

AGENDA

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
6:30 P.M.

All agenda items and supporting documentation are available for public review at the Kern County General Services Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, in Bakersfield, CA 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item that is distributed after the agenda is posted and prior to the meeting will also be available at the same location.

Commissioners: Ryan Abler, District I;
William Chapman, District II;
Carol Lair, District III;
Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and
Ucedrah Osby, District V

Disclaimer: This agenda includes the proposed actions and activities with respect to each agenda item as of the date of posting. As such, it does not preclude the Commission from modifying the recommendations of staff or taking different actions than those proposed.

Salute to the Flag

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS, AND REQUESTS

1. This portion of the agenda 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. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD.**
 - I. Presentation by Jeff Goines, National Bike Patrol-National Ski Patrol regarding Kern River Bike Path Patrol; **HEAR PRESENTATION**
 - II. Presentation by Shawn Biglari, Southern California Bike Patrol Advisor, Nations Ski Patrol; **HEAR PRESENTATION**
 - III. Public Comments and Requests

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 January 17, 2024; **APPROVE**
 - II. Miscellaneous Correspondence; **RECEIVE AND FILE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. This portion of the meeting is reserved for General Services staff to provide a report regarding new and ongoing projects, programs, and plans relating to Kern County Parks
 - I. General Services Division; **INFORMATIONAL**
 - II. Park Ranger – Status Update; **INFORMATIONAL**

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

4. This portion of the meeting is reserved for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee appointed by the Commission for the purpose of supporting, identifying priorities and projects regarding the Parks Master Plan update to provide a report; **INFORMATIONAL**

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

5. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **SET MARCH 2024 MEETING LOCATION**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. 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 agendaized 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.

ADJOURNMENT

7. Adjourn to next regular meeting, scheduled for March 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., to be conducted at the County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Bakersfield, CA 93301, unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or cancelled by the Commission.

**Americans with Disabilities Act
(Government Code Section 54953.2)**

The Kern County Administrative Center is accessible to persons with disabilities. Disabled individuals who need assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission may request assistance at the Kern County Parks and Recreation Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bakersfield, or by calling (661) 868-7000. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternate formats. Requests should be made five (5) working days in advance whenever possible.

To obtain past [Agendas or Minutes](https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/), please visit our website at:
<https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/>



Kern County

Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Presentations, Comments and Requests



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Consent Agenda

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
1115 Truxtun Ave, 1st Floor
Bakersfield, CA. 93301
Board of Supervisors Chambers**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Commissioner presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager; and David Kessler, Chief Deputy, Kern County Sheriff

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.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: LEAD BY COMMISSIONER ABLER

COMMISSION MEMBER REORGANIZATION

- I. Ch-Ce TO APPOINT RYAN ABLER AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KERN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR. MOTION CARRIED. **4 AYES - 1 ABSENT - Osby**
- II. Ch-Ce TO APPOINT CAROL LAIR AS THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE KERN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR. MOTION CARRIED. **4 AYES - 1 ABSENT - Osby**

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

- I. **DANIEL RODELA** WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A BRIEF PRESENTATION FROM FAITH IN THE VALLEY REGARDING FORD CITY PARK CONCERNS
- II. **ABIGAIL RODELA** WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS REGARDING FORD CITY PARK CONCERNS
- III. **DIANA** WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS REGARDING FORD CITY PARK CONCERNS
- IV. **CHRIS RUIZ** WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS REGARDING FORD CITY PARK CONCERNS
- V. **JEREMY ROWEL** WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE BAKERSFIELD TRAILBLAZERS 4X4 CLUB TO PROVIDE COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED OHV PARK
- VI. **KATHLEEN ARNOLD-CHAMBERS** WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE NATURE CENTER

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on November 15, 2023; La:Ab TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIED. **4 AYES – 1 ABSENT – Osby**
- II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: RECEIVE AND FILE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED DECEMBER 11, 2023, SUBMITTED BY CAROL LAIR; WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED JANUARY 6, 2024, SUBMITTED BY CAROL LAIR. MOTION CARRIED. **4 AYES – 1 ABSENT – Osby**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- I. **POTOMAC PARK** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS REGARDING GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7.4 MILLION DOLLARS

- II. **FORD CITY SPLASH PAD** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE PROJECT UPDATES
- III. **MOJAVE EAST BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE PROJECT UPDATES
- IV. **LINDA KISSACK SKATE PARK** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE PROJECT UPDATES

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. DAVID KESSLER, CHIEF DEPUTY, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON RANGER ACTIVITIES

AH HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- I. COMMISSIONER ABLER PROVIDED AN UPDATE REGARDING THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND NAMING OF TRAILS. SIGNAGE HAS BEEN PLACED AT THE TRAILHEAD; UPDATE ITEM TO BE REMOVED FROM FUTURE AGENDA
- II. NO REPORT FROM THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING, IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS REGARDING THE PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE; CONTINUED TO A FUTURE MEETING.

