



Riverside County
Regional Park & Open-Space
District Advisory Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2011, 10 a.m.
Blythe Mobile Home Park
228 Blue Ridge Road
Blythe, CA 92225



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

MINUTES

Members Present:

Mark Balys, District I
Ray Smith, District II
Darrell Connerton, District III, Vice Chair
Cois Byrd, District III
Bob Grady, District IV, Chair
Christopher Thomas, District IV
Judy Nieburger, District V

Staff Present:

Regional Park & Open-Space District
Scott Bangle, General Manager (GM)
Maureen Gayk, Executive Assistant (EA)
Marquese Howard, Graphics Illustrator (GI)

Members Absent:

Bill Hartford, District I (excused)
Daniel Hake, District II (excused)
Don Martin, District IV (excused)
Jerry Cody, District V (excused)

Others Present:

Lee King, Lieutenant, California DF&G
Angel Raton Jr. Captain, California DF&G
Brady Hill, Lieutenant, California DF&G

The meeting was preceded by a verbal presentation from Neeley Bhatt, Pros Consulting, on the Five Year Strategic Plan for the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District.

1.0 Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Roll was called and attendance recorded, see above.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Smith.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

M/S/C Balys, Nieburger

The minutes of the January 6, 2011 minutes were approved as printed.

4.0 Public Comments Related to Fish and Game

There were no public items related to fish and game.

5.0 Items of Public Interest Related to Fish and Game

There was no public input.

6.0 Fish and Game Related Business – Information/Action

6.1 Fish & Game Trust Fund

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

6.2 Request for Trust Fund, Fish & Game, Monies – Action

Job-Code 2011-3

The California Waterfowl host a hunter education camp at Mystic Lake Duck club in partnership with the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The goal is to create safe, knowledgeable and ethical hunters that will become lifelong hunter conservationist in Riverside County. The District.

M/S/C Byrd, Connerton

The Commission approved the \$2,000 request from the California Waterfowl

Association to host a hunter education camp for youth at Mystic Lake Duck Club in the San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

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

There was no public input.

8.0 Trails Committee Report – Receive & File

The Trails Committee Minutes of January 26, 2011 were received and filed as its report.

9.0 New Business – Information/action

Job Code: 2011-4- action

9.1 Transfer of Quechan Park to the City of Blythe- action

The District Advisory Commission is being asked to consider the transfer of Quechan Park to the City of Blythe. GM Bangle mentioned that currently the Park District has a 25-year lease with the City of Blythe for Quechan Park, located on the Colorado River. The Park District proposes to take the value of that property and offset it for the Mayflower infrastructure project. In order to keep the operation and future expansion there needs to be potable water brought to the park. This coordinate would be done with the City of Blythe. The total project is estimated at \$2 million. GM Bangle is looking for authorization from the Commission to move forward with negotiations to transfer the park to the city of Blythe by May of 2011. An appraisal is currently underway. Commissioner Connerton asked that like funds be used for the sewer and water at Mayflower Park.

GM Bangle noted that the City of Blythe received a grant to clean out the lagoon about two years ago. They also received another grant and asked the County to provide the matching funds for the grant. EDA will provide the \$214,000 match on behalf of the Parks Department. GM Bangle noted that the County will request a reduction in fees at Mayflower Park in the amount of the appraisal and the EDA match.

The City of Blythe did a master plan and Quechan was to be an entry statement for the City, County, and State. Amenities such as an arena, hotel and restaurant were talked about at one time. If the City pays market value, the County would not condition it. They would be required to obey certain public resource codes.

Accolades were given to the City for the nice job they have done to improve the area.

Commissioner Grady noted that he sees it as an equitable trade as long as parties can agree on the amount. GM Bangle noted that the Park District sees this as an opportunity for additional recreational activity along the River, provided all work together.

M/S/C Connerton, Thomas

The Commission approved the transfer Quechan Park to the City of Blythe and will forward this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Connerton requested a report back to the Commission on this item. Commissioner Grady mentioned that he feels this will be key to the economic survivability of the Palo Verde Valley.

