



Regional Parks

BEAHTA R. DAVIS
Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

Held at: General Services Building and Via Conference Call
Regional Parks/Airports Conference Room
777 E. Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:31 P.M.

2.0 ROLL CALL:

San Bernardino County

Commission Members Present:

Robert L. Kinzel, Second District
Michael Kreeger, Fourth District
Bob Mitchell, Member-At-Large

Staff:

Beahta Davis
Beverly Pickens

Commission Members via Conference Call:

Louis Gamache, Third District
Nicole R. Van Winkle, Fifth District
Steven Farrell, Member-At-Large

3.0 GUESTS/MEDIA

No Guests

4.0 MINUTES APPROVED – Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Motion: Commissioner Kreeger
Second: Commissioner Kinzel
Minutes approved.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Davis provided the following update regarding Moabi Regional Park. Yesterday the Board of Supervisors approved a Board Agenda Item terminating the agreement with Pirate Cove and authorizing the Department to provide notice to terminate the lease

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
First District

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District

DAWN ROWE
Third District

CURT HAGMAN
Chairman, Fourth District

JOSIE GONZALES
Vice Chair, Fifth District

Gary McBride
Chief Executive Officer

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with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The State Lands Commission (SLC) is in negotiations with Pirate Cove. The majority of the revenue generating amenities are on SLC land. Pirate Cove has expressed interest in negotiating with the BLM for continuing to operate on the BLM land. Chairman Mitchell asked how this impacts the County. Mrs. Davis responded it will be a small impact to the County. The County was spending \$170,000 - \$180,000 per year to maintain the park. The revenue received from Pirate Cove was \$250,000. It is not that much of a loss of revenue to the department. Moabi will no longer be a County Regional Park. Commissioner Kreeger asked if we knew the history of how Moabi became a Regional Park. Mrs. Davis responded no. Commissioner Farrell asked when the department became aware of this. Mrs. Davis responded there are some situations that I am not able to tell you about in a timely manner. I wouldn't have been able to discuss this before last Friday. Commissioner Farrell asked about the agreement with SLC. SLC notified the County they did not want to continue with our contract but wanted to work directly with Pirate Cove. Mrs. Davis stated the SLC lease expires June 30, 2020 and the BLM lease expires June 30, 2021. Commissioner Kreeger is there a financial consideration or repairs that need to be completed before turning over the land. Mrs. Davis responded no we are trying to transfer items or improvements made with grant funding. Chairman Mitchell asked if the Board of Supervisors were supportive of this. Mrs. Davis responded she received some questions but all infrastructure is on BLM land, and the department can't afford to take care of the infrastructure without the revenue generated on the SLC side of the park. It was clear business sense to make this decision. Commissioner Kinzel asked if budget wise do you have staffing of how many employees out there. Mrs. Davis responded there are no staff at the park. There is one vacant position. It has been a challenge to fill the position at Moabi. Currently staff from Calico drive out to Moabi once a month to inspect the park. Special Districts' staff go out every Monday. Commissioner Kreeger stated this seems reasonable, it's just a reallocation of who is operating the park. Mrs. Davis responded Pirate Cove has development plans for the park and working direct with SLC and BLM will hopefully allow them to move forward. Commissioner Kreeger asked how many of our other parks are in this situation. Mrs. Davis responded no other park in the department has this type of arrangement. The Department owns the land at Lake Gregory and Big Morongo. The department doesn't own the land at Prado but we are the leasee and we are not leasing out the whole park.

7.0 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Davis provided the following information regarding the parks:

Lake Gregory – The department received notification from ASM that they would be pulling out of negotiations and not moving forward in the process. Commissioner Kinzel asked if we would be going back out for bids. Mrs. Davis responded we will work with Purchasing and CAO's Office to make that decision. There are some things that we have learned over the last six months since we have been operating the park, and will take into consideration moving forward. Commissioner Kreeger asked if there was no vendor up there right now. Mrs. Davis responded we currently are operating the park with minimal staffing. Staff were pulled from other parks. Chairman Mitchell asked if we will be in charge of the facility for the summer. Mrs. Davis stated yes we will be operating the park. The swim beach area is ready and we are currently in the process of hiring

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lifeguards. Commissioner Kreeger asked if there were going to be fireworks for the 4th of July. Mrs. Davis responded not this year. The farmers market will be returning to the park. Commissioner Farrell asked what things we learned and what was the reason ASM pulled out? Mrs. Davis responded that we learned not all the fees were collected. ASM ended negotiations due to fire insurance coverage. Commissioner Farrell asked if they couldn't get the insurance or was it too expensive. Mrs. Davis responded it was too expensive. Fire insurance was not a County requirement it was something that they required. Chairman Mitchell suggested using wristbands for people fishing. He stated there have been complaints regarding no one to police people driving up to the lake, parking on the side of the road and fishing. Mrs. Davis stated there is a cost associated with it, at this time it is not cost effective. Commissioner Kinzel stated as a local who is in the area, staff at the park are doing a great job. He also stated that weed abatement in the past Regional Parks has contracted with Cal Fire for weed abatement is that something that will be continuing? The residents are receiving notices of violation and they look at the weeds in the park. Mrs. Davis responded Cal Fire will be coming back to the park for weed abatement. Commissioner Kinzel stated the Farmers Market is great news. The community has been making a push about free concerts or movie nights or something on the ballfield.

