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

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chair Abele called the Meeting to Order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vietnam Veteran Dan Owen.
2. ROLL CALL- Directors Cofield, Gray, Lundstrom, Vice Chair Dennert, and Chair Abele were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Kris Barella, Zen Flores, Danielle June, Richard Lemmo, Cassidy Marshall, David Melody, Zach Miller, Wayne Nakaoka, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Alexis Ploeger, Jennifer Santos, Alex Stumfall, Gina Viecco, and District Counsel Ryan Guiboa.

   Guests attended tonight's meeting in-person and 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)

   Danny Milligan and his wife Cathy have sent a letter to the Board with a proposal for the dirt lot located at Rancho Madera Park in Wood Ranch. They are suggesting a simple design targeted to the Senior population. This would include an area for Bocce, Horseshoes, and Shuffleboard with medium sized sheltered picnic area.
5. CONSENT AGENDA (Matters 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 Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors on April 2, 2025.
   b. Approval of 3/21/25 Payroll Check Register.
   c. Receive and File Audit Results and Basic Financial Statements for Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2024 – Staff report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration.
   d. Authorize the District Manager to Execute a CalFire Grant Agreement with Ventura County Conservation District for the Wildfire Fuels Reduction Project in Oak Park – Staff report was provided by Jennifer Santos, Senior Management Analyst.
   e. Approval of Award of Contract for Weed Abatement Services at Various District Parks and Open Space Areas – Staff report was provided by Jennifer Santos, Senior Management Analyst.

   Motion: Director Gray moved to approve tonight's Consent Agenda. Chair Abele seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

   Ayes: Abele, Cofield, Dennert, Gray, Lundstrom

Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

6. PRESENTATIONS

   a. Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the Month for March 2025 to Cassidy Marshall, Site Director – Staff report was provided by Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration. Cassidy has been with the District for 7 years; this is her 1st award. Zach Miller congratulated Cassidy, adding she is a dedicated worker and runs a tight ship at the ASC. The Board congratulated Cassidy and thanked her for the time and patience required to work with children and making the ASC a special place. Cassidy thanked everyone, adding that the work is not done alone, she has a great team at the Club.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Review and Provide Direction Regarding Golf Operations and Fees Related to Simi Hills Golf Course (SHGC) and Recommendations and Analysis from GGA Partners, Including Consideration of Increasing Golf Fees – Staff report was provided by Zach Miller, Director of Recreation and GGA Partners consultant Martin Tzankov. GGA Partners have provided a report that examines the operational, financial, and strategic outlook for SHGC. Their findings highlight both strengths and areas for improvement. SHGC is a great course and an asset to the District, it is an older course (built in 1981), and the aging infrastructure demands attention. GGA recommend a fee increase to ensure financial sustainability while remaining accessible to the community. Additionally, a tiered pricing model is recommended to offer flexible pricing based on demand patterns. Tzankov and Johnson from GGA Partners, and Golf Course Manager David Melody are available to answer questions.

      Abele asked if posting peak rates and adjusting pricing throughout the year has worked on other courses and if software can assist staff with setting prices. Tzankov has seen this model be successful at other courses and there is software to assist staff. Abele asked for their thoughts on Senior pricing and including Fridays as weekend pricing. GGA stated Senior rates are primarily given at Municipal courses (such as the District courses.) They suggest continuing the program but not as discounted. Many other courses have started adding Friday to the weekends with success.

      Dennert asked Melody if anything suggested in the report would make operations on the courses more difficult for staff. Melody replied, no and he agrees with suggestions. Currently staff has a good handle on the pace of play, and he would like to try out using 9-minute intervals on weekends again.

      Lundstrom commended GGA for an excellent job on the data. He inquired if many courses are using Dynamic Pricing and if there are plans to upgrade the irrigation system. GGA responded yes to the Dynamic Pricing, but Municipal courses have been slower to change. Paranick replied, the irrigation project has been in the works, the District will need a Project Manager to take on this project.

      Chair Abele opened public comments at 7:58pm.

