Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Board of Directors Meeting
M I N U T E S

Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 6:30pm

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District • Activity Room 3
4201 Guardian Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063 • (805) 584-4400

Meeting held via Zoom - a video recording is available
on the District Website at www.rsrpd.org.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chair Dennert called the Meeting to Order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joshua Decker.

2. ROLLCALL – Directors Abele, Freeman, Gray, Vice Chair O'Brien, and Chair Dennert were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Laura Ballantoni, Nikki Collier, Danielle June, Richard Lemmo, Zach Miller, Wayne Nakaoka, Kelly Negrete, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Alex Stumfall, Gina Viecco, and District Counsel Brian Pierik.

   Guests attended tonight's meeting via Zoom. Those who made public comments are listed under the appropriate item below.

3. AGENDA REVIEW – District Manager Dan Paranick reported there is a correction to the notice included with the Report for Item 6.b. Items 9.d and 9.e will be heard after Closed Session.

4. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

   District Employee Teresa Moore commented on the Closed Session topic of Employee negotiations. She is one of 12 employees who are between both groups involved in the negotiations ("Bargaining Unit" and Middle Management Group.) This started 1 year ago, and management has been involved from the beginning in good faith. They voted with the Middle Management group not the Bargaining Unit and would like their 12 votes to count.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Meeting – June 2, 2021 – Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the Minutes as written. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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 5/31/21 Accounts Payable Check Register and 6/4/21 Payroll Check Register – Staff responded to questions from the Board.

   b. Approval for Publication of Legal Notice Allowing for Public Inspection of Preliminary Budget and Specifying Date and Time of Public Hearings on District's Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 – A written report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of

Administration. There is a correction to the date of the Public Hearing to be held in Oak Park, the correct meeting date is August 5, 2021.

Motion: Vice Chair O'Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the amendment to Item 6.b. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

7. PRESENTATIONS, SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

   a. Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the Month for May 2021 to Cody Hosking – Cody who is a Site Director in the Recreation Department was unable to attend tonight's meeting; he will receive his plaque and check during work hours. He has been with the District for over 5 years and this is his first award.

   b. Status of the Districts Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic – The Verbal Report was provided by Dan Paranick, District Manager. There have been no complaints or COVID positive cases since the last meeting. All programming and facilities are 100% open including the Splash Pads. The only exceptions are indoor events larger than 5,000 and outdoor events larger than 10,000 people. Fully vaccinated people are not required to wear a mask any longer. Those who have not been vaccinated or work with children under the age of 12 are still required to wear masks at work.

      Abele asked if there are any restrictions on the Splash Pads and if there is any additional information regarding the 4th of July event and Concerts in the Park. Paranick replied there are no restrictions to the Splash Pads. For the 4th of July event, they are planning to have vendor booths, food trucks, live music, and fireworks. Staff is moving forward with the planning of the Concerts in the Park.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Approval of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (the "MRCA") Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22 – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. The MRCA is governed by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that includes the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Per Section 11.2 of the Agreement MRCA is required to submit their annual budget to all parties included in this JPA. Basem Mosaad representing MRCA provided an overview of the proposed budget and addressed questions from Board members.

      Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the MRCA Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22. Vice Chair O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

   b. Adoption of Preliminary District Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22 – The Staff Report was provided by Dan Paranick, District Manager. The Preliminary Budget will serve as the operating budget starting on July 1, 2021. Paranick provided an overview of District funds and projects included in the Budget. Thanks to the leadership of the Board and work by Staff all funds are balanced. There will be additional opportunities for public comment at the upcoming Board meetings on July 15th in Simi Valley and August 5th in Oak Park.

O'Brien was made aware of some work that needs to be done at Corriganville which could help with additional filming. Paranick responded this should be able to be addressed in house.

Dennert asked if Staff will be able to tackle all the items included in the Budget. Paranick responded they will be completed on a priority basis.

Freeman asked if the Caretakers residence in Oak Park is permitted for construction. Nakaoka responded it is.

Gray inquired if the budgeted improvements to the Arroyo Simi Greenway will connect to other completed sections. Paranick responded these improvements will connect with the previously completed phases. Paranick added the City of Simi Valley will be providing $100K of the needed match amount for the Grant.

Freeman added deferred maintenance is just as important as adding new projects. This is very important to her, and she is happy to see this included in the Budget.

