Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

May 16, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
4201 Guardian Street, Activity Room 3
Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 584-4400; www.rsrpd.org

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 Brian Dennert.

2. ROLL CALL – Director Dennert, Director O’Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were in attendance, Director Johnson was absent.

Staff in attendance included: Samantha Castagna, Sam Cooksey, Tracy Engel, Frank Galanti, Danielle June, Richard Lemmo, Jeannie Liss, Janice Martin, Matt Mason, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Legal Counsel Brian Pierik, Jose Rivas, and Gina Viecco.

Guests in attendance included: Oak Park Committee Chair John Watts, Pickleball Instructor Miguel Enciso, Volunteer Justin DeRoches and family, family members of the Employees of the Month, Oak Park Residents Robyn Britton and Susan Iazetta. Guests who submitted Speaker Cards are included under the appropriate topic below.

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

4. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Miguel Enciso, Pickleball Instructor from Oak Park wanted to clear the negative comments about Pickleball players and himself specifically. They do not drink in the park, they park legally and safely, all tournaments in Oak Park were properly permitted by the District, and they leave the courts clean. He chose not to speak at the precious meeting as he is an Instructor for the District. He feels the Board allowed an unruly group to influence their decision. He added the group was allowed to ignore all rules of conduct, with no interference by the Board or Legal Counsel. He thanked the Board for allowing dedicated times for Pickleball.

Chair Freeman stated the PowerPoint presentation represented 32 tennis supporters. She felt it was a better use of time as opposed to hearing all speakers individually. She added that she did personally apologize to Mr. Enciso after the previous meeting.

Vice Chair Abele stated Mr. Enciso has handled himself appropriately throughout this process. He added he was not bullied or swayed by the crowd at the previous meeting. He feels the process was conducted fairly. He took in all the information and did not buy into...
approved

the rhetoric of the crowd. He understands Enciso’s frustration and assured him he made the best decision he could at that time.

Robyn Britton, representing the Oak Park Pickleball Players stated she wanted to provide the Board an update after the last meeting. The players appreciate the decision to allow the dedicated times for pickleball play. In the last 2 weeks their numbers have grown, all courts are full during the dedicated times with up to 16 players waiting their turn. She feels in the future some additional dedicated time would be helpful. They were disappointed with the decision to not allow tournaments at Deerhill Park and would like to revisit the topic in the future. She has never attended a meeting as hostile at the previous Board Meeting and felt sorry everyone was subjected to that unruly crowd.

Director Dennert feels the idea of having Pickleball Courts at the Oak Park Middle School should be followed up with. He also added there was a Park Ranger in attendance at the previous meeting if things had gotten too far out of hand.

Oak Park Resident Susan Iazetta wanted to address the Duck Pond in Oak Park as the water is receding due to damage from the Woolsey fire. There is a family of ducks and the ducklings are too young to fly for at least 8 weeks. There are also numerous turtles that will be affected by the lack of water. She would be happy to help in any way.

District Manager Dan Paranick assured her the District is concerned with the turtles and ducks and are currently looking at ways to facilitate their survival.

Director Dennert suggested the possibility of a small pool with a duck ramp for a temporary solution.

Jon Watts, Chair of the Oak Park Advisory Committee supported Ms. Iazetta’s position. He would like to see everyone work together and find a solution for the issue with the duck pond.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting April 18, 2019 – Chair Freeman requested a correction to page 3, Item 9.a, it should read “Chair Freeman” not O’Brien. Director O’Brien moved to approve the minutes as amended. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director Johnson absent.

b. Regular Meeting May 2, 2019 – Chair Freeman commented staff did a great job with these minutes, especially with the length of this meeting. Vice Chair Abele moved to approve the minutes as written. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director Johnson absent.

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Presentation by After School Club Directors - oral report was presented by the following Site Directors: Sam Cooksey from Vista Elementary, Samantha Castagna from Hillside Teen Club, and Matt Mason from Mountain View Elementary.
Cooksey gave an overview of the Vista Site. He stated due to having 2 buildings, they have a large number of children and are very busy, constantly rotating activities.

Castagna explained due to having older teenagers, they really focus on responsibility and how actions can affect others. Their site also incorporates life skills that may not be addressed in school.

