Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Board of Directors Meeting

M I N U T E S

February 6, 2020 6:30 p.m.
Oak Park Community Center
1000 Kanan Rd, Oak Park, CA 91377
(805) 584-4400; www.rsrpd.org

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chair Abele called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carolyn Valdez, the District’s Full-Time Employee of the Year for 2019.

2. ROLL CALL – Director Freeman, Director Johnson, Vice Chair Dennert, and Chair Abele were in attendance. Director O’Brien was absent. Staff in attendance included: Tracy Engel, Jeannie Liss, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, District Counsel Brian Pierik, Brian Reed, Carolyn Valdez, Gina Viecco, and Lisa Weagley. Oak Park Committee Members in attendance included Carolyn Cass-Barton, John Watts, Sherri Wentworth, and new member Nicole Lelie. Guests included many Oak Park residents, those who completed Speaker Cards are listed under the appropriate Item below.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – District Manager Dan Paranick stated the report by Oak Park Committee Member, Chair John Watts, will be given during Public Comment. Director Freeman is requesting a postponement of Item 9.a, this will be discussed further when the item is reached.

4. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Oak Park Chair John Watts provided a brief update from the previous Oak Park Committee Meeting. The tree removal at Mae Boyar Park has been postponed to the next Committee meeting. 5-year Committee member James Ebert has moved out of the area, his hard work has been appreciated and he will be missed.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Meeting – January 15, 2020 – Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the Minutes as written. Director Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director Johnson abstaining and Director O’Brien absent.

6. PRESENTATIONS, SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Introduction of New Member of Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee Nicole Lelie – District Manager Dan Paranick informed the Board that members John Watts and Harry Medved have been re-elected to serve on the Committee. Paranick introduced the newly elected member, Nicole Lelie.
Nicole thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Committee. She was raised in Oak Park and is now raising her 3 children in the community. She felt this is a good way to give back to the community.

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. Approval of 1/15/20 Accounts Payable Check Register & 1/17/20 Payroll Check Register – Staff responded to questions from the Board. Motion: Director Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director O’Brien absent.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Proposed Fee Adjustment for Facility Rentals at Strathearn Historical Park & Museum – The Staff report was prepared by Carolyn Valdez, Historical Park Specialist.

      Director Freeman would like this information to go to the Historical Society Committee before the Board discusses the fees. She feels this would be respectful towards the partnership the District has with them. The facilities are booked from now through the end of the year so it should not affect any revenue until next year.

      Director Johnson is in agreement with Freeman.

      Chair Abele feels it is important that fees for any services come before the Board, this is a revenue producer the District has been passing on. Paranick previously announced this item would be on the Agenda for today, so there was no surprise this was coming.

      Vice Chair Dennert was wondering if it would be important for Director O’Brien to be in attendance for this discussion as she is a member of the Historical Society Committee.

      Paranick felt the Board agreed that any requested changes to fee structure would come directly to the Board without review by Committees first. When the District wide Fee Study comes to the Board at a future meeting, he would like to discuss clarifying the process.

      Motion: Director Freeman moved to continue item 9.a until the March 5th Board of Directors Meeting, allowing the Historical Society Committee to be notified first, as a courtesy to the partnership. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote with Chair Abele voting no and Director O’Brien absent.

   b. Approval of Funding for Emergency Work Performed and Planned at the Tierra Rejada Landfill – The Staff report was presented Dan Paranick, District Manager. Due to damage resulting from the recent Easy Fire and subsequent rain events, there is a need for emergency work to be performed at the Tierra Rejada Landfill site. The total cost for the work is expected to be $2,194,215. Each consortium partner would be contributing one-fourth of the total cost, the cost to the District would be $548,554.
Director Freeman asked if there is any assistance from Insurance or other parties. Paranick replied the District has submitted a claim for insurance. This event is not eligible for FEMA, as the Easy Fire was not declared an emergency. Freeman also asked if this landfill could be gutted and possibly moved to another landfill. Or if it would be possible to sell the methane gas itself. Paranick will explore any options that could be available.

Director Johnson asked if this issue will need to be addressed again in the future. Paranick replied these measures will bring the Landfill compliant to the 1991 order. This could require further work in the long-term future.

Chair Abele is wondering if there is any value or use to the District for this Landfill, is there any way to explore options for this land. He asked what would be the consequence of voting no on this.

Paranick stated the District could be fined for not complying, as well as jeopardize the good relationship with the other consortium partners. Paranick will research different options for the Landfill and report back to the Board.

