

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOR Veteran's Hall
400 Norris Road
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Wednesday, September 27th, 2017
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 27th, 2017. Commissioner Barrera presided.

Present: Kathleen Arnold-Chambers, District III (arrived @ 6:47 P.M.); Commissioner McGiffney, District IV; Manuel Barrera, District V

Absent: Commissioner Gary Bray, District I; Commissioner, District II (Vacant)

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

Others: There were 3 other people present

NOTE: Ja, Mc, Ba, Ar are abbreviations for Commissioners Jamison, McGiffney, Barrera, and Arnold-Chambers. As an example, Mc-Ja denotes Commissioner McGiffney made a motion and Commissioner Jamison seconded the motion.

Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m. Flag Salute: Chairman Barrera

1. Approval of the Minutes of July 26, 2017

The minutes from August 23rd, 2017 were reviewed. Mc-Ch, motion to approve the minutes. All ayes - minutes approved.

2. Public Presentations

John Knox heard regarding the District 2 Commissioner vacancy who suggested a candidate, Bill Chapman. The application process was suggested.

3. Correspondence

There was no reported correspondence.

4. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

5. Old Business

County Recreation Day

Commissioners discussed outreach to other parks and recreation districts to gauge their interest in participating in a county-wide recreation day. Different ideas were discussed to possibly include Public Health as a participant to add a health component to the day. Other suggested participants included fire personnel, the blood bank, and the City of Bakersfield. Some suggested park areas for participation were: Lamont, Buena Vista, Hart Memorial, Ridgecrest, and Tehachapi Mountain.

Hart Park Public Meeting Update

Bret Haney gave a review of prior day Board Proceedings on this topic. The Board of Supervisors heard a presentation (9/26/17) on the update of the public meeting process (which was a “receive and file” action) presented by the General Services Division under the County Administrative Office. It was discussed having an architectural design firm hired to design and plan the future of Hart Park. The Board of Supervisors discussed their concern of spending money on design vs. maintenance. They were reassured that some of these maintenance issues will be addressed and completed through the already approved major maintenance budget. Some things that will be expected to be included in the design firm’s plan would be possible revenue generating features of the park, as well as, where and how future attractions such as an amphitheater, spray park, and food concessions would be built into the park, all the while, keeping the natural settings of the park intact. This will be put out to bid within the next couple of weeks to local and state-wide qualified design entities. It is expected that there will be an actionable plan by the end of January which will take into consideration the public input & requests and the County’s budgetary constraints, using this information to come up with build phases for the next year and future years to complete the plan and vision of future Hart Park.

6. Department Staff Report

NOR & Vets Center – discussed transfer of responsibilities of these facilities and other parks facilities by either ownership or operation of. Looking at this option for 12 parks within the County.

Hart Park After Dark - Event to be held on October 21, 2017, sponsored by the Library. There will be a number of activities between 5-8 P.M. along with food vendors.

Certificates of Recognition - Will be presented at the November meeting for Jamison and Park.

Homeless in the Parks – There has been an increase at Heritage Park and this has been an ongoing seasonal challenge (at multiple parks) that we continue to work with.

New Commissioner - Gary Bray from District 1 is the newly appointed Commissioner. He will be present at the next meeting.

Volunteer Website – Working on the Wall of Fame for the volunteers as well as tracking all the

work being provided by the volunteers. A Volunteer link is being added to the County web page that will link anyone interested to General Services Division to receive more information.

7. Commission Comments

Discussed the following topics:

- Requests for address of future meeting to be added under section 8 of minutes.
- Facebook page for Parks Department – At this time there is not a Facebook page but this is something that will be pursued.
- Request to invite CAO, Ryan Alsop, to future meetings.
- Commissioners thanked Bret Haney & General Services and Board of Supervisors for staying on top of funding allocation and for setting a time frame for future Hart Park plan to be in place.

8. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings for 2017:

Next Meeting will be October 25th at the David Head Center in Lamont: 10300 San Diego St, Lamont, CA 93241

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

Future meeting dates and locations (*subject to change*):

- November 29, 2017 - Bakersfield, Kern County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor in the Multipurpose Room

9. Adjournment

Mc-Ch motion to Adjourn. All ayes.

Commissioner Barrera adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.