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 Theresa Pennington.

ROLL CALL – Director Freeman, Johnson, O’Brien, Vice Chair Dennert, and Chair Abele were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Tracy Engel, Lee Martin, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Kane Thuyen, District Legal Counsel and Gina Viecco. Guests included: Oak Park Committee Chair John Watts and Molly McGee, Actuary from Demsey, Filliger & Associates.

2. AGENDA REVIEW – There were no requested changes to Agenda.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Ryan Valencia called in as a Rotarian with the Simi Sunrise Club. The Rotary is planning to host a Drive-In Movie Night as a summer activity. The first one may be on July 3rd, with the thought of it possibly becoming a series if this one is successful. The Rotary would like to work with the Park District to hold the event.

Email was received from Harry Medved thanking District Staff for the COVID-19 updates. Special thanks to Wayne Nakaoka, Eugene Molnar, and team for keeping the parks and trails safe for Oak Park residents.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Meeting – April 16, 2020 – Director Freeman moved to approve the Minutes as written. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

b. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Special Board Meeting – April 16, 2020 – Chair Abele requested the sentence in his comments starting with “This all started…” be removed. Director Dennert moved to approve the Minutes as amended. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

5. PRESENTATIONS, SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Status of the District’s Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic – Verbal Report was presented by Dan Paranick, District Manager. The re-opening of Golf, Tennis, and Pickleball is going well. The Chumash Trailhead will be re-opened and MRCA will be opening their Trails
this Saturday. District Rangers will help them with the initial opening. Messages from the Community have slowed down. The Maintenance Staff will be back starting May 11th working to get the Parks ready for Summer. Budget wise the District is stable. Of course, revenue has been down, but operating expenses are down as well. Golf is open and generating income now.

Director Dennert stated schools will still be closed while people head to work, he is wondering about childcare and if playgrounds will be re-opened. Paranick responded at this time those services are not re-opened, he will keep the Board updated with any changes. Ventura County is continuing with social distancing and limiting gatherings.

Dennert asked if anyone at the District has had the virus. Paranick responded one person tested positive but they were working at home so there was limited exposure to others in the workplace.

b. Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee Report – Verbal Report was presented by John Watts, Committee Chair. Watts thanked the Board and District Staff for the hard work during this difficult time and provided a brief update for Oak Park.

6. 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 4/15/20 and 4/30/20 Accounts Payable Check Registers and 4/10/20 Payroll Check Register – Staff responded to questions from the Board. Motion: Director Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Status of Woolsey Fire Recovery Projects for Simi Valley and Oak Park – The staff report was presented by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. Nakaoka provided updated information regarding the fire recovery efforts in Oak Park and Simi Valley.

Director O’Brien inquired if funds from the lawsuit with Southern California Edison have been received. Paranick responded, yes, funds have been received and applied towards the recovery.

Director Freeman gave a big shout out to Nakaoka for handling so much work. He has done an incredible job with all of the projects, budgets and management.

Dennert asked about the issue with the Mustard plants. Nakaoka responded the plants are a fire hazard and effect the usage of the trails. Nakaoka noted that the District complies with weed abatement as required by Ventura County Fire.

Oak Park Chair Watts asked if the Lagoon Project would be complete by beginning of 2021. Nakaoka responded this project will take some time, looking at permitting and bids this July/August.

No action was taken by the Board.
b. Amendment to Ordinance #3 Authorizing Use of Bicycles, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Rollerblades and Scooters at District Park Locations – The Staff Report was presented by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. Updates have been made to Rules 9 and 67 as per the Board directed action at the Board Meeting on February 6, 2020.

Johnson questioned if Public comments and input should be considered. Paranick stated comments were heard during previous Board and Oak Park Committee Meetings. Abele agreed there were members of the Community at both the Oak Park and Simi Valley meetings, there have been no comments since the vote was taken on Feb. 6th.

Freeman inquired about the cost for changing Park Rules signs. Nakaoka responded Staff will be taping over the 2 rules, so no more than $500 total at this time.

Johnson asked about the speed limit for the parks. Paranick responded 15 mph is in the existing limit, it could be difficult to enforce though. Johnson added staff has done an excellent job handling this issue.

Abele agreed that staff has done an excellent job with updating this Ordinance. He added there are really 2 sides to this issue. It appears that the bikers, runners, walkers, etc. are being respectful towards each other.

The updated Ordinance was read by the District’s Legal Counsel.

