



Regional Parks

BEAHTA R. DAVIS

Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

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
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

Commission Members Absent:

Victoria Jones, Second District

3.0 GUESTS/MEDIA

Greg Stone, Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club

4.0 MINUTES APPROVED – Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Kreeger
Second: Commissioner Farrell
Abstained: Commissioner Robertson
Minutes approved

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chair – Nominations were opened for the Chair. Commissioner Farrell
Commissioner Gamache. Commissioner Kreeger seconded the nomination. Commissioner
Gamache was elected Chair. Nominations were opened for Vice Chair. Commissioner Farrell

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

nominated Commissioner Kreeger. Commissioner Espinoza seconded the nomination. Commissioner Kreeger was elected Vice Chair.

6.0 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Co-marketing partnerships – Mrs. Davis stated she had several meetings scheduled over the last month that were cancelled due to COVID. Hopefully the meetings with neighboring jurisdictions will be able to take place in February. We are still working with our new communications officer to develop our marketing plan. Hopefully we will be able to share it with you in the next couple of months. Chair Gamache asked if the commission could see a preliminary of the plan? Mrs. Davis responded yes. Chair Gamache asked if we marketed with any other county offices for example, the County Museum. Mrs. Davis responded yes, we have flyers at the Museum and Libraries and have their flyers at our locations. It will be an over encompassing marketing plan that will focus on increasing use of the parks.

American Rescue Plan Act funds- Mrs. Davis stated the projects are still being finalized. Chair Gamache asked what specifically those funds are earmarked for. Mrs. Davis responded infrastructure. There are strict guidelines regarding the funds and discussion is going on regarding how they can apply to parks. Commissioner Robertson stated the rules seemed stringent when they were first proposed, the rules have relaxed some. Some projects risk the possibility of having to pay the funds back. Chair Gamache stated when determined can the Commission receive an update on what the funds can be used for and conceptual projects. Mrs. Davis responded yes. Commissioner Farrell stated it seemed that Santa Ana River Trail (SART) would qualify for funding.

Trails – Commissioner Farrell asked what the charter was for the Trails Committee, has the role changed? Mrs. Davis distributed the Trails Committee Functions to the Commission. This was taken from the Board item when the trails committee was officially moved under the supervision of this commission. Chair Gamache asked what rationale was attached to dissolving the committee. Mrs. Davis responded that committee had not met since 2013. Trail concerns have been brought up by and come to the Commission, specifically those related to the Santa Ana River Trail. In addition, we do not have jurisdiction over Open Space located on federally owned land. The Commission was already responsible for the Trails Committee. There is also the Cucamonga Creek Trail manage and inspect on a weekly basis along with the Crafton Hills trails that are managed by the Crafton Hills Conservancy. Commissioner Farrell stated he is not familiar with the Open Space and Trail Plan. Mrs. Davis stated she is researching this and will bring to the next meeting or if found earlier will e-mail the plan to the commission. Chair Gamache asked if a summary or brief on what trails may fall under the purview of the commission could be provided. Mrs. Davis suggested a subcommittee of couple of commissioners work on it on the side. If we are doing it at these meetings, it will take a long time to get to where you want to be. Commissioner Kreeger stated an ad hoc committee. Mrs. Davis stated they could have virtual meetings. Chair Gamache stated a visual representation of trails and the need/necessity to designate trails a subcommittee may be premature at this time. Mrs. Davis stated she would put together a package with the County Open Space and Trail Plan and digitize the open space map. Mrs. Davis stated she is waiting for the Director of Land Use Services to return from vacation. The mapping may not be available

for the next meeting, it may be the March meeting. The commission agreed to table the item for further discussion in March.

Commissioner Mitchell stated he was originally part of the trails committee and provided background information to the commission. He stated can bring some background information to the next meeting. Chair Gamache it may be advantageous to plan future trails (propose) coordination/grant funding. We may need to consult with Land Use Services to see if we can assist them. Mrs. Davis asked Commissioner Mitchell to e-mail the information before the next meeting.

