

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Services Building
2700 M Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

April 22, 2015
6:33 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015. Chairman Jamison presided. Gregory McGiffney, District IV was not present; District V is vacant.

Present: Bob Jamison, District I; Mark Faull, District II; Carl Park, District III; Vacant, District V.

Staff: Bob Lerude, Director, Kern County Parks and Recreation Department; Michele Timmerman, Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department.

Others: There were 24 others present.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Jamison led the flag salute.

1. Approval of the Minutes of March 25, 2015

Fa-Pa to approve the Minutes of March 25, 2015, with the following amendment under item number two (2):

“with stays up to five (5) days during peak season March 15th through October 15th, and stays up to ten (10) days during non-peak season from October 16th through March 14th” shall be amended to read:

*“with stays up to **fifteen (15)** days during peak season March 15th through October 15th, and stays up to **thirty-one (31)** days during non-peak season from October 16th through March 14th”.*

All ayes, motion carried.

2. **New Business**

a. Personal Recognition of Volunteer and Professional Service

1. Ruben Rosales
Frances Rosales
John Ferrell
Basil Rios

At the request of Commissioner Park, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Ruben Rosales, Frances Rosales, and John Ferrell for their dedication as outstanding citizens in helping to keep Hart Park clear of trash and debris. Basil Rios was not in attendance, and his certificate was provided to Ruben Rosales who will deliver it.

2. Ranger Jesse Esposito

At the request of Commissioner Park, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Ranger Jesse Esposito for his commitment to duty.

Phillip Ryall commented that he has joined Ruben Rosales and his group in cleaning up Hart Park. He said the group has done an amazing job and thanked the Commission for presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation.

b. Off Highway Vehicle In-Lieu Funding Requests

Chairman Jamison said that each applicant for OHV funds may have a representative come forward when called upon to provide a basic statement regarding their request. Once all applicants have been heard, the Commission will decide how the funding will be distributed.

1. Request from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$25,000 to prevent OHV use on the Bakersfield Cactus Reserve.

Erin Tennant, California Department of Fish and Wildlife said there are several parcels that make up the area near Hart Park and the primary purpose is to protect Bakersfield Cactus, which is an endangered plant that was meant to be protected through the Metro Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan. They have had the property since the late 1990's and there are ongoing OHV issues on the property. OHV users have been trespassing on the reserve and destroying the cactus itself. The agency is applying for the funding assistance to help minimize the impact to the cactus by repairing fences, and possibly by placing informational signs to inform the public of the purpose of the property.

Chairman Jamison asked for Commission comments.

Commissioner Faull commented that part of the request was to create certain access points for non-motorized vehicle access, and he asked for information as to where that access would be created on the property.

Ms. Tennant said that some of the properties are currently fenced, and others are not. They would like to research ideas of allowing public access to walkers, hikers, cyclists and horses by way of the dirt road leading into the properties, without the destruction of the off highway vehicles which have been impacting the cactus.

Commissioner Park said he hopes the agency has some good ideas about fencing.

Ms. Tennant said that they realize the fencing needs to be worked on and that the problem is not going to change overnight; but that this funding opportunity might be an appropriate way to secure some of the areas that are being vandalized constantly.

Chairman Jamison stated that the proposal mentions that fencing previously placed has been torn down in the past.

Ms. Tennant said that the agency is considering placing barriers that would be cemented in the ground and hold up better than a barbed wire fence. As a public agency, other options such as a stream bed would require application for a permit for environmental compliance.

Chairman Jamison asked for public comment, and asked that comments be kept as positive as possible.

Kye Seale asked if the agency had checked out pricing for the fencing. Ms. Tennant said that the agency does have an idea what the fencing would cost. They requested \$25,000 as a middle ground of the funding available, and the agency does have some funds available that can be used. They tried to come up with a number that they believe would make a strong impact without being cost prohibitive. There are a couple of properties that also belong to the ecological reserve that do not have any fencing, and while they could likely not fence every property with this money they could make some targeted improvements that would contribute to keeping OHV from the cactus areas.

Bill Cooper from the Kern River Parkway spoke in favor of this request. He shared that the money to purchase this property came from the Metropolitan Habitat Conservation Planned Trust, which included an endowment that originally fenced and posted the property. The fence has

since been largely destroyed and the signs torn down. Mr. Cooper distributed photos which he said provide an example of the inappropriate activity taking place in the area at this time. Mr. Cooper said that he does not believe the funds to mitigate the situation should come from the Habitat Conservation Fund, but rather from where the problem arises.

