RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

JOINT PARK DISTRICT/HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY CENTER - ACTIVITY ROOM #1
4201 GUARDIAN ST., SIMI VALLEY, CA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020
5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by RSRPD Director Elaine Freeman at 5:35 p.m. In attendance were SVHS Vice President Linda Bosley, Secretary Karen Olson, Past President Vicki Spilka, and the following RSRPD Staff: Director Kate O’Brien, Director of Planning and Maintenance Wayne Nakaoka, and Administrative Secretary Barbara Meinel.

II. PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2020 MEETING: Past President Spilka noted that the January 6, 2020 minutes reflected a call to order time of 6:30 p.m., when the correct call to order time was 5:30 p.m. Historical Society Secretary Olson moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Past President Spilka seconded the motion. The motion passed with Director O’Brien abstaining.

IV. STATUS OF THE PRINTZ POWELL COLONY HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND CONSIDERATION OF RIBBON CUTTING EVENT: Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka distributed some photos of the Colony House. He stated that the contractor is a little behind, but should be finished with his contracted work by Valentine’s Day. The architect who worked on the drawings for the house did not identify any skirting for the house. He had stated that the colony houses did not come with skirting, and it was up to the owners of the houses to put in some skirting. After reviewing some pictures of the original colony houses, Nakaoka stated that the original owners used all kinds of things for skirting, some of them not very attractive. He suggested to the Committee that he would like to extend the existing siding down to act as skirting if the Committee was in Agreement. Putting in the skirting is not included in the contractor’s contract, but it can be added in as a Change Order. The skirting will end up being about an inch above ground, and it will be waterproofed to prevent water damage. Ms. Bosley asked if the skirting would be up by February 14, and Nakaoka answered that it would not be. The Committee agreed to Nakaoka’s idea of extending the siding and having it added onto the contract as a Change Order.

Ms. Spilka mentioned having the Busy Hands Garden Club do the landscape planting, and Nakaoka responded that the planting should be done by Park District staff.
Nakaoka then asked the Committee members their opinion about having a ribbon cutting ceremony, and everyone agreed that they would like to have one. Nakaoka also mentioned the idea of having the Busy Hands Garden Club do a tree planting at the ribbon cutting ceremony. The tree would be a common desert type tree, such as a Desert Willow or a Palo Verde tree. The Committee felt that the ribbon cutting should be held after the skirting and landscaping are complete, possibly in March.

Nakaoka also mentioned that there is currently no ramp to the back door of the Printz Powell Colony House, but the Park District will build a staircase to the back door.

Ms. Bosley asked if the construction fencing will still be up during the Civil War Days event. Nakaoka responded that the fencing will be down, but the District will put something up to protect the house and to keep people, especially children, from trying to go under the Colony House.

V. UPDATE ON TRANSITION OF THE CARETAKER POSITION: Nakaoka reported that Ms. Ruby Mellinger was advised that her move out date is March 16, 2020. Contractors have been scheduled to begin renovations on the house after March 16, and new carpeting will be put in the living room and the bedrooms per the new Caretaker’s request. The District will be purchasing a new dishwasher, refrigerator, and stove for the Caretaker’s house, and will paint the inside and possibly the outside if there is enough time. The general consensus is that the new Caretakers will be responsible for supplying their own washer and dryer, as has been the practice in the past.

Nakaoka added that he is planning on introducing the new Caretaker family to the Board of Directors at their first meeting in March, and the Caretakers are expected to move in the second week of April.

Ms. Bosley asked if a termite inspection will be done on the Caretaker’s residence, and Nakaoka responded that the Park District has a termite inspection done for all buildings on the property every other year.

VI. UPDATE ON SCHOOL TOURS: Ms. Bosley stated that 21 schools have been scheduled to take a tour, and the number of children attending has increased. Madera Elementary School, which did not participate last year, has signed up for a tour this year. Ms. Bosley handed out a schedule of the school tour dates, and mentioned that the Thursday before and the Tuesday after Civil War Days have been blocked out to allow for set-up and clean-up for the event. About a half dozen rain days have also been scheduled.