Mason reported his site has an emphasis on special needs children, they have approximately 80 kids with different needs. They really work together with the school and parents to customize what will work for each child.

Director Dennert asked if there was any technology they could use at the sites that is not available currently and if there is any special training for working with special needs students. Mason stated he would like to be able to increase virtual reality options for the students. He provides specific training for his staff to handle the various needs at the After School Club. Recreation Supervisor Richard Lemmo added the best training is following the lead from the School District Teachers and parents. He added they would like to see full Wi-fi with better connection speeds, more multi-media, and possibly Skype at the After-School Clubs.

District Manager Paranick added he is very proud of the ASC Program and the efforts of the staff to improve it. He thanked Tracy Engel, Richard Lemmo, Danielle June, and the Site Directors for their hard work.

Chair Freeman thanked everyone for their great presentations. Adding she admires what they do, working with children every day.

b. Part-time Employee of the Month for April 2019 Presented to Frank Galanti – Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration presented Mr. Galanti with his plaque and check. This is his second Employee of the Month award. Mr. Galanti thanked the District and Board for his 2nd award, adding he will be working on the next one. Director of Recreation Tracy Engel who hired Frank, added he is very talented and a hard worker. He is a company man who is proud to represent the District. She is happy Part-Time Employees such as Frank are able to receive this recognition.

c. Full-time Employee of the Month for April 2019 Presented to Jose Rivas – Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration presented Mr. Rivas with his plaque, he will also receive a day off with pay. This is his first Employee of the Month award. Mr. Rivas thanked the Board, Dan Paranick and the District for his award. Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka stated Jose is a great guy, a hard worker and has been a great employee for the District. He thanked Jose for doing an outstanding job.

d. Presentation of the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award – Recreation Coordinator Jeannie Liss presented this year’s award to Justin DeRoches. Justin has a passion for photography and does an excellent job as an event photographer. Mr. DeRoches thanked the Board and District Staff for making the Parks so welcoming for the
Community. Chair Freeman thanked Justin for volunteering his time and talent to help make the District so great. Director Dennert complimented Justin on his photos and would like to see them shared more often. District Manager Paranick thanked Justin for volunteering and being an important part of the District.

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. 4/26/19 Payroll Check Register; 4/30/19 Accounts Payable Check Register – The Board had no questions for staff.

   b. Approval of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Revised Board Schedule for 2019 Meetings, Workshops and Conferences and the Revised 2019-2020 Budget Calendar

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

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Approval of Award of Contract for Weed Abatement Services at Various District Parks and Open Space Areas – The staff report was presented by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. The District received several written bids and the lowest apparent bidder is Premier Trees & Landscape from Simi Valley. Staff recommends the Board award the Weed Abatement contract to the lowest bidder. The District has used Premier Trees & Landscape on previous projects.

   Director Dennert asked if there is use of chemicals or is this more of a mechanical removal and where do the weeds go once they are removed. Nakaoka responded there are no chemicals used for this process and the contractor handles the disposal of the weeds.

   Director O’Brien moved to award the Contract to Premier Trees & Landscape as requested by staff. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director Johnson absent.

   b. Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Printz Colony House Reconstruction Project at R.P. Strathearn Historical Park and Museum – The staff report was presented by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. Phase One of this project was complete on April 5, 2018 when the Colony House was relocated to R.P. Strathearn Historical Park. Phases Two through Four will complete the restoration portion of the project. Staff requests the Board authorize the solicitation of bids for Phase Four of the Printz Colony House Restoration project.
Director Dennert inquired about the number of trees that need to be removed for this project. Nakaoka responded there will be 3 eucalyptus trees removed.

Vice Chair Abele inquired if this project will come in over budget. Nakaoka and Paranick responded yes but there have been additional funds budgeted for the project.

Chair Freeman asked when this project started. Nakaoka responded approximately 5 years ago. Pat Havens (of the Historical Society) pushed for the donation of the house. The District was not prepared at the time, so the house has been sitting on the lot for almost 1 year now.

Director O’Bien moved to authorize staff to solicit bids for Phase Four. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director Johnson absent.

c. Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Rancho Santa Susana Community Park Phase One Parking Lot Renovation Project – The staff report was presented by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. Staff is requesting the Board authorize the solicitation of bids for the overlay of certain areas of asphalt at RSSCP parking lot. Certain areas are marked for replacement to keep within the budgeted amount.