Ann Gallon spoke in support of this request in full funding for reasons related to science, economics, and the law. Ms. Gallon said the cactus plant is used by the biotechnology business throughout the world to find cures for disease; therefore she believes there is a scientific basis for protecting the cactus reserve. The developers and homeowners around town paid money when they built and purchased homes to mitigate the taking away of land, which went into this preserve to protect land and keep it in Kern County. Ms. Gallon said it is the law to obey posted signs. Fish and Wildlife placed a sign one day, and it was knocked down two days later which is a waste of taxpayer money. Ms. Gallon said she supports the placement of a fence.

Ed Waldheim said he believes lack of management of an area is what the photos previously provided to the Commission represent. He said he would be happy to provide a tour of the 211,000 acres they manage at Jawbone.

David Campbell spoke in support of the request. He said only a small percentage of original valley land has not been developed or used in some way and he feels that cactus is one way to keep some of that land for us to see and experience. He is interested in the reason we have the law, which is to keep these open and underdeveloped areas available for adults and young people to experience the valley the way it was before it was developed. Mr. Campbell said he supports the science argument made by the previous speaker, and that he believes it cannot be that hard to ride around these patches of land instead of through them.

Bruce Miller said he has concerns about this request. He said there are about 7 ½ miles of perimeter in the four parcels mentioned in the request which by in large are unfenced. One unit is fenced fairly well, one unit is about 50% fenced, and the other two units are not fenced whatsoever. There is no Department of Fish and Wildlife Biological Preserve signage on three of the four units whatsoever. Mr. Miller said it seems to him part of what we are doing here is building a preserve located in and adjacent to areas that have historically seen a lot of OHV use, at the same time that the County has not provided an alternate for folks to recreate in this manner. Mr. Miller said the request does not include feet of fencing, number of kiosks and where they will be placed.

Lorraine Unger stated she wanted to discount the prior speakers' statement. The whole northeast along the river was full of Bakersfield cactus and this is a small parcel that's left that was set aside as preserve maybe ten years ago. Ms. Unger said she believes the area really needs to be preserved for the future. She said they are not creating preserve, but saving what's left in the area.

Darren Schmidt said if there were OHV parks, people would not be going to these places inherently. Mr. Schmidt said he believes if the money was put toward the parks rather than what he believes are local law enforcement issues there might be more support of using the OHV fund for land use as opposed to fencing people out.

2. Request from the Friends of Jawbone in the amount of \$10,000 for the Cantil Signing and Education Project.

Ed Waldheim, Friends of Jawbone said there are tourists visiting Jawbone who are travelling through the town of Cantil along the railroad track, resulting in complaints from the residents of Cantil. This grant request is to see if they can resolve some of the conflict with the private residents of Cantil. Mr. Waldheim said they hope to place signs and kiosks, and to see if there is a particular area next to property owners where a fence or barrier could be placed. He said he cannot do anything without the permission of the property owner's and the County Roads Department, and that green sticker funds cannot be used because it is on the opposite side of the street.

Chairman Jamison asked for public comment.

Kye Seale asked Mr. Waldheim if the money was requested to "explore" what could be done to fix the problem. Mr. Waldheim said they will put up kiosks, probably signs; and if need be, and if the residents desire and will let them, they will put up fencing. If the residents are not willing to work with them Mr. Waldheim said he would let the Commission know.

Chairman Jamison asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Faull said he had a clear understanding of the objective.

Commissioner Park asked what the kiosks would entail. Mr. Waldheim said they maintain 100 kiosks through Friends of Jawbone. They cost about \$560 each and are made out of 4x6 posts with a Plexiglas inside the whole frame. He said they have had a lot of success with them.

Commissioner Park asked Mr. Waldheim if they were getting control of the vandalism and trespassing. Mr. Waldheim said in the past five years they

have taken control of the area. The State now owns 16.2 miles of property in the area and that more law enforcement is needed. The BLM is down to three rangers for 1.9 million acres. There is seventeen full time staff working out at Jawbone every single morning, five days a week. Within 24 hours if something has gone wrong they fix it.

