



Park District Headquarters
4600 Crestmore Road
Riverside, CA 92509 6858
951/955-4310

Riverside County
Regional Park & Open-Space
District Advisory Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 6, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space
District Headquarters
4600 Crestmore Road
Riverside, CA 92509 6858



MINUTES

Members Present:

Bill Hartford, District I
Mark Balys, District I
Ray Smith, District II
Daniel Hake, District II
Darrell Connerton, District III, Vice Chair
Bob Grady, District IV, Chair
Don Martin, District IV
Christopher Thomas, District IV
Jerry Cody, District V
Judy Nieburger, District V

Staff Present:

Regional Park & Open-Space District
Scott Bangle, General Manager (GM)
Tracy Novak, Assistant Parks Director (APD)
Maureen Gayk, Executive Assistant (EA)
Eric Boor, Recreation Coordinator (RC)
Keith Herron, Historic Preservation Officer (HPO)
Brandee Hune, Business Operations Bureau Chief (BC)
Kyla Brown, Recreation and Tourism Bureau Chief (BC)

Members Absent:

Cois Byrd, District III

Others Present:

Neelay Bhatt, Pros Consulting
Carrie Bryan, Santa Ana Watershed Association

1.0 Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Connerton.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – Action

M/S/C Connerton, Cody

The minutes of the September 2, 2010 meeting were approved as printed.

4.0 Public Comments Related to Fish and Game

There were no public comments.

5.0 Items of Public Interest Related to Fish and Game – Information

Commissioner Connerton gave a brief update on the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission Session in Southern California on December 10, 2010 that he attended. He provided handouts about this to the Commissioners. Main concern of the California Fish and Game Department and Fish and Game Commissions throughout the State is the lack of participation. They discussed a senior program whereby seniors are trained to identify poachers, etc. Also discussed was disease transmission occurring with domestic and wild sheep interaction, a presentation by Dr. Ben Gonzales, CVM, MPVM. There was also concern about Fish and Game fine monies and deposits into the fine money funds. Legislation updates were given, and the proposed formation for a Southern Counties Commissioners' Association. There will be another meeting in March on this, in which Commissioner Connerton will probably attend. He thanked the Commission for allowing him to attend the conference.

6.0 Fish and Game Related Business – Information

6.1 Fish & Game Trust Fund

The Fish & Game Trust Fund balance is \$13,666.95.

7.0 Public Comments Related to the Regional Park & Open-Space District

Sherry Cody, Vice Chair of the San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse Committee, provided information on the Annual Toy Drive, which was held at Gilman Ranch in December. They collected 170+ toys and were able to help over 50 families. They delivered toys to children in the community for three days. She showed pictures of the event.

8.0 Trails Committee Report – Receive & File

The Trails Committee minutes of 9/15/10 and 11/17/10 were received and filed as its report.

9.0 New Business

9.1 5 Year Strategic Plan – Information

Pros Consulting

Neeley Bhatt of Pros Consulting gave an overview on the Park District's Strategic Plan. He outlined the community input summary based on the findings heard from key leaders, including the Commissioners, stakeholders throughout the District and staff, and open public meetings that were conducted. Demographics and trend projections were also looked at as to the population, age, race, and income standpoint over the next 10 to 15 years to plan for and meet those needs. He gave an overview of strengths and areas for improvements, facility/program needs, and one change that all participants would like to see. He noted that managing with an outcome-based standards and performance measures is key to define what success means. This allows for consistency across the board and holds people accountable for the work they do. Accountability is the key to managing resources. He also discussed program offerings and pricing for the District. The idea is to set the program fees and prices in a way that you will be able to reflect the benefit of individual guests and groups.

The Commissioners concurred that they were in agreement with the Park District's mission statement. Mr. Bhatt noted that the next steps are to benchmark the District with comparable agencies in California as well as best practice agencies; doing an operations assessment; and programs assessment. This will be done over the next three months. Interim reports will be provided to the District. In May, Pros Consulting will give a final presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Balys asked about program offerings, in particular OHV concerns and underlying issues for noise and environmental issues. Mr. Neeley noted that from their standpoint, they would just be recommending a strategic direction. If facilities come up

as well, the recommendation would be not to develop them but to undertake a feasibility study to see if this is a viable option.