Guidelines – Mrs. Davis distributed the approved guidelines to the commission. Commissioner Kreeger stated here is what I read and here is where I get confused under D – Authority and Responsibility item 2 states The Commission shall recommend on broad, general budgetary matters such as capital improvement items and proposed revenues the commission shall seek to relate these to a fiscal plan. We aren't involved until after it has gone to the board. The intent is to discuss before and give recommendations. We give a recommendation as a commission and department to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Mitchell stated we discussed this a couple of years ago. Mrs. Davis has brought more information. The past leadership was avoiding us. Mr. Hernandez was good about bringing it to us before approval. Beahta you carried this forward for a while, but it has dropped off. Commissioner Mitchell stated he agrees with Commissioner Kreeger. Commissioner Farrell stated he can't recall a time when the commission has made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors of what should happen, which strikes him as they are not doing enough of their job. Additional discussion was held regarding the guidelines. Commissioner Robertson stated the language is pretty clear. Commissioner Robertson ask that the Director bring the budget to the commission in a timely manner, not to impede the process. We don't want to become a stopping point, to the extent that we can see it ahead of the time. Commissioner Kreeger stated ultimately, it's hard to offer the Supervisors advice when it goes to the Board before we see it as a citizen oversight committee. Mrs. Davis stated the commission is an Advisory Commission not a Citizens oversight committee there are differences. Mrs. Davis says item 1 states "...as requested by the Board of Supervisors and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on such matters as appropriate." It is important that Commissioners are communicating with their Supervisor. Mrs. Davis stated she would try to bring more information to the Commission as soon as possible. The Commissioners can also provide recommendations regarding what they would like to see in our budget. Mrs. Davis stated that although we are not doing the group tour at this time, she is happy and willing to meet with any Commissioner at any of the parks. Chair Gamache would like to change the tour name to site visit. Carry this item over for the March meeting.

7.0 **DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PARKS REPORT**

Mrs. Davis announced that Beverly Pickens has made the decision to retire from San Bernardino County Regional Parks, effective February 11th. As you all know Beverly is the heartbeat of this department she knows where everything is. I can't say enough about what she does for the department but also what she does for me personally as my assistant. She has just been a joy to work with and since I walked in the door. We are really going to miss having her here. In addition to all the tasks she does for the

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department, she also works with both commissions. She knows all the history of this department. Its going to be a loss for our department but I will say it is an extremely well-deserved retirement because of all the hard work she has done. We will be sending out information about an opportunity to say a proper goodbye.

Mrs. Davis distributed the Holiday Fest report to the commission. Attendance at the festival was higher than 2019. It was a fun event and you could feel the family-like atmosphere. Participants were happy and Santa Claus was there. He was great. There were over 2,000 people in attendance. There was a new tree for the event that looked gorgeous while the snow fell on Calico.

The department is currently in the planning stages for California Days. The event is scheduled to take place President's Day weekend.

Mrs. Davis stated that due to restrictions associated with the pandemic, we will be making modifications in the office starting tomorrow. Staff are returning to telecommuting three days per week through January 28th. We will continue to hold meetings like this one during this time.

Staff updates – Mrs. Davis stated the department has some vacancies. We will be holding hiring events for General Services Workers, Pool Managers, and Lifeguards. Deputy Director interviews are scheduled in early February. Staff Analyst, and Assistant Superintendent for Glen Helen have been selected. We are in the hiring process for Park Superintendent (Prado), Assistant Superintendent (Prado), Park Ranger III (Yucaipa), and Recreation Coordinator. The department is working with Human Resources to complete the recruitment and hiring processes for these positions. Ryan Isom was promoted to Parks Operations Chief.

Commissioner Farrell asked if there was flooding at Prado. Yes, there was some flooding at Prado. Although it came close to having to evacuate the campgrounds, the US Army Corps of Engineers were able to keep the water levels low enough to avoid this action. Campers were able to stay at the park.

Capital Projects that we discussed last month have started. Site visits have been scheduled and designs are in process for the three new restrooms, enhanced water play area, picnic pavilions, and the 2 new waterslides at Glen Helen. The enhanced water play area and the waterslides will have a rodeo theme.

Capital Investment fund projects include the Prado gatehouse/entry monument and environmental assessment. The Glen Helen asphalt repair bid package for the Live Nation entry was presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Public Works is putting together the package for the full phase repairs for the park.

Board agenda items scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors on January 25th - Donation of the corrals at Yucaipa Regional Park to the City of Yucaipa. The corrals are located near the athletic fields and are not used. Corrals will be donated to the City of

Yucaipa for use at one of their facilities. Additional parking will be created in the area the corrals are currently located.

Commissioner Kreeger asked if the parks received any storm damage. Mrs. Davis responded some trees were down and leaks at the amphitheater that the department is currently addressing.

