Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
4201 Guardian Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063 • Activity Room 3
(805) 584-4400 • www.rsrpd.org

Meeting Held Via Teleconference

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 Lee Martin.

2. 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, District Counsel Brian Pierik, and Gina Viecco. Guests included Susan Barnes from SCI.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – Staff provided Board Members with a revised attachment for Item 9.a.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Meeting – May 21, 2020 – Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the Minutes as written. Director Johnson seconded the motion.

6. 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. Summer Camps will be opening on Monday, June 8th, fees will remain the same. There are only 12 children allowed per group at this time, the Camps will be hosted at District After-School Club sites. We are currently looking at a re-opening date of June 15th for the Guardian Building, the Rancho Santa Susana Community Center, and Strathearn Historical Park. The Birdie Bar at the Golf Course has already re-opened. Staff will start returning to work, currently looking at a 50/50 split between office hours and working from home hours. From a financial and budget standpoint, there are no significant changes. There is a possibility of receiving funding from the Federal Government.

O’Brien is a bit concerned about District finances. Paranick stated revenue is down, but due to budget savings and planning, the funds are there to get the District through the current situation.

Abele asked if the District is still within the projected Budget during this period of time. Paranick responded, yes, and if re-openings happen soon, the District could be ahead.
Dennert would like to see if the next phase of the Activity Center can be sped up. He is thinking it could be possible the cost of construction could be less at this time. Nakaoka will look into this.

Abele thanked Paranick for the recent Press Release, which had an emphasis on re-opening, he appreciates the positive tone.

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 5/31/20 Accounts Payable Check Register & 5/22/20 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.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS

   a. Second Reading - Amendment to Ordinance No. 3 Prohibiting Vaping in all District Parks – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. At the request of the Board, Ordinance No. 3 will now include vaping in the policy. The first reading of the Ordinance title took place on May 21, 2020. Staff recommends the Board request a second reading, waive reading of the full ordinance, and adopt the amended Ordinance No. 3. This will take effect 30 days from the official adoption of the amended Ordinance.

      Chair Abele requested the 2nd reading by District Counsel.

      Dennert stated, he likes that the Rules are more certain now and promotes a healthy lifestyle in the Community.

      Motion: Director Freeman moved to waive additional readings and adopt Ordinance No. 3 as amended. Vice Chair Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Receive and File Proposition 4 - Appropriations Limitation – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. Due to a transposed number in the report, staff provided an updated report for the Board. This will be corrected at the July 2, 2020 Board Meeting. The report is informational, there is no action necessary by the Board.

   b. Approval for Publication of Legal Notice Concerning Proposition No. 4 Appropriations Limitation Amount – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. Staff is requesting the Board provide authorization to post the Legal Notice in the newspaper for public review.

      Motion: Director Johnson moved to approve the publication of the Legal Notice for Proposition No. 4. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.
c. Approval of Resolution No. 1995 of the Intention to Levy Assessments for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, Preliminarily Approving Engineer’s Report, And Providing for Notice of Hearing – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. This assessment was originally approved by voters in Simi Valley and Oak Park and covers certain critical operational expenses. Each year the Board must vote to continue the assessment and approve any proposed increase to the amount. Susan Barnes from SCI is on the Teleconference and available to answer questions.

Freeman is concerned the State Budget will be short on funds. Paranick responded there are no cuts to Special Districts at this time. However, things can change into June.

Abele wanted to clarify; tonight’s vote is not the actual vote approving the assessment. Paranick responded the June 18th Meeting will be the official vote. Abele would like to see this item as 2 separate votes: one item to re-approve the Assessment at the current rate, the second item would be the approval of the proposed increase to the current amount. District Manager Dan Paranick confirmed, the increase can be anywhere from 0 – 3%.

Susan Barnes responded, it could be done with one motion, including a caveat that the rate stays the same. The proposed increase can be any amount between 0 to 3%. The Board can provide direction on the rate they want to charge. Abele asked if the Resolution would need to be changed. Barnes responded this Resolution is noticing the maximum amount up to $39.24. Paranick added it can be left as it is, this shows the new proposed amount. At the next step of the process the Board can choose an amount from the current rate up to proposed amount.

Abele stated he is okay on voting for the assessment to remain in effect, but he is opposed to any increase due to recent events. He feels it would make sense to separate this into 2 votes, he wants to be sure a yes vote tonight does not mean he is voting to assess the maximum amount. Paranick responded the Board is voting the proposed amount is the maximum that can be assessed, this can be amended to any amount added to the current assessment up to a 3% increase. Barnes added the wording on page 2 which indicates the proposed amount is the maximum that can be assessed. At the next meeting, the Board will vote to consider the actual amount to be assessed. 0 to 3%. Abele is confused as to why this is being posted before the Board has actually voted, he feels this needs to be changed in future years. Paranick responded that staff will ensure that the timing of the posting is corrected in future years.