Commissioner Grady asked about having an informal study session for the Commission. There are areas like Mecca and Thermal that are growing but don't have recreational opportunities for the people in those areas. He believes that blending of services should be looked into.

GM Bangle noted that the Commission will be receiving information on this project before the final presentation is given at the May 5, 2011 meeting. GM Bangle noted that the Strategic Plan is a fluid overarching document, which is slightly different from a comprehensive plan. From the Strategic Plan, staff would compare work plans each year and modify as needed. The Strategic Plan is a guiding document but does not get into detail.

General consensus of the Commission was that sometime between March and May, the Commission could have a special meeting or workshop on this subject. Commissioner Smith suggested a teleconference with Pros Consulting. Meanwhile the Park District will feed information to the Commissioners regarding information on the strategic plan.

GM Bangle said that the Park District is trying to tie this into the budget process. GM Bangle noted that he will work with Chairman Grady to call a meeting. The Commissioners will be informed.

9.2 Aquatics Business Plan Report - Information

BC Brown gave an update on the Aquatics Business Plan. The goals of the business plan were to determine program profiles by site; determine revenue potential; estimate operating costs; determine a marketing plan; and recommend program fees for each of the programs that are developed. The aquatics sites included Rancho Jurupa park splash pad, Lake Skinner splash pad, Lake Cahuilla pool, and Jurupa Aquatics Center. Evaluation factors included demographics by site, population, age and income levels. The areas competitors were accessed for each site. Trends and aquatics programming was also looked at, labor analysis, and weather patterns.

Rancho Jurupa Park Splash Pad

It was found that operational hours should be adhered to during the summer season and marketed as an amenity to enhance the camping experience, and to target the local community to use the park for day use.

Lake Skinner Splash Pad

Same findings as above, and to also enhance special events that can be offered at the amphitheater.

Lake Cahuilla Pool

Same as above, with the potential to add private rentals and events on site to enhance revenue potential. Estimated recapture rate at the site is 90%.

Jurupa Aquatic Center "The Cove"

Operating season will be May through September for peak recreation. Operational hours will be 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. General Admission rates are established for adult, junior, senior, groups and season passes. Programming will include swim school, private rentals, and park buyouts from corporations and agencies. Special events will be offered throughout the summer.

The Competition pool of the Aquatics Center will offer swim school, fitness programs, and specialty classes such as scuba diving and lifeguarding classes, and CPR/First Aide. This site will also be the home of the Patriot High school.

A video presentation about the Aquatics facility was shown to the Commission and handouts regarding the facility were distributed.

BC Brown answered questions the Commissioners had concerning the facility. The Commissioners also offered suggestions to enhance the program.

9.3 San Timoteo Schoolhouse Interpretive Plan – Information

HPO Herron gave a presentation on the Interpretive Plan for the San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse. It is a great example of a professional restoration, funded well, and executed to high standards in terms of preservation and restoration. He explained the concept of an interpretive plan. The interpretive periods of significance go from 1883 to 2010. Interpretive themes include: history of the schoolhouse as a school; San Timoteo as a center of community and the area; historic content of the San Timoteo Canyon; saving and preserving the San Timoteo Schoolhouse. Stories will be told to personalize the school house and the people who lived there, as well as the community that came there. The Schoolhouse will be stored as a classroom, with 20-25 desks, a working facsimile of a classroom. Revolving exhibits will be done showing history of the canyon, and families important to the canyon. School programs will be a focus at the Schoolhouse. School groups will be able to gather outside and use the maypole. Inside lessons will be given to show how school was conducted in these years. Special events will be conducted at the site.

Accolades were given to Commissioner Cody and the San Timoteo Schoolhouse Committee for raising the attention of the schoolhouse to save it and their support to seeing the project to fruition.

The Cody family has also graciously agreed to donate a number of pieces, including the original cast iron stove.

A National Register Nomination was also done for the schoolhouse under Commissioner Cody's leadership.

9.4 Fall Festival – Information

RC Boor gave a Power Point presentation on the Fall Festival held at Rancho Jurupa Park on the weekend of Halloween. The community was introduced to a newly-designed Rancho Jurupa Park. Friday's activities included a haunted mini golf course, spooky stories by the campfire, pumpkin decorating contest, trick or treating, and a costume contest for all ages. Saturday and Sunday's activities included a puppet show, carnival games, food vendors, petting zoo, kid activity zone, hay maze, and hayrides. Friday's attendance was about 300 people, Saturday's 400 people, and Sunday's 500. A customer service satisfaction survey was done. Outcome from that was that customers wanted to see more craft and food vendors. Several Commissioners gave input for next year's event, including asking local utility companies to include a flyer as part of their send out for billing. BC Brown said that there will be more public communications done next year for this event.

