

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue,
3rd Floor Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, October 24th, 2018
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, October 24th, 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: Sandi Formhals, Division Chief, Kern County General Services Department; Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer; Carl Brewer, General Services Manager

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 6:32 p.m. Flag Salute: Commissioner Arnold-Chambers

1. Approval of the Minutes of September 26, 2018

The minutes from September 26th, 2018 were reviewed. Br-Ar, motion to approve the minutes. 3 Ayes, 2 Absent, Motion carried - Minutes were approved.

2. Public Presentations

Craig Smith heard regarding entry to Shell Beach through Okihi saying it defeats the purpose of the barricade. He proposed \$50,000 grant and donated materials to barricade and asked that this be put on the next agenda.

Bill Cooper heard regarding Trail Pavilion Project asking the County to pull the project. He wants to see the County's Park long term plan. Expressed interest in the 1% sales tax money saying it could be used for Parks, not just Sheriff. Geoff stated that the draft plan will be disclosed to all major stakeholders for input. The plan will go to the Commission before it goes to the Board. The Trail Pavilion seems to go along with trail improvements in the draft plan. The current proposal is just a draft and deadline for submission was approaching but input will be solicited. Planning reviewed the proposal and confirms that it's not in conflict with anything currently in place. As well, is ADA compliant.

Eddy Laine heard. He shared photos of the current conditions in Hart Park, e.g. broken fencing, dry grass and bathrooms in disrepair.

Marion Vargas heard regarding trail plan for Northeast Bakersfield providing a map of the equestrian trail through Hart Park. She stated the trail needs improvement and horses will slide on pavement and the Trail Pavilion concept will not work for horses. She would like to enhance surfaces for equestrian through Hart Park. The vision meetings showed interest in keeping trails natural, not paved.

Bill Stroud heard asking if Skype would work to let outlying communities be available to watch the Commission meeting held at the County Administrative Center.

Dave Walker with Friends of Kern Open Space heard regarding OHV update saying identifying a piece of land is first priority. After that, there is a 2-part process of which the grant dollars can be used. First is the CEQA review, and then pending clear CEQA, the grant will help fund acquisition of land and park. Consultant can help with this per Geoff's authorization to use OHV Grant Fund. The State will assist in filling out the application

Eddy Laine heard asking about the process for addressing complaints to Parks. The Commission and attendees discussed what can be done to answer phone calls for emergency or non-emergency situations, the current process, and possible improvements that can be made. This will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

3. **Correspondence**

None

4. **New Business**

None

5. **Old Business**

Kern River Parkway Wildlife Preserve

Carl Brewer heard reporting that Property Management is working with Craig Bailey with Fish and Wildlife and they are in the process of setting up a meeting. The Commission will be updated with any new information. Eddy Laine heard commenting that the request was in January, and maps were provided in April. He says he wants signage, fencing, and gates. He spoke with Supervisor Maggard the day prior asking for his assistance to get approval. He said that staff is moving too slow and Fish and Wildlife study is not needed. He wants infrastructure repair and says that doesn't need any approvals. Geoff said that General Services will look into preliminary approval from the Board.

Lake Ming Watercraft Use

Carl Brewer heard regarding Lake Ming Watercraft. He read the response from the Planning Department which stated that an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) had never been done for anything on Lake Ming and that the Planning and Natural Resources Department believe impacts from such an ordinance change (to allow jet skis) would have to be studied under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The impacts identified right now are noise, safety and air emissions. The appropriate document could range from Mitigated Neg Dec to a full EIR, and the cost range is \$60,000 up to \$400,000. Further stating that they won't know which document is needed until the Board actually directs the ordinance be changed and they see a project description of that.

6. Department Staff Report

OHV Park

Carl Brewer heard stating a request from the Commission to recommend use of OHV funds to hire a consultant to look for land that would work. This topic will be on the agenda next month for discussion.

Hart Park After Dark Event

Carl Brewer heard giving an update of the outcome of the event. He said the event went well. It was bigger than last year's event. They are asking for public input and hope to do more of these events in the future.

Ranger Staffing

Chief Ranger Shane Denton heard saying that he will have additional staff soon and they are all working to remediate the homeless population from the parks.

Camp Okihi

Carl Brewer heard stating that the Roads Department will be finished with their portion of the repairs by January/February 2019. GS Maintenance will then work to secure a new pump, meter, and other necessary equipment.

7. Commission Comments

Commissioner Bray heard stating that he wants the same items added to the agenda for next month as Old Business this month (Lake Ming Watercraft Use & Kern River Parkway Wildlife Preserve) as well as discussion on the phone line contact information.

8. 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

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Ar-Br, 3 ayes, 2 absent. Commissioner Arnold-Chambers adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.