

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 19, 2025
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

COMMISSION MEMBER REORGANIZATION

1. Commission members to elect a chairman, co-chairman, and other officers they deem necessary for the 2025 term. **ACTION**

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS, AND REQUESTS

2. 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. Public Comments and Requests

CONSENT AGENDA

3. 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 15, 2025; **APPROVE**
 - II. Miscellaneous Correspondence; **RECEIVE AND FILE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

4. 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**
 - i. Update on Adopt-A-Park program
 - ii. Update on signage at Hart Park
 - iii. Update on embankment repairs involving FEMA at Riverside Park
 - iv. Update on embankment repairs involving FEMA at Uffert Park
 - v. Update on Hart Park Memorial Adventure Play Area
 - II. Park Ranger – Status Update; **INFORMATIONAL**

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

5. Referral by Commissioner Lair to provide an update on Adventure Play Area at Hart Park; **GENERAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE UPDATE IN DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
6. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **SET MARCH 2025 MEETING LOCATION**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. 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

8. Adjourn to next regular meeting, scheduled for March 19, 2025, 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.

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<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 15, 2025
6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Commissioner Abler presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner(s): Ryan Abler, District I; and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; Isaac Preston, Senior CAO Manager; Michael Deleon, Sheriff's Commander, Kern County Sheriff; and Jason Nelson, Sheriff's Lieutenant, Kern County Sheriff

Others: There were 25 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 CHAPMAN

COMMISSION MEMBER REORGANIZATION

1. Commission members to elect a chairman, co-chairman, and other officers they deem necessary for the 2025 term. **CONTINUED TO FEBRUARY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

- I. **DAVID SCHAD** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING KERN AUDOBON SOCIETY TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON PARK MONOFILAMENT RECYCLING BINS INSTALLATION REQUEST
- II. **MICHAEL HUTSON**, CHIPMAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO FACILITATE A PRESENTATION BY CHIPMAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TITLED, “FRIENDS OF THE PANORAMA PARK”

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on November 20, 2024; **Ch:Ce TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES; 2 ABSENT – ABLER; OSBY**
- II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: Written Correspondence dated December 16, 2024, submitted by Eddy Laine; Written Correspondence dated December 14, 2024, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated December 14, 2024, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated December 14, 2024, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated December 14, 2024, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated December 14, 2024, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated December 14, 2024, submitted by Carol Lair; and Written Correspondence dated January 2, 2025, submitted by Carol Lair; **Ch:Ce TO RECEIVE AND FILE; MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES; 2 ABSENT – ABLER; OSBY**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- I. **BUENA VISTA LAKE** - ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE PROJECTS TO INSTALL TWO NEW RESTROOMS WITH SHOWERS AND NEW RAMP INSTALLATION; PROJECTS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY
- II. **STRAMLER PARK** - ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT ON NEW UPGRADES INCLUDING A WALKING PATH, LIGHTING, SHADE STRUCTURES OVER SEATING, ADA WALKING PATH, CORNHOLE AND UPGRADES TO THE VOLLEYBALL COURT; PROJECTS TO BEGIN SOON
- III. **HERITAGE PARK** – ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER , WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON CURRENT AND FUTURE ANTICIPATED PROJECTS

- IV. **OHV PARK** - ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER , WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO STATE THAT A GRANT EXTENSION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THROUGH DECEMBER 2026 TO CONTINUE PROPERTY SEARCH

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. **MICHAEL DELEON**, SHERIFF'S COMMANDER, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A PARK RANGER UPDATE; HIRING IS ONGOING
- II. **JASON NELSON**, SHERIFF'S LIEUTENANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON PARK RANGER BOATS CURRENTLY IN CONSTRUCTION; ANTICIPATED RECEIPT IS SET FOR EARLY SUMMER

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 19, 2025 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 CHAPMAN PROVIDED COMMENTS ON INSTALLATION OF DISC GOLF AT HERITAGE PARK
- II. COMMISSIONER LAIR PROVIDED COMMENTS EXPRESSING CONCERN REGARDING BANK EROSION AT HART PARK
- III. COMMISSIONER LAIR REQUESTED AN UPDATE ON THE SPRAY PARK AT HART PARK

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:10 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for February 19, 2025, 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 canceled by the Commission.

