



Regional Parks

BEAHTA R. DAVIS
Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Held via WebEx, conference call with some commissioners present in person.

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Gamache called the meeting to order at 2:35 P.M.

2.0 ROLL CALL:

Commission Members Present:

Doug Robertson, First District
Victoria Jones, Second District
Louis Gamache, Third District
Michael Kreeger, Fourth District
Patty Espinoza, Fifth District
Bob Mitchell, Member-At-Large
Steven Farrell, Member-At-Large

Staff:

Beahta Davis
Beverly Pickens

3.0 GUESTS/MEDIA

Michael Jimenez, Interim Deputy Executive Officer, Community Services Group
Greg Stone, Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club

4.0 MINUTES APPROVED – Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Kreeger
Second: Commissioner Mitchell
Minutes approved.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Gamache stated we had considered the possibility of a separate agenda item to discuss the underpass at Prado but after further consideration that item will be covered the Director's Report.

6.0 DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PARKS REPORT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COL. PAUL COOK (RET.)
First District

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District

DAWN ROWE
Vice Chair, Third District

CURT HAGMAN
Chairman, Fourth District

JOE BACA, JR.
Fifth District

Leonard X. Hernandez
Chief Executive Officer

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Mrs. Davis stated welcome to May, it is almost swim season. Pool manager training was held last Saturday it went very well. We have at least one pool manager for each facility. Lifeguard training and Olympics scheduled for May 22nd at 8:00 a.m. at Cucamonga Guasti. Enough lifeguards have been hired to open Glen Helen and Yucaipa. Cucamonga Guasti needs two more lifeguards. The biggest problem with hiring lifeguards is there were no certification classes last year and classes for this year are just starting.

Pool preparation is ending. The renovation project at Yucaipa is complete, some additional fixes will be completed at the end of the swim season. The pool area looks great, part of the wood was removed, and the area has been painted. At Glen Helen the pool was painted, both umbrellas work, and one slide will be open for the season. At Cucamonga Guasti the construction project is complete, and the pool looks great and is ready to go.

Mrs. Davis stated that Virtual Calico Days was held last weekend with videos on Facebook and in Town Hall at Calico. Gunfighters and the Blacksmith were also on site at the park.

Catfish season starts May 21st. The parks will be stocked weekly on Thursdays with 690 pounds of catfish. Commissioner Mitchell asked if the department was going to stock blue catfish this season. His fisherman friend stated the blue catfish are better tasting. Mrs. Davis responded we can check with the vendor. Ms. Pickens stated the blue catfish were purchased from a different vendor. That vendor has not responded to the request for bids the last few years.

Prop 68 Grant – Virtual community workshops will be held. Mrs. Davis distributed the workshop flyer to the commission. After looking at the grant we decided to focus on three parks. The workshops are scheduled on: May 15th – Santa Ana River Trail, May 19th – Cucamonga Guasti, and May 26th – Glen Helen.

Mrs. Davis distributed the flyers for Digital Wilderness Wednesdays to the commission. Digital Wilderness Wednesdays is a virtual program in partnership with the Library. The programs include an animal presentation from Wildlife Adventure time, a craft with Regional Parks and a reading from Libraries. We are excited about the new partnership.

Mrs. Davis shared a depiction of the advertisement from last year's Good Sam Camping Guide with the commission.

Mrs. Davis distributed the event list to the commission.

Mrs. Davis distributed the Prado Trail map from the Prado Master Plan to the commission. Mrs. Davis stated that the plan proposes a trail connection on the west side of the park that connects to the tunnel that goes to the Chino Hills side. On the left side of the map labeled "existing tunnel" is the tunnel Ms. Arns would like to connect to Prado Regional Park. The red dot on the map represents a proposed gate with a card reader that gives you access to the park from that side. The orange trail is a proposed hiking trail that would take you from that side of the park to other sections of the park through other connections that are proposed. Currently, we do not have funding for this, however it is part of the recommendation and ideas that are in the Master Plan for Prado Regional Park.

Commissioner Kreeger asked if the trail included equestrians. Mrs. Davis responded that the type of usage for the trail would be determined during the development process. Chairman Gamache stated Ms. Arns concern is that it is not funded and asked where does it fit in the process or what is the next step to get that connectivity? Mrs. Davis responded the department is completing assessments of each park and we are prioritizing capital projects. This would be a capital project. Once all assessments are complete, we will develop a prioritized plan for each park. Commissioner Espinoza asked how someone would get a card for the card reader. Mrs. Davis responded the card reader is proposed in the Master Plan and is not implemented at this time. Once implemented park patrons would be able to purchase a membership card at the park. This would allow the department to track visitor numbers and provide funding to maintain the trail. Commissioner Mitchell asked if the proposed concept to use the card reader could be used at Mojave Narrows on the walking/biking trail the City of Victorville uses. Is it something we could implement for the future? Mrs. Davis responded that we have a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Victorville. The City is paying for each person who enters the park on the trail. Commissioner Mitchell asked if we could have it on the back burner if the City decided they did not want to continue with the current program. Mrs. Davis responded we could consider this as an option.

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

None

8.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Greg Stone, Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club – Flying activities continue as normal. We are still holding hope that the universities resume more in-person activities so the various engineering programs can get back to building and testing for competitive events when those also resume.

Do you have any update or projection on when the county may be moving to the next more open tier? We are thinking about training activities and also hopeful for a bigger Toys for kids' collection event in December. Mrs. Davis stated we do not have an estimate on when we would be moving to the next tier.

We appreciate everyone and all the programs being offered and do our part to support educational activities.

9.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Robertson stated in response to the public comment received the Governor is looking at potentially removing the mask requirement in June.

Commissioner Kreeger stated he was glad to hear the Prado update. Keep up the good work. Commissioner Kreeger stated he was able to book camping at Yucaipa coming up.

Commissioner Espinoza stated she is impressed with all the work you do. It is amazing and the Digital Wilderness Wednesdays, I wish I could take part in it. That picture for camping outdoors makes me want to go camping right now. Congratulations on the work you do.

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Commissioner Mitchell stated he has some out-of-town guests from back east that stayed at Yucaipa. They wanted him to pass along that Yucaipa is a wonderful park and it was easy to make a reservation online. His fisherman friend is impressed with the fish that are being brought in and is catching his limit.

Commissioner Farrell stated maybe by the next meeting I will be able to report that Lake Gregory has opened for the season.

Chair Gamache stated he visited Yucaipa Regional Park and met with the Park Superintendent, Blane McNally. Chair Gamache stated he wanted to extend kudos to Blane and his crew. He saw the progress at the park from the time of the last commission tour until now. A night and day difference from four years ago. Staff have pride in the park and the park was clean. The campground is near fully booked, lush, green, new paint on the buildings. Staff have been busy and hard at work during the pandemic.

10.0 **NEXT MEETING:**

June 9, 2021

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Espinoza seconded by Commissioner Robertson.
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.