Chair Freeman asked if a regular slurry seal would be helpful and if so, how often should that be scheduled. Nakaoka responded it would help and should be done every 10 years. Paranick responded the District is looking to add this to the budget in the future.

Vice Chair Abele moved to approve the solicitation of bids. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director Johnson absent.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE - Paranick received a Grand Jury Report regarding Youth Sports and new laws that will affect Sports Groups and Leagues. There is a suggestion that Park Districts should take some responsibility for enforcing these new guidelines. This will be included as an agenda item at an upcoming Board Meeting.

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien attended the Historical Society Meeting, they discussed the City of Simi Valley Celebration which sounded like a great event. They are having some issues with the patching of the roof on the Adobe. At the Community Action of Ventura County Meeting they elected new officers. She also attended training for the Vietnam Memorial Wall and the went to the Leadership breakfast, which was awesome.

Director Dennert appreciated the After School Club presentations. He suggested that the idea of sharing the School District’s Wi-Fi be brought up at the next Tri-Agency Meeting. He would like to see if ASC staff could speak at the schools as well, as a parent he would be impressed by the presentations. He attended the Soccer Foundation Meeting, he was
impressed by their willingness to assist with a non-profit event. Recently, Mountain Lion P-64 in the Santa Monica Mountains was likely killed by anti-coagulant, he would like to see this as a future agenda item. He also attended the Simi Valley Street Fair and was tasked with spinning the wheel for the public.

Vice Chair Abele mentioned a possible Hot Air Balloon event in Simi Valley, it would be sponsored by members of the community. He visited with the Employees of the Month, the District has great employees and he really enjoys going out to meet with them. He, Chair Freeman and Dan Paranick met with School District representatives. He felt the outreach with them went well and the feedback seems positive. He attended the Leadership Breakfast; it was noted that Simi Hills Golf Course was ranked #3 amongst local courses. There was high praise for the Park District in general and the Golf Courses specifically.

Chair Freeman attended the CSDA webinar. There are multiple bills, she will create a packet for her fellow Board members with the information. She thanked Jeannie Liss for doing a wonderful job with the Simi Valley Street Fair, she felt it was very successful. She gave Wayne Nakaoka’s number to the School District, they have questions regarding the modular buildings at the pool. She attended the Leadership Breakfast and felt it was a really good event.

Freeman also added in regards to the Pickleball Tournaments: Tennis and Pickleball are two different cultures, she feels the use of Deerhill Park is a compatibility issue.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. The School District has a long-standing agreement with the District for use of the pool and they are interested in increasing the terms. Brian Pierce retired after 12 years with the District as a Recreation Coordinator. Some upcoming District events include: Employee appreciation event on May 17, KidzFest this coming weekend, the Mobile Vietnam Wall and Cajun Fest Memorial Day weekend, game and movie night in Oak Park on June 1, Brian Reed will be hosting the City of Simi Golf Championship on June 1 & 2, and BMX plans go to the Planning Commission on June 5.

Upcoming meetings: Golf Committee Meeting on May 20, and Budget Workshop Meeting on May 29. He will also be working to schedule a Tri-Agency Meeting. Topics for upcoming Board Meetings include: financial report for last year, Committee information, Simi Youth Baseball fees, and the Tierra Rejada Landfill.

He also agreed with Chair Freeman regarding the Minutes from the last Board Meeting. He added Recording Secretary, Gina Viecco, always does a good job and the Minutes are in good order when he receives them.

13. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Freeman announced the start of Closed Session at 7:55pm.

a. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

Claimant: Ms. Sarah Garcia
Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

b. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiator:
Agency Negotiators: District Manager and Director of Administration
Employee Organization: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Middle Management Association

c. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiator:
Agency Negotiators: District Manager and Director of Administration
Employee Organization: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Employees Association ("Bargaining Unit")

d. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiator:
Agency Negotiator: District Manager and Director of Administration
Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees

Chair Freeman called the meeting back to Open Session at 8:24pm and announced there was no reportable action taken by the Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm.

Dan Paranick, District Clerk