From: [Carol Lair](#)
To: [Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence](#)
Subject: END OF THE YEAR REPORT FOR HART PARK CATS 2024
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:17:47 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.

END OF THE YEAR REPORT FOR HART PARK CATS 2024

This past year has been a busy one and more cats removed from the park than in any of the previous 8 years. Here are a few highlights: Over the course of the year, we were able to rescue 7 mother cats and their 27 kittens from the park. All were in foster care for varying lengths of time. Five mother cats and 13 kittens went to KCAS. One mother cat was not adoptable and was returned to the park TNR. Two mother cats and 14 kittens went eventually to our sanctuary. This is the most mother cats and kittens we have ever rescued in one year.

In March someone stuffed 9 kittens into a pair of jeans and abandoned them. They were in the sun when we found them and they were hot and panting. They were immediately put in foster care and over several days all recovered. They appeared to be from 2-3 different litters as they were different sizes and degrees of socialization.

In May someone put 6 kittens in a clothes hamper with a lid and dumped it in a canal. Three kittens escaped and a park volunteer heard them meowing and rescued them. More meowing was heard and the the other 3 kittens were rescued from the hamper.

July was a brutally hot month, in fact, it was the hottest July in the past 125 years. We curtailed picking up or trapping cats during the hottest days. Trying to get cats in extreme heat is stressful for them and us as well. Further, for a period of time we couldn't take cats to KCAS due to a shortage of space.

In December a park visitor witnessed a Blue Heron attack 3 kittens and kill 1 and the other 2 she rescued. We have long suspected Blue Herons would prey upon kittens given the chance.

During the year we picked up 3 cats with microchips and they were returned to their owners.

SUMMMARY

121 Cats taken to KCAS (4 euthanized)

12 Cats picked up by park visitors

33 Cats were in Foster Care

13 Cats adopted locally and out of county

10 Cats died at park

5 Cats killed by cars (4 on Alfred Harrell Highway and 1 on River Road)

31 Cats TNR (trap neuter return)

TOTAL CATS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 194

TOTAL POPULATION OF CATS: 70

We park volunteers are animal lovers and care about the wildlife at the park so we want to share some information about other animal issues. The reason this information is so important is to inform officials and the public that the park is NOT paradise for any abandoned animals including cats. There are dangerous predators as well as the danger of vehicles driving within the park. Further, birds are being endangered by fish line and hooks left on the ground. Primarily water fowl are the most likely to get fish line around their legs and hooks in their bodies and beaks. Please note, the following numbers reflect only what we witnessed or were made aware of.

During the year there were **41 animals other than cats abandoned** at the park including 23 dogs, 3 bunnies, 5 Guinea Pigs, 6 chickens and 4 Guinea Hens.

Also **35 animals were killed by cars**. There were **16** killed on **River Road** including 3 skunks, 2 possums, 3 beavers, 1 raccoon, 1 Rattle Snake, 1 Red Eared Slider turtle, 1 Red Squirrel, 3 ground squirrels, and 1 cat.

On **Alfred Harrell Highway** there were **17** animals killed including 3 raccoons, 4 skunks, 2 Red Squirrels, 3 ground squirrels, 1 possum and 4 cats.

Additionally, 1 goose killed on Canal Road and 1 beaver killed on Bison Road.

SUMMARY: 7 skunks, 6 ground squirrels, 5 cats, 4 raccoons, 4 beavers, 3 possums, 3 Red Squirrels, 1 goose, 1 Rattle Snake, 1 Red Eared Slider turtle.

There were **23 animals that died from predator attacks or unknown causes** including 2 goslings killed by raccoon, 1 kitten killed by Blue Heron, 8 Coots that may have been killed by humans, 1 raccoon, 1 possum, and 10 cats.

Another issue that came to our attention this year was the **8 birds that were impacted by tangling with fishing line and fish hooks**. There were 2 geese helped. A third goose was severely injured and it was transported to Pacific Wildlife Care in Morro Bay and it had to be euthanized. There was one goose we couldn't catch. Also 2 ducks were helped and a third died. There was 1 peacock we helped. Our wonderful local Audubon Society stepped up and provided the signage and receptacles for fish line and hooks—2 have been installed with more to follow.

Carol Lair.
Hart Park Coordinator
The Cat People



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Staff
Report(s)



Kern County
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New/Unfinished/
Other Business



Kern County
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Commission Member Presentations or Announcements