

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

**County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue,
3rd Floor Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, April 25th, 2018
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, April 25th, 2018. Chairman Barrera presided.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gregory McGiffney, District IV

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

Others: There were 25 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 February 28th, 2018

The minutes from February 28th, 2018 were reviewed. (The March meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum therefore there were no minutes to approve for March.) Br - Ar, motion to approve the minutes. 4 Ayes, 1 Absent, Motion carried - Minutes were approved.

2. Public Presentations

Lorraine Unger Heard – ADA and minutes on website.

Marion Vargas Heard – Amplification for the meetings.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence received regarding the following:

- Off Highway Vehicle Funding Requests
- Kern River Parkway Wildlife Preserve Requests
- Letter Mesonika Piecuch

Ar-Ch motioned to receive and file. 4 Ayes, 1 Absent, motion carried.

4. **Public Requests**

There were no public requests.

5. **New Business**

- Request by Sierra Club to perform feasibility study for Kern River Parkway Wildlife Preserve

Eddy Laine heard regarding Kern River Parkway Wildlife Preserve Proposal for land along Kern River. Commissioner Bray heard in support of the idea as a user of the same space, Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard in support. Commissioner Chapman heard regarding visiting the area after the last meeting. There were questions from audience regarding future restrictions that come out of this designation. There was a question from the Chairman regarding the feasibility of the study. Steve Montgomery (Sierra Club) heard. Lorraine Unger heard regarding a past proposal about a pool in Hart Park and a land deal below the boys camp. PRESENTATION HEARD; RECOMMENDATION MADE DIRECTING STAFF TO WORK WITH MR. EDDY LAINE TO DEVELOP STUDY

- Requests for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Funding

(1) Kern County General Services Division, Parks & Recreation - \$40,000 – equipment. Chris Horgan heard regarding the use of funds. Chief Ranger, Ron Rice heard regarding grant application. Commissioner Bray heard with questions regarding staffing. Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard regarding fire hazard near the park. Commissioner Chapman heard regarding trail availability and illegal use. There were questions from the audience regarding the type of vehicle request and why asking for OHV funds. - DISCUSSED; RECEIVED PUBLIC INPUT; RECOMMENDATION MADE

(2) Kern County Sheriff's Office - \$49,879 – Equipment and staffing. Steve Williams heard regarding grant proposal. Provided information to Commission regarding priority of funding and offered additional quads to Rangers. Ed O'Brien heard regarding letter from Ms. Piecuch and citation efforts. There was a question from Commissioner Arnold-Chambers regarding priority of trailer and man hours (overtime). There was a question from Commissioner Bray regarding the length of funding. Lorraine Unger heard regarding the letter from Ms Piecuch and the response on the number of citations written. Steve Williams stated that the number of citations has been provided through public records requests DISCUSSED, RECEIVED PUBLIC INPUT; RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

(3) Stewards of the Sequoia - \$50,000 – Chris Hogan heard regarding the grant proposal for the trail maintenance. Commissioner Chapman questioned the location of the work to be performed and if it is within Kern County and also about privatizing work. Hogan said the majority of the work is within Kern, one area does extend into Tulare County. Commissioner Bray asked for verification of the location within Kern. DISCUSSED, RECEIVED PUBLIC INPUT; RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

(4) Friends of Kern Open Space - \$3,000 – Dave Walker heard regarding the grant proposal for the two Instruction & Safety events. The events are geared to attract off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders to provide information and gather information on needs of the OHV community. Commissioner Arnold-Chambers questioned if there is other funding available or if donations are being requested from other sources. DISCUSSED, RECEIVED PUBLIC INPUT; RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

Commissioner recommendations made:

- Commissioner Bray heard regarding recommendation on funding split
- Commissioner Chapman heard regarding recommendation on funding split
- Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard regarding recommendation on funding split
- Commissioner Barrera heard regarding proposals, details and funding split
- Commissioner Barrera proposed \$20k to Stewards of the Sequoia, \$15k to Kern County Sheriff's and Rangers, and \$0 to Friends of Kern Open Space.

Commissioner funding proposals/motions

- Commissioner Bray proposed \$15k to Stewards of the Sequoia, \$35k to Rangers, and \$0 to Sheriff's Office and Friends of Kern Open Space.
 - Commissioner Arnold-Chambers proposed \$20k to Stewards of the Sequoia, \$15k to Kern County Sheriff's and Rangers, and \$0 to Friends of Kern Open Space
 - Commissioner Chapman proposed \$15k to Sheriff's Office, \$25k to Stewards of the Sequoia, \$3k to Friends of Kern Open Space, and \$7k to Rangers. Commissioner Chapman made a motion to approve, lack of 2nd, motion failed.
 - Commissioner Arnold-Chambers proposed \$27k to Stewards of the Sequoia, \$20k to Rangers, and \$3k to Friends of Kern Open Space
 - Commissioner Bray made motion to approve \$25k to Stewards of the Sequoia, \$25k to Kern County General Services Rangers, Commissioner Arnold-Chambers 2nd. 3 Ayes, 1 Nay (Chapman), 1 Absent (McGiffney) Approved, motion carried.
- Redistricting Impacts – Bret Haney heard regarding the redrawn District lines. Immediate impact to the Commission is nothing until Commission terms expire or are re-appointed. Future meeting sites and County Recreation Day locations may change. The County website has the newest map of redrawn County lines.

6. Old Business

County Recreation Day

Motion by Commissioner Arnold-Chambers to move the event to 2019 to give additional time due to effects caused by redistricting. This will be brought back to the Commission during the Fall.

7. Department Staff Report

Pest Control efforts in County parks and trash management at Hart Park

Larry Swan heard.

County Budget

Bret Haney heard on County budgets recently submitted and how it affects Parks related positions and activities.

Hart Park Plan

Bret Haney heard - Expecting to receive the plan from the vendor within the next week. They hope to take the final product to the Board late in May.

8. Commission Comments

Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard: She is interested in the Commissioners roles and how to serve the public better. She suggested that more training for the Commissioners might be beneficial. She also discussed the need for outside funding (other than grant opportunities that are already being utilized) to assist financially.

Commissioner Bray heard: Gave thanks to the public agency groups and volunteers for working so hard.

Commissioner Chapman heard: Gave kudos to the Department on the improvements and maintenance seen at Hart Park.

Chairman Barrera heard: He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

9. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings:

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

Future meeting dates and locations (subject to change):

- June 27, 2018, District 2 Taft
- July 25, 2018, District 2 Tehachapi Library
- August 22, 2018, District 1 Lake Isabella
- September 26, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd floor
- October 24, 2018, District 3 Rathbun Library, 200 W China Grade Loop
- November 28, 2018, District 5
- No Meeting December 2018

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Ar-Br, All ayes, 1 absent. Commissioner Barrera adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.