Motion: Director Johnson moved to approve Alternative No. 1, authorizing the District Manager to amend the Budget and transmit funds for the Tierra Rejada Emergency Mitigation Project. Director Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Director O'Brien absent.

c. Review and Discussion Regarding Bicycles, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Rollerblades, Scooters, or Other Forms of Non-Motorized Conveyances at District Parks - The Staff report was presented Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. As requested at the October 3, 2019 joint meeting of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors and the Oak Park Recreation and Park Planning Committee staff has researched neighboring communities to ascertain what rules have been applied in their parks. Nakaoka summarized staff's findings.

Director Freeman asked if modifying the rules will increase District liability. Paranick responded it does increase the exposure of liability if the District rules allow it.

Vice Chair Dennert asked if Conejo Park District has any issues with their policy. Nakaoka responded they have not had any notable issues that he is aware of. Dennert asked if the pathways are maintained just for walking. Nakaoka responded, the District does have to perform regular maintenance on the pathways. Dennert also inquired if the park rules sign needs to be updated all at the same time. Nakaoka responded for enforcement reasons they would have to change all signage.

Director Johnson asked how the policy would address Electric Bicycles. Paranick responded as currently written it does not include Electric Bikes. To clarify, powered by electricity and has pedals is still considered a bicycle. If gasoline is involved, or if no pedal assist is included, that would be considered a motorized vehicle. Johnson added he would like the rules to specify helmets are required.
Chair Abele asked if liability is equal if someone trips while walking or running on the pathways. Paranick responded the liability would be comparable. The District is not likely to see an increase at the outset, it could happen if the claims increase going forward.

Chair Abele opened the item to public comments.

Julian Bennett, a student from Red Oak Elementary has 3 reasons why he feels bikes should be allowed at Indian Springs: It is good exercise, a good way to get to school, and it is one thing to do other than video games.

Ameya Sapatnelar, has lived in Oak Park for 1.5 years, they chose to live by Indian Springs parks specifically so that his kids could enjoy riding their bikes and scooters. He asked the Board to think of the emotional aspects of riding bikes in the park with your children.

Ahana Sapatnelar lives in Oak Park and enjoys riding her scooter every day at the park.

Nolan Cass lives by Indian Springs Park and formerly worked for the District at the Oak Park After School Club. His little brother rides to school every day, parks serve as a learning area for children. Indian Springs is known in the community as the bike park, it is a perfect location to learn.

Derek Kobayashi has several reasons he would like bike riding at the park: he loves to ride with his friends, it is a good way to get to the sports fields, it is good exercise, and families can enjoy the time together.

Amy Kobayashi is requesting bike riding at Indian Springs park only. She would like this park to be an exception since this is how many children get to school and the park provides a safe place to ride.

Angelina Mallon and Avery Julian, students at Red Oak Elementary feel riding your bike and scooter at the park is a good experience and safer than the streets. They sang a song, about how much they love bikes, scooters and skateboards.

Marcus Brickey feels Indian Springs Park is the safest place to ride, it is perfect.

Abele thanked the speakers for their comments. He commended the children for summarizing their points really well.

Dennert also thanked the speakers and was impressed at how well they summarized all the points. He feels there really is no place for the kids to ride other than the parks, he thinks RSRPD’s parks should be just as fun as the neighboring District’s parks.

Johnson commented there is still a liability issue, unfortunately. He does not want to change the ordinance for all park locations. He would be okay allowing this at Indian Springs only. He also feels the helmet requirement would be important.

Freeman overall is opposed to changing anything that has been working. She would consider allowing bike riding only at Indian Springs.
Abele stated with time things change. We already see people using bikes, roller skates, scooters and skateboards at parks. He is in favor of allowing this in all parks District wide, then review for special situations where we would not allow riding. The decision on policy is decided by the Board, it then becomes Staff’s responsibility to fine tune the implementation.

Dennert feels having different rules at every park would be chaotic. He is against making an exception just for Indian Springs. He feels that not allowing riding should be the exception, not the rule. Conejo Park District does not seem to have any issues and he likes their model.

District Counsel stated in the event of a 2-2 tied vote, this could come back to the Board in the future.

Paranick added staff will follow up with Conejo to clarify their experience with any issues or liability, as well as taking a look at different types of regulations (age limits, helmets, etc.)