Commissioner Park said there was previously a move to turn land up on the bluffs into a nature area and it fell through. Mr. Cooper said that was General Holdings, who went bankrupt. The Metropolitan Habitat Conservation Plant decided they might pick it up out of bankruptcy and the deal is pending. Mr. Cooper confirmed that these four parcels would be within this property if it were to be picked up by the HCP. Commissioner Park said if it were picked up; there would be management of a big area. Mr. Cooper said the area is now within the City Limits of Bakersfield, and it is adjacent to the Kern County Parks parcel so between Fish and Wildlife, the City and County Rangers they are looking to work out more enforcement of the area.

3. Request from the Kern County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$49,100 to fund patrol operations and purchase equipment.

Fred Wheeler, the new Supervisor over the OHV team spoke. Mr. Wheeler said their request is based on the entire amount available; however their request is broken down into four areas as far as enforcement which includes helicopter time, equipment, and a lift kick for their current off road truck. Mr. Wheeler said he hopes to maintain the same relationship as the prior supervisor.

Chairman Jamison asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Faull said that the helicopter time came up last year, and he supported it at that time but it is expensive. He asked how the helicopter time was used and how successful it was last year. Mr. Wheeler said that it was used last year and it will continue to be used this year. This request is asking for specialized communication equipment to aid in communication between helicopter and bike. Steve Williams from KCSO shared that in working with the helicopter project they determined equipment difficulties; therefore this grant request does include equipment that will improve communications.

Commissioner Park said there have been complaints that KCSO is not doing enough enforcement. Mr. Wheeler said that from his perspective when they are not issuing a lot of citations that means the compliance rate is high, however when violations occur the deputies will take appropriate action.

Commissioner Faull said that last year there was some discussion about overtime, and maximizing the dollars awarded through the grant. He asked Mr. Wheeler if he could provide an understanding of how much would be at overtime rate versus straight pay. Mr. Wheeler said that they do not have a full time OHV team, and many of the deputies work OHV in addition to their normal work week. Mr. Wheeler said that where possible it will be used for straight pay if staffing allows.

Chairman Jamison asked for public comment.

Ed Waldheim suggested instead of using lifts on a truck, using a drone. A drone is a tool that could be utilized with one person sitting in a patrol car. Mr. Waldheim said the FAA would allow the Sheriff the use of a drone but the Sheriff has said that he did not want to. Mr. Wheeler said the FAA just released the ability to use the drones this year, but that they do not have a lot of time in the air.

Mesonika Piecuch expressed her disappointment with the OHV team over the past eighteen months under Sergeant Williams. She stated that KCSO has said the off road problem is in control and that is why there are not many tickets; yet the grant itself talks about how out of control the problem is and that more money is needed. She said there are voluminous amounts of data to support there is a problem, and she supports Mr. Waldheim's suggestion of using a drone to control the problem.

Bruce Miller said he supports KCSO in their efforts and that they do the heavy lifting when it comes to law enforcement and OHV. His only regret is that they have a standard operating procedure of requesting 100% of the available funds, while the others have come in with more reasonable requests.

4. Request from the Kern River Valley Public Cemetery District in the amount of \$11,712.16 for the purchase of Off Road Utility Vehicle.

Mr. Lerude said that he and his staff spoke to and advised representatives at the Kern River Valley Public Cemetery District that their project proposal did not meet the standards of the criteria established for the OHV money. He said he did make it clear they were welcome to come to the meeting and present their information, but they indicated they would not be doing so.

5. Request from the Stewards of the Sequoia in the amount of \$11,379 for the Piute Trail Preservation Project.

Chris Horgan, Executive Director of Stewards of the Sequoia said that their project was unique among those already presented, in that they are providing and maintaining OHV opportunity. Their request is based on managing and removing downed trees on 58 miles of trails in the Piute Mountain area, installing water bars to reduce erosion, and brushing to keep trails open to the public. Mr. Horgan said that if the work is not done, it would reduce tourism, public access to trails, and possibly off trail damage. Their program has been extremely effective, they have been doing this for over a decade and it is extremely cost effective. The last project they did with Kern County funding equated to \$8.75 per tree. It is a highly leveraged project, and the total project cost is almost \$20,000, so there is approximately a 43% match from the Forest Service and Stewards of the Sequoia. Their request is based upon fuel, equipment, and paid time for sawyers at the rate of \$15 per hour.

Chairman Jamison asked for Commissioner comment.

Commissioner Faull said this request has been granted in past years; therefore he has a clear understanding of what the group accomplishes and how they go about it. He said he also likes that they combine volunteerism to maximize the dollars.

Chairman Jamison asked for public comment.

