

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

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

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, November 28th, 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; Vacant, 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 30 others present

NOTE: Br, Ch, Mc, Ar are abbreviations for Commissioners Bray, Chapman, McGiffney, 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 6:33 p.m. Flag Salute: Commissioner Arnold-Chambers

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 24, 2018

The minutes from October 24th, 2018 were reviewed. Br-Ch, motion to approve the minutes. 3 Ayes, 2 Absent, Motion carried - Minutes were approved.

2. Public Presentations

Geoff Hill heard regarding the transition of the County Staff for the Commission. The new staff is Carl Brewer who is a newly appointed senior manager at General Services. Many thanks were extended to Bret Haney.

John Knox heard regarding disc golf discussing a recent tournament and his support of recent and future improvements for the parks.

Marion Vargas heard regarding her appreciation for the enthusiasm and progress with Hart Park.

Eddie Lane heard regarding letters that were sent to the Commissioners and Ryan Alsop, confirming receipt. He talked about all the positive changes at Hart Park. He referenced issues with applications submitted by the County for County parks funding.

Patty Montoya heard regarding about the recent improvements to the equestrian trail thanking the Commission and those who participated in making that happen.

3. Correspondence

Motion to Receive and File Correspondence. Br-Ch 3 Ayes, 2 absent motion carried.

4. New Business

Craig Smith, Bruce Miller, and Phil Shroud (Kern River Parkway Foundation) heard regarding request to re-allocate \$50,000 OHV award for Shell Park. Craig discussed the proposed barrier at Shell Park that will end at the Camp Okihi location. The concern is that OHV can access Shell Park if the barrier is not put in place. It is a necessary item to protect Shell Park. Geoff Hill and Carl Brewer confirmed that once the rail project is complete is will leave a weak area to the East and they are in favor of the project fending or barricading of some way. This will be paid through previously allocated money granted to Kern River Parkway Foundation. Phil asked for clarification from where the money was coming from. Geoff explained how the grant money was allocated from the Commission. Bruce commented saying that initially he didn't support the grant and questioned exactly what the re-allocation is for. Craig re-iterated that this is not an actual re-allocation stating the agenda is mis-worded. The money is available for this project to protect Shell Park and Camp Okihi. He asked for affirmation that the Commission is in favor of this project. This topic will be tabled to the next meeting for further discussion in January.

Dave Walker heard regarding request to allocate OHV funds to hire consultant to explore viable locations of OHV facility within Kern. Geoff Hill discussed the money that is available for an OHV park and says that the County is absolutely in favor of finding a location for this. Planning Director with the County, Lorelei Oviatt suggested that the Commission allow County to utilize some of the funds to hire a consultant to identify land in Kern County for this use. This item to be continued to the January meeting.

5. Old Business

Kern River Parkway Wildlife Preserve

Gary Bray heard expressing the importance of preserving this land as there is very little wildlife left in Kern County. Geoff Hill says that Lorelei Oviatt will attend a future meeting to discuss this topic and the Kern County General Plan. This item to be continued to the January meeting.

6. Department Staff Report

Lake Ming Watercraft Use

Bill Cooper heard asking specifically if the EIR was necessary since there are already boats on the water. This item will continue to stay on the agenda and hopefully once the Planning Director attends the meeting she can shed some light on this topic.

Prop 68 Update

Geoff Hill heard - discussed the committee working on Prop 68 grants. They have reviewed the state information and have identified competitive grant amounts up to \$350 million that the County may apply for. There are also per capita grants available in which the County can get a minimum of \$400k up to over \$1 million. (This is available for every County in California.) The allocation amounts will come out the summer of '19. Geoff discussed the burn dump out near the Hart Park area that was established decades ago. The Parks Department has been attempting to mitigate these grounds for a long time. Working with Environmental Health, Parks has identified Cal Recycle. as a granting opportunity to get this project done and the plan is to dirt-mound and cap the old burn dump. This will not be expensive to remediate but there needs to be a Board Resolution approving us to apply for the grant. This item is going before the Board on 12/4. Geoff made it clear to the Commission that the County is continuing with this grant application. The grant will cover half the costs and the other half of the costs are already built into the budget. Prop 68 Updates will be a regular standing item for the Commission agendas.

Communication with Department

Carl Brewer heard saying the County is bettering their processes for communication. Gary Bray questioned law enforcement (Rangers) response. Carl says they will work on this as well. Shane Denton, Head Ranger, heard discussing their coverage times for the parks stating that emergency law enforcement calls are routed to both Rangers and Sheriff. If it is during Ranger hours, Rangers will respond. During off hours Sheriff will respond. The County website to be updated with a formal process to address Parks concerns.

Hart Park Cat Concerns

Geoff Hill heard on the issue of the feral and non-feral cat population at Hart Park. County recently met with The Cat People organization and Animal Services to come up with a plan for this issue. A cat sanctuary has been constructed recently. There are 68 cats that came from Hart Park that are being housed at the Sanctuary that are now up for adoption. As they find these cats homes they will bring in more of the healthy cats from Hart Park that are adoptable.

Hart Park Masterplan

A presentation of the Masterplan to the Commission will take place sometime in January or February. In the meantime, some of the issues are already being addressed and in progress e.g. fencing, equestrian trail. This will happen in phases. The next part of the plan includes restroom renovation. After the restrooms the stage area will be renovated. This will be a major renovation equipped with new lighting and electrical.

Heritage Park

Carl Brewer heard saying that they are actively working with Public Health on a grant that will provide for improvements to the park. Exercise station, dog run, and improvements to existing soccer fields are some suggestions for overall improvements.

Preserve Fencing

Carl Brewer heard saying the County was recently on site of the preserve that Bill and Eddie have proposed. Carl said that there are a couple areas of fencing that need repairs and he wanted to remind the Commission that there are two levels of County policy about not developing the land but they will move forward, as the budget and policy allows, with fencing repairs. Plans are to finish the work at Hart Park first, then to Pyle's and while at Pyle's do the work on the fencing at the proposed preserve area.

7. Commission Comments

Commissioner Arnold-Chambers heard thanking everyone for their involvement, dedication and hard work. She brought up a concern that there was discussion of changing the name of the Commission. Geoff Hill confirmed that there are no plans to change the name.

Commissioner Chapman heard stating that he pleased with the progress of the OHV issues.

Commissioner Bray heard saying that he is very pleased with all of the effort and work going on in the Parks.

8. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings:

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

Future meeting dates and locations (subject to change):

- February 27th at the County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Ave, 3rd floor

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Br-Ch, 3 ayes, 2 absent. Commissioner Arnold-Chambers adjourned the meeting at 8:03 P.M.