9.5 Regional Park & Open-Space District Amendment to Use Fees FY 2010-11 – Action Tracy Novak, Assistant Parks Director Job Code: 2011-1

The Commission reviewed the requested amendments to the current Regional Park & Open-Space District's Use Fees FY 2010-2011 (Resolution 2010-1) presented by APD Novak. The amendments to Resolution 2010-4 are outlined as follows:

- 1) add the fees for the six cabins at Rancho Jurupa Park, new amenities completed within the last six months; and
- 2) amend the fees for the Jurupa Aquatics Complex, this information was not available during the previous Board action for Resolution 2010-1.

M/S/C Martin, Connerton

The Commission approved the changes incorporated into Resolution 2011-4, which amends Resolution 2010-1, revising Use Fees for the Park District and will forward this recommendation to the Board of Directors.

**9.6 Regional Park & Open-Space District Use Fees FY 2011- 2012 – Action
Tracy Novak, Assistant Parks Director**

Job Code: 2011-2

APD Novak gave an overview of the proposed Park District Use Fees for FY 2011-2012, Resolution 2011-5, effective July 2, 2011. The Commission reviewed the recommended changes, which included modest increases in the general fee changes and fees changes at Rancho Jurupa Park, Lake Cahuilla, Mayflower, Lake Skinner, and new fees for the Jurupa Aquatic Center and Jurupa Sport Complex.

M/S/C Connerton, Balys

The Commission approved the proposed Park District Use Fees Schedule FY 2011-2012 as outlined in Resolution 2011-5, effective July 1, 2011 and will forward this recommendation to the Board of Directors.

**9.7 2011 District Advisory Commission Meeting Dates and Locations – Action
M/S/C Connerton, Cody**

The Commission approved the revised 2011 Meeting Dates and Locations Calendar to read as follows:

January 6, 2011 1:30 p.m.	Park District Headquarters 4600 Crestmore Road Riverside, CA 92509	District II
March 3, 2011 10 a.m.*	Blythe Mobile Home Park 13300 Blue Ridge Road Blythe, CA	District IV
May 5, 2011 1:30 p.m.	Park District Headquarters 4600 Crestmore Road Riverside, Ca	District II
July 7, 2011 1:30 p.m.	Idyllwild Nature Center 25225 Highway 243 Idyllwild, CA 92549	District III
September 8, 2011 1:30 p.m.	San Timoteo Schoolhouse 31985 San Timoteo Canyon Road Redlands, CA 92373	District V
November 3, 2011 1:30 p.m.	Hidden Valley Wildlife Area 11401 Arlington Avenue Riverside, CA 92505	District I

*All meetings start at 1:30 p.m. except for the March 3, 2011 meeting, which will start at 10 a.m.

10.0 Commissioners Report – Information

District I

Commissioner Balys was glad to see the Santa Rosa Plateau recovery process highlighted in the Press Enterprise. He is looking forward to seeing the photo project when it is ready. He was concerned over some of the damage at various park sites due to the recent rains and asked how costs would be handled to make the necessary repairs. While the District has done a good job in creating revenue sources, there needs to be a close watch on revenue shifts due to changes in Sacramento. He inquired about the State Commissioners conference in March and asked about the protocol to attend it. GM Bangle noted that this would require budgeting appropriations and typically runs through the Chair to see how the Commission wants to handle this. Chairman Grady and GM Bangle will look into this further.

Commissioner Hartford thanked Commissioner Cody for the work he has done for the schoolhouse. He reviewed the damage due to the recent rains at the Santa Rosa Plateau. APD Novak noted that the Park District had submitted all costs due to the recent rain to the central county agency that is dealing with this as a county-wide effort. The Park District is also using its own staff and resources, including volunteers and CALFire.

District II

Commissioner Hake and GM Bangle did a walk through at the Jurupa Valley Aquatics Center recently. Commissioner Hake attended a community meeting for the 5-Year Strategic Plan.

He also reviewed the rain damage at the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area with Natural Resource Manager Dustin McLain. Damage was not as severe as thought and staff was doing a great job in trying to get things repaired.