Mesonika Piecuch, with ORV Watch said they support the grant. Ms. Piecuch said she thinks anything that stops off road use in a way that tries to avoid trees and creates user created trails is very worthwhile and she supports it.

Bruce Miller disclosed that he volunteers for Stewards of the Sequoia. He said he felt it worth pointing out that much of the area where Steward's works were subject to a severe burn, therefore there is an inordinate number of deadfall each winter season that needs to be cleared.

Darren Schmidt thanked Mr. Horgan and said he has many friends who come from the Los Angeles area to utilize the trails.

Ed Waldheim, President of the California Trail Users Coalition said that Stewards of the Sequoia is part of the coalition. He said that Mr. Horgan is a incredible example of how he gets partners and volunteers to work in the forest; so much so that the forest service because of their budget cuts really depend on the work that he is doing. Mr. Waldheim said he believes this would be money will spent and he supports the request.

Mr. Horgan said that their request was calculated to be as frugal as possible, and while they would appreciate any amount the Commission

deems appropriate to award; unless fully funded it is unlikely they would be able to keep pace, which would result in closed trails or off trail travel.

Chairman Jamison asked Mr. Lerude if he had any additional information to share.

Mr. Lerude said that based upon the four (4) qualifying proposals received, there are \$95,470 in proposals and \$49,100 in funding available to award.

Chairman Jamison clarified that the funding is calculated on a 60/40 split; this grant being based on 40% of available funding and the remaining 60 going toward a future OHV facility. Mr. Lerude confirmed this information to be correct, and said that there is currently a balance of \$425,594.83 toward the future OHV facility. Mr. Lerude said he will speak more on this topic at the next meeting.

After discussion amongst Commissioners, Fa-Pa recommended the following:

Friends of Jawbone	\$10,000
Stewards of the Sequoia	\$11,379
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$12,500
Kern County Sheriff's Office	\$15,221
Total:	\$49,100

All ayes, motion carried.

c. Potential Fee Increases – General

Chairman Jamison asked Mr. Lerude if he had any information on this item.

Mr. Lerude said that his Department has reduced both permanent and extra help staff by 43% in the past eight (8) years. Because of this, they are looking at areas of potential fee increases that can bring in additional revenue for the Department. BVARA brings many people from outside the area, who are accustomed to paying much higher fees for other areas. He believes the proposed fees are considered non-controversial. Most of these fees were last raised eleven years ago, in 2004.

1. Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area- Entry Fee, Dog Fee, Annual Fee.

The Annual Permit Fee was raised in 2004 from \$75 to \$90. The proposed fee is \$100.00.

The Daily Entry fee is based on the number of persons in a vehicle, and

was raised in 2004 from \$5 to \$6 for 1-10 persons; from \$7-\$8 for 11-20 persons; and from \$10-\$11 for 21 or more persons. The proposed fees are \$7 for 1-10 persons; \$9 for 11-20 persons; and \$12 for 21 or more persons.

The Dog Fee was raised in 2004 from \$3-\$4 daily. The proposed fee is \$5.

2. Kern River County Park- Dog Fee and Additional Vehicle Fee.

The Additional Vehicle Fee was raised in 2004 from \$5 to \$6 during Off-Peak season and from \$9-\$10 during Peak season. The proposed fees are \$7 during Off-Peak season and \$11 during Peak season.

The Dog fee was raised in 2004 from \$3-\$4. The proposed fee is \$5.

3. Lake Woollomes- Entry Fee

The current Entry Fees were put into place in 2007, and are based on the number of persons in a vehicle. Current fees are \$3 for 1-10 persons; \$5 for 11-20 persons; and \$10 for 21 or more persons. The proposed fees are \$4 for 1-10 persons; \$6 for 11-20 persons; and \$11 for 21 or more persons.

4. Non Profit and Private Use- Special Event Rental Fee and Reservation Fees

The current Special Event Rental Fees and Reservation Fees have been in effect since 1999.

The current fee for Non-Profits is \$125. The proposed fee is \$150. The current fee for Commercial and Private Use is \$200. The proposed fee is \$250.

The current Reservation Application Fee is \$7. The proposed fee is \$8. The Application Fee for multiple-use (more than 3 times) is currently \$25. The proposed fee is \$30.

Mr. Lerude said that he believes these increases are non-controversial and very minimal. The idea is to bring the proposed before the Commission for approximately three meetings for public input. The department is looking to try and bring in additional revenue that can be used to assist in maintaining the parks and facilities. Mr. Lerude said over the next five to six (6) years the County will likely be looking at small cuts every year to make up for the jail facility, pension obligation bonds, and the reduction in property taxes, as a result in the drop in oil prices. The department took a 5% cut in their budget at the start of this year, and an

additional 1% cut this past February.

