

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

**County Administrative Center
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 16, 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 eight (8) others present

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of August 19, 2020

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

2. Public Presentations

Nadine Escalante was present before the Commission to express her concerns regarding the condition of the parks in District 5. Ms. Escalante felt that the parks were being maintained in a non-operational condition.

Eddy Laine was present before the Commission to advise of trash overflowing from dumpster off Rancheria Rd. and to request that a trash receptacle be placed in the area of Pyles Boys Camp.

3. **Public Requests**

There were no Public Requests before the Commission.

4. **Correspondence**

Staff provided the Commission with the written correspondence dated September 4, 2020 from Carol Lair regarding the recent cat statistics at Hart Memorial Park; and written correspondence dated June 10, 2020 from the Sierra Club to the Kern County Board of Supervisors regarding the Sierra Clubs recommendation on how the Per Capita grant award should be allocated. Ar – Ce, 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.

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 General Services, Parks is working with the CAO to determine what projects will be funded with as part of the \$1.47M Per Capita 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**

1. California Ave. Vets Hall Site Designation – The Commission discussed a request to designate the Vets Hall on California Ave. as a historical site. Following discussion, the Commission request Staff to provide the 10-year cost for maintenance and upkeep at the next meeting.

2. Ad-hoc Committee Report – Kern River Riparian Preserve Park Ordinance – The Commission reviewed and discussed the proposed ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, adding Section 13.16.030 to Chapter 13.16, Title 13, establishing the Kern River Riparian Park Preserve as part of the Kern County Ordinance Code. Ar – Ce to approve the draft Kern River Riparian Preserve Park ordinance as presented. 5 Ayes, 0 Opposed. Motion carried.

3. Limiting Special Events / Lake Closures – Lake Ming - Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer was present before the Commission to provide statistics

and information regarding the numbers of special events and lake closures that take place annually at Lake Ming. It was suggested that if the Commission was going to propose to the Board of Supervisors that the ordinance be amended to limit the number of event days at Lake Ming, forty is what Staff would recommend. Following review and discussion, the Commissions postponed a decision and instructed Staff to find out what (if any) water testing requirements there were for Kern County lake and rivers and present the findings at the next meeting.

7. Commission Comments

The Commission requested Staff to include to topics of the Martin Luther King Jr. Vets Hall, water testing requirements, and a presentation of the parks in District 5 to the October 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):

- October 21, 2020, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

9. Adjournment

Chairman Bray adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.