

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
Kern River Parkway Nature Center
8000 River Road
Bakersfield, CA 93308**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Commission President Abler presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Commissioner(s): Ryan Abler, District I; William Chapman, District II; and Carol Lair, District III

Absent: Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer; Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager; Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; and Shane Denton, Park Ranger Manager

Others: There were eight (8) others present

Note: Ab, Ch, La, Ce, and Os are abbreviations for Commissioners Abler, Chapman, Lair, Cervantes, and Osby. As an example, Ab-La denotes Commissioner Abler made a motion and Commissioner Lair seconded the motion.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

1. This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. No response is required from the Commission or staff, and no action can be taken on items not on the agenda; however, Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. Commissioners may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

RYAN ALSOP, KERN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON FLOODING POSSIBILITIES WITHIN KERN COUNTY; DATA BEING PROVIDED MONTHLY; PLANNED RELEASED OUTFLOWS FROM THE DAM TO BE MONITORED BY CORE OF ENGINEERS; INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL FLOODING WITH DAILY UPDATES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE KERN COUNTY WEBSITE; AND THE KERN RIVER IS EXCEPTIONALLY DANGEROUS THIS YEAR.

MARGIE BELL, HART PARK WORKING GROUP, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REQUEST AN UPDATE REGARDING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER AND ENCOURAGED VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT.

RAEYONA ROSS, KERN RIVER PARKWAY FOUNDATION NATURE CENTER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES HELD AND BEING PLANNED AT THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER, INCLUDING AN EARTH DAY EVENT, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, A SCIENCE CAMP, AND DEVELOPING CURRICULUM; SHAREABLE CALENDAR AND WEBSITE ARE BEING DEVELOPED; RANGERS TO PROVIDE SAFETY LITURATURE TO THE NATURE CENTER.

EDDY LAINE, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO EXPRESS CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER, PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by staff. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Commission or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence.
 - I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on April 19, 2023. AB-CH TO APPROVE THE APRIL 19, 2023, MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES – 0 OPPOSED
 - II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: AB-CH TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED MAY 3, 2023, FROM CAROL LAIR REGARDING PARK IMPROVEMENTS; WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED MAY 7, 2023, FROM CAROL LAIR REGARDING REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES AND KCAS FOR APRIL 2023; WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED MAY 7, 2023, FROM CAROL LAIR REQUEST FOR MAP OR LOCATION OF NEW OHV PARK; WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED MAY 11, 2023, FROM CAROL LAIR REGARDING FLOODING RISKS TO KERN COUNTY PARKS. MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES – 0 OPPOSED

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. General Services – Status Update

- I. GEOFFREY HILL, CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON KERN COUNTY PARKS; PLANNED FOLIAGE MITIGATION TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE AUDUBON SOCIETY; LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT BUENA VISTA; BELLE TERRACE PARK PROJECT KICK OFF MEETING HELD; AND CONTINUOUS FLOOD MONITORING BEING DONE,
- II. CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE REGARDING VARIOUS MEASURES BEING TAKE TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL FLOODING; DEBRIS CLEARED AT BUENA VISTA; VICKY ARROYO PARK TO BE OPEN SOON; AND PLANS FOR FULLER ACRES AND LA COLONIA PARKS MOVING FORWARD.

4. Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. SHANE DENTON, PARK RANGER MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON RANGER ACTIVITY OVER THE LAST 30 DAYS INCLUDING DRUG SEIZURES, 513 CITATIONS ISSUED, 54 FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS, 16 VEHICLE IMPOUNDS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF RIVER SAFETY LITURATURE; AND TWO RANGERS DEDICATED TO HOMELESS ENFORCMENT TEAM OUTREACH WITH SERVICES BEING OFFERED

AH HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

5. COMMISSIONER LAIR PROVIDED AN UPDATE FOR THE PARKS MASTER PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE VIA EMAIL WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED UNDER CORRESPONDENCE.
6. COMMISSIONER ABLER AND GEOFFREY HILL, CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDED AN UPDATE REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND NAMING OF TRAILS, COORDINATION WITH ALLTRAILS FOR USE OF ONLINE TRAIL QR CODES ON A PLATFORM FOR PUBLIC USE WITH CONTROL OF INFORMATION TO ENSURE ACCURACY.

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

7. Referral from commissioner chapman to add electrical signage to the entrance of hart park to warn visitors to stay out of the kern river due to extremely dangerous conditions; CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO CONFIRM THAT HE IS LOOKING INTO VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES, RESOURCES AND FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COUNTY USE.
8. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); THE COMMISSION TO HOLD THE JUNE MEETING AT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER LOCATED AT 1115 TRUXTUN AVE, 1ST FLOOR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301.

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

9. On their own initiative, Commission members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. Commissioners may request that an item be agendized at a future meeting, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request that staff report back to the Commission at a later meeting.
 - I. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KERN COUNTY ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM.
 - II. COMMISSION ABLER REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REGARDING PROPERTY AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION ON FRONTAGE ROAD FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE USE AS A PARK.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 8:00 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for June 21, 2023 at 6:30 P.M., at the Kern County Administrative Center – 1115 Truxtun Ave., 1st Floor, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Bakersfield, CA 93301.