Darla Eden, a Special Education Teacher, would like to see After-School Club fees reduced to support the more vulnerable populations. She has had a unique view into the homes of the students due to COVID. The parents are overwhelming essential workers and do not have access to paid time off or childcare. So many of these parents are not aware of programs offered by the District and these families will need more support than ever after COVID.

Motion: Vice Chair O'Brien moved to adopt the District's Preliminary Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22. Director Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chair Dennert called a 5-minute Recess at 7:41pm.

Chair Dennert called the Meeting back to Order at 7:46pm.

c. Approval of Resolution No. 2010 Establishing the 2021-22 Appropriations Limitation in Accordance with Article XIII B of the Constitution of the State of California – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. In accordance with Proposition 4 the appropriations limitation must be filed every year. This 2021/22 amount is approximately 80% of the amount allowed.

Motion: Vice Chair O'Brien moved to approve Resolution No. 2010. Chair Dennert seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Gray, O'Brien
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

Items 9.d and 9.e will be heard after Closed Session.

d. Approval of Pay and Benefit Changes for: (1) Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Middle Management Association, (2) Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Employee Association (Bargaining Unit), and (3) Unrepresented District Employees – The Staff Report was presented by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. Tonight's vote will not include Group (2), only Groups (1) and (3). These 2 groups have agreed to the terms as presented by the Board during Closed Session.

Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the Pay and Benefit for changes for Groups (1) and (3). Vice Chair O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

e. Approval and Adoption of Full-Time Employee Classification Schedule by Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. The attached Full-Time Classification and Monthly Pay Range schedule has been amended to reflect the recently approved adjustments.

Motion: Vice Chair O'Brien moved to approve and adopt the Full-Time Employee Classification Schedule. Director Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

f. Approval to Prepay the District's CalPERS Pension Plan's Unfunded Accrued Liability for Fiscal Year 2021/22 – The Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. By pre-paying for the fiscal year 2021/22 the District would have a savings of over $20K. The Board also has the option of directing Staff to pre-pay in future years if it would prove financially beneficial.

Director Abele prefers this item be brought back to the Board for approval each year.

Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the pre-payment for Fiscal Year 2021/22. Vice Chair O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

g. Review and Direction regarding 2021/22 Before / After School Club (ASC) and Teen Club Fees – The Staff Report was provided by Zach Miller, Director of Recreation. Staff is currently preparing for the 2021/22 school year but there continues to be unknown elements due to COVID. The District is committed to offering affordable options for families, including a 20% additional discount for families in need. Staff has provided several options for the Board to discuss.

Gray asked how many families use the 20% discount and if this is determined by staff discretion. Danielle June estimated between 10%-15% of participants, this includes all registrations not just the ASC program. If the family received assistance, such as Medi-Cal or Cal Fresh, they auto qualify. Participants can also petition to the District Manager if they do not meet the required criteria. Gray asked if someone is denied, are they aware they can appeal. June replied it is stated in the paperwork. Gray would like to see this handled a bit more proactively. Richard Lemmo added the decline rate is historically very low.

Special Education Teacher Darla Eden added many of the groups that need assistance do not attend Back to School Night or other school events. She suggests finding a way to better reach these families that really need the care and support for their families.

Mark Johnson added most school principals are aware they can approach the District for accommodations in special situations. He suggested Board Members could reach out to them again.

Gray is not comfortable with any increase at this point and is advocating for more than a 20% discount for those who have already qualified. Those who are most in need will need additional assistance as they are returning to work after COVID. He is interested in communicating better with the school principals, either by Board or Staff Members.

Dennert asked if on an individual basis the District can provide a deeper discount. Paranick replied we cannot approve more than a 20% discount per current policy.

Dennert would like District communication with school staff to insure they are aware of the discounts offered.

O'Brien suggested selling raffle tickets or some type of fundraiser to provide a subsidy or grant for families in need.

Abele is not comfortable with the full increase as recommended. He would be most comfortable with no increase, or a 3% as opposed to 6% increase.

Dennert would like to see things roar back, but he is not sure if COVID will continue to affect the use of the ASC programs. He would be okay with a 3% increase and have Staff research possible grant funding.

Gray added as the Board has not discussed grant funding up to this point, he is not comfortable with any increase in fees at this time.