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

- I. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE FEBRUARY 2024 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

- I. COMMISSIONER LAIR PROVIDED COMMENTS REGARDING DECEASED ANIMALS LOCATED WITHIN
- II. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN PROVIDED UPDATE REGARDING AW NOON DISC GOLF COURSE
- III. COMMISSIONER ABLER PROVIDED COMMENTS REGARDING BIKE PATH CLEAN UP AND CLEAN UP ACTIVITY HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:30 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for February 21, 2024, at 6:30 P.M., at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Ave. 1st Floor, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or cancelled by the Commission.

From: [Carol Lair](#)
To: [Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence](#)
Subject: END OF THE YEAR REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES AND KCAS FOR 2023
Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 7:42:38 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Another year comes to a close and here are some of the highlights.

January was unusual because we typically removed 4-5 cats in January for the previous 3 years. Not sure why the number of cats increased to 13 for the month.

In March three 10 week old kittens were rescued on a chilly morning. This month was cold, windy, rainy, funnel clouds, and thunder storms. We called them the Weather Kittens--Stormy, Thunder and Lightning. Also in March the Director of the Nature Center discovered a mother cat and her 3 newborn kittens outside the nature Center.

During April An injured Mallard duck was captured and taken to a wildlife rescue at Morro Bay. CALM can't take any wildlife as they are redoing their wildlife facility.

In May two bunnies were abandoned and were trapped--a park visitor took one and we took one to KCAS.

June was a very busy month with 32 cats removed from the park and once again this was not a typical month. In the 3 previous years between 4 and 16 cats were removed in June. I received a text on a Sunday evening in June that a mother cat and kittens had been locked in one of the adobe bathrooms on Bison Road. A park volunteer and I went to the bathroom and could see an adult Siamese cat. Using a wrench borrowed from a park visitor we removed a heavy bolt locking the bathroom door and rescued the Siamese and her three 6 week old kittens.

Also in June a park visitor rescued a 7 week old brown tabby kitten that he found clinging to a tree branch over the river. She was all by herself no other kittens or mother cat. She was in foster care and found to have ringworm and giardia. She was successfully treated and went to our sanctuary. We named her Sailor because she almost went sailing down the river.

In July a Canadian Goose missing part of its upper beak rescued because it was having trouble eating and a home was found that could care for it. We have no idea what injured the goose--an animal attack, cruel humans? We will never know. Life at the park poses many challenges for the animals that live there.

Also in July we were contacted by Critters Without Litters for an opportunity to take in a group of 8 feral cats to be spayed or neutered. We were able to get 12 cats total. We took 7 to CWL, 3 females and 4 males, and returned them to the park. Four cats of the cats we rescued had been abandoned in plastic bags and nearly died from the heat--it was 104 that day. They were not taken to CWL and went to foster care. Another cat escaped from his trap but is no longer at the park. For part of July KCAS

was so swamped with dogs and cats that we couldn't take in park cats.

In August a severely injured gray tabby abandoned. He was taken to KCAS with a severe abscess on his back and his tail was broken in two places with bones showing. He was also emaciated. Decision had to be made to euthanize him.

In October Critters Without Litters again allowed us to take in a group of 8 feral cats. We trapped 8 cats but one was able to escape its trap and is no longer at the park. We took four males and three females to be fixed.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in October we began to see a big uptick in the number of animals deceased at the park. For October, November and December 16 animals died at the park--8 cats, 3 skunks, 3 raccoons and 2 possums. Of the 16, 11 were killed by cars, 4 by animal attacks, and 1 unknown cause. Of the 11 killed by cars, 8 occurred on River Road, 5 on AHH and 1 on Bison road. Clearly River road is an area of concern for animals at the park. Looking back over the year, we also saw 6 additional cats dead --1 by animal attack, 1 hit by a car and 4 unknown causes. We also saw red squirrels, ground squirrels a goose and a peacock killed by cars. For the coming year we will pay close attention to animals that die at the park.

