

MINUTES

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

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Commissioner Abler 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: Commissioner(s): Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Joshua Rudnick, Deputy County Counsel; Isaac Preston, Deputy Chief General Services Officer

Others: There were 5 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. **ELIZABETH CHAVEZ** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO RECOGNIZE PARKS STAFF FOR THEIR EFFICIENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS. IN ADDITION, SHE EXPRESSED CONCERNS REGARDING ONGOING ISSUES AT HART PARK, INCLUDING TRASH ACCUMULATION AND FISHING WIRE REFUSE, VEHICLES DRIVING AT HIGH SPEEDS, DEAD TREES POSING FIRE HAZARDS, AND UNAUTHORIZED OVERNIGHT CAMPING. SHE ALSO SUGGESTED THE INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED PARK ADVOCACY
- II. **CARLA RIVAS** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE STANDPIPE PROJECT. ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK AND AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE PROJECT IS SET TO BEGIN SOON AND WILL INVOLVE FIVE STANDPIPES, EACH FEATURING WORK BY A DIFFERENT ARTIST

- III. **RICH O'NEIL** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY FOUNDATION TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT ENSURING SAFE AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY USE OF THE PLANNED SPRAY PARK AT HART PARK AND EMPHASIZED PRIORITIZING SAFETY AND ASKED FOR AN UPDATE ON THE COUNTY'S PLANNED TRAFFIC STUDY RELATED TO HART PARK, SECTION 7 AND THE NATURE CENTER

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on July 16, 2025; **Ab:La TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES; 2 ABSENT-CERVANTES; OSBY**
- II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: Written Correspondence dated August 20, 2025, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated August 27, 2025, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated August 15, 2025, submitted by Sierra Club Kern-Kaweah; Written Correspondence dated August 30, 2025, submitted by Sierra Club Kern-Kaweah; Written Correspondence dated September 17, 2025, submitted by the General Services Division; **Ab:La TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE; MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES; 2 ABSENT- CHAPMAN; OSBY**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- IV. **VIRGINA PARK:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY HELD ON AUGUST 1, 2025
- V. **FULLER ACRES PARK:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON UPCOMING RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 3, 2025 AT 2:00 PM
- VI. **TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE UPCOMING EVENT TO BE HELD AT BEALE LIBRARY ON NOVEMBER 8, 2025, AT 10:00 AM
- VII. **OHV LAND ACQUISITION:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT THAT THERE IS NO PROGRESS TO REPORT ON THE OHV LAND ACQUISITION AT THIS TIME

- VIII. **BUENA VISTA LAKE:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO STATE THAT TWO NEW RESTROOMS AND SHOWERS ARE NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. SUPERIOR CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN AWARDED THE \$2,989,313 STATEWIDE PARKS PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE PARK PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES MULTIPLE PARK ENHANCEMENTS WITH COMPLETION EXPECTED BY DECEMBER 2026. ONGOING ISSUES WITH THE SEPARATE BOAT LAUNCH PROJECT WERE ALSO NOTED , AS DELAYS AND CONTRACTOR ERRORS HAVE REQUIRED COUNTY COUNSEL’S INVOLVEMENT TO RESOLVE CLAIMS AND ENSURE COMPLETION

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. **JASON NELSON,** SHERIFF’S LIEUTENANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE; 40 AUTHORIZED PARK RANGER POSITIONS, WITH 28 CURRENTLY HIRED. TWELVE RECRUITS ARE IN THE ACADEMY, GRADUATING IN NOVEMBER, AND TWO ARE COMPLETING FIELD TRAINING. OF 25 NEW TRUCKS ORDERED, 17 HAVE BEEN DELIVERED, WITH EIGHT PENDING FINAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION. SINCE APRIL, RANGERS HAVE COMPLETED 181 REPORTS, INITIATED OVER 1,800 INCIDENT AND ISSUED 244 ARRESTS/CITATIONS

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

- I. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE OCTOBER 15, 2025, MEETING AT THE KERN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER AT 1115 TRUXTUN AVE. 1ST FLOOR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. COMMISSIONER LAIR PROVIDED INFORMATION REGARDING SICK, INJURED AND EMACIATED BOBCATS AND BOBCAT KITTENS AND STATED THAT THE MONOFILAMENT RECYCLING BINS ARE CURRENTLY IN USE

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:30 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for August 20, 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.