

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue,
3rd Floor Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, June 27th, 2018
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, June 27th, 2018. Chairman Barrera presided.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gary Bray, District I; Commissioner Gregory McGiffney, District IV

Staff: Bret Haney, Division Chief, Kern County General Services Department; Geoffrey Hill, Acting Chief General Services Officer

Others: There were 13 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 6:30 p.m. Flag Salute: Chairman Barrera

1. Approval of the Minutes of May 23rd, 2018

The minutes from May 23rd, 2018 were reviewed. Ar-Ch, motion to approve the minutes. 3 Ayes, 2 Absent, Motion carried - Minutes were approved.

2. Public Presentations

No one heard

3. Correspondence

Receive and File – Action not approved as all correspondence was not received by all Commissioners. Chairman Barrera reminded all Commissioners present that if they receive correspondence it needs to be forwarded to Bret Haney so he can make sure that it is distributed to everyone.

4. Public Requests

None

5. New Business

None

6. Old Business

OHV Grant Applications

Commissioner Chambers heard regarding the review of materials, she suggested potentially deferring to following meeting since not all Commissioners were present.

Commissioner Chapman heard regarding OHV funding & trail closures. He feels that some applicants have their own funding (KCSO/Rangers). Stewards of the Sequoia does not have another source of income and relies on volunteers to perform work. He would prefer to see trails maintained or opened. Commissioner Barrera reminded Commission that they are only reviewing for the amount of \$25,000. The other \$25,000 has already been awarded to Stewards of the Sequoia.

Commissioner Chambers heard regarding the use of funds for OHV development.

Bruce Miller heard regarding agenda language and clarity of action.

Chris Hogan heard regarding proper use of funds.

Commission Chapman heard regarding proper use of funds.

For clarification and for the purpose of being cautious, and if the commission so wishes, Bret Haney explained that the item can be continued and County Counsel can review the agenda language to make it more specific to what is being considered. He suggested that if there is any confusion about what is being considered it may be in the best interest of the Commission to continue the item to the next meeting. Commissioner Chambers expressed her wish to continue the item and the issue of timing constraints about how quickly the funds need to be awarded was a concern. Bret commented that per the information he has received the funding is available for use during the current fiscal year 2017/2018 and did not have to be awarded by the end of July as thought by some in attendance.

Commissioner Chambers asked that for purposes of clarification and in hopes to cause less confusion that when funding requests are presented entity requesting the funds is also the one discussing their item.

Craig Smith with Kern River Parkway Foundation heard regarding SB249. He said that 25% goes to law enforcement.

Sergeant Williams heard regarding Kern County Sheriff's Office funding – He explained that off road is solely funded by two grants, SB249 & OHV, which agrees with law enforcement portion of SB249. They could make do with \$15,000 if awarded this year, and doesn't necessarily agree that the Rangers need the \$25,000 due to the scope of services provided.

Michael DeLeon heard regarding the number of OHV riders they expect to encounter this year which is close to one million.

Ron Rice heard regarding funding and enforcement and assistance with Kern County Sheriff's Office at Jawbone.

Dave Walker with Kern Open Space heard regarding use of funds and the number of requested users in Kern and proper use of funds to go to OHV opportunities.

Bruce Miller heard regarding proper use of OHV funds.

Phillip Peters, Field Rep for District I heard regarding Supervisor Gleason's desire to have OHV funds going strictly for OHV use.

Garth Cummings with Kern County Motor Sports heard regarding OHV funds and their intent. Offer of help to Rangers to get an OHV vehicle.

Commissioner Chambers heard regarding Supervisor Maggard's appreciation of Mr. Cummings information he shared with him regarding the funds. She discussed the possibility of a sub-committee to discuss OHV fund use.

Chairman Barrera heard regarding providing information to Commission, asking everyone to remain civil over this continuous issue. He asked the Commissioners to come prepared to these meetings.

Chairman Barrera made a motion to re-agendize this item to the July meeting with consideration to discuss; receive public input; and make recommendation over the remaining \$25,000 with the existing information they have received and likewise to have General Services inform all the applicants so they may come and make presentations to the Commission. Second by Commissioner Arnold-Chambers; 3 ayes, 2 absent, motion carried.

Lake Ming Watercraft Use

Bret informed Commissioners that Mr. Schmidt was unable to attend the meeting and gave a handout provided by Mr. Schmidt and asked that if there was no public input for the item that it be continued to next month's meeting. The Commission agreed.

7. Department Staff Report

Bret Haney heard regarding the passage of Prop 68 in June. The Department is evaluating how those funds may be spent but as of yet there is no criteria put forth from the State. There is a minimum of \$400,000 allocated in this proposition towards each County and it is believed they may be able to apply for additional funding beyond this amount.

Bret gave an update on the Preserve proposal that Mr. Laine previously brought forth. Different options are still being considered and they are working with the Planning Department to find out what needs to be done or said (legally described) in order to create a Preserve. With regards to Lake Ming Parking the Department has reached out to Environmental Health and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) to discuss the concerns over the dirt parking area. Bret is also waiting to hear back from SJVAPCD to find out what their concerns may be.

Bret says that Environmental Health recently contacted the Department regarding last years proliferation of blue-green algae in Lake Isabella as well as some of the Kern smaller lakes and it appears that the algae may have returned. They are in the process of testing it to determine the status. Bret reminded everyone that blue-green algae is potentially hazardous to animals and humans.

Bret discussed the increase of Ranger patrol at Buena Vista and Lake Ming in an effort to prevent more accidents among boaters, jet skiers, and swimmers. He thanked the Rangers for their efforts.

Bret commented that Parks grounds crews are doing their best with the limited resources they have. They are hoping to see some improvements with the appearance at our parks. He says they rely heavily on free or reduced-cost labor.

Bret talked about a park in Rosamond called Jim Williford Park that was being operated by Rosamond Community Services District (CSD). There was a measure in the March ballots to raise the contribution rates for the neighborhood there but it did not pass and therefore the CSD has chosen to close that park, which includes a pool, and it appears that soon the Department will be reclaiming that park from CSD. It was formerly a County park in the past and was deeded to CSD over 10 years ago (2007). Details are still being worked out on this but it will become a County park again. Geoff Hill heard – he added onto this same topic saying that there was money that came into the Rosamond Community Service District in support of that park around, \$107,000/annually, but their expenses were running considerably more than that, especially given the fact that there is a pool. They are in the process of formulating a plan for these expenses and hope to have contracts in place for all utilities by the end this month and then they will be working on accepting the quit claim as long as the Board approves/accepts the deed. Geoff also discussed the illegal dumping at the soccer park. The debris that was dumped is in the process of being removed.

8. Commission Comments

Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard – She discussed a meeting she attended with the Sierra Club in which the Panorama Vista Preserve gave a presentation on the work that has been done over the past 20+ years developing the area below the Panorama Bluffs. She commented on the remarkable work that has been done by this non-profit. Additionally she discussed the proposed Lake Ming preserve area. A sub-committee meeting was held for the proposed preserve near Lake Ming. Ultimately everyone agreed to keep the area as protected (from OHV traffic) and as natural as possible.

9. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings:

Chairman Barrera made motion to hold the next meeting at the Administrative Center again. A second was made by Commissioner Arnold-Chambers. 3 ayes, 2 absent – motion carried.

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

Future meeting dates and locations (subject to change):

- July 25, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd floor
- 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-Ch, 3 ayes, 2 absent. Commissioner Barrera adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.