81 Cats taken to KCAS.

11 Cats picked up by park visitors.

14 Cats died at the park

6 Cats euthanized or died at KCAS

38 Cats were in foster care (7 went to our sanctuary, 25 to KCAS and 6 still in foster care)

5 Cats picked up and homes found for them.

1 Cat taken to our sanctuary

2 Cats escaped traps but are no longer at the park.

17 Cats spayed/neutered and returned to the park. TNR

35 Dogs abandoned

3 Bunnies abandoned

1 Chicken abandoned

TOTAL CATS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 158

Estimated cat population: 75

Carol Lair

From: [Carol Lair](#)
To: [Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence](#)
Subject: Re: END OF THE YEAR REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES AND KCAS FOR 2023
Date: Thursday, February 08, 2024 10:18:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

It has come to my attention that there is an error in this report. A sentence in the last paragraph should read:

Of the 11 killed by cars, 6 occurred on River Road, 4 on AHH and 1 on Bison road.

I apologize for the error.

Carol Lair

On Friday, January 26, 2024 at 09:16:52 AM PST, Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence <prc-correspondence@kerncounty.com> wrote:

Good morning,

This email has been received and will be placed under the correspondence tab of the February 21, 2024 Board Book.

Thank you!



1115 Truxtun Ave • 3rd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

661-868-3000 (Main) | 661-868-3027 (Desk)
zaragozay@kerncounty.com
<https://www.kerncounty.com>

From: Carol Lair <carollair@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 7:42 AM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence <PRC-Correspondence@kerncounty.com>
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1 Chicken abandoned

TOTAL CATS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 158

Estimated cat population: 75

Carol Lair

From: [Carol Lair](#)
To: [Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence](#)
Subject: REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES AND KCAS FOR JANUARY 2024
Date: Thursday, February 08, 2024 11:10:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

1-2-24 A dilute tortie and a gray tabby rescued and taken to KCAS.

1-3-24 A black/white cat and a black cat adopted by a park volunteer.

1-4-24 A black/white cat picked up and taken to KCAS.

1-5-24 A gray tabby cat rescued and taken to KCAS.

1-6-24 A black dog and a black/white dog abandoned. They were acting aggressively and KCAS called

1-10-24 A deceased black/white cat found at the Nature Center. It appeared to have been attacked by another animal.

1-11-24 A cat with injuries to a paw and ear rescued and taken to KCAS.

1-12-24 An orange/white cat with injuries to a back leg rescued and taken to KCAS.

1-12-24 A black cat picked up and taken to KCAS.

1-13-24 An orange/white cat picked up and taken to KCAS.

1-14-24 A gray tabby/white cat rescued and taken to KCAS. Cat had ringworm and is in foster care being treated.

1-29-24 A black/white cat rescued and taken to KCAS. Cat had ringworm and is in foster care being treated. .

8 Cats taken to KCAS

2 Cats adopted by a park visitor

1 Cat died at the park

2 cats in foster care.

TOTAL CATS REMOVED: 13

TOTAL DOGS ABANDONED: 2

Carol Lair

RESULTS

Ford City Park Improvement Survey

1. AGES OF THE RESPONDENTS

Question: Age?

310 Responses

- **40%** 18-29
- **31.3%** 30-44
- **15.8%** 45-59
- **8.7%** Under 18
- **4.2%** 60+

2. CONDITION OF FORD CITY PARK

Question: What condition do you think Ford City Park is in?

310 Responses

- **58.4%** Needs Improvement
- **33.5%** Poor

Over 90% of respondents expressed the need for the improvement of the current condition of Ford City Park.

3. REASONS FOR NOT WANTING TO VISIT FORD CITY PARK

Question: What makes you not want to visit Ford City Park?

310 Responses

- **42.9%** Condition of park
- **36.5%** Safety
- **18.1%** Lack of amenities

4. IMPROVEMENTS THAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS

Question: Choose improvements you want to see at Ford City Park:

- New public restrooms
- Water splash pad for children
- Bicycle parking

- New children's play equipment
- Two new basketball courts
- Small free book station
- Mural and cultural representation
- Change the name of the park
- Picnic area with shading
- New picnic tables and grills
- Two picnic tables accessible to ADA
- Tree trimming and green grass
- Hydration station with pet fountain
- Pedestrian path with lighting
- Security Cameras
- Exercise Area
- Fenced Park
- Other:

Over 40% of the 310 survey respondents responded:

- **97%** New public restrooms
- **91%** Pedestrian path with lighting
- **74%** Water splash pad for children
- **68%** Two new basketball courts
- **67%** New children's play equipment
- **67%** New picnic tables and grills
- **67%** Tree trimming and green grass
- **64%** Picnic area with shading
- **54%** Security Cameras
- **47%** Exercise Area
- **46%** Hydration station with pet fountain
- **41%** Mural and cultural representation



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Staff
Report(s)



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

New/Unfinished/
Other Business



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Member Presentations or Announcements