Mrs. Davis provided the following information that was requested at the last meeting:

Revenue lost from group events that have been cancelled due to COVID-19 is approximately \$260,000. Attendance at the parks from 4/25 – 5/10 approximately 4,850 people. In the last eight weeks since we have been open, people are happy the parks are open. Revenue generated during that time was \$400,000 with limited amenities available.

This Saturday the pools at Glen Helen and Yucaipa will open with COVID-19 restrictions. Restrictions include temperatures taken before entering, masks required on the beach, social distancing and groups should be comprised of immediate family members. Guests are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer. Staff are provided PPE and hand sanitizer. When changing guards, chairs are wiped down completely before the next guard gets on the chair. Capacity is limited to 50%. Lifeguards have been hired for Yucaipa, Glen Helen and Cucamonga Guasti. Commissioner Kinzel asked if drinking fountains were available. Mrs. Davis responded not yet.

Commissioner Kreeger asked if all camping was open. Mrs. Davis responded yes, except for group camping. Commissioner Kreeger asked about the 3 RV sites at Yucaipa. Mrs. Davis responded we are not allowing new reservations for those sites. Group Shelters are also not available.

Yucaipa – The group tent camping area is being renovated. Soon there will be new shelters in the area.

Glen Helen – The campground is still being used for COVID. There are 20 trailers in the campground. All Live Nation concerts for this year have been cancelled.

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Mrs. Davis stated she has asked Kristie Stevens, Recreation Coordinator to come up with new ideas to bring people into the parks. The following activities have been added: Teddy Bear Picnic Day – July 10th; Can you find the Gnome – August 1st – 31st. Regular events will be returning this year include night fishing and Who's Hangin' Out in our Parks. Mrs. Davis distributed the event list. There are not many events still planned. Most events planned by outside organizations have been cancelled through October.

Mrs. Davis stated the Deputy Director and Parks Operations Chief are not being filled at this time due to COVID-19 to save funding. We are trying to make sure we have the positions in the parks covered.

Commissioner Farrell asked about the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) mitigation item that was presented to the Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Davis responded Duke Realty built a warehouse along where SART is planned. They paid in lieu of fees for SART. The funds will go into the mitigation fund. The mitigation fund still needs \$1.2 million. Chairman Mitchell stated there is a Facebook page for SART. They are posting on the page about \$3.4 million designated to the County that is not being used by the County for SART. They are producing documentation and becoming very active about what San Bernardino County is not doing. Mrs. Davis stated the Coastal Conservancy funding that has been allocated, but not given to the County. This allocation is for construction funding. Construction can't start until we have the mitigation funding. We are currently looking for the mitigation funding. Mrs. Davis stated she has been in communication with Coastal Conservancy. The department is also applying for an ATP Grant, if awarded this grant covers mitigation funding. Commissioner Gamache asked if Coastal Conservancy grant has been awarded. Mrs. Davis responded the money from the Coastal Conservancy is available for our use, but it is a reimbursable grant, and has a deadline for expenditure of December 30th. An extension can be requested to February for construction completion. Commissioner Farrell asked why the mitigation from Duke Realty was awarded to the County and not Redlands since it is in the City of Redlands. Mrs. Davis stated it was one of the requirements for environmental approval. Commissioner Farrell stated it's a confusing flow of money. Mrs. Davis responded it was a requirement in order for the project to be approved. Commissioner Farrell asked if the City or County made the decision. Mrs. Davis responded she would try to find out.

Commissioner Gamache asked if he could be added to any additional planning meetings for SART. Mrs. Davis asked which meeting. Commissioner Gamache stated he would need to check. Mrs. Davis asked if Commissioner Gamache had been in contact with Claire at Supervisor Rowe's office.

Chairman Mitchell stated Supervisor Ramos was the contact in the past. Who would be the contact now? Mrs. Davis responded she met with Supervisor Rowe and her staff regarding SART. Commissioner Gamache stated he would double check with Supervisor Rowe.

8.0 **COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS BY TITLE FOR NEXT MEETING** N/A

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9.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Greg Stone stated the Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club is pleased to be open and have been very good with social distancing at the field. They are also maintaining communication with Cal Poly Pomona regarding when they may be looking to reschedule their technology event.

10.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Van Winkle stated she is excited things are starting to reopen. People will be able to enjoy the parks.

Commissioner Farrell stated he appreciated being able to call into the meeting.

Commissioner Kreeger stated he concurred with Commissioner Van Winkle.

Commissioner Kinzel asked if FOR Parks was back in operation. Mrs. Davis stated they have been in contact with the department. They are not meeting tonight, but will resume meetings in July. Chairman Mitchell stated FOR Parks was invited to come to a meeting they said they will when this is over.

Chairman Mitchell stated he was glad to be here.

Motion by Commissioner Kreeger, seconded by Commissioner Farrell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Next meeting – July 8, 2020

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.