

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

Lost Hills Community Center
17001 Lost Hills Road
Lost Hills, CA 93249

August 26, 2015
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015. Chairman Jamison presided.

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

Staff: Bob Lerude, Director, Kern County Parks and Recreation Department; Pamela Schekel, Kern County Parks and Recreation Department.

Others: There was one (1) other 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 6:35 p.m. Chairman Jamison led the flag salute.

1. Approval of the Minutes of July 22, 2015

Fa-Pa to approve the Minutes of July 22, 2015. All ayes, motion carried.

2. Public Presentations

No comments from the general public.

3. New Business

a. Improvements at Lost Hills/Wonderful Park

Recommendation was made to move this topic to the end of the meeting so the group could take a walk around the park and see up close the improvements made. All agreed.

4. Department Staff Report

Mr. Lerude reported on the following:

- There was a \$10 million negative budget error at the Assessors Office but due to the many vacant positions in our department we should have a buffer and will not

have to be looking at layoffs. We have not heard anything from the CAOs office at this time, but there may have to be some midyear (perhaps sooner) adjustments made to our spending. Bob noted that Parks & Rec. has not had a full list of applicants in 2 years.

Commissioner McGiffney wondered if it is because people do not qualify or there is no response. Bob said it is a combination of both. Parks & Rec. does not have the “F” step available nor do they offer the “safety retirement” package for their Park Ranger position. Bob said he would bring the report of citations and other incidents that happen at the various parks and campgrounds that the Rangers and Patrol staff issue and deal with on a daily basis.

- Bob reported on the second Frazier Park Master Plan meeting held August 27th, there was a good turn out with many good ideas. There is a Bond Act in 2016 that if it passes the money would be used towards rehabilitation projects and/or new projects. The money from the last bond act was used to put up picnic shelters and playgrounds at all parks.
- The Heritage Park Master Plan is complete and moving on to the next step for a strategy for cleanup of the park, ie: trash pickup, regular cleaning of the restrooms, etc. The last phase would be on the operation/law enforcement side to keep the public safe from the gang activity, but this takes us back to the lack of staff, we have 11 Park Ranger positions and only 8 of them are filled.
- Funds for the NOR Rail Project has been secured and Supervisors Maggard and Gleason are on board. This would tie in the rail to private property and Camp Okihi and will keep people from using the area as a dumping ground. On cleanup days there can be anywhere from 10-12 tons of trash picked up.
- There has been some issues with vandalism on irrigation pipes.
- Parks and Recreation has received fines from Cal Water for water usage at Lake Ming. Bob reported that non-potable water is used for irrigation and potable water is used for restrooms and campgrounds. All of the faucets have the self-shutting valves.

Commissioner Faull wondered if there was a way to possibly trade off water usage at different parks. Bob was not sure if that was possible.

- Bob had a handout for the commissioners that showed the new project for Petroglyph Park to install plaques at each petroglyph/pictograph with a short description of their meaning. There is also talk of the community wanting to construct a huge (70') structure to attract attention for the upcoming Petroglyph Days. Last year was the first one and was a huge success.

Commissioner Faull said this shows how parks help to define communities.

- Bob said that Kern Cog put in for an award for Linda Resnick and he sent in a letter of support on her behalf.

5. Commission Comments

Commissioner Park said that the Lost Hills Park is beautiful and wanted to thank the Resnick Family. He also asked who maintains it and Bob said it is through Parks and Recreation but that Paramount Farms/Wonderful has also done maintenance in the past but not by our authority. Carl also said he would not be at the next meeting due to a ship reunion in Nashville Tenn.

Commissioner Faull also said how nice the park is and sees how it has become a focal point of the community. He said that if other corporations would take an interest and become involved in the parks in their community that would be great. He also wanted to thank Dave Walker for the tour of the OHV facility and said now that he has visited it he can envision their goals better.

Commissioner Park also took a tour of the OHV facility and wondered if there are steps to follow to move the process along and Bob said there are quite a few steps but we do have models to follow from other counties.

Commissioner McGiffney took a tour of the OHV facility and felt that the people associated with it are very nice and positive. He feels that through this we can get the riders to volunteer to help with preservation of trails and in other areas as well.

6. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2015, 6:30 pm at the Public Services Building.

7. Adjournment

Mc-Pa Motion to Adjourn
Chairman Jamison adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.