Motion: Vice Chair Dennert moved to approve Option No. 4 and include an Advance Planning Committee meeting to discuss any additional limitations or regulations. Chair Abele seconded the motion. The motion did not carry with the following Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve Option No. 5 and bring this topic back for further discussion. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion did not carry with the following Roll Call Vote:

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

District Manager Paranick indicated the item would be placed on a future agenda.

Chair Abele announced a recess at 8:20pm.

Chair Abele called the meeting back to order at 8:23pm.

d. Approval of Resolution No. 1989 Approving Conveyance of a Grant of Easement to Southern California Edison (SCE) for Underground Electrical Power Purposes Within a Portion of Wistful Vista Open Space for the Las Virgenes-Calleguas Interconnect Project – The Staff report was presented Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. SCE is requesting a 6-foot wide easement from the Park District; this easement falls within Calleguas Municipal Water District’s permanent access and pipeline easement. This will not affect the Park District’s use of the property as Open Space. Staff
approves as written

recommends the Board approve the Resolution granting an easement to SCE for the purpose of underground electrical lines.

Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve Resolution No. 1989. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Johnson
Noes:
Absent: O’Brien
Abstain:

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director O’Brien was not in attendance.

Director Johnson attended the Santa Monica Conservancy meeting, there is some paperwork that needs to be completed for Vice Chair Dennert to take over the role at the Conservancy. Paranick thanked Johnson for his 17 years of service at the Santa Monica Conservancy.

Director Freeman attended the CSDA Legislative via a webinar, the first live meeting will be in Sacramento in March. She attended the Historical Society Committee Meeting. Good news, Nakaoka found a possible $1500 repair for the Adobe roof. Civil War Days at Strathearn will be held March 6th and 7th they will host a dance on the Saturday night as well. The Colony House should be finished by Valentine’s Day. So far there are 21 school tours scheduled at Strathearn this year, last year there were 19.

Vice Chair Dennert reported Rancho Simi Disc Golf’s big Tournament is this week, he would like to invite the group to a meeting to recognize the winners. He and Paranick toured Sapwi Park in Thousand Oaks, this is a great park, he is impressed by the layout. He is excited about the Skate Plaza opening, middle school kids are talking about it and are very excited as well. He received a report of an issue at the Dog Park, the Rangers responded quickly, and the constituent was very happy. Great job by the Park Rangers. He thanked Freeman and Johnson for the information they have provided regarding Santa Monica Conservancy. He thanked Abele for the efficient way he has been running the Board meetings. He welcomed the new Oak Park Committee Member, Nicole. He thanked his fellow Board members for the respectful way they debate the topics. Everyone respects each other’s opinions, even when disagreeing and he appreciates that. Earth Day is coming up; he is interested to know if Staff is planning something for that day. The review of the After-School Club fees is upcoming, he will be asking about how the District markets the Clubs to parents and what research has been done in finding funding for the programs.

Chair Abele and Dennert attended the State of the Schools address by Dr. Peplinski. He did a great job with that and is really turning the School District around. He, O’Brien, and Freeman attended the Chamber of Commerce Salute to Excellence. He thanked Paranick and Staff for preparing all the awards, it was a nice touch. He congratulated Brian Reed for winning the Chairperson’s award for the 2nd year in a row. He is looking forward to the upcoming discussion regarding the televising of the meetings.
12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. Nakaoka has a full list of fire recovery items available for the Board to review. The Oak Park Tot Lot project will be breaking ground soon and the Berylwood Skate Plaza project has just broken ground. Staff is planning a Ribbon Cutting for the Printz Colony House completion in early March. He is discussing holding a special meeting with the Chair of the Oak Park Committee regarding the tree at Mae Boyar Park. Staff could not find an agreeable price for the Roller Derby group. He and Theresa Pennington attended a meeting for CalPERS, no surprises there and validated where the District is at with pensions. December financials look good, they were over budget for income and under budget for expenditures. Youth Baseball Leagues have resolved their field issues, for short term at least (meaning this season.) There will be a new parking plan for the Activity Center coming soon.


Future Agenda Items: update on the BMX project, weed abatement proposals, review of the After-School Club fees, options for the televising Board Meetings, CSDA elections, Strathearn Caretaker agreement, discussion regarding vaping policy, the Mae Boyar tree in Oak Park, and update on the communications and promotional plan for the District.

Committee Activity: Historical Society the first Monday in March, and a possible special Oak Park Committee meeting to address the tree at Mae Boyar. Committee Meeting Agendas will be distributed to all Board Members.

13. CLOSED SESSION – NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Abele adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.

Dan Paranick, District Clerk