Commissioner Kreeger asked about Top Golf. Mrs. Davis responded they are still moving forward. The project is still on schedule. I would like to wait until they are open for us to conduct a site visit. Real Estate Services is still responsible for Top Golf.

Chair Gamache asked when SART would be breaking ground. Mrs. Davis responded sometime in April. Project meetings will resume in February. Mrs. Davis stated she would try to have information for the next meeting. Chair Gamache asked if a groundbreaking ceremony would be scheduled. Mrs. Davis responded not at this time. Mrs. Davis stated she would make sure the commission was informed if any ceremonies are scheduled. Commissioner Mitchell asked if a notification would be placed on the website regarding SART III. Mrs. Davis responded once we have the dates for construction, a notice will be placed on the website. Commissioner Mitchell asked if something could be placed now letting the public know we are moving forward on the trail. Mrs. Davis responded once we have all the accurate information. Mrs. Davis stated she would e-mail the commission information that encompasses all the current projects once it's available.

Commissioner Farrell asked if we had heard anything new about Friends of Regional Parks (FOR Parks). Mrs. Davis stated she attended their meeting. They had one new member and are continuing their outreach to different organizations to gain new members. The meeting scheduled for tonight was cancelled. Their next meeting will be in March. They have recently provided funding for dog waste trash cans and fishing line disposal containers. Commissioner Farrell stated we should support them. Chair Gamache stated he had attended some of their events in the past.

Mrs. Davis provided an update on upcoming events. In March the department would have a month-long trout derby at Cucamonga Guasti, Glen Helen, and Mojave Narrows. Trout season is going well, big fish are being caught at all the parks. A 9 lb. trout was caught not too long ago at Glen Helen. California Days will be taking place at Calico on President's Day weekend.

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

Trails continued to March meeting
Guidelines continued to March meeting

9.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Greg Stone, Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club – I was elected to a national organization as one of the Vice President covers California, Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii. Holding several educational activities, last week one was held at FLABOB in Riverside, 45 students attended. We are expanding further with other clubs in the area and working with the airports. Currently working with the Planes of Fame at Chino to expand the youth program

there and working to get in at Apple Valley airport. We are continuing to expand our educational activities.

10.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Mitchell stated he is grateful to have worked with Beverly for the time that I have been on the commission, we have gone through so many difficult transitions for her, and she has come to the plate every single time and willing to be a contender and player in the field for all of us. There have been some really rough spots she has been a part of, and I personally have seen her just take it on and do a great job. I'm really proud to know her and I will personally miss you a lot. Glad you have been a part of what we do here. Your knowledge is just incredible its impeccable the amount of information you have brought to us to the table. I want to personally say thank you for everything.

Commissioner Espinoza stated Happy New Year. It's nice to be here; I can't believe it's been a year. Congratulations to you Beverly. I'm very happy for you. It's exciting all the new things you are going to experience.

Commissioner Robertson stated congratulations to Beverly. I haven't been here that long, but you've certainly been helpful during my time as well. At Apple Valley's tree lighting we weren't expecting a big turnout but had double the number of people from the prior year. Commissioner Robertson stated I think people are ready for events and to be outdoors. It appears that the current surge should subside by mid-February. Hopefully we will have a big event season this spring/summer and reach some type of normal by fall.

Commissioner Kreeger Beverly I know everybody is saying congratulations, I think you are selling out early, I don't see what's wrong with 35 years. Seriously congratulations. I'm very envious of anybody who retires because I'm nowhere close. Congratulations, I hope you enjoy it.

Commissioner Farrell stated I will echo all of that congratulations. Commissioner Farrell stated he is looking forward to a better year, a more normal year. Commissioner Farrell thanked Mrs. Davis for the work you do. You are on top of so many things.

Chair Gamache stated he echoed the commission in congratulating Beverly. What an accomplishment, 30 years. We are going to both celebrate your accomplishment with joy and send you off and at the same time we are going to mourn the loss of you and your abilities. The organization is going to lose quite a bit of organizational knowledge. Congratulations, we will miss you. Chair Gamache echoed Commissioner Robertson's information on COVID. Chair Gamache stated he had two acquaintances who camped at Calico. They stated staff was friendly and the park was clean. Congratulate the team at Calico for the fine job, keep it up. Chair Gamache stated he would not be at the February meeting.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING:**

February 9, 2022

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12.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.