Commissioner Smith noted that work had been done between the Executive Office and the Park District about this, and information was disseminated to the community about the closures due to the recent rains.

District III

Vice Chair Connerton toured the splash park at Lake Skinner with GM Bangle. There are still items that need to be completed by the summer. This will be a great asset to that park. He also attended a meeting and gave input for the 5-Year Strategic Plan with Chairman Grady and other commissions and committees. He would like to see this Commission expand its function for fish and game by getting the District Attorney to fine those violators and accumulating more funds for that reserve.

District IV

Commissioner Thomas also attended the 5-Year Strategic plan meeting on September 17. He mentioned partnerships, increased program participation, new amenities, and low-cost solution for pickle ball. He also mentioned working with other county agencies to look at ways to have people use recreational facilities for pickle ball at a low cost; it is fun and a fit for life activity for multi-generation ages 10-90.

A short video on pickle ball was presented. He said that the city of Palm Desert took one of its tennis courts and turned it into four pickle ball courts, which are actively used. We should want to promote the better utilization of these facilities for more people and low cost.

Commissioner Martin noted that Palm Desert will open its Aquatics Center the end of May. The trails in La Quinta have stargazing at night once a month. Desert Recreation is in the final stages of getting a grant for developing Quail Mountain trails and a new nature center. They will be interviewing for a new general manager soon. As a veteran, he vacationed at Omaha, Utah and General Beach in Normandy.

District V

Commissioner Nieburger mentioned the wild burro problem at the range through Box Springs Mountain Park. The city of Moreno Valley has put signs up warning drivers of the burros.

Commissioner Cody showed pictures of the San Timoteo Schoolhouse Committee holiday event and collection of toys for this event. Thirty six people attended and donated 125 toys, which took care of 50 children for Christmas. Children were chosen from the grade schools in Banning. He noted that HPO Herron and GM Bangle have worked very closely to open the San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse. At this point, there is green grass, and a flag pole. He appreciates the cooperation of the Park District, including the previous General Manager Paul Frandsen. He has also been given items for the schoolhouse in which he will put in trust to the Park District.

Chair Grady noted that he hopes the Commissioners can look at Mayflower when they come out in March. He is working on a “rails to trails” project in Blythe with the President of the Community. With the rail industry declining, they are abandoning rails lines. Blythe has about 60 miles of trails being abandoned. They will be talking to the California/Arizona Rail Road to see what they plan to do with the line. He will report back on this

He mentioned that he will assist with the Park District’s March 2, 2011 employee/volunteer appreciation lunch at Mayflower Park. He suggested that other Commissioners do the same when it is held in their area. He gave accolades to HPO Herron, RC Boor, and BC Brown for the ownership they have shown in doing their jobs.

11.0 Park District Status Reports – Information Scott Bangle, General Manager

11.1 Park District Financial Report through 11/30/10

GM Bangle gave an overview of the District’s financial performance through November 30, 2010 for the Operating Fund and Recreation Fund. Operating fund actual is \$1,569,392, a 6.87% increase over projections; expenditures \$5,065,755, -8.64% less than projected.

He also gave an overview of the revenue stream for various programs. Recreation Fees have a favorable variance of \$143,916.92 (17.34%) more than budgeted due to higher than expected revenues at Rancho Jurupa (197% of budget), Hurkey Creek (116% of budget), and Idyllwild Park (140% of budget). Salary and benefits are \$417,145 (11.92%) less than budgeted due to unfilled permanent positions.

The Recreation Fund actual \$635,160, projection \$639,941, a -0.75% ; expenditures \$119,375 projection \$115,900, a 3% positive variance.

The Park District should receive \$1.8 million from the State for reimbursement from grants.

11.2 Items of General Interest

GM Bangle thanked APD Novak for his work on the current and proposed new fees, and BC Brown for taking the lead as the public information officer, working with the Ray

Smith of the Executive Office, to put together timely news releases. He also thanked BC Hune for trying to bring on about 100 staff to the Park District, as well as overseeing the finance team.

The Park District will be doing four ribbon cuttings in the spring.

12.0 Next Meeting – Thursday , March 3, 2011, Blythe Mobile Home Park, Blythe California

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Bangle, General Manager/Parks Director
Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and
Secretary to the Park District Advisory Commission