

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

County Administrative Center
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, November 18, 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 nine (9) 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 6:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 21, 2020

The minutes from October 21, 2020, were reviewed. Ar-Ch, to approve the minutes. 5 Ayes, 0 Opposed. Motion carried - minutes were approved as amended.

2. Public Presentations

Elizabeth Ramos was present before the Commission to voice her concerns regarding the condition of the parks within the county and she expressed a desire to work with the Commission on a project that would bring lives to Kern County parks.

Sharon Brier was present before the Commission to thank them for their support with the Kern River Parkway Foundation to extent the bike path.

Harry Love was present before the Commission to request more verbiage be added to the agendas; not just the agenda topic.

3. Public Requests

There were no public requests before the Commission.

4. Correspondence

Staff provided the Commission with the written correspondence dated October 21, 2020, from Harry Love regarding his concerns for the habitat at Lake Ming over the years and to request that the Commission to appoint a committee to prepare a plan regarding the use of Lake Ming and the number of days it could be closed; the various written correspondence dated October 20, 2020, March 16, 2020, and November 10, 2020, from Eddy Laine regarding Lake Ming and a request for records; and the written correspondence dated November 11, 2020, from Carol Lair regarding the recent cat statistics at Hart Memorial Park. 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 which include tree trimming, a restroom renovation, and updating select signage.

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. Carl Brewer informed the Commission that the deadline for the Statewide Park Program Grant applications has been extend to March 2021.

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.

2. Park Ranger – Status Update

Shane Denton, Supervising Park Ranger provided the Commission with a verbal update regarding the 30-day Ranger Status Report.

3. Park Showcase – Mojave East Park – Staff provided with Commission with a showcase of Mojave East Park located in Mojave, CA. Mojave East Park is a neighbor park a baseball field, restroom, a shade shelter, picnic tables, basketball court, tot lot, and a spray pad.

6. New/Unfinished/Other Business

1. Water Testing Recommendation from General Services Staff – Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer informed the Commission that the State Water Board has guidelines for water testing, but no standard water quality requirements for recreational waters. Geoffrey Hill further advised that Commission that once the State Water Board develops standards, the topic of water testing can be revisited.

Carol Lair and Harry Love heard.

2. Why Parks Director Position was Eliminated – Staff presented the Commission with the letter dated September 13, 2016, from John Nilon, former County Administrative Officer to the Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed reorganization of Parks and Recreation Department into a Division of General Services.

Richard O'Neil and Elizabeth Ramos heard.

3. Lake Ming Guidelines / Closures – Committee Member Recommendation(s) from General Services Staff – Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer advised the Commission of the possible make up of a sub-committee of two Commissioners to review concerns regarding Lake Ming management guidelines and closures., Geoffrey Hill suggested the stakeholders include General Services – Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Office; Environmental/conservation groups (Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, Kern River Parkway, etc.); Boat racing organizations (NJBA, SCSA); Local boat and jet ski organizations; Kern County Boat and Ski Club; Economic agencies (The Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce – Nick Ortiz, Kern Economic Development Corporation – Richard Chapman); Local fishing groups; Church groups (Canyon Hills, etc.); HOAs or other neighborhood organizations (Cattle King Estates, Rio Bravo 2); and the Board of Supervisors and staff. Ar – Os, to begin formulation of a committee on an informal level with Commissioner Chambers and Commissioner Osby to begin the process for Lake Ming management guidelines and fact finding. 5 Ayes, 0 Opposed. Motion carried

Harry Love, Grady LaCamp, and Eddy Laine heard.

4. Continue Discussion Regarding Development of a Committee to Make Recommendations About Lake Ming Guidelines and Closures. The Commission decided that no further discussion was needed.

7. Commission Comments

The Commission requested Staff to include an update from the sub-committee regarding Lake Ming, and a follow-up regarding the California Ave. veteran's hall on the January agenda. The Commission was asked to email Staff with the topics they would like for inclusion on the 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):

- January 20, 2021, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

9. Adjournment

Chairman Bray adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

