



Regional Parks

BEAHTA R. DAVIS

Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, May 11, 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:

Rory Shannon, 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
Heather Placencia
Karen Stevenson

3.0 **GUESTS/MEDIA**

Greg Stone, Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club
Jeff Sorenson, 4th District Board of Supervisors

4.0 **MINUTES APPROVED – April 13, 2022**

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

5.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Shannon was introduced as the new Commissioner for First District.

6.0 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

TRAILS:

Jane Hunt-Ruble was unable to attend the Commission meeting but stated she will be at the June meeting. Commissioners agreed to continue this agenda item until the July meeting.

No objection.

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

7.0 **DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PARKS REPORT**

Mrs. Davis introduced Heather Placencia as the Department's new Executive Administrative Assistant II and the transcriber for the Commission meetings. Mrs. Davis also introduced Karen Stevenson as the new Recreation Coordinator. Ms. Stevenson is responsible for all Regional Parks' events. Mrs. Davis expressed Ms. Stevenson's exceptional execution of the Bluegrass Festival and stated she is currently coordinating Fishing with Supervisor Baca, Jr. scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 14, 2022. She is also working with the Fish and Game Commission to implement the Fish and Wildlife Festival at Prado Park on June 18, 2022.

Mrs. Davis addressed Commissioner Gamache's request on behalf of Commissioner Kreeger from the April 13, 2022, Commission meeting regarding a walkway connecting Guasti Park and Top Golf. Mrs. Davis reported that due to different fee structures and safety concerns a connecting walkway is not currently feasible.

Mrs. Davis supplied the Commissioners with a moving update with a tentative timeframe of August or September 2022. Once Regional Parks Administration has moved, Mrs. Davis presented an idea of a Commission photograph on the Santa Ana River Trail.

Mrs. Davis stated the parks are preparing for summer. The pools are ready at both Glen Helen and Guasti Park. Yucaipa Park might have a late opening date due to pool repairs. Mrs. Davis stated the department is still recruiting for and hiring lifeguards.

Mrs. Davis stated two Park Ranger II's were promoted to Park Ranger III's. These promotions created two openings for Park Ranger II. Interviews for Deputy Director, Park Superintendent (Prado), and General Services Worker (Guasti) were also conducted.

Mrs. Davis stated the Bluegrass Festival had approximately 2000 people in attendance, even though there were extremely high winds. The Story Tellers, which currently have a residency in Vegas, expressed their desire to play again at the Bluegrass Festival in 2023.

Mrs. Davis explained there was a website crash on the online reservation system, associated with the abundance of Haunt reservations. Regional Parks worked with the vendor and designed a plan to prevent this from happening in the future.

Mrs. Davis passed out a flyer from Prado's Community Celebration discussing Prado's future enhancements. Mrs. Davis stated she will email the Commissioners the YouTube video link from the event. Commissioner Jones said she was in attendance and had a great conversation with Col. Paul Cook (ret.). Commissioner Kreeger expressed his concern regarding the late notice for the celebration.

Mrs. Davis said she will be attending PowWow next month and will not be attending the Commission meeting on June 8, 2022.

Mrs. Davis stated Regional Parks will be receiving \$20 million of ARPA funding for Capital Improvement Projects. Mrs. Davis said Regional Parks was asked to look at all of our facilities to determine needs of the parks. Commissioner Kreeger stated he would like the

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Commission to discuss the list of requests before it goes to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Mitchell asked if the funds were allocated evenly through each park. Mrs. Davis stated the funds are dispersed differently depending on the park's specific needs. Commissioner Shannon asked what the past process was regarding these types of requests. Mrs. Davis explained the requests are presented to the CAO's office, and then the CAO meets with the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Gamache explained to the Commission members that there are processes within the County that needs to be adhered to. He stated the Commission doesn't approve the budget but listens to the concern. If further discussion is needed then we can agendize it, and an update can be received during the Director's report.

8.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Greg Stone provided an update about the Pomona Valley Model Airplane Club.

Jeff Sorenson provided an update about FOR parks and the potential of fundraising.

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

Volunteerism at regional parks.

10.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Espinoza welcomed Commissioner Shannon and Heather Placencia.

Commissioner Jones stated she is trying to visit one regional park a month. She visited Yucaipa Park for the first time and was impressed.

Commissioner Kreeger welcomed Commissioner Shannon. He received feedback regarding the gopher holes in the grass area at Prado Park. Mrs. Davis said there is a new contractor starting in June 2022 and this issue will be addressed.

Commissioner Farrell stated he is looking forward to the warmer weather.

Commissioner Gamache greeted Commissioner Shannon and Heather Placencia and stated it was nice to see Greg Stone and Jeff Sorenson at the meeting.

Commissioner Shannon thanked the Commission members and Heather Placencia for all her help. He is looking forward to being involved.

Commissioner Gamache welcomed Commissioner Shannon and Heather Placencia.

The Commission members decided to defer the trail discussion to the July meeting so Mrs. Davis would be in attendance. Commissioner Gamache explained that the Trail Commission was disbanded by the Board of Supervisors and the trails are now the responsibility of the Advisory Commission. He expressed the need for discussion on the purpose and scope of their responsibilities for the trails.

Commissioner Espinoza supplied Commissioner Shannon with her map and Mrs. Davis will look for an extra one for Commissioner Espinoza.

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11.0 **NEXT MEETING:**

June 8, 2022

12.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 P.M.