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 Ed Abele.

2. ROLL CALL -- Directors Dennert, Johnson, O'Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Tracy Engel, Mark Lopez, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, District Counsel Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, and Gina Viecco.

Guests included family members of Mark Lopez and Victoria Talbot from the Acorn.

3. AGENDA REVIEW -- District Manager Dan Paranick stated Closed Session item 13.b was addressed during the Special Board Meeting on November 6, 2019 so there will be no need for discussion during tonight's Closed Session. Paranick also requested tonight's Closed Session be held before item 9.c.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Meeting -- October 17, 2019 -- Director O'Brien 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 for October 2019 -- Mark Lopez -- Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration presented Mr. Lopez with his plaque and he will receive a paid day off. Mark has been with the District for 22 years; this is his second Employee of the Month Award. Chair Freeman thanked Mark for the time he has dedicated to education, it is so valuable to the District. Mark thanked God, his Family, and the Board for the opportunity to work at the District, he enjoys working here. He also thanked the Board for their contributions to the Community, he and his family feel fortunate to be able to utilize the park services. Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka added Mark is also an Arborist which is so valuable to the District. He always does a great job and he wishes he had more employees like him. Vice Chair Abele enjoyed his visit with Mark, he is truly grateful for the opportunity to work with the District. He really is a family man and arranges his schedule to be there for his
family as well. Director of Recreation Tracy Engel thanked Mark for his hard work with all the District events, she has always felt that he takes care of the parks like his own backyard.

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. 10/15/2019 Accounts Payable Check Register. 10/11/19 Payroll Check Register – Staff responded to questions from the Board. Director Johnson 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. Consideration of Special Event Permit Request for Mary Jane Half Marathon, 5K, 10K – The staff report was presented by Tracy Engel, Director of Recreation. Bill Escobar with Elite Sports CA has been offering a variety of Marathon events through the District for the past 9 years. He is requesting the addition of this new event in 2020. The Special Events Committee met to discuss the options and there were no concerns about the event itself. The questions that did come up were the name of the event and the logo. There were some concerns that they represent more of the recreational aspect as opposed to the health and medical benefits of CBD and marijuana. Staff has not yet heard back from Mr. Escobar regarding these concerns. Engel stated the City of Ventura reported no issues or feedback from their community after hosting a similar event.

   Chair Freeman asked if serving beer is normal and what the stage will be used for. Engel responded there are only a few events that serve beer to the participants. The stage would be used for some type of entertainment and to award medals after the race.

   Director Johnson is concerned adding a 4th event will be taking away from general use of the parks. This event seems much bigger than the others, Johnson suggested the possibility of having the event at Corriganville Park instead.

   Vice Chair Abele commended Paranick for bringing this item to the Board for consideration. He does not feel the logo or event are objectionable. Escobar has successfully put on these events with a positive image. He feels it could be a First Amendment violation to deny the request. He asked if the conditions for this event are consistent with other events. Engel responded yes; they are standard.

   Director Dennert expects the materials to represent CBD and medical marijuana which he has no problem with, he would feel differently if the focus shifted to recreational use instead. He suggested the District could monitor where the promotional materials are placed, for example not in the parking lot. Engel
responded the District does limit any signage to the week before the event and staff directs where to place them.

Paranick added staff can follow up with Escobar and express the Board’s concerns about the event name and logo. Staff will be sure signage is placed accordingly.

Motion: Vice Chair Abele moved to approve the event with conditions A-H. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote with Director Johnson voting No.

b. Authorization to Solicit Bids for Protective Inclement Weather Sediment and Erosion Control Measure in Oak Park – The staff report was presented by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. Due to the Woolsey Fire and subsequent periods of heavy rain shortly thereafter there have been issues with erosion, mud, and flooding in the Oak Park area. Implementation of protective measures for any future erosion issues should be covered by either insurance or CalOES reimbursement.

Motion: Director Johnson moved to authorize the solicitation of bids. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chair Freeman announced the meeting to Closed Session at 7:16pm, see below. Items 9.c and 9.d will be heard after closed session.

c. Authorization to Solicit Bids for Fire and Stormwater Damage Clean-up Along Buttonwood Avenue in Oak Park – The staff report was presented by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. Due to the Woolsey Fire and subsequent heavy rains soon after there is an issue with debris buildup along the chain link fence that separates District Open Space from residents along Buttonwood Avenue. The cost of this project should be eligible for funding from CalOES.