VII. UPDATE ON REPAIR OF THE ADOBE ROOF: Nakaoka reported that he is requesting that money be allocated in next year’s budget to replace the adobe roof. In the meantime, the District is working on getting a roofer to make repairs to the roof. One quote has been received for $1500, which is quite a reasonable amount. The District will get two other quotes and then decide who should proceed with the adobe roof repair. Nakaoka added that the roof repair will need to be done in clear weather as there will be no sheeting for about 1-1/2 weeks.

VIII. UPDATE ON FENCE REPAIR AROUND THE STRATHEARN HOUSE: Nakaoka reported that the fence around the Strathearn House should be fixed and up before the Civil War Days event.
IX. UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE PROJECT LIST DISTRIBUTED AT JANUARY LIAISON MEETING: Nakaoka reported to the Committee that District Manager Dan Paranick would like to review the list with the Historical Society’s President, Alex Walker. Vice President Bosley, speaking on behalf of President Walker, who was unable to attend the meeting, stated that the Historical Society wanted to have a list in order to have a better idea of what things need to be fixed at Strathearn Historical Park. Ms. Olson added that they also created the list so that they can be advised as to which items the Historical Society can take care of on its own. With the “okay” from Nakaoka, volunteers have already started to scrape the paint off the Montgomery Playhouse.

Nakaoka also told the Committee that the roofs on the metal car sheds have been fixed, and Ms. Bosley added that the two Model T’s have been moved back into the sheds.

X. UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR CIVIL WAR DAYS EVENT AT STRATHEARN HISTORICAL PARK ON MARCH 7 AND 8, 2020: Ms. Bosley reported that she has decided to rent two additional porta potties for the event, which will give them a total of four, plus the one stationary restroom on the property. Ms. Bosley expects about 100 re-enactors and volunteers plus spectators. The Historical Society is hiring private security - the same people who work at the Strathearn weddings. The cost of security was included in the budget for the event. There will be a Saturday evening dinner and dance for the re-enactors and volunteers only. The dance will be from 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. in the barn, with dinner by Chuy’s West served from 5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Nakaoka asked about the need for heaters in the barn for the dance, but Ms. Bosley and Ms. Olson told him that heaters will not be needed.

There will be two food vendors at the event, and a civilian encampment. The encampment will include a schoolhouse, a newspaper office, and a library set up to emulate what they would have looked like during Civil War times. There will be other interactive activities, as well as a Kid’s Recruitment Tent. Children can sign up to be a soldier and can choose whether they want to be on the Union or the Confederate States side. There will be a $10 deposit for a hat, scarf, and wooden toy musket. The children must return the musket, but can keep the hat and scarf if they forfeit the $10 deposit. Children who sign up to be a soldier will be given a Certificate, which can be used for a free admission to next year’s event. There will also be a vendor at the park selling wooden toy muskets. In addition, the Historical Society will have booklets available that children can take and use to interview a soldier and to draw pictures of the camp. Ms. Olson stated that in the past, some teachers have given extra credit to students who attended Civil War Days and turned in a booklet.

Nakaoka told the Committee that Santiago Jimenez will be the person on duty for the Civil War Days event, and he will be responsible for cleaning the park’s restroom. Santiago may also help with emptying the trash along with other Park District maintenance personnel.

Ms Bosley met with John Krieger to discuss trash removal. The Historical Society will be providing 20 white trash boxes and volunteers will be placing them around the park. Park District staff will be emptying the trash, and there will be large bins available for the trash boxes to be emptied into. John Krieger will have firewood delivered to the park the week before the event, as long as there is still some available.
Vehicles will not be allowed on the property during the event, and all vehicles must be off the property by 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 7.

XI. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST: Ms. Bosley inquired about the trees at the park that have been affected by the heavy winds. Nakaoka responded that the District’s arborist hasn’t had a chance to visit the park yet. Regarding the missing tree east of the Strathearn Adobe that fell due to wind damage, the District hasn’t been able to find a walnut tree and is still considering an alternative type of tree to plant. Nakaoka stated that he will check with the Sr. Maintenance Supervisor to see if the tree will be planted before the Civil War Days event.

XII. SET TIME AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned by Director Freeman at 6:25 p.m.

Wayne Nakaoka
Director of Planning & Maintenance