



Regional Parks

BEAHTA R. DAVIS
Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, August 12, 2020**

Held via Conference Call

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M.

2.0 ROLL CALL:

San Bernardino County

Commission Members Present:

Robert L. Kinzel, Second District

Louis Gamache, Third District

Michael Kreeger, Fourth District

Nicole R. Van Winkle, Fifth District

Bob Mitchell, Member-At-Large

Steven Farrell, Member-At-Large

Staff:

Beahta Davis

Beverly Pickens

3.0 GUESTS/MEDIA

Greg Stone, Pomona Valley RC Club

4.0 MINUTES APPROVED – Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Motion: Commissioner Gamache

Second: Commissioner Kinzel

Abstained: Commissioners Kreeger and Van Winkle

Minutes approved

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

6.0 NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Davis provided the following update regarding Santa Ana River Trail (SART) funding to the Commission:

Some portions of the trail remain unfunded. Phase III environmental mitigation and portions of design and construction contingency are unfunded at approximately \$1.2 million. Coastal Conservancy has approved funding of approximately \$3.3 million for

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construction. The department is working with Public Works to apply for an ATP Cycle 5 funding that if funded would cover the unfunded cost associated with Phase III. Phase IV Reach A design is partially funded. The remainder of the project is unfunded at approximately \$3.7 million. Phase IV Reaches B & C design is complete. Unfunded for construction is estimated at a little under \$5 million. All costs are estimated at this time.

Chairman Mitchell stated Mrs. Davis has requested his help contacting the local bicycling community to obtain letters of support for the grant. Commissioner Mitchell stated he has been working on that. Mrs. Davis stated the department has sent letters to the groups we have contact information for and received some support letters back.

7.0 **DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PARKS REPORT**

Mrs. Davis provided the following information regarding park operations during the pandemic:

The following amenities are available at the parks: fishing, splash pads, individual RV camping, the pool at Glen Helen and Yucaipa (limited capacity, weekends only). The following amenities remain closed: playgrounds, waterslides, shelters and group camping. Masks are required, if you don't have one when you arrive at the park we will provide one for you to wear. We are encouraging social distancing. Limited restroom facilities are available at the parks. Commissioner Van Winkle asked if this information was reflected on the website. Mrs. Davis responded yes and on signage at the parks.

Chairman Mitchell asked if the State enhanced closure requirements impacted the parks in closing amenities that were available. Mrs. Davis responded yes, Maggie Mine at Calico had to close again.

Mrs. Davis stated Yucaipa is being used as a fire camp for the Apple fire. A large portion of the park is being utilized for the fire camp, from the beginning of the disc golf area to the group tent area. These areas of the park are not available for the public. Commissioner Gamache stated he went by the park, the fire camp is impressive. They are taking water from the lake, do we have an agreement for reimbursement of the water costs. Mrs. Davis responded we have an agreement for the use of the park, we don't pay for the lake water at Yucaipa. Chairman Mitchell stated they are also using a reserve above the park for water. Mrs. Davis stated that due to the fire camp night fishing may be canceled at Yucaipa.

Mrs. Davis provided the following information regarding events:

The department is considering if events scheduled in October will be moving forward. Calico Days originally scheduled for September has been rescheduled for May 2021.

Commissioner Kreeger asked if the lakes were still being stocked. Mrs. Davis responded, yes fisherman are still coming to the parks. Prado is not being stocked at this time due to algae and Lake Gregory will be stocked once trout season begins.

8.0 **COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS BY TITLE FOR NEXT MEETING**

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Chairman Mitchell requested that an update be provided about the RV's being used at Glen Helen at the September meeting.

9.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Stone stated the Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club is flying regularly but their educational support and activities are still on hold. As everyone is aware education is continuing to operate online only so they must wait until Cal Poly Pomona resumes their engineering activities and events for their building and flight activities to resume.

10.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Kinzel asked for an estimate of the impact of COVID on overall attendance at the parks. Mrs. Davis responded attendance is significantly lower. March through October is normally our busy time with large events and activities. Those events and activities are not allowed at this time. We are missing the gate revenue in addition to the fees charged for those group events. Group shelters, tent camping and RV sites are not available due to the restrictions on the number of people allowed to gather. Even in the swim facilities we have only reached capacity twice at Yucaipa with reduced capacity.

Commissioner Gamache stated he wanted to acknowledge that this is a difficult time. He is really proud of our parks administration and staff for facilitating the parks right now more than ever. Everyone is frustrated and tired from being cooped up. He stated he thinks the parks provide a much needed respite from the pandemic. Commissioner Gamache wanted to give some encouragement and positive feedback for everyone out there doing a good job. Thank you.

Commissioner Kreeger agreed with Commissioner Gamache that was well said. Good job everybody.

Commissioner Van Winkle wanted to echo the other commissioner's comments about thank you for doing what you can to stay open and provide a good experience for the residents of the county. Also, Happy World Ranger Day I know that happened recently. Happy World Ranger Day to our Rangers and thank you for all they do as well.

Chairman Mitchell stated he wanted to echo along with Commissioner Gamache and the rest of the commissioners. It has been a very difficult time for everybody. He stated he wanted to commend all of you for the marvelous job you are doing in the midst of this struggle. Thank you all for paying such close attention today to all we are doing.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING:**

September 9, 2020

12.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Kreeger seconded by Commissioner Gamache.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.