Motion: Director Johnson moved to authorize bids. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Consideration of District Manager Contract Amendment – The staff report was presented by Brian Pierik, District Counsel. This Amendment will allow a 2.5% pay increase for the District Manager and a change in the CalPERS retirement plan from 2%@55 to 2%@60 and a contribution to the District’s 457 retirement plan in the amount of 2.5% of the District Manager’s yearly salary. Motion: Director Johnson moved to approve the Contract Amendment. Vice Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – Paranick reported there were 2 emails received by the Simi Valley City Council requesting lighting at the Simi Valley Dog Park.
11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien attended the Historical Society Meeting, the reports for the Halloween and Día de Los Muertos Events were good. She also attended their Annual Meeting and Potluck. O’Brien asked how many responses there has been for the Caretaker Position. Nakaoka responded only 1 person so far. She received a lengthy email from Jana Orkney, Oak Park Committee Member.

Director Dennert thanked Nakaoka for having the bench at the Dog Park fixed so quickly, this was after a community member reported the issue. He attended Día de Los Muertos, it’s a great event, his favorite. He was also at Snowfest and was happy to see how crowded this event was. He thanked Vice Chair Abele for speaking at Royal High School, he did a great job connecting with the students. He also commended Nikki Collier for doing such a great job reaching out to students. He suggested posting the Employee of the Month photo on the District Social Media pages. He inquired about the Skate Park and the passive enforcement policy for skating outside of the designated area. He is wondering if there is a liability issue if the District were to allow skateboarding in the parks. Paranick responded staff will need to reach out to the District’s insurance company. This as well as the bike riding issue at Indian Springs Park will need to be reviewed. Dennert inquired if it would be possible for Staff to look into acquiring some sort of access to Whiteface Mountain, similar to the access at Runkle Canyon. Paranick responded staff can reach out and bring the findings back to the Board, if it’s possible.

Director Johnson had the Santa Monica Mountain’s Conservancy meeting, they spent most of the time thanking Jerry Daniels for his service. Fran Pavley will be replacing Daniels when he steps down. The next big project will be the upcoming Upper LA River Project.

Vice Chair Abele met with Employee of the Month Mark Lopez and felt this was one of the more special meetings he has had. He attended the Tri-Agency Meeting with Paranick and Freeman, there were a number of ideas discussed. He attended After School Club tours at Madera and Crestview. It was great to speak with the High School Students. He commended the program and Director Dennert’s contributions.

Chair Freeman reported the Día de Los Muertos Event had approximately 1,000 people this year, that number is really up from the last year’s attendance. There were also 500-600 people at the Halloween Event, both events were really well attended. Dec. 8th from 11-3pm is the Annual Holiday Party at Strathearn Park. Nakaoka reported at the Committee Meeting another 30 days to have the Printz/Powell house in place. She attended the Tri-Agency Meeting with Paranick and Abele. There was a CSDA wrap up meeting in Sacramento, they discussed Bills and Amendments for next year. She attended the After-School Club tour with Abele. Her son graduated from Madera Elementary, the program is so valuable to parents in the Community.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. There is currently no formal cause for the Easy Fire, SCE did report some electrical flashes in the area. There were 2 additional turtle rescue days, 4 more were rescued, the project is complete until further action takes place on the rehabilitation of the lagoon. The Mae Boyar tree was discussed at the Oak Park Special Committee Meeting, staff is still evaluating options. Paranick attended the Tri-Agency Meeting with Freeman and Abele.
Several topics were discussed including: new school start time in 2022, power outages, shared field use, possible collaborations with Social Media, 4th of July event, After School Clubs, and Strathearn Field Trips. The School District also reported increased enrollment this year. After reviewing the Financials for the 1st Quarter, revenue and expenses look good. Staff is conducting a Fee Study and expects to bring the results to the Board in February 2020. The auditors will be here again next week. The Simi Valley Arts Council are looking at restructuring so there may be new opportunities for the District to work with them. Director of Administration Theresa Pennington has come up with a plan saving the District $5400 in Armored Car Service; in addition, a new credit card processor will be implemented which will save staff time in processing refunds and save the District approximately $5,000 annually. The Oak Park Acorn ran articles regarding the Lagoon Project and Eagle View Park re-opening.

Upcoming Events: Veteran’s Day Monday 11th, Special Meeting in Oak Park regarding options for the Lagoon on November 14th.

Future Agenda Items: Pool Agreement with the School District, Golf Rates review, Indian Springs bike riding policy, District emergency plan, and next year’s Board Meeting schedule.

Committee Activity: Historical Society Meeting.

13. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Freeman announced the meeting to Closed Session at 7:16pm.

   a. Closed Session Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
   Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 (one case)

   b. Closed Session Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
   Existing litigation pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
   Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District v. Southern California Edison
   Ventura County Superior Court case no. 56-2019-00532685-CU-MT-VTA
   Judicial County Coordination Proceedings No. 5000 (Los Angeles Superior Court)

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

   Chair Freeman called the meeting back to Open Session at 7:29pm and reported the following:

   Item 13.a: no reportable action was taken by the Board.

   Item 13. b: was addressed at the Special Meeting on November 6, 2019.

   Item 13. c: The Board voted unanimously to deny the claim.
14. ADJOURNMENT – Director Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.

Dan Paranick, District Clerk