Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
Board of Directors Meeting  

M I N U T E S  

Thursday, July 16, 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 Janice Martin.  

2. ROLL CALL – Director Freeman, Johnson, O’Brien, Vice Chair Dennert, and Chair Abele were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Tracy Engel, Janice Martin, Lee Martin, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, District Counsel Brian Pierik, and Gina Viecco. Guests included Linda Bosley, Chair of the Historical Society.  

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

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  

   a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Meeting – July 2, 2020 – Director Freeman found a typographical error on page 4 under her comments, this was corrected to read “overpaid.” Motion: Director O’Brien moved to approve the Minutes as amended. Director Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.  

6. PRESENTATIONS, SCHEDULED ITEMS, AND PUBLIC HEARINGS  

   a. Presentation of the Part Time Employee of the Month for February 2020 to Linda Rodriguez – Linda is an Assistant Site Director with the Recreation Department. She has worked for the District for 5 years; this is her first Employee of the Month Award. Ms. Rodriguez was unable to attend the meeting tonight and has already received her plaque and check.  

   b. Presentation of the Full Time Employee of the Month for March 2020 to John Krieger – John is a Senior Grounds Maintenance Supervisor with the Planning and Maintenance Department. He has worked for the District for 13 years; this is his 3rd Employee of the Month Award. Mr. Krieger was unable to attend the meeting tonight, he will receive his plaque during work hours and he will also receive a paid day off.  

   c. Presentation of the Part Time Employee of the Month for March 2020 to Janice Martin – Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration presented Ms. Martin with her plaque and check. Janice is an Administrative Assistant IV with the Recreation Department. She has worked for the District for 3 years; this is her 1st Employee of the Month Award. Janice thanked the Board for the award and was happy to receive her award during tonight’s meeting. Chair
Abele thanked Janice for her dedication. District Manager Dan Paranick thanked Janice for the warm welcome she provided when he started with the District. She was the 1st employee to welcome him to the District.

d. Status of the District’s Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic – Verbal Report was presented by Dan Paranick, District Manager. Due to the uptick of COVID-19 cases in California many openings have been rolled back. Indoor fitness has been discontinued but outdoor classes are okay. Staff is being creative and have moved some of the indoor activities outside. Staff has reached out to religious organizations in the Community with some Park locations that would work for services. The County is working on team sports vs. day camp activities. There has been a rise in complaints regarding group activities, team practices, use of playgrounds, and not wearing masks while in the park. Staff and the Rangers have been working to educate and respond to any complaints. The Simi Valley School District announced they will resume classes virtually to start the school year. Staff will meet to discuss After-School Club options. This Fall will look much different than previous years and will affect Staffing, especially for Part-time staff. The County conducted a COVID-19 inspection at the Pool which passed with flying colors. Financially, the District finished the Fiscal Year a bit better than anticipated. Golf ended the year well, even with the closures, Sinaloa is up 50% from previous year’s usage. There is approximately 3 to 3.5 hours per day without cart availability due to distancing requirements. Paranick and Golf Course Manager Brian Reed are looking at a short-term lease for additional carts, this would produce additional revenue at the Courses.

Director Johnson commented while he has been at local parks it looks like people are following the rules. He did receive a report of larger groups coming from out of the area to play soccer at our parks.

Director Dennert asked how Staff was going to let religious groups know about the Park availability. Director of Recreation Tracy Engel will contact the Faith Community, there are about 5 sites that could work for their gatherings. Dennert asked if Staff will need input from the Board regarding childcare decisions. Paranick responded it depends on the plan, the matter will be addressed at the latest during the August 6th Board Meeting. If needed, a Special Meeting could be called with a 24 hr. notice.

Director Freeman reported the lights were on at the Soccer Fields at Rancho Madera Community Park the other night. Engel will follow-up on this issue, this is the first they’ve heard of it.

