

MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. Commissioner Abler presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner(s): William Chapman, District II; and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; Michelle Burns-Lusich, Interim Chief General Services Officer; Isaac Preston, Deputy Chief General Services Officer

Others: There were 10 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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

- I. **KATHLEEN ARNOLD-CHAMBERS** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER TO WELCOME MEETING ATTENDEES TO THE NATURE CENTER
- II. **GREG DEWITT** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE BAKERSFIELD SKATEBOARD FOUNDATION TO EXPRESS TO THE COMMISSIONS THE NEED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION AND UPKEEP OF KERN COUNTY SKATE PARKS
- III. **NATALIE TAYLOR** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO ADVOCATE FOR THE PLANNED SPLASH PAD AT HART PARK, EMPHASIZING ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING AND SAFETY
- IV. **CARLA RIVAS** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE RIVER AND ITS SURROUNDING HABITAT, AS WELL AS THE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE NATURE CENTER TO ENSURE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- V. **JEREMY ROWEL** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REQUEST AN UPDATE ON THE PLANNED OHV PARK

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on March 19, 2025; **Ce:La TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES; 2 ABSENT-CHAPMAN; OSBY**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- I. **WOFFORD HEIGHTS** – ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON UPCOMING PARK PROJECTS INCLUDING NEW CONCRETE AND PICKLE BALL COURTS
- II. **FRASIER MOUNTAIN PARK** - ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON UPCOMING PARK RENOVATIONS AND RESTORATIONS
- III. **PANORAMA PARK** - ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON UPCOMING PARK UPDATES INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS
- IV. **DISTRICT IV PARK UPDATES** - ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON UPCOMING DISTRICT FOUR PARK UPDATES INCLUDING PARKING LOT RESURFACING, SOLAR LIGHTING AND BASEBALL FIELD RENOVATIONS
- V. **BELLE TERRACE PARK** - ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON UPCOMING PARK UPDATES INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF PARK LIGHTING, SHADE STRUCTURES AND PICNIC AREA REPAINTING

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

- I. **KERN COUNTY OHV 2025 GRANT CYCLE APPLICATIONS**; STAFF PROVIDED THE COMMISSION WITH THE 2025 OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) FUNDING REQUEST APPLICATION FROM STEWARDS OF THE SEQUOIA; REVIEWED GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL; DISCUSSED; SUBMIT GRANT AWARD RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; **Ab-Ce TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT \$42,000 BE GRANTED TO STEWARDS OF THE SEQUOIA. MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES, 2 ABSENT - CHAPMAN; OSBY**
- II. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE MAY 21, 2025, MEETING AT THE KERN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER AT 1115 TRUXTUN AVE. 1ST FLOOR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**
- III. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE JUNE 18, 2025, MEETING AT THE DAVID HEAD CENTER, 10300 SAN DIEGO STREET LAMONT, CA 93241**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. COMMISSION MEMBERS ABLER AND CERVANTES TO BE ABSENT FROM THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 21, 2025
- II. COMMISSIONER PROVIDED INFORMATION REGARDING THE GROUP CRITTER COALITION AND THEIR GOALS TOWARD ANIMAL RESCUE AND SERVICES

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:06 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for May 21, 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.