

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue,
3rd Floor Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, February 28th, 2018
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 28th, 2018. Chairman Barrera presided.

Present: Commissioner Gary Bray, District I; Commissioner William Chapman, District II
Kathleen Arnold-Chambers, District III; Commissioner Gregory McGiffney, District IV;
Manuel Barrera, District V

Absent: None

Staff: Bret Haney, Division Chief, Kern County General Services Department

Others: There were 12 others present

NOTE: Br, Ch, Mc, Ba, Ar are abbreviations for Commissioners Bray, Chapman, McGiffney, Barrera, and Arnold-Chambers. As an example, Mc-Br denotes Commissioner McGiffney made a motion and Commissioner Bray seconded the motion.

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. Flag Salute: Chairman Barrera

1. Approval of the Minutes of January 24th, 2018

The minutes from January 24th, 2018 were reviewed. Ar - Mc, motion to approve the minutes. All ayes - minutes were approved with no corrections.

2. Public Presentations

Marion Vargas heard – Brought up concern for the amount of squirrels at Panorama Park. She feels the owl boxes are not working and is asking what else can be done. Bret is looking into other options that might be available to control the squirrel population. Administrative citations for feeding wildlife was a suggestion as another option and a possible educational press release in spring.

Steve Williams heard – Update signage at Tehachapi Mountain Park for search and rescue calls. McGiffney discussed the recruitment of search and rescue.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence received regarding Wildlife Preserve Request. Chairman motioned to receive and file. All ayes, motion carried.

4. **Public Requests**

Presentation by Eddy Lane and Tony Duarte with the Sierra Club – made presentation asking Commission to consider their proposal and forward to the Board of Supervisors. They are proposing a couple of areas, between the Kern River golf course and the river and between Hart Park and the river, be used as a wildlife preserve. The Sierra Club is asking the County to possibly conduct a study on the land to protect it from being developed.

5. **New Business**

None

6. **Old Business**

2018 Meeting dates and locations

The Commission determined that they would like to have at least one meeting in each District for the 2018 schedule. Locations as follows:

- March 28th, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd floor
- April 25th, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd floor
- May 30th, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd floor
- June 27th, 2018, District 4 Taft
- July 25th, 2018, District 2 Tehachapi Library
- August 22nd, 2018, District 1 Lake Isabella Veterans Building
- September 26th, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd floor
- October 24th, 2018, District 3 Rathburn
- November 28th, 2018, District 5
- No Meeting December 2018

County Recreation Day

Commissioner Arnold-Chambers provided a brief history. She has been working with Library staff on this event. Five events are being considered, one for each District, and suggested dates at this point are for June and July. The Library will have reading centers in pop-up tents at the designated park sites. The beginning steps have been made to collaborate with the different districts for these events. They have narrowed down dates for Districts 3, 4, and 5 and hope to have the rest of the dates shortly.

7. **Department Staff Report**

Hart Park Plan

The consultant met with staff last week. The updated timeline is that they expect to have a finished project by the end of April. If that happens it is hopeful that we will go to the Board in May with this design. Additionally, we have applied for a grant with the State for new playground equipment at Hart Park as well.

Privatization

We are continuing to look at privatization and transferring responsibility where possible. The County Parks Department (and GS prior) has provided maintenance for the Calloway Streetscape. Public Works will assume the responsibility of maintaining this area. We will continue to look at areas in less than a three mile radius of this building to privatize services, where possible, as long as it makes financial sense.

Volunteer Groups

We are in the process of getting additional agreements with volunteer groups to help us with the trash issues in our parks. There are currently groups that go through Buena Vista and Hart Park and we are hopeful to utilize some of the BV groups to assist with the cleanup at Panorama Park.

March Meeting/CAO

Ryan Alsop, CAO, tentative to attend the March meeting.

8. Commission Comments

Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard: She asked about the audience members present. They presented no requests/business.

Commissioner Bray heard: Commented that litter and homelessness are the two biggest issues that are being brought up in his District.

Commissioner McGiffney heard: He gave thanks for the attendance and the update on search and rescue.

Chairman Barrera heard: He thanked everyone for attending and gave a welcome to the new Commissioner, William Chapman.

9. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings:

The meeting time is at 6:30 p.m.

Future meeting dates and locations (subject to change):

- March 28, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd floor
- April 25, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd floor
- May 30, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd floor
- June 27, 2018, District 4 Taft
- July 25, 2018, District 2 Tehachapi Library
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10. Adjournment

Commissioner Barrera adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.