

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Services Building
2700 M Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

February 24, 2016
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. Chairman Jamison presided.

Present: Bob Jamison, District I; Carl Park, District III;
Gregory McGiffney, District IV; Manuel Barerra, District V.

Absent: Mark Faull, District II

Staff: Bob Lerude, Director, Kern County Parks and Recreation Department;
Suzanne Boyd, Kern County Parks and Recreation Department.

Others: There were eight (8) others present.

NOTE: Ja, Fa, Pa, Mc and Ba are abbreviations for Commissioners Jamison, Faull, Park, McGiffney and Barerra. As an example, Ja-Fa denotes Commissioner Jamison made a motion and Commissioner Faull seconded the motion.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. Chairman Jamison led the flag salute.

1. Approval of the Minutes of January 27, 2016

There were two (2) small corrections that needed to be made to last month's minutes. It was stated that Commissioner Barerra is currently employed in government; this is incorrect, he is employed with a non-profit organization.

Also it was stated that Chris Brayman and Teresa Contreras were instrumental in funding the entire Christmas tree lighting project at Circle Park in Lake Isabella. The park is located in Kernville not Lake Isabella. Ba made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended; Pa seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

2. Public Presentations

Bruce Miller (attendee, Friends of Jawbone and Temblors) gave an update on the OHV grant. The State is heavily involved in lieu of grants. Friends of the Temblors near Taft, Mark & Brandon are organizing trash clean up. The grant was closed out last year but the effort continues. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives, Harrison & Ed Walheim and others did clean up in the

shooting area. A two (2) axle trailer was nearly filled with trash. They installed about 10 signs, no foot travel was allowed. Mr. Miller supports the extension for the OHV grant. As soon as BLM give their okay then it will proceed forward.

3. New Business

- a. Appoint new officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman

Mc made a motion to nominate Mark Faull for Chairman; Pa seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. It was noted since Commissioner Faull was absent for tonight's nomination that Commissioner McGiffney will accept the Chairman responsibilities if Commissioner Faull is unable to accept the nomination.

Pa made a motion to nominate Bob Jamison for Vice-Chairman; Mc seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

- b. Proposal to rename a portion of Linda Kissack Ballfield. DISCUSS, RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION.

Additional documentation was made available on the cost of the skate park project in the Linda Kissack Ballfield in Lake Isabella. Chris Brayman stated that there is now a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County. Their committee has gathered over 200 signatures in favor of the project.

Karene Williams, treasurer for the skate park committee, stated that their non-profit lost out on getting year-end tax deductions for 2015 due to the delay by the County. They now have two (2) separate accounts set up on the "Go Fund Me" website to acquire donations to fund the project. They are planning a rummage sale and some music venues. They have until December 31, 2017 to gather funds. They are also going to write some grants. They are very happy that the Kissack family is in agreement with their plans.

Mc made a motion to name the skate park the George & Darlene Randall Skate Park; Ba seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Commissioner McGiffney stated that the skate park plans look good. Director Bob Lerude mentioned the Parks Department planner has good things to say about the company that is building the skate park.

- c. Approve 2nd amendment to OHV grant – extension of term of OHV Grant Disbursement #356-2014 to expire on December 31, 2016. DISCUSS, RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION.

Director Bob Lerude announced that Craig Pope, from the County Roads Department, will be taking over the OHV amendment project.

We are waiting to hear from Environmental Health regarding the endangered

species and plants. We expect this to be completed by late September or early October 2016.

Bruce Miller stated that he approves of the extension to the OHV grant as long as we stay with the original terms of the grant. Third party interests will help to support this project. Shell Oil is donating \$5,000 to help with the project. No part of the grant is paying for their work.

Ja made a motion to approve the 2nd amendment to the OHV grant; Pa seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

4. Department Staff Report

Director Bob Lerude gave all the Commissioners a handout listing the Parks Department projects by District and a list of the budget and impacts history. He stated that the cost of County benefits, especially medical, continue to rise even when salaries are stagnant. Several years ago County employees with the most longevity weren't required to contribute to their retirement costs but now all County employees will pay into their pension plans.

Our department currently has 12 vacant positions. We will not be filling most of those because of budget cuts. Normally we lay off all extra help employees first and we usually don't initiate permanent position reductions until we have cut back in all the other areas of our budget.

Our Drought Workers funding is ending soon. This has been a great program for us because we have had some excellent workers through this fund.

After the SEIU contract is approved, tentatively on March 8th, we hope to utilize more privatization services.

We have been leasing many of our buildings out to the City and other non-profits to be able to keep them open. We have reduced the availability from 7 days a week, 18 hours per day, down to 5 days per week, 8 hours per day; with the exception of the buildings at Lake Isabella and East Bakersfield due to funding approved by the Board of Supervisors. Because we don't have enough personnel to oversee the buildings we have seen a great increase in vandalism and other cost issues such as lights and heating/air conditioning being left on after use.

The level of service for maintenance in our parks and other facilities has been significantly reduced due to the budget reductions. The biggest complaints we receive from the public is not cleaning the restrooms daily. We can only mow the lawns every 2-3 weeks. The main irrigation line at Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area breaks approximately 6-8 times per year. We have to dig underground about 8 feet to repair it. This takes a backhoe and a qualified operator to accomplish this, which is expensive.

The County department with the oldest fleet of vehicles and equipment is the Parks & Recreation Department. We do not have the operating capital, due to budget reductions, to replace vehicles and equipment as needed. This increases

our overall repair costs to maintain the fleet that we do have.

The County does not have development fees and maintenance districts as part of their policies for building new parks and maintaining those parks, such as other Parks & Recreation Departments have throughout Kern County and California.

We have a very long way to go to bring our parks and recreational areas up to compliance with the American Disability Act (ADA) guidelines. Again, we do not have the funding needed for this.

Over the years we have been working to deed parks, buildings, etc. to other districts where it makes more sense than the area to be divided up by more than one public entity. (i.e., Cities of Arvin, Delano, Lost Hills, McFarland, Rosamond, Wasco, etc.)

Mr. Lerude invited our newest Commissioner, Manuel Barerra, to go with him on a tour of his district of parks and recreational areas as soon as his schedule permits.

5. Commission Comments

Commissioner McGiffney thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and offered a special thank you to the members of the skate park committee for all of their hard work and dedication to the renaming and building project for the future George & Darlene Randall Skate Park.

Commissioner Parks inquired of the members in attendance from the Sheriff's Department how their command post trailer was working out, which was purchased with OHV funds. The sheriffs stated that it was working out very well. They are very appreciative of the trailer. They have had it located in a good central location. Their department is working to get a grant to fund a carport to use with the trailer. This is really needed especially when the weather is hot. They have two (2) fixed radios that can communicate with Search & Rescue. The trailer is a 30 foot toy hauler that can be moved anywhere. They are working hard to keep the trailer maintained in good condition. They recently had a State site visit and the inspectors had rave reviews on the trailer. The sheriffs invited any or all of the Commissioners to visit the trailer whenever they can.

6. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2016, 6:30 pm at the David Center in Lamont at 10300 San Diego Street.

7. Adjournment

Pa-Ba Motion to Adjourn

Chairman Jamison adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.