

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

Greenhorn Mountain Park
Camp Yenish Hante
State Hwy. 155 & Old State Rd.
Alta Sierra, CA 95945

July 27, 2016
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016. Chairman Faull presided.

Present: Bob Jamison, District I (Vice-Chairman); Mark Faull, District II (Chairman); Carl Park, District III; Gregory McGiffney, District IV; Manuel Barerra, District V.

Absent: Carl Park, District III.

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

Others: There was 1 other person present, Jeff Frapwell, Assistant Kern County Administrative Officer for General Services.

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

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. Flag Salute: Chairman Faull

1. Approval of the Minutes of June 22, 2016

Mc-Ja motion to approve the Minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

2. Public Presentations

None.

3. Correspondence – Receive and File

None.

4. Old Business

a. Hart Park – Potential Daily/Annual Permit Fee. DISCUSS AND RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT.

As we have discussed in the past several monthly meetings, the Parks Department has continued to be subjected to budget reductions along with all other County departments, both short term and long term. To offset some of the cuts we are looking at possible implementing vehicle parking fees at Hart Park. The amount suggested has been \$5 daily and \$50 annually. We have compared the fees to other County regional parks and they are very reasonable. When we are selective in the fees that we increase, then there generally is no complaint from the community. The recommendation is that the proposed fees at Hart Park would be put in a fund to specifically be used for the maintenance of the infrastructure of the park.

There are some infrastructure items that can be affordable and show obvious improvement right away. Items such as picnic structures and playground equipment is much more affordable than putting in new restrooms, for example.

We started a vehicle count on July 1st and will continue the count until the end of the month. This will give us a better idea of approximate vehicle traffic in the park.

The question was asked if the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would continue to stock the lake at Hart Park with fish if we implement the parking fees. Director Lerude stated that they would.

At the past meetings, it has been suggested that the only group to get a discount on the parking fees should be veterans. Jeff Frapwell stated that we may have to exempt those with handicap placards from paying fees as well. We need to work with County Counsel to find out what our legal obligations would be.

We should focus on publicity regarding the Hart Park fees then we can take it to the Board of Supervisors. We may need to change the Rosamond meeting to a different month, rather than September, to get the maximum possible public input on the proposed Hart Park fees. The Kern County Fair dates will be September 21st through October 2nd. So we may not get much attendance for our September meeting.

5. New Business

None.

6. Department Staff Report

Director Lerude reported that the bike path between Panorama Park and the Kern County Soccer Park has recently had a slurry seal treatment completed.

The Board of Supervisors met yesterday, July 26th, and held the safety departments to also incorporate a 5% reduction in their budgets along with the other County departments. The County plans to backfill pension costs this year. The final budget meeting will be held on August 22nd and 23rd. The Assessor's office anticipates only slight growth in property taxes in the next 5 years.

Long term improvements are being planned at Greenhorn Mountain Park. Commissioner McGiffney asked Jeff Frapwell if any volunteers will be used to make the upcoming improvements. Jeff stated that we will use some volunteers at Tehachapi Mountain Park but he is not sure if they will be used at Greenhorn. The next project at Greenhorn Mountain Park will

be in the mess hall. Contractors will put in a new sub-floor and level and replace the tiles, as they are made of asbestos.

Director Lerude stated that the Parks department revenue is up quite a bit the past few months due to the recent increased fees.

The department got a very large water bill this past week for Lake Ming water and the CAO's office is working with us on the utility issues. We may consider drilling a well or 2 near Hart Park. A percentage of the money will come from the golf course enterprise fund. We have completed the design.

The golf course agreements will come due in 2017-18. North Kern may not renew their agreement.

There was a statewide meeting in Sacramento regarding OHV. It is trying to be decided if the State will continue to be involved with OHV. The OHV community is very concerned about the outcome. There are huge emergency issues relating to public safety, etc. Commissioner Faull mentioned there has been discussion of merging some State Commissions.

We have about \$500,000 in funds available for a future OHV park/facility. We have been talking to the Planning Department about the old OHV area near Famoso. It is still a work in progress.

Commissioner McGiffney asked Jeff Frapwell if there is an update on the Buena Vista waste treatment. Jeff stated that all the waste collection stations have all been updated. More work will continue on the main waste treatment facility itself after Labor Day. The materials have all been ordered already. The fire hydrant and the communications high speed microwave link projects are on the same schedule.

Commission Faull mentioned that the Boron recreation building needs improved handicapped access. There is currently access to/from the building and to/from the parking lot but in between the two there is no sidewalk connecting them and it is a trip hazard.

There are some sources of funding through the wind energy industry in the desert. Jeff Frapwell can investigate on some funding sources, such as RenewBiz. Director Lerude will let our Park Superintendent know about the disjointed handicapped access.

Jeff Frapwell stated that Katie in his office is working with the Rosamond Little League for a possible lease of the Rosamond Recreation building. They are still working on improvements in Mojave senior vet's building to make it ADA compliant. Also they improving the Hummel Hall parking lot in Rosamond.

7. Commission Comments

Commissioner Jamison reported that there will be a carnival at Mountain Mesa Park this weekend. It is being put on by the Kernville Chamber of Commerce for the recent fire victims. He also mentioned that this park is getting a lot more use than in the past and that the community would like to see lighting put in for safety issues, especially for the people who like to walk in the park in the evenings.

Commissioner Barrera thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Commissioner Jamison for suggesting that tonight's meeting be held at Greenhorn Mountain. It is a very beautiful area.

Commissioner McGiffney echoed Commissioner Barrera sentiments.

Director Lerude recommended that on the next agenda the Commission make some recommendations for a Certificate of Recognition recipients.

Commissioner Faull mentioned the benefits of parks and the possible collaboration with some of the "Healthy Community" groups. Since it is very difficult to increase taxes to assist with any County funding perhaps we need to focus more on the business community to partner with to use our local parks and recreation facilities as a recruiting tool. This could be a new business model. We need to look at ways to cultivate the value of parks in our County as it has been done in other Counties, such as in the Bay area.

At a recent meeting in Ridgecrest it was discussed about different ways to reach out via marketing and social media and other emergent technologies. We can connect with colleges and other organizations such as the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, or California Native Plant Society to help build partnerships. We need to ask ourselves how we stave off further budget reductions.

Director Lerude mentioned that we receive quite a few Gratuitous Service Agreements every week from individual volunteers as well as organized groups. The community around Frazier Park, Greenfield Park, and Heritage Park are currently the most active. Organizations such as the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce also do service projects.

The more we work with local businesses and community organizations, the more it will benefit our parks and benefit the tourism in Kern County.

8. Date and Location of Next Meeting:

August 24, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Public Services building in Bakersfield.

9. Adjournment

Ja-Ba Motion to Adjourn. All ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Faull adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.