

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Services Building
2700 M Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

September 23, 2015
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. Chairman Jamison presided.

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

Absent: Carl Park, District III.

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

Others: There were nine 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 August 26, 2015

Fa-Mc to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2015. All ayes, motion carried.

2. Public Presentations

Dave Walker from FOKOS wanted to get feedback from the Commissioners regarding their visit to the OHV facility .

3. Old Business

- a. Discussion on potential Annual Permit/Daily Permit – Hart Park. DISCUSS AND RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT.

- ❖ Considering only charging cars that are parked
- ❖ Fees only going towards Hart Park restoration fund

Commissioner Faull:

- ❖ Still need more public input and that it is unfortunate to have to
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need a fee but it is necessary to come up with the funds needed to take care of the park.

- ❖ He wondered how this would affect the Park Rangers with the limited staff and could we get Ranger input on this situation.
- ❖ What would the cost be to install an automated system to allow credit/debit cards, talk to those that already use this system.
- ❖ Cost of new signage
- ❖ Entry cost impact to keep park affordable to the public, come up with a fee that will last for several years so there will not be a need to increase the fee for several years.

Commissioner McGiffney:

- ❖ Parking is the best way to go to generate revenue for park restoration.

4. New Business

- a. Discussion on changing ordinance at Lake Ming regarding Inflatable Standup Paddleboard use. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Lerude said that technology has changed faster than policy and does not see a problem with having them on non-motorized days.

Teri Worthen would like to have more non-motorized days and/or share the lake with the motorized vehicles. She said there are often days that are designated as motorized days where there is nobody on the water.

Mr. Lerude said it would probably not be likely to have both motorized and non-motorized share the same days for a variety of reasons.

Joe Sweet said that Lake Ming is a great place to use inflatable paddleboards and feels it would be a benefit to the community to change the ordinance. He stated that there is not much difference between the inflatable boards and hard boards. He also wanted to thank the Ranger who gave him a warning and pointed him in the right direction to get the ordinance changed.

Brian Brandon said he uses the lake to paddleboard and did not know that he needed a permit. The others in the audience that paddleboard on the lake also did not know that a permit was necessary.

Commissioner McGiffney thinks this proposal should be voted on now because technology has caught up and the inflatables are just as safe as the hard boards.

Commissioner Faull thanked the public for bringing this to our attention and sees advantages in allowing them on the lake. He did visit the websites Joe Sweet provided and was impressed with how well they are made. He sees where this might create more use of the lake. Wondered if a motorized inflatable could be used on motorized days? He feels that Lake Ming is underused and would like to measure the usage on the lake between motorized and non-motorized days.

Commissioner Jamison likes the idea of allowing inflatable paddleboards on Lake Ming.

Mr. Lerude said to put it on the next agenda for a vote.

5. Department Staff Report

Mr. Lerude reported on the following:

- Reviewed the various projects going on at the parks
- The issue of swimming at Lake Ming is being reviewed at County Counsel
- Went over the Park Ranger citation report for the last 3 months
- He is going to make a presentation to the NOR Chamber of Commerce regarding the Hart Park Fee/Permit proposal
- Working with OHV and Purchasing on the RFI
- Budget not very good and we may be looking at a mid-year budget cut
- Xeriscape at Leroy Jackson Park. Festival to be held in November, money from Quimby fund will be used to install plaques in park
- Still working on getting a commissioner on the board to represent District V
- The Master Plan at Heritage Park is complete and the third meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 in Frazier Park.

5. Commission Comments

Commissioner McGiffney thanked Dave Walker for the tour of the OHV facility and feels that the users of the track would be an asset to trail preservation. Would like to see how we can better utilize our parks. Also, understands the Ranger shortage and sees that it is unfortunate but a reality.

Commissioner Faull thanked all those for attending the meeting and wanted to thank Dave Walker in person for the tour of the OHV facility. He thinks it has great potential. This year is the National Park System centennial celebration. They have a "Find Your Park" website that perhaps we can use as a marketing tool.

6. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2015, 6:30 pm at the Kerr McGee Community Center in Ridgecrest.

7. Adjournment

Fa-Mc Motion to Adjourn
Chairman Jamison adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.