Chair Abele stated the last few months have been disturbing and this week especially. He feels decisions should be based on facts, not fear. He complimented County Supervisor Bob Huber and his Staff, they are eager to assist and do what they can to facilitate full re-opening of the Parks. He listened in to the County COVID-19 briefings, it has been frustrating, this is the 2nd time in the last month they haven’t addressed questions he has submitted. Abele asked if County officials considered people refusing to wear a mask is a form of peaceful protest. Dr. Levine responded people have been doing less of mask wearing, it could be a form of peaceful protest. He added social distancing and wearing a mask is not a harsh request. Abele feels that people losing jobs, youth not allowed to participate in sports, and children being kept from school and their friends is harsh. He does not feel Dr. Levine should have this much power, a Doctor is not an elected official. There are many health concerns that take lives, he feels the response to COVID is unreasonable. There is no evidence that these restrictions are doing anything to save
any lives. They are ruining lives due to business closures, depression and keeping children cooped up. We must continue to fight for our rights and he will do what he can.

e. Public Hearing on the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Annual Budget and Planning and Maintenance Projects for Fiscal Year 2020-21 – The Staff Report was presented by Dan Paranick, District Manager. Public Hearings are required by law to take any comments from the public. Revenue was reduced in the Assessment Fund by not including the increased CPI this year, this is being offset by postponing vehicle purchases. The Adobe roof project at Strathearn has been added to this year’s budget as well as improving signs at Corriganville Park.

Chair Abele opened the Meeting to Public comment at 7:04pm

Linda Bosley, Chair from the Simi Valley Historical Society thanked the Board for including the Adobe roof in the Budget. It will be a process but they are happy the ball is rolling; she appreciates the support from the Board.

Chair Abele closed the Public comments at 7:08pm

Dennert reported the Beach Volleyball group contacted him inquiring about the next steps. Paranick responded a Board Member can request this item be added to an upcoming Meeting Agenda if the Board is interested in exploring more options. Currently, Staff is looking to expand the number of courts at the Rancho Santa Susana Community Park location. Johnson asked if the Equestrian Center has been looked at since there is little activity there. Paranick responded that location had not come up in the discussions.

O’Brien stated she is happy the District did not need to include the increased CPI amount with the assessment this year.

No action was taken by the Board.

f. Status of Apollo Field Rehabilitation - Verbal Report was presented by Dan Paranick, District Manager who provided a PowerPoint presentation showing the rehabilitation of the fields. The fields look great and they have lights. Great job by Wayne Nakaoka, Paul Friedeborn and their staff in getting this field in shape. This project adds a lot more capacity for so many sports.

Freeman stated the Fields look really wonderful, great job by Director of Planning and Maintenance, Wayne Nakaoka and his crew.

Johnson agreed, the Fields look wonderful, this is really a great job.

Paranick added Staff will get as many people using the Fields as possible once restrictions are lifted.

No action was 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. Approval of 6/30/20 Accounts Payable Check Register and 7/2/20 Payroll Check Register – Staff responded to questions from the Board.

b. Approval of Notice of Completion and Final Acceptance for the Rancho Santa Susana Community Park Phase Two Parking Lot and Rancho Tapo Community Park Ballfield Parking Lot Renovation Project – The written Staff Report was submitted by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance.

c. Approval for the Purchase of Golf Course Maintenance Equipment at Simi Hills Golf Course through California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS) – The written Staff Report was submitted by Brian Reed, Golf Course Manager.

Motion: Director Freeman 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 to Prepay the District’s CalPERS Pension Plan’s Unfunded Accrued Liability for Fiscal Year 2020/21 – The Staff Report was presented by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. The District has an opportunity to pre-pay the CalPERS unfunded liability for the year in the amount of $815,260 in the month of July 2020. This would save the District approximately $28,052, not including interest considerations.

Johnson asked what is the plan for the money being saved. He suggests allocating the saved amount for pre-paying next year. Paranick feels this is a good plan, Staff will always look at options to reduce long-term retirement costs.

Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the pre-payment for Fiscal Year 2020/21. Director O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE

11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Dennert attended the Chamber meeting via Zoom, Director Freeman gave a great report. He and Director O’Brien donated skate helmets to be given out when the Skate Plaza opens. He and Volunteer Coordinator Nikki Collier spoke with a representative from the Reagan Library to discuss a day in service for Martin Luther King Day. The Rotary completed their park cleanup at Corriganville, it looks great. The Disc Golf group would also like to organize a cleanup day at one of the parks. Dennert is concerned about childcare for the Community, this will be critical in the next few months. In response to earlier comments from Chair Abele, Dennert is trying to understand. He feels the District needs to balance the need to keep people safe and provide services.

Director Johnson attended the CARPD meeting. Their Board is very upset with the allocation of Prop 68 funds, it was only $178K for park districts, cities received much more money. This is not what was voted for, everyone is very upset. Paranick inquired if the City of Simi Valley would be receiving money. Johnson replied they were not excluded. Paranick added it would be possible to meet with the City Council to see if they are willing to spend funds they receive on parks. Johnson replied some of
approved as written

the cities had already agreed to use funds for park districts, it would be a good idea to meet with the City of Simi Valley. Freeman added this feels very dishonest and was not what was expected, and asked if there is any way to counter the decision. Johnson stated CARPD will contact and write letters but at this point, he is unsure if that will help.

Director O'Brien attended the Historical Society Meeting with Freeman. She attended the Community Action of Ventura County meeting, unfortunately there was a break-in at their offices. The Movie Night at the Junkyard Café put on by the Soroptimist Club was fun.

Director Freeman attended the Drive-in Movie at Rancho Santa Susanna, it was a fun event, she really enjoyed it. She attended the Historical Society Meeting with O'Brien. They have a new phone app that has all the Historical information for Strathearn Park and will provide self-guided tours. She attended the Oak Park Committee Meeting; they voted to move the play equipment and remove only one tree.

Chair Abele wanted to clarify there is no District policy regarding the signing and submission of letters on behalf of our partner agencies. The Board members can request all letters be brought to the entire Board for approval. He reported earlier on the County COVID calls. He attended the Oak Park Committee Meeting via telephone, expect to see the topic of the Mae Boyar Tree at the next Board Meeting. He has been visiting many different parks, it is nice to see people using the facilities. He is excited about the Skate Plaza opening. In response to comments from Vice Chair Dennert, he feels it is the Board’s job to be good partners with the Community. Parks and facilities should be completely open for use by the public and the District should be able to fully provide recreational activities.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. Discussions with the Simi School District regarding the additional 3 After School Clubs have ended. They ended on good terms but could not come to agreement on finances. This option could be viable in future years. Staff is looking at Friday Oct. 9th to have the dedication for Jerry Gladden, more details will be provided closer to the date. Staff is currently working on a Historical Wall near the Administration’s Conference Room; this will be ready prior to Oct. 9th. There have been many complaints about some activities in Runkle Canyon Park. This has been resolved, at least for the short term. The Oak Park Committee Meeting was last week, they have decided to recommend the removal of only 1 tree and relocate parts of the play area. This topic will be included at the next Board Meeting on August 6th. Paranick will be out of the office the last week of July, Director of Administration, Theresa Pennington, will be acting District Manager in his absence.

Upcoming Events: August 11th at 5:00pm will be the private Ribbon Cutting for the Skate Plaza, a larger event will be planned as soon as it is possible. August 29th will be the 2nd Drive-in at the Park held by the Simi Valley Rotary Club.

Future Agenda Items: next Board Meeting will be held in Oak Park on August 6th, there will be a Budget presentation and additional Public Hearing, the Mae Boyar Tree will be discussed, and an update on Fire Recovery in Oak Park.

Committee Activity: Historical Society will meet the 1st Monday in August; Advanced Planning will meet in August to discuss plans for the next phase of the Activity Center.
13. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Abele announced the Meeting to Closed Session at 7:40pm.

a. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95
   Claimant: Ms. Jody Bancroft
   Agency Claimed Against: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

   Chair Abele called the meeting back to Open Session at 7:50pm and announced there was no reportable action taken by the Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Abele adjourned the Meeting at 7:51pm.

[Signature]
Dan Paranick, District Clerk