Motion: Director Dennert moved to approve the amendment to Ordinance #3. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote with Director Johnson voting no.

c. 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. On March 15th Bid requests were published in the Ventura County Star, the District received 6 bids for the work. Premier Trees & Landscape from Simi Valley is the Lowest bidder. The have been the Contractor for several District projects and have always done a good job. Staff requests the Board award the Contract to Premier Trees & Landscape with a $20,000 contingency for any additional weed abatement requested by the Ventura County Fire Protection District.

Freeman asked what would cause additional requirements from the Fire Department this year. Nakaoka responded due to an overgrowth of Mustard plants, there could be additional clearance requested.

Dennert wanted to verify there will not be any use of Roundup weed killer. Nakaoka responded all work is mechanical.

Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the award of the contract to Premier Trees & Landscape. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Receive and File Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) 75 Actuarial Valuation for the District’s Retiree Health Insurance Program as of July 1, 2019 – The Staff Report was presented by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. This requirement has been
amended - approved

changed from every 3 to every 2 years. Molly McGee, Actuary from Demsey, Filliger & Associates is in attendance to answer any questions from the Board.

Freeman asked about the unfunded liability going down from the 2017 figures to the 2019 amount. McGee responded that assumptions are made regarding rates, retirement dates, terminations, deaths, etc.; health rates did not go up as expected.

Motion: Director Johnson moved to receive and file the GASB 75 as of July 1, 2019. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

e. Consideration of Providing Certificates of Recognition to Non-Profits and Community Groups for Supporting Earth Day Related Efforts – Verbal Report was provided by Dan Paranick, District Manager. Director Dennert has requested recognition be considered for groups who support Earth Day.

Abele feels this is an excellent idea. However, Earth Day this year has passed; he would like to see this implemented next year.

Johnson added the District has done this before, he likes the idea. He would like the entire Board to weigh in and agrees with implementing next year.

Freeman also likes the idea but would like to be clear on the organization that is selected for recognition. She also would like to see this implemented next year.

O’Brien agrees with all previous comments. She would also like a better understanding of the group that will be selected. She feels this is a great idea for next year.

Dennert feels as a Park District we are directly related to Earth Day. He would love for this to be done next year.

Abele feels the certificates are a nice touch and seems appropriate, Abele requested Staff to come up with a proposal for next year and how to implement. Paranick stated staff will provide a report to the Board at a future meeting.

f. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 1994 of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Nominating a Candidate to Serve on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts – The Staff Report was provided by Dan Paranick, District Manager. Resolution 1994 serves to nominate Park District Board Member Mark Johnson for the Director at Large position.

Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve Resolution No. 1994. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Johnson, O’Brien
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:
9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE

10. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

  Director Freeman attended the CSDA Teleconference. She provided information regarding Impact Fees for 2021 and current Bills.

  Director Johnson attended CARPD meeting. He thanked District Staff, the parks look beautiful and the Golf Courses are looking nice. He was really impressed with the Sinaloa Course; they were jam packed and people seemed to be following Social Distancing Guidelines.

  Director O’Brien thanked District Staff; it seems like it has been one crisis after another for the last several years.

  Director Dennert volunteered with members in the Oak Park community. He asked if there has been a decision regarding Concerts in the Park. Paranick responded no decision has been made at this point. Dennert added he is hoping the next Board Meeting can be held in person, possibly outside.

  Chair Abele has visited many parks during the shutdowns. It appears 99% of the Public are following the rules, people seem to be courteous and the restrictions seem to be working. Everything is looking great at the parks. City Council Member Elaine Litster is proposing some type of event for the 4th of July this year. If they want District help, then it could be added to a future Agenda for discussion if needed. Thanks to the Board and Staff, especially during these difficult times. He is looking forward to transitioning back to meetings in person.

11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. The Simi Valley School District approved the agreement regarding the Apollo Fields; staff is currently renovating and scheduling for the future use of the fields. The School District has also forgiven the payments due for leased After School Club facilities from April through June due to the COVID closures. The District has submitted a request for funding for the Arroyo Simi Phase 4 Project to the Santa Monica Conservancy. The May 26th Budget Workshop might be held in person, ensuring social distancing guidelines are followed.

  Upcoming Events: All May events are currently cancelled.

  Future Agenda Items: Vaping & Smoking policy at Parks, and purchase of District vehicles.

  Committee Activity: No activity to report.

12. CLOSED SESSION – NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Abele adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.