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, Johnson, O’Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Tracy Engel, Alfonso Garcia, Danielle June, Jennie Liss, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Legal Counsel Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Carolyn Valdez and Gina Viecco. Guests included: Oak Park Advisory Committee members Janice Smets, John Watts, Carolyn Cass-Barton, and James Ebert, and family members and friends of Jeannie Liss and Alfonso Garcia. Several Oak Park residents were present as well, those who completed Speaker Cards are listed below.

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

4. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Janice Smets from the Oak Park Advisory Committee reported on the turtle rescue. 34 of the Red-eared Sliders have been captured and transferred to Santa Barbara. There will be another rescue in September. She offered her expertise in the area of Marketing to help the District if needed.

Jana Orkney, an Oak Park Resident suggested the videotaping and broadcasting of Board Meetings. She feels this would help the Oak Park residents as it is hard for them to get to Simi Valley meetings, especially since the move to the Activity Center. She recommended Steve Bigilen who does videotaping in Oak Park for several organizations.

Julie Clarke De Blasio, Director of Native Plants for Los Angeles advised the Board of a current proliferation of an endangered plant in Oak Canyon Park and Deerhill Park. She is advocating for the preservation of this plant, please contact her with any questions.

District Manager Dan Paranick stated the District and employees have been made aware of the endangered plant and the District is already working to protect them.

Phani, an Oak Park resident had an incident at Indian Springs Park. His 6-year-old was playing and riding his bike in the park. He collided with a younger child and they both fell. The mother of the other child yelled at them and commented on their ethnicity. He
stated that she became very angry and confrontational. He wants to know what can be done to promote community amongst the residents of Oak Park.

Chair Freeman let him know a District Staff member will be in contact with him.

Steve Bigilen, owner of Stephen's Video & Photography handles the video for Las Virgenes Water District, Triunfo Water District, and the City of Agoura Hills. He stated Video is commonly used for meetings. He appreciates the Oak Park Community and the District working together, adding the District is lucky to have such involved residents. He offered to extend his special pricing to the District which would be $500 per meeting.

Chair Freeman let him now a District Staff member will be in contact with him.

Amy Hu, an Oak Park resident, addressed a safety issue at Indian Springs Park. Her son was hit by a child on a bike and was injured even though there are "No Bike Riding" signs posted in the Park. She and other young mothers are concerned for the safety of their children. She hopes the Park District will do something to enforce the rules and possibly post more visible signs.

Connie (no last name provided) is concerned about a proposed cell tower at Churchwood Elementary School. She stated they moved to the neighborhood approximately one year ago and had no knowledge of this project. She is concerned about the safety of the cell tower being close to the school and she added there is a large fuel tank which could be a fire hazard.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting August 1, 2019 – Director O'Brien moved to approve the minutes as written. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Presentation of the Part-time Employee of the Month for July 2019 to Alfonso Garcia – Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration presented Mr. Garcia with his plaque and check. He has worked for the District for 2 years and was just recently promoted to a full-time position in Oak Park. This is his first Employee of the Month Award. Chair Freeman complimented Alfonso on his work ethic and thoughtfulness. She specifically mentioned a time when he walked her to her car after a meeting ended late at night. Alfonso thanked the staff, his co-workers, and the Board, he enjoys every moment that he works at the District. Tracy Engel commended Alfonso for always going the extra mile, he is not only a great employee, but a great person as well. Wayne Nakaoka congratulated Alfonso on his award. He added he is a great worker and very friendly, since he just started full-time in Oak Park, he encouraged the residents to say hello.

b. Presentation of the Full-time Employee of the Month for July 2019 to Jeannie Liss – Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration presented Ms. Liss with her plaque and she will receive a paid day off. She has worked for the District for 14 years, this is her 4th Employee of the Month Award. Jeannie stated she is
honored to receive this award. She loves her job and working to co-ordinate the
events and volunteers. Chair Freeman added the District is very lucky to have
someone of Jeannie’s caliber. Vice Chair Abele added this award is a bit extra
special. Jeannie was the backbone of the Mobile Vietnam Memorial Wall Event;
it was such an important event and she made it so special. Tracy Engel added not
only is Jeannie a hard worker, she has an incredibly huge heart. She is able to do
so many things with such competency and care.

c. Update from Oak Park (OP) Advisory Committee Member – the oral report was
presented by John Watts, Chair of the Oak Park Advisory Committee. Watts
reported the idea of finding creative ways to replace lost funds from the After­
School Club was discussed, as well as the idea of restoring the Lagoon as more of
a natural habitat. Watts would like to see the Lagoon Restoration Project as an
Agenda item to allow public discussion and further market this idea to the public.
The Committee was happy with the new District Policy discontinuing the use of
Rodenticides. He also added some residents have voiced concern about the
proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Oak Park on social media sites.