      Eric Carter with the Simi Hills Men's Golf Club supports the 3-tier pricing system and the proposed increases. Their Club feels a 3% annual increase moving forward would be fair. They are one of 3 Clubs involved with SHGC and would like to maintain their Sunday morning Tee times. Approximately 4 years ago SHGC was changed to 9-minute intervals for Tee times on the Weekend, going back to 10 minutes was a better experience, depending on the golfer's

experience. They would appreciate the posting of peak rates, and the non-refundable deposit is a great idea and should help eliminate the no shows.

Chair Abele closed public comments at 8:04pm.

Abele stated this is an outstanding report, he is happy to have the information. He wishes it was sooner as he feels the District lost revenue during the Pandemic. He likes posting the peak rates and having staff adjust monthly, upgrading the course's software could assist staff with monitoring. He would follow the GGA recommendation for the fee increases. He is in favor of the $10 non-refundable booking fee and setting an advance booking fee at $10. Since staff has a good handle on the pace of play, he would like to start a pilot program in January using 9-minute intervals instead of 10 on weekends. He suggests voting on individual items as opposed to one vote.

Gray thanked GGA for the report. He agrees with staff's suggestions but is open to a greater increase in green fees. He would like to investigate additional software that could assist staff working on the courses. He is in favor of the advance booking and no-show fees. He will defer to Golf Course Manager David Melody for the 10- or 9-minute intervals for timing of golf rounds

Cofield likes the posting of structured rates for transparency. She is open to trying the 10- or 9-minute intervals if staff are willing to back track if it is not working. She is in favor of the no-show fee and is open to an early booking fee. She would also like to research additional software tools and data to assist staff.

Dennert would place no-show fees up to $20 and is open to an advance booking fee. He would like a policy in place to exclude Veterans from higher fees on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. He likes the structured posted rates.

Motion 1: Chair Abele moved to implement a structured 3-tier pricing model (peak, mid-day, twilight), increase rates as recommended by District staff, add Friday into Weekends, and have a singular cart fee of $19 ($12 at Twilight.) Director Gray seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Cofield, Dennert, Gray, Lundstrom
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Motion 2: Chair Abele moved to implement a $10 non-refundable booking fee and $10 no-show/short show fee. Director Cofield seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Cofield, Dennert, Gray, Lundstrom
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Motion 3: Chair Abele moved to introduce a 14-day advance booking fee set at $15. Director Lundstrom seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Cofield, Dennert, Lundstrom
Noes: Gray
Absent:
Abstain:

Motion 4: Chair Abele moved to implement a 9-minute weekend interval for tee times as a pilot program sometime during the next fiscal year, exact timing to be determined by staff. Director Cofield seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Cofield, Gray, Lundstrom
Noes: Dennert
Absent:
Abstain:

Motion 5: Director Gray moved to enhance tee sheet data hygiene for ongoing monitoring and analysis. Chair Abele seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Cofield, Dennert, Gray, Lundstrom
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Motion 6: Chair Abele moved to provide a discount for Veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Director Gray seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Abele, Cofield, Dennert, Gray, Lundstrom
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Motion 7: Vice Chair Dennert moved to approve 2 Sundays per month for Simi Valley Men's Golf Club tee time from 8 to 9am. The Board will discuss this again in 3 months' time. Director Gray seconded. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Cofield, Dennert, Gray
Noes: Abele, Lundstrom
Absent:
Abstain:

Chair Abele called a Recess at 9:01pm, Abele called the meeting back to order at 9:12pm.

b. Call For Nominations of Candidate(s) to Serve on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) – Staff report was provided by Dan Paranick, District Manager. CARPD are currently accepting nominations for President – Elect, Secretary, 2 Directors at Large, and 1 Administrator Representative. District Board members have served on this Board in the past.

Dennert asked if the positions must be filled by a Board Member. Paranick replied, or an General or Assistant General Manager.

Chair Abele opened public comments at 9:13pm, hearing none, Abele closed public comments.

There was no discussion or action taken by the Board at tonight's meeting.

10. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND DISTRICT MANAGER

Dan Paranick reported the neighborhood outreach meeting for the proposed BMX Track has been scheduled for next Thursday at 6pm. Staff have attempted to schedule the Wellness meeting for late June, but the date does not work for the entire Board, he will meet with the Chair to find an alternate date. He and Dennert met with new Simi Councilmember Ayala; it went well, and he is informed about the District. The Investment program is going well, recently a 6-month investment matured, and the funds were placed in a shorter-term account in anticipation of upcoming projects. New Quimby Fee Legislation (AB315) could decrease the amount of fees to be collected from developers. The OP Pickleball project at Deerhill park is currently under construction, the Pickleball rehabilitation in Simi Valley will be starting soon,

the Golf Course parking lot is almost complete, the Bike path project and Parking lot in OP are also under construction.

Upcoming Events: Concerts in the Park starting in June, Egg Scramble in Simi and Oak Park on April 19, Junk in the Trunk on April 26, 55+ Community Games April 29 to May 29, Earth Day/Arbor Day on April 25, and the Vietnam Memorial Wall in May. Complete event listings on the District website: https://www.rsrpd.org/recreation/events/index.php.

Future Agenda topics: BMX Master Plans, Earth Day awards, Prop 4 Assessment/Engineer Report, Gann limits, Mental Health Awareness Month (May), completion notice for Activity Center HVAC, SB315, award of contract for lighting at Rancho Simi Community park, and Budget Priorities meeting on May 14.

Committee Activity: The Historical Society Committee meets on the 1st Monday of the Month.

Vice Chair Dennert was contacted by a local Skateboarder with input on skate features to be included at RSSCP. He and staff met with new Simi Councilmember Ayala; he was impressed by him. Royal Beach Volleyball finished their season with a 3-peat, his daughter Chloe and her partner finished 7 and 0. His older daughter will be heading to College and is committed to CSU San Marcos. He asked if a press release has been issued for Earth Day. Community Outreach Liaison Richard Lemmo replied it was issued today, and the media has been invited. Dennert would like to adjourn tonight's meeting in memory of Kathy Hinkle, she was very involved at Royal HS, served on the PTSA and Education Foundation. She was an asset to the community and a great friend.

Director Gray and his family were featured in Clair.id Simi Valley at a recent Dodger game, noting them as the areas biggest Dodger fans. He used the notoriety to promote the District's upcoming Dodger Day event. It's a great time to be a Dodger fan.

Director Lundstrom attended the Yes Advisory Council meeting this morning, they will be holding a Job Fair on April 26. He attended the PTSA Junior Olympics; it was a long day in the sun but a lot of fun. He will be attending the OP Egg Scramble this weekend, the BMX Neighborhood outreach, and the OP MAC meeting .

Director Cofield was able to get out and enjoy the local parks. While at Berylwood park she ran into Ranger Abner and discussed some of the Ranger duties.

Chair Abele reported there was a great article regarding the tribute to Living Donors. He attended the Golf briefing meeting with Cofield. He attended this year's Boys & Girls Club Auction Gala, great job by his wife Jill, he's proud of her.

11. CLOSED SESSION – Chair Abele announced Closed Session at 9:35pm.

    a. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

    SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION

Claimant:	Casablanca Maintenance Association
Date Claim Received:	April 1, 2025
Agency Claimed Against:	Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

    b. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

    CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

Agency Negotiators:	Dan Paranick, District Manager and Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration
Employee Organization:	Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District - Middle Management Association

c. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Agency Negotiators: Dan Paranick, District Manager and
Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration
Employee Organization: Rancho Simi Employee's Association

d. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Agency Negotiators: Dan Paranick, District Manager and
Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration
Employee Organization: Maintenance & Grounds Association

e. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Agency Negotiators: Dan Paranick, District Manager
Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees – Director of Administration, Director of Recreation, Director of Planning & Maintenance, Human Resources Coordinator, Accountant

Chair Abele called the meeting back to order at 10:32pm.

Reportable action: The Board rejected the claim for Item 11.a by a unanimous vote.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Abele adjourned the meeting at 10:33pm in memory of Kathy Hinkle.

Dan Paranick, District Manager/Clerk