Freeman inquired what would be the increase in revenue with the 3% increase. Barnes responded, approximately $59,785 annually to the District.

Dennert asked if Staff has received any feedback or complaints from the Community about this assessment. Paranick responded, none.

Abele is not comfortable voting yes tonight. He is willing to continue the assessment at the current amount, but he is not comfortable with any increases due to recent events.

Dennert would like to hear the reasoning why a fellow Board Member would vote no on the assessment or the proposed increase. In the event Resolution does not carry he would like to know what proposed cuts would be made to the Budget.
Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve Resolution No. 1995. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following 4 to 1 Roll Call Vote:

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

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Johnson reported the CARPD remote conference went really well, much better than anticipated.

Director Freeman participated in the CARPD conference. Some agencies are considering using Zoom for meetings permanently. There was a lot of valuable information and the sessions are available online if anyone is interested. She also attended the VCSDA meeting, they provided information on current events. CSDA voting is due by July 11th, she is wondering if we have received any information. Paranick doesn’t think we have received it yet, he will follow-up. She reported the Civil War Days event at Strathearn was a success. There is a Chamber of Commerce Webinar tomorrow at 10am, Mayor Mashburn and Simi Valley Chief of Police will have information regarding the protest planned for this Saturday. She would like more information on how the District will handle Social Distancing for the June 15th re-openings.

Director O’Brien also attended the VCSDA meeting, there was an interesting talk regarding police, the Annual CSDA Conference was cancelled for 2020, they are planning for 2021. She attended part of the CARPD conference, there was a lot of useful information.

Vice Chair Dennert is excited to be offering childcare again, some kids need to be around others. The Skate Plaza is looking good, he is very excited for the opening. Nakaoka stated it should be ready in 2.5 to 3 weeks. Dennert asked if the BMX group has contacted anyone. Paranick replied, no contact from them. He participated in the MRCA conference with Paranick in his yard. He would like to volunteer to join in on brush clearance, he likes to learn all different aspects of the District operations. Nakaoka will look into arranging this. The Civil War Days was his favorite yet, he liked the inclusion of Harriet Tubman, it made it clear the war ended slavery. Other park districts are helping schools to reopen, to facilitate Social Distancing it could be possible to have some classes outdoors. Freeman asked if this topic should be added to a future agenda. Paranick responded this can be handled on an administrative level, he will work with the Superintendent. If anything requires a policy discussion, he will bring it back to the Board. Dennert asked if there was any progress with the Rangers carrying Narcan and if they could assist with the protest this weekend. Paranick responded not yet for the Narcan. Rangers are not typically called on in these situations, however, if they are called upon, we can assist. He is concerned about signage and parking for the Chivos trail. Nakaoka responded there is no parking available and Staff will look into providing the signage. Martin Luther King Jr.’s family has asked the holiday be an in-service day as opposed to a day off. He feels this could be a good volunteer opportunity for the District. He thanked everyone for moving the meeting to Wednesday this week to accommodate his schedule with school graduations.
Chair Abele would be interested in more information regarding Zoom meeting options, he likes to promote transparency whenever possible. He is looking forward to the televised meetings as well. There have been informal practices conducted by sports teams at the parks. He attended the Ventura County Covid-19 call this morning; he liked their tone more during this call. There is slow progress being made on the return of recreation. Abele spoke directly to Supervisor Huber to see if this can be speeded up. He had not yet received the letter from the Board, Huber will forward it to Dr. Levin when it is received. There does appear to be some momentum for opening playgrounds and team sports, currently waiting for State guidelines to change. He thanked Paranick for working on the letter sent to the Board of Supervisors.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. Very exciting news, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy approved a $1 million grant for the Arroyo Simi Greenway Project. This does require a $200K match, the Budget may need to be amended to accommodate. Staff is working with the School District to add the 3 additional After-School Club sites, currently we are a bit far apart financially. He and Tracy Engel met with the Sand Volleyball Group, they would like additional courts and are willing to help pay or possibly pay all of the cost, they will be giving Staff a proposal. Nakaoka is currently working on adding a new Cell Site at Big Sky Park. Currently Rangers are educating park patrons on Social Distancing and not enforcing anything further.

Upcoming Events: no events to report at this time.

Future Agenda Items: Next step with the Budget process, Public notices and hearings for the Budget and Assessment, Skate Plaza rules and opening, and Golf fees.

Committee Activity: no activity to report at this time.

13. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Abele adjourned the meeting at 7:34pm.

Dan Paranick, District Clerk