

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

**County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue,
3rd Floor Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, September 26th, 2018
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 26th, 2018 Commissioner Arnold-Chambers presided.

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

Absent: Commissioner Gregory McGiffney, District IV; Chairman Manuel Barrera, District V

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

Others: There were 17 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: Commissioner Arnold-Chambers

1. Approval of the Minutes of August 22nd, 2018

The minutes from August 22nd, 2018 were reviewed. Br-Ar, motion to approve the minutes. 3 Ayes, 2 Absent, Motion carried - Minutes were approved.

2. Public Presentations

Margie Bell with the Sierra Club heard regarding Hart Park Plan and upcoming Sierra Club fall dinner, October 20th at the Rice Bowl with a feature speaker regarding wildfires.

Danita Melton heard in support of an OHV park.

Marion Vargas heard regarding the paintings at Panorama Park. Commissioner Arnold-Chambers said she believed it to be an Arts Council project. Bret reported that this was a plan of Supervisor Maggard to target some of the biggest graffiti targets. His office contacted the Arts Council and the CAO subsequently entered into an Agreement with the Arts Council to fulfill the project.

Craig Smith with Kern River Parkway Foundation heard regarding bids for a bike path near Shell Park and his concern for Camp Okihi (dying vegetation & trees). Bret discussed that the biggest issue for this camp is the issue of non-potable water and that anyone coming in has to bring water. There was a water system and the pump was stolen along with electrical wiring and equipment from the area. Carl Brewer reported that the County is working to repair this but want to make sure the area is secure and that there is limited access before replacing the water system again as this cost will fall on tax payers.

Phil Stroud heard in support of an OHV park.

Bryce Stroud heard in support of an OHV park.

James Robertson, with Cummings Off-Road Motorsports, heard in support of an OHV park.

3. Public Requests

Dave Walker with Friends of Kern Open Space heard regarding State funding available and the need for an OHV facility. He discussed the meeting with Sixto Fernandez from the State OHV grants department. He says there is extra grant money available for OHV use. The OHV community would like to see a family-friendly OHV park in Kern County with the funds that are available. He said the best thing that can be done at this point is to get a plan together for the State. Dave passed out information to the group. Bret reported that Sandi will give Geoff Hill an update of this meeting and then he can discuss with Planning the next steps. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Loraine Unger heard regarding State purchase of land throughout the County.

Hadley Melton heard regarding funding and need for OHV funding.

4. Correspondence

Letter from Bill Cooper and Eddie Layne regarding inquiry process. Bret went over the basic procedure for receiving and reviewing correspondence, inquiries, complaints, etc.

Commissioner Bray discussed an email he received from Kern River Valley regarding the location of the commission meeting.

Ar-Br motioned to Receive and File Correspondence. 3 Ayes, 2 Absent – Motion carried.

4. New Business

None

5. Old Business

Hart Park After Dark – Andie Apple from the Library will be invited to attend the October meeting to provide an update and discuss the next Hart Park After Dark event scheduled for October 20th.

Kern River Parkway Wildlife Preserve

Bret reported that there were no updates at this time from State Fish and Wildlife. Once there is confirmation on the proper plan they will get proper permission from County CAO and then submit it to the Board for review. Carl Brewer reported new signage is going in.

Lake Ming Watercraft Use

Bret reported that they are still waiting for information from Planning. They will continue to push towards answers from Planning and then take appropriate steps at that time.

7. Department Staff Report

Bret Haney reported that the Hart Park Plan has been approved internally and a presentation is being put together and hopefully by the end of the year a presentation will be made to the Commission.

Geoff Hill is no longer in an acting capacity and has been officially appointed Chief General Services Officer.

Sandi Formhals will be the Staff at the next Commission meeting.

The budget was approved at the end of August. There were no changes to the operating budget for General Services/Parks and along with that the Board did approve \$1.6 million in parks specific improvements. This gives about each Supervisor about \$250,000 for specific projects in their District along with some parking lot refurbishment, and dam and waste water treatment plan study.

Regarding a question from Marion Vargas at a previous meeting Bret commented that trash pickup at Panorama Park happens about 4-5 times per week. Just Johnson's is the organization that provides the free service to us, picking up trash on Mondays and Wednesdays, leaving trash bags behind and Parks picks up those bags on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as the regular trash pick-up. More trash cans have also been added to the area as well as constantly re-stocking the doggie bags.

Hart Park After Dark event will be held October 20th. Carl Brewer has been working on our behalf with the Library on this event. Along with Hart Park a grant is being submitted tomorrow, one of the first grants available through Prop 68, for a trail plan along the river out near where the peacocks are located, a 2,000 foot long walking path with new parking. Hopefully they will have an answer within the next couple of months and if yes this will be part of overall improvement to Hart Park as well.

Ron Rice, Chief Ranger, has retired and along with him, one of the Sergeants has tendered his resignation. Temporarily, Shane Denton (present), is going to be one of the acting Sergeants, and hopefully permanent, in the near future. There will be a recruitment for Chief along with some reclassifications within the Rangers staffing.

Bret introduced Carl Brewer, County General Services Facilities Manager. Carl gave the following updates on County Parks projects:

Top lots and play structures in South Kern parks: Greenfield, Rexland Acres, and Lamont Park. They are working to remove sand and move to a more resilient surface. In addition, shade structures are being added to some of the play sets. They have also redone a pour-in-place structure at Heritage Park, and unfortunately there have been some issues with the transient population camping out under the structure and polluting the area, which staff is trying to remediate.

Alongside Geoff Hill, Carl will be working with the school districts in an effort to build community gardens that are in conjunction with schools so the kids can partake in the growing and maintaining of the gardens.

The County is considering installing small cabins at Lake Buena Vista to help generate revenues.

Carl reported that there has been a lot of energy upgrades to the County parks with LED lighting. As well, they are looking at automating the irrigation at the Parks. This will assist with the use of water more efficiently as well as staff time. They are also working with the County IT department to develop an app capable of geotagging an issue of concern within a County park.

Hart Park After Dark – After considering the feedback from last year, there will be food concessions available this year as well as arts and crafts and live music. Carl will continue to work with Andie Apple and the Library staff to possibly do more events like this within the parks.

8. Commission Comments

Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard thanking everyone for coming out and expressing their parks related interest stating that this is how the Commissions learns what the community needs are.

Commissioner Chapman heard saying he is hopeful to hear from Planning soon about the EIR on the Lake Ming watercraft use and OHV.

Commissioner Bray heard expressing his appreciation for everyone coming to the Commission meeting and expressing their interests.

9. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings:

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

Future meeting dates and locations (subject to change):

- November 28, 2018, County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd floor
- No Meeting December 2018

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Ar-Br, 3 ayes, 2 absent. Commissioner Arnold-Chambers adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.