



Regional Parks

Behta R. Davis
Director

José F. Cañedo
Deputy Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

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:

Thurston Smith, First District
Anahi Perez, Second District
Louis Gamache, Third District
Patty Espinoza, Fifth District
Bob Mitchell, Member-At-Large

Staff:

Behta Davis
Jose Canedo
Mary Sheehan

Commission Members Absent:

Michael Kreeger, Fourth District
Steven Farrell, Member-At-Large

3.0 GUESTS/MEDIA

None

4.0 REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2023

Motion: Commissioner Mitchell
Second: Commissioner Smith
Minutes approved

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chair and Vice Chair:

Chair Gamache opened nominations for Chair. Chair Gamache nominated Commissioner Espinoza, Commissioner Smith Second. Voted, approved, accepted by Commissioner Espinoza. Commissioner Mitchell nominated Commissioner Smith for Vice Chair, Commissioner Perez Second Commissioner Espinoza Third. Voted, approved accepted by Commissioner Smith.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COL. PAUL COOK (RET.)
Vice Chairman, First District

JESSE ARMENDAREZ
Second District

DAWN ROWE
Chair, Third District

CURT HAGMAN
Fourth District

JOE BACA, JR.
Fifth District

Luther Snoke
Chief Executive Officer

6.0 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
TRAILS

Mrs. Davis provided an update from the CalPoly Pomona professor. Her students were able to complete mapping some of the trails at Prado Regional Park. Mrs. Davis will review the information and present it to the Commission at the February meeting. Mrs. Davis provided an update on SART IV-A grant application to Coastal Conservancy. The Department was able to submit over 15 support letters from both government and community partners. Mrs. Davis thanked Commissioner Gamache and Commissioner Mitchell for their help obtaining the support letters. Mrs. Davis reported that pictures of the work completed for the SART III construction project are available to be viewed on our website.

7.0 **DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PARKS REPORT**

The department has hired a new Administrative Supervisor and a new Staff Analyst. They will both start on January 16th. The midyear budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their approval in January or February. Regional Parks is submitting several new positions for consideration and approval. If approved, this request will add Park Rangers, General Service Workers and one Assistant Superintendent to our staff. The increase in staffing will support increased operating hours at the parks beginning July 1, 2024. The Glen Helen Regional Park's waterslide, splash pad, and bridge projects are nearing completion. Prado Regional Park's playground, splash pad, and snack bar projects are also under way and will be nearing completion. Pictures will be provided at the next meeting.

Concession contracts for Calico Ghost Town's Sweete Shoppe and Lil's Saloon Popcorn Wagon were approved by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024.

Regional Parks winter recreation and nature programs have been well received by park patrons and campers. Mrs. Davis passed out the flyer listing upcoming events and programs.

Commissioner Gamache asked what kind of projects volunteers complete. Mrs. Davis reported that they complete minor repair and maintenance projects, including restroom and litter cleanup. Organized groups such as scout groups also assist with larger projects and are eligible to camp at the park in conjunction with their work, with a 50% discount on camping fees.

Glen Helen Regional Park Master Plan process began before the holiday. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting. The Prado Regional Park Master Plan is also being updated, reflecting new goals and updates to the existing plan. The Department is working on a contract for this work. An update will be provided after the contract has been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Regional Parks has been researching the information provided by Commissioner Smith regarding water rights for Mojave Narrows Regional Park. Mrs. Davis will speak to Commissioner Smith and provide further information at the next meeting.

The Permit to Enter Document for CSUSB's lake monitoring project has been reviewed by County Counsel and will be sent to the college for their review. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Regional Parks is working with Project Management and the Information Technology Department (ITD) to install WiFi services. ITD recently completed the Request for Proposal process, and a vendor has been selected. The project should be starting soon. The vendor will be bringing new ways that will provide park patrons access to WiFi services. Mrs. Davis will have more information as this project moves forward.

Commissioner Farrell submitted an inquiry regarding the Friends of Mojave Narrows. Members of this group working on the newly approved Memorial Garden will be county approved volunteers.

8.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

Continue Trails Discussion

Update on parks maintenance projects

10.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

The commissioners congratulated the new chair and are looking forward to a great year to come. Chair Espinoza thanked everyone for the opportunity to chair the commission and she is looking forward to this year and the parks' continued growth.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING:**

February 14, 2024

12.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Perez.
Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.