9.2. Marquese Howard, Graphics Illustrator – information

GM Bangle noted that GI Marquese Howard built from a webpage for the Park District. It is currently being beta tested and is available at WWW.RIVCOPARKS.ORG. The Park District is looking for feedback from the Commissions, and Commissioners were e-mailed as such.

GI Howard gave a brief overview of the website. The Commission has an area within the website as well. There is also a calendar of events page. Posts on the website are also put on Twitter and Facebook the same time.

Commissioner Smith noted that the County is working on a policy for social media. Policies should be in place in terms of content. Accolades were given to GI Howard for his efforts.

Commissioner Grady mentioned co-sponsorships. GI Howard noted that there is an area on the website for partnerships/sponsorships, etc. The Park District is also developing policies that will be implemented in several months including a 360 degree video clip of Park District sites.

GM Bangle noted that Neeley Bhatt, Pros Consulting, said that this site is one of the top 5% in the nation.

**10.0 Commissioners Report – Information
District V**

Commissioner Nieburger – no report

It was noted that Commissioner Cody could not attend because he is out of state.

District IV

Commissioner Thomas noted that Palm Desert City has approved a YMCA to run the Palm Desert pool. Commissioner Grady said that the Supervising Park Ranger at Mayflower is enthusiastically looking at Mayflower Park as a site for pickle ball.

Commissioner Grady mentioned the Mayflower Park ribbon cutting on February 25. It was well attended, including coverage from the Palo Verde Times.

The Palo Verde Irrigation District is hosting a tour of the Palo Verde Valley.

District III

Commissioner Byrd – the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve is now operational. It shut down recently due to the rains. The vernal pools are topped out and the site looks good.

Darrell Connerton – no report.

District II

Commissioner Hake could not be at the meeting today due to a conflict; however, a report from him was read. He participated in the Rancho Jurupa Park fishing contest on January 22. The weather was good. He assisted with handing out the awards. The largest fish was 8'3". He gave thanks to the Fish and Game Warden who attended the event and only gave one ticket.

Commissioner Smith commented on how good that Box Springs Park looked; however, he did see graffiti on boulders coming off of Two Trees Trail.

District I

Commissioner Hartford could not attend the meeting because of a family issue.

Commissioner Balys – no report.

11.0 Park District Status Reports – Information

Scott Bangle, General Manager

11.1 Park District Financial Report through January 31, 2011.

GM Bangle noted that development in Development Impact Fee (DIF) and Plan Check accounts have declined. It is also estimated that there will be about \$500,000 less in property taxes than projected. Pension challenges also include a possible 7 % increase in payroll. Revenues at the parks are up. Recreation as a separate fund is also holding strong. The Park District has been asked to cut the NCC contribution by 25%. GM Bangle noted that he will do a budget presentation before the Board of Supervisors the end of March 2011. Even with the new fees, the Park District will still need to make some cuts from the proposed budget.

11.2 Items of General Interest

GM Bangle introduced visitors of the Fish and Game Department. They are: Lee King, Lieutenant; Angel Raton Jr. Captain; and Brady Hill, Lieutenant. Captain Raton volunteered their services to the Park District. They would like to get more involved with fish and game commissions throughout the State. He mentioned that somehow the courts are not passing the funds down to the county fish and game commissions. They are investigating that issue. The California Department of Fish and Game is also having budget issues.

Commissioner Nieburger asked for assistance with the wild burro issue in Moreno Valley. It was noted that this is under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Bob Grady noted that he often sees the local Fish and Game Warden Jason Green and said that he is a wonderful ambassador for their department.

The Fish and Game representatives were thanked for coming to the meeting.

GM Bangle invited to Commissioners to visit Mayflower Park and view the improvements after the Blythe *Outlook* Conference.

12.0 Next Meeting – Thursday, 1:30 p.m., May 5, 2011, place to be announced.

13.0 Adjournment

M/S/C Connerton/Smith

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.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