Commissioner Faull asked how much additional revenue the proposed increases were expected to result in. Mr. Lerude said that the information he provided included an estimated amount under each category. The largest potential revenue would be the \$1 increase to the entry fee at BVARA. The special event increase could result in an additional \$42,000.

Commissioner Park said he does not see anything outrageous in the proposed fees.

Commissioner Faull said the only increase that stands out to him is the increase in the fee to non-profits, as these are groups with a tight budget who are making a difference in our community; yet, he also understands the needs of the Department.

Chairman Jamison asked Mr. Lerude to comment on the recent Grand Jury report. Mr. Lerude said the Grand Jury is concerned that the Department's budget continues to be cut and they have seen the deterioration in our parks. They believe something needs to be done on the fee side. Mr. Lerude said he tried to best address fees that are non-controversial.

Chairman Jamison asked for public comment.

Gary Carter asked if there would be any other proposed fee increases. Mr. Lerude said this was the current fees they are looking to increase this year other than Hart Park which will be addressed separately. Mr. Carter asked if the \$30 annual senior fee for BVARA would be increased. Mr. Lerude said there is proposal to raise the fee at this time. Mr. Carter asked Mr. Lerude if he could look into a reduced price annual pass during trout season for non-seniors. Mr. Lerude advised that Mr. Carter could prepare a proposal to be placed on a future meeting agenda for consideration.

Bob Rutledge asked if the proposed additional vehicle and dog fees for Kern River County Park were in place now. Mr. Lerude said yes, these fees are specific to the campgrounds. Mr. Rutledge recommended that Lake Evans be authorized for personal watercraft use during the summertime. Mr. Lerude advised Chairman Jamison that this item could also be brought forward as another agenda item at a future meeting.

Chairman Jamison asked if the future meetings to discuss the proposed fee increases will be held throughout the County. Mr. Lerude said that traditionally they are held in the outlying areas. He would like to hold at least two (2) more meetings on the topic and if there is a lot of public input, possibly hold additional meetings.

Commissioner Faull asked Mr. Lerude if there has been consideration given to coming up with a new model for stabilizing our parks, such as corporate sponsorship and volunteerism; as these small fee increases will only slow the decline. Mr. Lerude said the Department does have many volunteers, and that they have been pretty successful in receiving grant funding to replace existing infrastructure. They are currently working with the State of California; the lobbyists for the Park and Recreation Society are placing a park bond on the ballot this year to raise it from two hundred to five hundred million. There were two key items they heard from park and recreation agencies throughout the state; one, that it needs to be per capita not competitive based because the bigger cities receive the most money; and two, the money should not be designated only for new facilities and parks.

d. Potential Annual Permit at Hart Park

Mr. Lerude said that before the Commission is a proposal that has been talked about for the last year or so, in terms of implementing some sort of fee out at Hart Park. The initial idea was the installation of kiosks; however, there were questions over where they would be placed and also the need for the staff to collect the money. Many regional parks within the State of California have an annual fee and/or an entry fee. The idea is to implement some sort of an annual fee for the use of Hart Park. Currently the Park Rangers enforce the alcohol permits and write citations, although they are not out there all of the time. If there were an annual fee, the Park Rangers could also enforce it. One thing to consider is whether the pass would be issued by vehicle, bicycle, etc. This would definitely only cover Hart Park and not Lake Ming. Mr. Lerude said most people he has talked to support the idea as long as the fees go into a fund where the money can only be spent for Hart Park, similar to the way it is set up for Panorama Park. There are other details to be worked out, such as what would the annual fee would be and the packets provided include examples as to how other areas address this issue.

Chairman Jamison asked for Commission comments.

Commissioner Park said this is a problem to work out as far as collecting and enforcing the fee and something needs to be done.

Commissioner Faull asked Mr. Lerude if he believes the Department could administer the change with current personnel or would the anticipated revenue allow for the hiring of an employee to handle the collection and documentation of payment. Mr. Lerude said there is no question that this could generate some revenue, although there is no way to know how much. Mr. Lerude said hiring additional staff to manage it would get pretty

expensive. For example, a groundskeeper would be \$75,000 a year and that does not take into account the operation and repair expenses for the facility. The cost to operate Hart Park alone is approximately \$500,000.

