested Staff could research the possibility of the State or Federal Government assisting with funding for low income families. He also suggested a 5-minute update from the different After School Clubs be included in the Board meetings.

Vice Chair Abele has no problem with this particular shift in policy, he requested this be brought before the entire Board at the Finance Committee Meeting. He is concerned about revenue streams and feels those items should be on the regular Board Meeting Agenda. He does not view significant revenue areas as day to day operations and feels the entire Board should weigh in. He commended June for the excellent presentation and appreciates the effort. He inquired how Staff arrived at the 3% increase and if they were concerned about losing any clientele.

June added it could be possible to lose participants with too high of an increase but Staff feels comfortable with the 3%. Lemmo added in regards to the Teen Programs the District had kept the fees lower while in the pilot phase. They feel the program can now withstand the 5% increase and not lose any participants.

Paranick suggests hiring a fee consultant for the District, to see what can be charged across all the programs. This would provide the Board with the threshold amounts that can be charged.

Director O’Brien agreed the report by June is great and is happy to have all the information presented at the meeting as well. She also feels the fee consultant is a great idea.

Chair Freeman feels this is a management decision, adding this is quite a deviation from what has been done in the past. She feels this is a change in District policy and wants to have a complete discussion regarding the Committee structure. In the past decisions had been made by two Board members in conjunction with Staff at a Committee level, then brought to the Board for updates.

Vice Chair Abele moved to approve the Staff recommended fee increases. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote with Director Johnson abstaining.

c. Approval of Agreement with Delane Engineering, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services for the BMX Bike Park Project – The staff report was presented by Landscape Designer Tom Evans. Staff is requesting the Board approve an Agreement with Delane Engineering for construction of the new BMX Bike Park replacing the track at the Sycamore Drive location. Director Dennert inquired about any landscaping and if it is possible to keep the water costs down. Evans responded the landscaping at the site is minimal and there are drought tolerant plants that can be used. Chair Freeman asked if reports still need to be
amended - approved

approved by the City. Nakaoka responded the plans already have City approval, they are trying to expedite the process with the City as much as possible.

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

d. Authorization to Solicit Bids for Annual Weed Abatement Services at Various District Parks and Open Space Areas – The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka. Staff is requesting the Board authorize solicitation of bids for weed abatement in both the Simi Valley and Oak Park areas. Despite the recent fire situation, the Fire Department is still requesting weed abatement for the entire area.

Director O’Brien moved to approve the Authorization to solicit bids. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

e. Approval of Resolutions (No.’s 1971, 1972, and 1973) Accepting Three Easement Deeds for Trail Purposes (Multi-Purpose Public Recreational Trail Purposes) within the Runkle Canyon Residential Development from Runkle Canyon, LLC – The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka. Staff recommends the Board approve all three attached Resolutions for the non-exclusive Easement Deeds to cover the portion of the Public Recreational Trail that resides within the Runkle Cyn HOA’s property. Alternately, the Board could deny the request and instruct Staff to eliminate the Runkle Cyn Trail from the Park District Trails Map Master Plan.

Director Johnson moved to approve Resolutions No.’s 1971, 1972, and 1973. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Dennert, Johnson, O’Brien, Abele, Freeman
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

f. Approval of Resolution No. 1974 Directing Preparation of the Engineer’s Report for the Continuation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Maintenance and Improvement District of the Rancho Simi Recreating and Park District – The staff report was presented by District Manager Dan Paranick. Staff requests the Board approve Resolution No. 1974 directing SCI Consulting Group to prepare an Engineer’s Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Director Johnson moved to approve Resolution No. 1974. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Dennert, Johnson, O’Brien, Abele, Freeman
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent
g. Approval of Resolution No. 1975 Implementing a Financial Reserve Policy – The staff report was presented by District Manager Dan Paranick. The Board had previously requested the District establish a Reserve Policy. Paranick outlined a proposed Reserve Policy for the Board’s Consideration. There are 5 categories Paranick recommended to the Board which would provide long term fiscal stability. Director O’Brien inquired about calling this a Reserve Fund. Paranick responded the funds would be below the goal percentages and establish reserve targets demonstrates the District’s reserve needs. Director O’Brien, Dennert and Johnson all commented they like this arrangement.