Director Dennert added he would like to have a meeting that will be open to
public comments regarding the Lagoon.

d. Public Hearing on the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Annual Budget
and Planning and Maintenance Projects for Fiscal Year 2019-20 – The staff report
was presented by Dan Paranick, District Manager. The Preliminary Budget was
approved by the Board on June 20, 2019, no material changes have been made
since that time. Paranick provided an overview of the Budget, specifically how it
effects Oak Park. Even though Simi Valley and Oak Park are one District, Budget
items are tracked separately.

Chair Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 7:21 pm.

Jana Orkney, an Oak Park resident, is concerned about Budget carryovers shown
on page 39, she finds it very confusing. She feels the District Budget is confusing
and it is difficult figuring it out. She also does not see any funds included for the
Lagoon. She is requesting an outline for the closing of the sale of the Sycamore
building in Simi Valley. She stated the Oak Park Committee was told Oak Park
would receive approximately $2 million from the proceeds, they have not seen
any money from the sale.

Mary Wisebrock, a resident of Agoura, stated her family has enjoyed Mae Boyar
Park for 43 years. There was $2.5 million budgeted for a new building at Mae
Boyar that was never built. She is requesting the $2.5 million be added back to
Oak Park’s Budget. Per the California Public Records Act, she would like an
accounting for the proceeds from the sale of the Sycamore Building in Simi. It
appears to her this Board fails to represent Oak Park and it might be time for Oak
Park residents to petition for a voting representative on the Board. Ms. Wisebrock
submitted a copy of her comments in writing.
District Manager Paranick invited any Oak Park resident to sit with him and he would be happy to go over the Budget line by line. He is open to having anyone come in and he will explain the Budget in detail.

Vice Chair Abele toured the Oak Park area with Ranger Rosales to see the condition of the area at this point. He feels the response by District Staff and Maintenance Crews has been excellent. It is obvious that a major event occurred in Oak Park, but comparing the before and after photos shows the hard work of the staff in this area. You can feel the sadness of the disaster but also the accomplishment of what has been done so far.

Chair Freeman added it is a human reaction after a disaster wanting to get lives back to normal as quickly as possible. There is a natural time frame and the Board is committed to restoring the parks.

Director Dennert invited any Oak Park resident to tour Corriganville Park in Simi Valley with him. This location was also damaged in the fire and is not yet back to what it was before. The fires affected not just Oak Park, Simi Valley and other communities still have damage as well.

Oak Park Committee Member Carolyn Cass-Barton asked Paranick to please reshow the Budget. She inquired if the $1.5 million for Oak Park would have been spent if the Mae Boyar Building had been built. Paranick responded, yes, it would be zero now or negative. She felt $2.5 million was coming to Oak Park for Mae Boyar from the proceeds of the sale of the Sycamore Building, they want to know where the money went. Paranick responded he has read through all minutes from the Advisory Committee meetings and there is no mention of proceeds from the sale of the Sycamore building coming to Oak Park. Paranick suggested Cass-Barton come to meet with him at his office and he will explain in detail.

A resident from the audience asked if Cell Site Lease Income is shown in the Budget and if the money comes to Oak Park. Paranick responded, yes, if the Tower is located in Oak Park it is credited there, the revenue is included in the "Other" line item of the Budget.

Chair Freeman closed the public hearing at 7:46pm, there was no further action taken by the Board.

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. 7/31/2019 Accounts Payable Check Register, 8/2/19 Payroll Check Register – Staff responded to questions from the Board. Vice Chair Abele moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE
9. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Approval of State of California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Designation of Applicant’s Agent Resolution No. 1984 related to Potential Woolsey Fire Emergency Financial Support and Reimbursement – The staff report was presented by Dan Paranick, District Manager. Due to a recent transition of post-fire impacts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to CalOES, they require an approved Resolution naming the District’s designated representatives.