Chairman Jamison asked for public comment.

Bill Cooper asked what the annual usage is at Hart Park. Mr. Lerude said they do not, as there is no kiosk to track it. However on Easter weekend there were over 10,000 people in the park. Saturday and Sunday afternoons are also usually very packed.

Bob Rutledge said he holds an annual event at the park where most attendees are from out of the area. Mr. Lerude said that if a specific area is reserved and paid for, those attendees would be exempt from the annual fee.

Darren Schmidt said that those who use the park would pay this annual fee, which he supports.

Edith Rutledge said she was not initially in favor of the annual fee; however, she now believes that it is needed, especially if the fees collected are put back into the park. It was suggested that this be shared with the public during the process of establishing the fee and that information as to what was collected and accomplished with the funds be shared with the public.

Commissioner Faull asked how difficult it would be to change the ordinance. Mr. Lerude said there is no ordinance currently for their fees, so it would be a matter of coming up with one. Supervisor Mick Gleason is aware that this is being discussed.

Kye Seale asked if the money received from citations would go into the fund for the park. Mr. Lerude said that much of the money from citations goes to the court system. He said he could find out if the Department receives any revenue from citations and bring that information back to the Commission.

Bill Cooper asked how the Friends of Panorama Park fund was going. Mr. Lerude said there is about \$40,000 in the fund at this time. They have been able to purchase trash cans and trees with the funds. They are also looking into putting in a couple of lights at the park.

3. Department Staff Report

Mr. Lerude said that the Department has taken a 43% cut in extra help and permanent staff in the past eight (8) years, and that they continue to use work release, community service, juvenile probation, MAOF, Cal Works, community groups, and other individuals.

Mr. Lerude said one of the big issues they continue to face right now is the water restrictions that will be going into place. There are around fifteen (15) different water agencies or districts in Kern County. Last year some water districts based their guidelines on watering of odd/even days, while others based their guidelines on the total amount of watering time. Mr. Lerude said the city is trying to come up with something in Metro Bakersfield tonight that will be consistent with all the water agencies and districts. Mr. Lerude said the good thing is that the restrictions will be moving everyone in the right direction, toward water conservation. The Department is also putting in drought tolerant landscaping and using non-potable water wherever possible.

Chairman Jamison asked for Commission comments. There were none.

4. Public Presentations

Darren Schmidt distributed a flyer from an event that his Church group held at Cyrus Canyon Park. The event went very well and there were no violations or safety issues.

Lorraine Unger said she attended a Heritage Park Meeting recently. It was a public meeting, and there were Sheriff's and Park Rangers present. Ms. Unger said she did not see anyone from Supervisor Perez's staff at the meeting and she resents the fact that her district is not represented. There are gang and homeless problems in the park. Mr. Lerude said the next meeting at Heritage Park is scheduled for Thursday, May 7th @ 5:30 p.m. at the East Bakersfield Prado Center, at which time they will be establishing a master plan to seek grant funding for the park. Mr. Lerude shared that Supervisor Perez's staff informed him just today that they are working hard to fill their vacancy on this Commission.

Bill Cooper shared that years ago the Kern River Parkway purchased about 940 acres below the bluffs from Arco at a good price. The money was then returned to them and an endowment was set up. Four years ago they started a program of environmental education as an alternative to Camp Keep. The first year they had sixty kids participate. The students are run through short stations, sponsored by Chevron and California State University Bakersfield. This year they put nearly 1,000 kids through their program from six different schools.

5. Commission Comments

Commissioner Park said that he believes the Parks Department had as many as 250 employees twenty years ago. He suggested Mr. Lerude share information pertaining to the cuts his Department has experienced in the past eight years with the public, such as in a newspaper article.

Commissioner Faull thanked the public for attending, and said he hopes the Commission accomplished some good things tonight.

Mr. Lerude share that this Saturday, April 25th is the Great American Clean Up. Saturday, May 9th is the Nut Festival at the Kern County Museum. Also, this Sunday, April 26th is the kickoff to the seven projects at the Kern County Museum. Saturday, May 23rd is the Bakersfield Rock & Country Music & Art Festival at the Kern County Museum.

6. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2015 at the Public Services Building.

The Commission discussed where best to hold future meetings to discuss potential fee increases should be held. Mr. Lerude suggested Taft possibly in June.

7. Adjournment

Fa-Pa Motion to Adjourn

Chairman Jamison adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.