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 Kate O’Brien.

2. ROLL CALL – Director Dennert, Johnson, O’Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were present. Staff in attendance included: Rudy Cardenas, Nikki Davy, Tracy Engel, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Legal Counsel Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, and Gina Viecco. The following guests were in attendance: Tony McMillin and family members of Rudy Cardenas. Guest who completed Speaker Cards are listed below under Public Statements.

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

4. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Tony McMillian, a Simi home owner near Stearns is concerned about the dirt parking lot at Rancho Santa Susana Community Park (RSSCP.) This lot is used 7 days per week and the home owners are inundated with dust. It also appears to have become a location for off road activity during rainy weather. He would like to know if funds have been allocated for pavement.

Chair Freeman stated there is an amended development plan which does include paving of this lot. However, there is not a current timeframe for completion of this project.

District Manager Paranick will contact Mr. McMillin for more details, he feels there are some possible short-term solutions while waiting for the pavement.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting May 16, 2019 – Director O’Brien moved to approve the minutes as written. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director Johnson abstaining.

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Full-time Employee of the Month for May 2019 presented to Rudy Cardenas – Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration presented Mr. Cardenas with his plaque and he will receive a paid day off. He has been with the District for 9 years.
and this is his fourth Employee of the Month Award. Rudy thanked everyone for the award. Director Abele visited with Rudy and admired his great attitude and enthusiasm. Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka added Rudy is a great guy, he never gets angry and always has a joke. He does a great job for the District and is careful to protect the environment. He really enjoys working with Rudy.

b. Film Reel: Then & Now; Commercial Filming Update - Oral Report

Tracy Engel, Director of Recreation introduced Nikki Davy, the Administrative Secretary for Recreation. Engel stated the District is lucky to have Davy, she has taken over the film permitting process and has continued to grow the filming opportunities in Simi Valley and Oak Park.

Davy provided handouts to the Board with information regarding film permitting from 2017 until now. When she took over in 2017, she felt the completed permits versus the quotes that came through could be improved upon. The handout illustrated the improved ratios since 2017. In 2019, a film Commission Committee was formed as a joint collaboration with the City of Simi Valley and other entities in the Community. Davy has learned so much about the various District locations. The Maintenance Department has been a great help with this process, as well as the Park Rangers. In addition to the revenue generated from the fees paid by the production companies, the District also benefits due to any cleanup, maintenance and improvements the production crews may do. The upcoming movie “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood”, a Quentin Tarantino production, has been the biggest production in recent years on District property.

Director Dennert inquired if there is anything with the permitting process that may cause issues and if there are any conferences available that could increase the District’s exposure to location scouts. Davy responded not really, the turnaround process for permitting is fairly quick and yes, there are conferences that could be helpful, staff is currently researching these possibilities.

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. 5/10/19 and 5/24/19 Payroll Check Registers, 05/15/19 Accounts Payable Check Register – 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 – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Approval to Purchase Golf Course Maintenance Equipment at Simi Hills Golf Course – The staff report was presented by Brian Reed, Golf Course Manager.
Reed started by stating the Golf Courses also have several filmings per year and it is great having Davy assist with the permitting process.

There is a current need to replace aging maintenance equipment at Simi Hills Gold Course. Reed provided two options for the Board’s consideration, purchase outright or lease the equipment. Adequate funds are available for either option. Since there are additional fees involved with a lease and certain restrictions with the use of the equipment, staff recommends option 1, which would be the purchase of the equipment.

Director O’Brien inquired about the length of the Lease Agreement. Reed responded this is based on a 48-month lease term.

Director Dennert asked if the District is obligated to buy the leased equipment at the end of the term. Reed responded there are options to return or buy at the fair market value.

Director Johnson moved to approve Option 1, the purchase of the maintenance equipment. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

b. Approval of Resolution 1979 of the Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, Preliminarily Approving Engineer’s Report, And Providing for Notice of Hearing – The staff report was presented by Dan Paranick, District Manager. This maintenance assessment has proven to be an important supplement to the District’s Budget. This provides funds to assist with maintenance, utilities, the Ranger Program and pays twelve District positions. The assessment will be increased to $38.08 per household for the upcoming fiscal year.

Director Dennert asked if this ever needs to go back to the voters. Paranick responded he doesn’t believe so; he will do further research to verify.

Dennert also added the word “pools” should now be changed to “pool” since the District currently only has one pool.

Director Johnson moved to approve Resolution 1979. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

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

c. Receive and File Proposition 4 – Appropriations Limitation – The staff report was provided by Dan Paranick who provided an overview of Proposition 4. This will provide the public with an opportunity to review the calculation for fiscal year 2019-20. Also known as the GAN Limit, this insures a limit on Government Agency spending. Currently the District is below the appropriate limit, about $4 million under.
d. Approval for Publication of Legal Notice Concerning Proposition 4 Appropriations Limitation Amount – The staff report was provided by Dan Paranick. Staff provided a legal notice to be approved by the Board. This will require a public notice but not a hearing.

The following motion applies to Items 9.c and 9.d above:

Director O’Brien moved to approve the filing and publication of Proposition 4 appropriations limit. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

e. Consider Approving a Revised Board of Director’s Committee List and review of the Suggested Scope and Use of Board Committees – The staff report was provided by Dan Paranick. After input from the Board at the April 18, 2019 meeting, staff has prepared a revised Committee Assignment List which has eliminated a number of seldom used Committees. There was a general agreement to reduce the number of Committees.

Chair Freeman inquired about the Personnel and Policy Committees as it was not clear to her, she feels the Policy Committee is needed.

Vice Chair Abele feels there is no need for any standing Committees, he feels the voters elected the Board Members to act as the Policy Committee.