Motion: Vice Chair Abele moved to approve Resolution No. 1984. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

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

b. Report on Planning and Development Issues in Oak Park, Including Status of Woolsey Fire and Flood Damage Recovery and the Oak Canyon Community Park Lagoon -- The staff report was presented by Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka who provided an update on the following Projects: Conifer Water Tank Site, Churchwood Telecommunication Site, Oak Canyon Community Park Bike Path and Tot-Lot Play Equipment. Nakaoka also provided a detailed update regarding the Woolsey Fire recovery issues in Oak Park. There have been many hours of manpower dedicated to cleaning and repairing after the Woolsey Fire and flooding, not only here in Oak Park but in Simi Valley as well. A large part of this time was dedicated to sandbagging for the resident’s homes and open space. In some areas the bags had to be carried by hand to get them into the canyon areas. The turtle rescue was started, so far 34 were captured and relocated. Nakaoka has already started on the plans for the Lagoon Project, preparing for either direction: allowing a more natural landscape to develop or to restore to previous specifications.

District Manager Paranick added the cleanup and recovery has been following the predicted timeline. Starting with cleaning and clearing all dangers, then preparing for the rains and flooding, and finally starting with the recovery and repairs. The Lagoon is now the main project left to repair, some combination of FEMA, State, Insurance, and Grant money should cover the costs. Paranick has been impressed with Nakaoka and the Maintenance Staff for all the work done up to this point. He thanked them for their efforts and hard work. The District and Board are committed to a 100% recovery from the fire and flooding. All projects have different timelines due to the bidding, permitting, and environmental processes. Staff is preparing for the next rain season as well. There will be some decisions to be made regarding the Lagoon, either rebuild it as it was or allow a more natural wetland setting to develop. Staff will be looking for input from the community on which direction to take. At this point it may be best to leave water in the Lagoon and not drain it, staff will be consulting with experts.
Oak Park Committee Member Carolyn Cass-Barton asked if there is a more permanent erosion control option. Paranick responded the District is looking into all available options.

Ron Stark, Oak Park resident, suggested hydro-seeding the hills and the area around the stream to help keep the soil together. He has been attending meetings for 50 years, Simi Valley has always said they would put money into Oak Park. Stark stated Oak Park has been a “cash cow.” He added Oak Park needs to have a member representative on the District Board. If Simi Valley does not want to step up then they should leave the area and let Oak Park handle their own affairs.

Jana Orkney, Oak Park resident, is concerned about the upcoming rains, there is no longer a creek bed and she is puzzled about where the water will go. She suggested an informational or town hall meeting to present different options for the Lagoon to the Community. Oak Park is lucky to have 3 environmentalists in the Community, the experts are here and she feels the District should consult with them.

In response to Mr. Stark, Paranick stated hydro-seeding has been considered and was not recommended, the area will come back naturally. He said, in his opinion, Oak Park has not been a “cash cow.” Paranick indicated, currently, Oak Park is in fact being subsidized. He would be happy to sit with Mr. Stark and review the data. Paranick also added there will be funds available to clean mud and silt from the creek beds and the District will be hiring Biologists to work on the project. He would like some Board input regarding a Town Hall Meeting for input on the Lagoon Recovery. He suggested this could be added as an Agenda Item at the upcoming joint Board and Oak Pak Advisory Committee Meeting which is less than 2 months away.

Director Dennert likes the idea of Community input for the Lagoon. He would like to hear from a wide variety of residents.

Chair Freeman suggested having the fire recovery information published in the Acorn. The Oak Park residents seem to prefer receiving information this way. She reassured the residents the District Board is committed to the recovery efforts and these items are being worked on.

Director Johnson suggested an open forum for Oak Park residents to provide ideas, then have the Oak Park Advisory Committee come up with a recommendation. The Committee could then come back to the Board and Staff with their ideas.

Vice Chair Abele added since the October meeting is joint with the Board and Committee, this seems to be a good time for the public forum; listen to input from the Community at that time and have the Committee do further review.

Committee Member Smets feels these ideas are great but thinks it would be difficult to come up with design ideas without knowing how much money is budgeted for the project. She feels it could be premature to open up to public
ideas without knowing about the money first. She suggested money from a possible SCE lawsuit could provide funds to improve upon the project.

Paranick stated it is not exactly a black and white situation. Plans for the Project have to be submitted first to know what will be covered. He is thinking the money and design have to run on a similar path.

Debbie Sharpton, an Oak Park resident for 25 years, applauds the thought of including the Community. The residents need to be educated and need the District to provide facts so they know what the options will be. She added Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka will need to provide information as he has been working with the pond over the years and it has had pre-existing issues. She also added it will take about 4 years for all of mud and silt to move through the area.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – There were several letters that District Manager Paranick provided to the Board.

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien just returned from the CSDA Fiscal Committee Meeting in Sacramento, revenues are up and they approved the Budget. She also attended the Historical Society Meeting with Chair Freeman. Due to the AWA event being held at the Reagan Library on the 19th of September, the District may want to change the Board Meeting to Wednesday, September 18th instead.

Vice Chair Abele visited with both Employees of the Month. He went on a ride along with Ranger Rosales through Oak Park. Abele was impressed with his knowledge of the parks, staff, and the public. He always thought Ranger Jim was great and is even more impressed with him now.

Director Dennert thanked Janice Smets for her efforts with the turtle rescue. He also went on a ride along with Ranger Jim and agrees with Abele’s comments, he is especially impressed by Ranger Jim’s dealings with the homeless community. He was able to ride on the RSCP vacuum which was fun. Dennert stated the District has the best intentions with Oak Park. However, if Oak Park wants to be on their own, he would support whatever is best for the community. He is looking forward to After-School Club tours with the school year starting. He suggested announcing the new Eagle View playground in Oak Park and allowing the volunteers from the cleanup events to be the first to ride the slide. He requested an informational item be added to a future meeting regarding the Veterans Memorial Plaza pillars.

Director Johnson had no meetings or events to report but he did hike with Director Dennert.

Chair Freeman attended the Historical Society Meeting, in September they will discuss ways they currently work with the School District and how to improve. At the VCSDA Meeting there was a very good presentation on the Geology of Ventura County. At CSDA, Jeff was elected as the Coastal District Representative, the District Board voted for him. During the Chamber of Commerce breakfast last Friday, the District was given a
Resolution acknowledging 53 years with the Chamber. Freeman provided an update from the CARPD Legislative Committee. The Rotary Club of Simi Valley voted not to have the Cajun Festival in 2020 but are planning to hold one in 2021.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. The District will be announcing the new Executive Assistant and Oak Park Recreation Supervisor positions soon. The District Board voted to eliminate the usage of anticoagulant rodenticides. Paranick met with the City of Simi Valley regarding the BMX Track, he attended the Veterans Task Force meeting with Assembly Member Christy Smith, and the Active Shooter Training was held this week at the Activity Center. He also had a meeting with the Simi Valley School District. Paranick spent a day in Oak Park with CalOES reviewing the fire, flood, mud and silt issues. The District has kicked off a Communication Plan with a Staff Workgroup. Paranick, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman will be meeting with Linda Parks in September to discuss joint issues between the District and the County.

Upcoming District Events: Simi Valley Concert in the Park with Michael Jackson Tribute this Saturday, the Kiwanis sponsored Beerfest, and the Simi Valley Glow Event Fundraiser on August 24th.

Future Agenda Items: the meeting scheduled for September 5th has a very light agenda so far, the meeting may be cancelled.

Committee Meetings: no activity to report.

13. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Freeman announced the meeting to Closed Session at 9:11pm.

a. Closed Session Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
   Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 (one potential case)

b. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95
   Claimant: Mr. David Allenbrand
   Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

c. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95
   Claimant: Ms. Megan Braden
   Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

d. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95
   Claimant: Ms. Jasmine Sachdeva
   Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

e. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95
   Claimant: Richard and Cameron Wolff
   Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

f. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
   Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: District Manager

g. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
   Conference with Labor Negotiators
   Agency designated representative: District Counsel
   Unrepresented: District Manager

   Chair Freeman called the meeting back to Open Session at 10:45pm and reported the
   following Board actions:

   Item 13.a: The Board authorized the initiation of litigation on a 4 to 1 vote with
            Director Abele voting no.

   Item 13.b: no reportable action was taken.

   Item 13.c: The Board voted to refer to CAPRI for settlement.

   Item 13.d: The Board voted to refer to CAPRI for settlement.

   Item 13.e: the claim was denied.

   Item 13.f: no reportable action was taken.

   Item 13.g: no reportable action was taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Director Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Director O'Brien
   seconded the motion. Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 10:47pm.

   [Signature]
   Dan Paranick, District Clerk