Director O’Brien moved to approve Resolution No. 1975. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Dennert, Johnson, O’Brien, Abele, Freeman
Noes: 
Abstain: 
Absent:

h. Review of Financial Investments – The staff report was presented by District Manager Dan Paranick. The Board authorized an Agreement with Higgins Capital Management on Dec. 20, 2018. Paranick provided the Board with an update on the type and performance of the Investments, as well as options. Director Johnson inquired what are the plans for the $14.5 million. Paranick answered this will be addressed at the Budget Workshop Meeting. There was not action taken by the Board regarding this item.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien attended the Historical Society Meeting, they discussed the El Camino Real Bell, the women’s club donated this and felt it should remain on the street. They proposed a replica of the bell be included at the Museum Site. She attended the Girls Softball opening day which went well and the Community Action of Ventura County Fund Development meeting. She received an email regarding the Oak Park dog park still being closed. Nakaoka responded the park has been closed and reopened 4 times since the fire due to the damages. The Dog Park should be opened by this weekend.

Director Dennert liked the idea of the museum display for the bell, he likes connecting Strathearn with the local schools. He visited Verde Park, it’s a great park, reported there is a bit of graffiti. He suggested the District add the option to include a photo when reporting an issue at the parks on the website. He visited the Teen program at Berylwood on Friday night, it was a great deal, playing Magic The Gathering card games and eating pizza. He commended the After-School staff at Vista, there is so much going on but they do a great job keeping track of the kids.

Director Johnson attended the CARPD Legislature Committee, there was nothing new for the Park District right now.
Vice Chair Abele visited with Employee of the Month Carolyn Valdez. He attended Simi Valley Youth Softball Opening Day, the ceremony was dedicated to Heroes, specifically first responders and Borderline victims and families. He had a meeting with the City but the School District was not present, there was some value but not as much if all three agencies had been in attendance. Abele is retiring from his job at the end of March. He would like to see the discussion regarding the Committee Meetings be on an April agenda, ideally the second meeting in April.

Chair Freeman attended the Historical Society Meeting with O’Brien. She was in attendance with Abele at the meeting with the City, she feels it could be beneficial long-term. The Chamber had voted at their last meeting to not be part of the Fireworks, they held a Special Meeting since then and have changed their position, they will now be the lead for this event. The City and District would now contribute $20,000 each towards the event, the City will vote on this at their next meeting. She attended the MAC meeting with Paranick. She also attended the Little League Opening which was great, they pointed out the stairs are crumbling and parts of the outfield are sinking. Freeman attended CARPD and CSDA Legislature meeting, there is a lot of legislature that would affect the District. April 3rd is the State of the City event starts at 11:15am for registration followed by the program and lunch. CSDA legislative days will be May 21-22, two full program days.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by District Manager Dan Paranick. The lagoon in Oak Park is filled with mud due to the fire and rain. This will be a significant expense and staff is seeking funding for the project. Also, the irrigation system in Oak Park looks to have suffered more extensive damage due to the fires than originally thought. FEMA damage assessment cost is due on April 1st, Pennington and Nakaoka along with their staff have been working very hard getting this done. The District is also in contact with CAPRI for insurance coverage. The CARPD Conference information was sent out to Board members, confirmation of attendance is due to Pennington by March 15. District Ranger Hoffman received an award from the California Park Rangers Association for saving lives; in 2014 he rescued a family from drowning near Oxnard. There is a need for a Golf Committee meeting before April. Paranick also spoke with the Simi Valley School District regarding a meeting.

Chair Freeman thanked John Watts, the Oak Park Chair for sitting through this long meeting.

13. CLOSED SESSION – NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT – Director Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm.