



Regional Parks

BEAHTA R. DAVIS

Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Gamache called the meeting to order at 2:30 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
Michael Jimenez
Beverly Pickens

3.0 GUESTS/MEDIA

Jeff Sorenson, 4th District Board of Supervisors

4.0 MINUTES APPROVED – Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Kreeger

Second: Commissioner Jones

Abstained: Commissioner Farrell and Commissioner Robertson

Minutes approved with minor revision.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Usage – Mrs. Davis stated the water usage across all parks would be reduced if drought restrictions were imposed. Irrigation would be decreased by the amount of the restriction. We have not been given any restrictions at this time. This is the process that has been utilized in the past. Commissioner Kreeger asked if recycled water was used for irrigation at the parks. Chair Gamache asked if Mrs. Davis could elaborate on the water

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

REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

November 10, 2021

PAGE 2 of 4

sources utilized at some of the parks. Yucaipa and Prado use lake water for irrigation. Cucamonga Guasti uses recycled water. Commissioner Farrell asked if that would be part of the reduction across the system. Commissioner Farrell stated some landscapes would require more care than others. Mrs. Davis responded no, the reduction would be across all parks not based on look or the use of the facility. The reduction would be based on the mandate. Commissioner Kreeger asked if that applied to concessions. Mrs. Davis responded yes. They would follow the same mandate. Commissioner Farrell asked if pools were part of it and the same. Mrs. Davis responded she would have to do some research regarding swim facilities.

Staffing/Recruitment – Mrs. Davis stated Kristie Stevens our Recreation Coordinator who has been with us for twenty years is moving to North Carolina, while we are excited for her, it is sad for us. Mrs. Davis stated she is meeting on Monday with Human Resources to start the recruitment process for the Recreation Coordinator. We will miss her talent, heart, and soul. The Deputy Director and Parks Operations Chief position recruitments have closed. The department should receive lists for these positions any day. Staff Analyst interviews are scheduled for next week. The Assistant Park Superintendent vacancy at Glen Helen is being advertised right now. Park Ranger II vacancies for Calico and Mojave Narrows have second interviews scheduled for next week. Three General Service Workers positions have been filled, with six more openings to be filled.

Marketing Partnerships – Mrs. Davis stated the department is working with the new Chief Communications Officer for the County, Martha Guzman-Hurtado, to implement a new marketing plan for Regional Parks. Mrs. Davis stated Regional Parks is the first department to work with her. Mrs. Davis stated we should be able to share some tag lines and logos with the commission at the next meeting. Chair Gamache suggested the item be carried over to the next meeting.

FOR Parks Update – Mr. Sorenson distributed flyers to the commissioners regarding FOR Parks. One flyer provides information regarding FOR Parks, the other flyer was information regarding looking for Board of Directors members. Mr. Sorenson stated FOR Parks is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that raises funds for Regional Parks. FOR Parks has sponsored the Jr. Fishing Workshops and derbies, Doggie Poolooza and educational opportunities. They have provided funding for busses so that schools could attend Science Camp at the Yucaipa. For Parks has provided educational signs, dog waste stations, and fishing line disposal tubes at the parks. FOR Parks also participated in restoration/improvements on the wagons at Calico. FOR Parks concentrates strictly on San Bernardino County Regional Parks. FOR Parks was established in 1976. Mr. Sorenson is attending today's meeting because FOR Parks needs Board of Directors members. They are looking for people who are passionate parks and fundraising to help support Regional Parks. Commissioner Espinoza asked when they meet. Mr. Sorenson stated the second Wednesday of every other month at 5:15 p.m. Chair Gamache asked how big is the Board? Mr. Sorenson stated he thinks they are limited to 13, currently there are 7 -9 members, with 5 members who regularly attend meetings. Right now FOR Parks consists only of the Board. They are considering some type of membership to use as a fundraiser, and currently looking for some type of perk for membership. Fundraising events in the past have included bowling, wine tasting, beer tasting and paint nights. FOR Parks is

currently listed as an option on the County's Combined Giving. The focus right now is for Board of Directors members. Commissioner Farrell asked if FOR Parks had reached out to the other groups like the Friends of Mojave Narrows. Mr. Sorenson stated yes. Mrs. Davis stated the Friends of Mojave Narrows want to concentrate on Mojave Narrows and the nature trails there. They would assist if an event was held at Mojave Narrows. Mr. Sorenson stated in the past FOR Parks held fund raisers quarterly. Commissioner Kreeger asked if anything was coming up. Mr. Sorenson responded not at this time. Commissioner Kreeger asked if they had a budget or fundraising goal. Mr. Sorenson responded no goal or project at this time. We know we need to do that. Their largest expense in the past was the Jr. Fishing Workshops.

6.0 **DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PARKS REPORT**

Mrs. Davis stated Ghost Haunt at Calico the last two weekends in October had higher attendance than 2019. The second weekend a new band, New Doubt, performed. People enjoyed the music. Several new activities were added. The Park looked great and everyone looked like they had a great time. In February on President's Day weekend a new event will be held at Calico – California Days. We are completing our research at this time. The event will focus on the history of California including gold panning, pony express, and a chili cook off contest. Commissioner Jones asked if the commission would have the opportunity to see the history that will be included before the event. Mrs. Davis responded yes.

Mrs. Davis stated a trout vendor has been selected for trout season. Calaveras Trout will be stocking the lakes again this year. All stockings will include some Calaveras Trout Goldens. A month-long trout derby will be held in March at Cucamonga Guasti, Glen Helen, and Mojave Narrows. Prado and Yucaipa will receive derby stockings before the other parks.

Mrs. Davis stated Top Golf's progress looks phenomenal. Top Golf is scheduled to be complete in March. Commissioner Robertson stated we talked about moving the meetings to a park every other month, Top Golf might be a good choice.

Mrs. Davis stated the ATP Grant award went to the Board of Supervisors for approval for SART III. Shovels in the ground by April of 2022 for SART Phase III. Commissioner Farrell asked the amount of the grant. Mrs. Davis responded a little over \$1 million.

Commissioner Robertson asked if the County was spending American Rescue Plan Act dollars on parks. Mrs. Davis stated she believes it will trickle down and will provide an update at a later meeting when she has more information. Mr. Jimenez stated the County hired a person to manage the American Rescue Plan Act funds. They are looking at all departments including Regional Parks to see where the funding can go. There are real specific criteria to spending the funds. Commissioner Robertson asked if there was a list of potential projects.

Mrs. Davis distributed the Holiday Fest flyer and event list to the commission.

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

REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

November 10, 2021

PAGE 4 of 4

Meetings at other locations

8.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Greg Stone, Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club – Just a reminder that we are holding our Toys for Kids fun fly and collection event on Sunday, December 5th from 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. We will also be collecting toys during the week before the event. We want to extend an invitation to everyone to visit if you are in the area to see firsthand what we do. We appreciate everyone's support and continue to do our part to support educational activities.

9.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Kreeger stated he was happy to see everyone.

Commissioner Espinoza stated she was happy to meet the commissioners. It's nice to finally meet all of you and nice to be here.

Commissioner Mitchell stated he wanted to commend FOR Parks for several of the projects they have been involved in, benches at Glen Helen and the wagon restoration at Calico. FOR Parks has been a real asset to the County.

Commissioner Farrell stated he was happy to see us all together.

Chair Gamache thanked the commissioners for a great meeting. Be careful out there. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

10.0 **NEXT MEETING:**

December 8, 2021

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.