

# Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting

## MINUTES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 6:30pm

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

A video recording of tonight's meeting is available on  
the District Website at [www.rsrpd.org](http://www.rsrpd.org).

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chair Freeman called the Meeting to order at 6:31pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director O'Brien.
2. ROLL CALL – Directors Dennert, Gray, O'Brien, Vice Chair Abele, and Chair Freeman were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Richard Lemmo, Jeannie Liss, Zach Miller, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Alex Stumfall, Gina Viecco, and District Counsel Ryan Guiboa.

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

3. AGENDA REVIEW- There were no changes to tonight's Agenda.
4. PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

Glenn Lipman's son, Brian, is the owner of Longball Academy here in Simi Valley. Mr. Lipman is speaking on behalf of Longball Academy and all Simi Valley Youth Baseball and Softball teams. They are requesting the removal of design use #25 under Ordinance #3 and are also requesting the removal of the park rule "no hitting baseballs on a softball field." Currently there is not enough practice space for all the teams, by removing these rules it would allow more practice fields to be available.

Rebecca Jeffrey is an eighth grader at Hillside Middle School. She thanked Director Dennert for suggesting she speak at a meeting. Currently, there is only one handball court located at Mayfair Park. An additional handball court would be helpful for the sport which is currently growing. She thanked the Board for their work in the community and asked what she can do to help get an additional court in Simi Valley. District Manager Dan Paranick suggested collecting data relating to how many people are playing handball to demonstrate current demands.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting – March 6, 2024 – Motion: Director O'Brien moved to approve the Minutes as written. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

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

Absent:

Abstain:

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 2/29/24 Accounts Payable Check Register and 2/23/24 Payroll Check Register - Motion: Director O'Brien moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Gray, O'Brien

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

## 7. PRESENTATIONS, SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the Month for February 2024 to Brandon Pearce-Harris, Youth Sports Referee – Staff Report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. Brandon has worked for the District for 5 years; this is his 1<sup>st</sup> award. Brandon was unable to attend tonight's meeting and will receive his check and plaque during work hours. The entire Board thanked Brandon for working in several different positions within the District.

## 8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Authorization to Purchase Two (2) New Ford F-550, Regular Cab and Chassis, from Downtown Ford of Sacramento, California, Under CMAS Contract No. 1-22-23-20F – Staff Report was provided by – Staff Report was provided by Wayne Nakaoka, Director of Planning and Maintenance. According to Downtown Ford's Fleet Sales Representative, these vehicles were originally ordered for another municipal agency who only purchased a portion of their initial order leaving these two vehicles available. Funds for the purchase have been earmarked in the District's approved Budget for FY 2023-24.

O'Brien asked if the price quote from last October is still valid. Nakaoka responded, yes and it is a great deal for the District.

Freeman asked how the trucks would get to the District. Nakaoka replied, the delivery fee is included in the price of the vehicles.

Motion: Director Gray moved to approve the purchase of 2 vehicles from Downtown Ford of Sacramento. Director O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Gray, O'Brien

Noes:

Absent:  
Abstain:

## 10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE

Director Dennert received an email with feedback regarding Oak Park Pickleball Courts. The contractor did not include sand in the painted lines, this is needed for the balls to bounce correctly. They also complained the worker onsite was rude to them. Vice Chair Abele received the same email.

## 11. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Abele asked if there is an update regarding the complaint about the pickleball lines being painted incorrectly. Director of Recreation Zach Miller is aware of the issue and District staff are working to get it corrected. He would like the public to be invited to the ribbon cutting for the Arroyo Greenway project along with local dignitaries and elected officials. Paranick replied, Community Outreach Officer Richard Lemmo is already working on this.

Director Dennert was at Runkle Canyon for a volleyball match when someone made inappropriate comments to the players. District Rangers responded right away, and the players felt safe to continue their game. He spoke to Earth Savers, which is a group of about five eight-year-olds wanting to save the world. They have created custom Bug Hotels, see Dennert if interested in having one of these hotels.

Director Gray appreciated seeing the social media post about the Medallion Hunt. He congratulated Dennert on receiving the Roy Erickson Civic Education Leadership award from the California Council for Social Studies. He wished his wife a happy 1-year wedding anniversary. He thanked Jeannie Liss for collaborating with them on their wedding held at Strathearn Historical Park.

Director O'Brien attended the State of the (Simi Valley) City talk today. It was a different format this year with the Mayor providing comments via a pre-recorded video instead of in-person. She and Freeman went to Rancho Simi Community Center to see the Little House on the Prairie setup. It was impressive and she is excited to volunteer on Sunday. She also congratulated Dennert on his award.

Chair Freeman attended the "Every 15 Minutes" Assembly at Simi High school. It is an amazing event with a lot of coordination between agencies. She was invited to attend the Ventura County DA's Office community event for Family Justice Centers. There is currently a center in Ventura, another will open in Oxnard with the goal of having an additional center in East Ventura. She attended the State of the City today with O'Brien. The Little House on the Prairie setup has been done very professionally. Miller added there will be an interview tomorrow on Good Morning America from the Little House location.

12. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER – Dan Paranick provided comments. District staff have started the budget process for 2024/25. Outreach to Oak Park will include office hours by Board members and/or staff every other month at the Community Center. He provided a presentation to the local Republican Women's group and spoke about the Arroyo Greenway project. Paranick and staff will be meeting with a representative from Ventura County Behavioral Health to discuss

possibly implementing enhanced mental health education and programming. Regarding the per capita grant for the Knolls parking lot, staff will attempt to have this reassigned to the kiosk project. Staff have reviewed the February financials, and everything is in good shape. The BMX status is the same, the City is looking at alternative uses for the land.

Upcoming Events: The rescheduled Active Shooter presentation will be held at 10:00am on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Activity Center; this will be recorded for viewing in the future. Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm will be the Ribbon Cutting for the Arroyo Greenway project.

Future Agenda Items: Historical Society's annual report, contract extension for the Birdie Bar, Master Gardener program at Strathearn, necessary repair work at Sinaloa Golf Course, CSDA Coastal Network nominations, two notices of completion for the Pool and Arroyo Greenway projects, golf fees, and Earth Day certificates.

Committee Activity: Strathearn Historical Society Committee meets the first Monday of the Month.

13. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Freeman announced Closed Session at 7:15pm.

a. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Property: Assessor's Parcel Number:  
2826-012-014, 015, 018 & 019 and 2826-015-036 (Los Angeles County)  
615-0-100-045, 055, 065, 075 & 085 (Ventura County)

Agency Negotiator: District Manager Dan Paranick

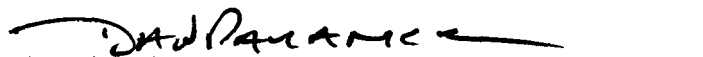
Negotiating Parties: Dale and Maggie Poe Ranch, LLC

Under Negotiation: Price, Terms and Conditions Regarding Potential Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property

Chair Freeman called the Meeting back to order at 7:41pm.

Board action: There was no reportable action taken by the Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Freeman adjourned the Meeting at 7:42pm.

  
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Dan Paranick, District Manager/Clerk