Motion: Director Abele moved to approve a 3% increase, which is 50% of the proposed 6%. Director Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Dennert, Freeman, O'Brien
Noes: Gray
Absent:
Abstain:

h. Review and Direction Regarding Public Attendance and Participation at Board of Director Meetings – The Verbal Report was provided by Dan Paranick, District Manager. The State has relaxed some aspects of the Brown Act due to COVID and the Governor announced this will stay in place for a period of time moving forward. Staff is requesting direction from the Board regarding public attendance during meetings.

Dennert suggests allowing the public to attend in person and to continue allowing ZOOM participation as well. He would like to see legislature allow this to continue permanently. He requested Director Abele's assistance with drafting a letter in support of this.

Motion: Director Abele moved to approve Option 1, allowing public participation in person as well as via ZOOM. Vice Chair O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Motion: Chair Dennert moved to direct the District Manager to draft a letter in support of legislation allowing the continuation of ZOOM participation for review by Dennert and Abele. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – NONE

10. REPORTS BY BOARDMEMBERS

Director Gray appreciates the District's Pride Logo and press release. He would like to see this expanded upon next year.

Director Abele would like the fee study heard as soon as possible, as well as the option of moving Board meetings to Wednesday nights. He attended the retirement luncheon for Lisa Weagley, it was nice to see the amount of people from other Departments who attended. He thanked staff for their work on a great event.

Vice Chair O'Brien attended the retirement luncheon with Abele. She also had the Historical Society Meeting with Freeman. The Special Needs Meeting went well with a lot of good information. A neighbor reported the bathrooms at Arroyo Park were locked during the day. She was also contacted by someone wanting to donate an Oak tree in honor of his wife. Paranick replied the District would allow the planting of a tree but no memorial plaques are allowed.

Director Freeman attended the Historical Society meeting. Pat Havens announced she will be retiring in March 2022 after over 40 years with the District. They reviewed the list of repairs needed and have received a positive response to the docent training. She also attended the VCSDA meeting with O'Brien.

Chair Dennert asked if bounce houses are allowed in the parks again. Paranick replied as of today they are. The geese from the Duck Pond now have their own TikTok account. He asked if there has been any progress on the feeding structure. Paranick responded not at this time, Staff can follow-up. The Boy Scouts are working on the chess table and Corriganville signage projects. He met with the Simi Trailblazers and thanked Zach Miller for arranging the meeting. He is excited to go on a ride along with the Rangers. He reported Juneteenth is now an official Federal Holiday, he would like a Social Media post to commemorate. He was happy to see the District's acknowledgement of PRIDE month and would to see more representation next year. It is important to him to have everyone feel welcome and included in our community.

11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. He thanked Miguel Chavez and Theresa Pennington for their work on the Budget. There have been no recent issues at the Skate Plaza. The planning of the July 4th event is going well, they are planning booths, a concert, and fireworks. There is also an event being planned to commemorate 9/11. Staff will bring back a report to the Board based on the input during the Special Needs meeting. The Apollo Fields will be used soon by the Simi Youth Soccer group. May financials are as expected and on track. He, Nakaoka, Freeman, and O'Brien will be attending the CARPD Conference next week where Nakaoka will receive his award for Employee of the Year. John Dodson from the Maintenance Department will be retiring at the end of June. The Oak Park Lagoon project is in the permitting process with several agencies. It is planned to be under construction in October and completed by February 2022.

Upcoming events: 4th of July event at Rancho Santa Susana Community Park.

Future Agenda Items: The July 1st meeting will be cancelled, however, due to ongoing negotiations with the Bargaining Unit, there may be a need for a Special Board meeting next week. Some items for the July 15th meeting include the Budget Hearing, One-wheelers, the Chinese Geese, and improvements at the Golf Course.

Committee Activity: the Oak Park Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 8th.

12. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Dennert called the Meeting to Closed Session at 9:17pm.

    a. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
    Conference with Labor Negotiator:
    Agency Negotiators: District Manager and Director of Administration
    Employee Organization: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District - Middle Management Association

    b. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
    Conference with Labor Negotiator:
    Agency Negotiators: District Manager and Director of Administration
    Employee Organization: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District - Employees Association ("Bargaining Unit")

    c. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
    Conference with Labor Negotiator:
    Agency Negotiator: District Manager & Director of Administration
    Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees

    Chair Dennert called the Meeting back to Open Session at 9:41pm.

    There was no reportable action taken by the Board tonight.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Dennert adjourned the Meeting at 9:44pm.

DAN PARANICK

Dan Paranick, District Clerk