Freeman feels the Committees operate as working group meetings for input and discussion before bringing items before the entire Board. The Committees are not decision-making groups.

Director Johnson agrees, he feels Committee meetings are helpful as sessions for bouncing items around before bringing them to the Board. He likes having the standing Committees, this allows staff to provide more information. He does feel some Committees could be combined or eliminated.

Director Dennert inquired about the purpose of the Personnel Committee. Johnson responded it does not meet very often depending on what is happening in the District. This Committee met while looking for the new District Manager. Dennert wanted to know if the Committee process saves the staff time. Johnson responded, yes, it is helpful for staff to evaluate items before bringing to the entire Board. He feels the Committees help the Board interact with staff.

Abele wants questions directed to staff be made at a Public Meeting as opposed to Standing Committee meetings, the public has the right to hear these discussions. Board members are here for the constituents. He would like all five Board members weighing in in each topic.

Freeman stated, for the record all Committee meetings are open to the Public and Publicly noticed. She feels this system has been working well and is a transparent process. She added she was not comfortable with the suggestion by Legal Counsel
that any other Board member could attend a meeting but not participate. She does not agree with this as it could be perceived as a Brown Act violation.

Abele responded, there is an easy solution, not having the meeting at all. Abele would eliminate all standing Committees, including Oak Park and the Historical Society, moving those to Liaison as well.

Director Dennert suggested using ongoing business as a tool for staff to get feedback at the regular Board meetings. They would be able to get feedback without putting in all of the work into a report unless the Board is interested in moving forward. He added he would like to be on Committees, and he has a special interest in Playgrounds.

Paranick asked Legal Counsel Pierik if they can set a Committee Meeting Agenda during a regular Board Meeting. He is thinking of being more proactive about getting information to the Board. Pierik responded it does not seem to be an issue, but it should be included on the regular Agenda as an item. Just a general topic without all the details.

The Board discussed which Committees to keep, eliminate or move to Liaison and which Board members would serve on the various Committees.

Abele stated he has a desire to serve on every standing Committee, he feels this process is lessening his involvement. Freeman responded it is spreading the involvement amongst all of the elected Board Members.

Director O’Brien moved to approve the recommendation for a new streamlined Committee list. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote, with Vice Chair Abele voting no.

Paranick will bring an updated Committee list back to the Board for a vote during a future Board Meeting.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – Paranick reported many large companies will not be seeing the discount previously outlined by the Clean Power Alliance. It is not clear at this time if the District falls into this category, he will be bringing this item back to the Board in the future.

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien attended VCSDA which included a LAFCO presentation with Chair Freeman, the fire situation was a big topic at the meeting. She felt the Vietnam Wall was powerful, she volunteered and would not hesitate to do so again. She attended the Sexual Harassment training with CARPD. She requested an agenda item on a future Board meeting to cover pension funding as a refresher.

Paranick responded staff will look into adding this to a future Board Meeting agenda.
Director Dennert stated he was made aware of possible fish dying off at the Simi Duck Pond, he will address this with Wayne Nakaoka. He heard pickleball lines were painted on outdoor basketball courts at the Oak Park Middle School. He met with a School Board Member here at the Activity Center. He visited Sage Park up in the Simi Hills, it is a great park. He was also at the Rancho Pool today, his daughter’s 6th grade party was there, it was great to see so many kids there having fun.

Director Johnson had no committee meetings, he has heard the Redevelopment Agency issue may be coming back. He asked if there is a new all concrete floor at Rancho Santa Susana Community Center.

Paranick confirmed there is a new flooring. Engel added the main issue with the previous floor was with the tiles sticking, hopefully this will be a solution. They are also wanting to update the colors and move away from the current mauve color.

Vice Chair Abele attended the Budget Workshop, the Vietnam Wall opening and closing ceremonies, and the employee lunch appreciation event. He visited with Rudy Cardenas to congratulate him on his Employee of the Month Award. Abele requested to be kept apprised of any significant changes to the BMX track. Specifically the costs, timeline, or ongoing costs for operation. If there is anything significant, he would like this to be added to an upcoming Agenda.

Paranick responded there is currently a small additional cost for environmental reports and a possible additional 60 days to the current timeline. He will bring this item back to the Board in 30 to 60 days depending on the results of the report.

Chair Freeman reported the BMX track was on Planning Commission Meeting last night, we will have to wait for the analysis to be done. She attended the VCSDA and enjoyed the LAFCO presentation. The next meeting is on Aug 6th at Conejo Park and Recreation District and encouraged others to attend. She also attended CARPD meeting, wild fires are a big issue and could impact the Park District in the future.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. He reported Nakaoka is handling the Oak Park lagoon matter pertaining to the turtles and ducks. Proposition 68 opportunities were reviewed with the Grant Writing Consultant and there are several possibilities, he will bring this to the Board at a future meeting.

Upcoming District events include: Car show at RSSCC on June 8th, and the first Simi Concert in the Park on June 15th.

Future Board Meeting topics: the June 20th meeting includes the Budget, Financial Statement, Employee negotiations, Easements, Parking Lot at RSSCC, Golf Fees and the Youth Baseball Agreement. We may possibly have to move some items to July. There will be no meeting on the 4th of July due to the Holiday.

Upcoming Committee meetings: The Historical Society the first week in July, Oak Park on July 11th. He will look into scheduling a joint meeting with the City Council and School District.
13. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Freeman announced the meeting to Closed Session at 8:46pm.

   a. 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

   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
                              Employees Association ("Bargaining Unit")

   c. 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 9:19pm. There was no
      reportable action taken by the Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Director Dennert moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Johnson
    seconded the motion. Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

    

Dan Paranick, District Clerk