

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

**County Administrative Center
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. Chairman Bray presided.

Present: Chairman Gary Bray, District I; Commissioner William Chapman, District II; Commissioner Kathleen Arnold-Chambers, District III; Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Absent: None

Staff: Geoffrey Hill – Chief General Services Officer; Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager – General Services; Matt Howard, General Services Manager – General Services; Isaac Preston, General Services Manager – General Services; and Shane Denton, Supervising Park Ranger – General Services

Others: There were eleven (11) others present

NOTE: Br, Ch, Ar, Ce, and Os are abbreviations for Commissioners Bray, Chapman, Arnold-Chambers, and Cervantes. As an example, Br-Ch denotes Commissioner Bray made a motion and Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of February 19, 2020

The minutes from February 19, 2020 were reviewed. Ce - Ch, to approve the minutes. 5 Ayes, 0 Opposed. Motion carried - minutes were approved as written.

2. Public Presentations

Marjorie Bell was present before the Commission to request that a Commissioner be named as the Parks Directors and that the Parks and Recreation Department be a separate county entity so that the services can be expanded beyond the services currently being provided under General Services.

Richard O'Neil was present before the Commission to provide his support regarding the Kern River Parkway Plan.

Eddy Laine was present before the Commission to provide input regarding how the County should allocated the grant award of \$1.74 million dollars among parks.

3. Public Requests

Marion Vargas requested that the Commission consider withdrawing Item 6 from the agenda due to the lack of information to the public and the agenda language being misleading.

Ucedrah Osby informed the Commission that she received a request regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. Vets Hall and that it not be sold, but rather be preserved as a historical site.

4. Correspondence

Staff provided the Commission with the written correspondence dated February 18, 2020 from Eddy Laine regarding Lake Ming closures; written correspondence dated March 12, 2020 from Eddy Laine to General Services requesting information be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission; written correspondence dated April 19, 2020, May 2, 2020, June 12, 2020, July 7, 2020, and August 9, 2020 from Carol Lair regarding the recent cat statistics at Hart Memorial Park; written correspondence dated June 10, 2020 from the Sierra Club to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department regarding the proposed construction of a wireless communication facility; written correspondence dated June 23, 2020 from the Kern River Parkway Foundation to the Board of Supervisors regarding a proposed ordinance change; written correspondence dated July 9, 2020 regarding the Hart Park Working Group Meeting; written correspondence dated July 12, 2020 to Senior CAO Manager, Carl Brewer regarding grants; written correspondence dated July 20, 2020 from Eddy Laine to Clerk of the Board, Kathleen Krause regarding information to “receive and file”; and written correspondence dated August 5, 2020 from Eddy Laine to Clerk of the Board, Kathleen Krause regarding information to “receive and file”. Ar – Ch, to receive and file the correspondence. 5 Ayes, 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

5. Department Staff Report

1. General Services – Status Update

i. Hart Memorial Park – Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager was present before the Commission to discuss ongoing projects at Hart Memorial Park. Additionally, Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer presented a verbal report to the Commission regarding the status of the project regarding the Adobe Structure at Hart Memorial Park.

ii. Proposition 68 - Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager was present before the Commission to discuss Staff’s efforts on the various Proposition 68 funding opportunities, which currently include the Urban Greening Grant, the Trails and Greenways Grant, and the Statewide Park Program Grant. Additionally, Carl Brewer informed the Commission that the County of Kern was awarded \$1.4 million dollars as part of the Per Capita Grant and that General Services, Parks will be working with the CAO to determine what projects will be funded with as part of

the grant award.

iii. Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Park – Status – Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager was present before the Commission to provide an update regarding the status of the Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) grant for a future OHV Park in Kern County.

Park Ranger – Status Update

Shane Denton, Supervising Park Ranger provided the Commission with a verbal update regarding the year-to-date Ranger Status Report.

6. New/Unfinished/Other Business

Discussion of Approved Nature Park Ordinance – Change to Kern River Riparian Preserves vs. Nature Park – Ar - Os to table discussion of the topic until the September Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting so that clarity on the topics can be obtained. 3 ayes, 2 opposed. Br and Ch opposed.

Br – Ar to form an Ad-hoc Committee to make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the topic(s) of the Nature Park. 4 ayes, 1 opposed. Ch opposed.

7. Commission Comments

The Commission requested Staff to include to topics of the Martin Luther King Jr. Vets Hall and the Lake Ming closures to the September agenda.

8. Dates and Locations of Future Meetings:

The meeting time is at 6:30 p.m.

Future meeting dates and locations (subject to change):

- September 16, 2020, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

9. Adjournment

Chairman Bray adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.