



Regional Parks

Behta R. Davis
Director

José F. Cañedo
Deputy Director

**MINUTES
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
REGIONAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
2:30 P.M.
Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

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:

Thurston Smith, First District
Louis Gamache, Third District
Patty Espinoza, Fifth District
Bob Mitchell, Member At Large
Steven Farrell, Member At-Large

Staff:

Behta Davis
José Cañedo
Heather Placencia
Ryan Isom
Shawnita Jones

Commission Members Absent:

Anahi Perez, Second District
Michael Kreeger, Fourth District

3.0 GUESTS/MEDIA

Bryan Jones
Roxanne Jones

4.0 REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2023

Motion: Commissioner Steven
Second: Commissioner Smitty
Abstain: Commissioner Espinoza

Minutes approved

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TRAILS:

The Recreation Coordinator will be designing trail and educational signage beginning in December.

The Santa Ana River Trail Phase III has begun construction with a tentative completion date of March 2024. Chair Gamache contacted the artist he previously spoke about and concluded that this was not a viable solution to pursue.

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 RESCHEDULING OF SITE VISIT AT LAKE GREGORY REGIONAL PARK

The Site Visit for Lake Gregory Regional Park was tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2024.

7.0 WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO

Mrs. Davis has been speaking with Cal State San Bernardino regarding a water quality partnership. The idea was for Cal State San Bernardino to monitor the water quality and assess the results. This will be at no charge for the County and done in partnership between the College and the County. Regional Parks is currently working with Cal State to develop the agreement. Mrs. Davis stated the scope of the partnership will include Lake Gregory Regional Park. It was agreed by all Commissioners to invite Cal State San Bernardino to an Advisory Commission meeting when the time is right to have them present.

Commissioner Smith expressed he would like to keep the discussion going regarding the wells at Mojave Narrows Regional Park. Mrs. Davis stated Mr. Canedo has been working with Special Districts on investigating this request.

A discussion occurred regarding the lack of replacement water at Mojave Narrows Regional Park. Commissioner Smith discussed an MOU that was approved by the Board of Supervisors for replacement water. Mrs. Davis stated she will look further into this.

8.0 DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Friends of Regional Parks is no longer an active organization. Friends of Mojave Narrows is currently creating a memorial garden with Regional Parks, Friends of Big Morongo help with Big Morongo Preserve and there are multiple partnerships with the Boys Scouts.

Commissioner Farrell inquired about the Fishing Derby. Mrs. Davis explained the process of the month-long fishing derbies. Commissioner Farrell suggested tagging a fish for certain prize monies.

Chair Gamache asked about the trail mapping with Cal State San Bernardino previously discussed. Mrs. Davis stated that the agreement is still in the approval process. Once approved, they will be using their own GIS system and transfer the data.

7.0 DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL PARKS REPORT

Mrs. Davis went over the board agenda items being presented to the Board of Supervisors. The Per Capita Contract Amendment includes the entry monument at Glen Helen Regional Park as well as the splash pad, bridge project, shelters, and new restroom. The Community Service Update Reserve Fund will pay for the upgrade of the stairs and building #25 at Calico Ghost Town Regional Park. The Glen Helen Regional Park Lighting Construction Project and installation, which is paid for through ARPA funding will improve lighting at that park. The Real Estate Report, IUP for Pathfinders

Fair, IUP for IBEW annual event and the naming of the Mojave Narrows Regional Park Memorial Garden were also presented to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Davis reviewed recent Regional Parks' events which included: spiderwebs, pumpkin carving, Ghost Haunt, Dia De Las Muertos craft, make your own candy apples, movies in the park, glow games, craft and yard games, apple cider and corn hole, Holiday Fest, and a park scavenger hunt.

Mrs. Davis explained to the Commission concerns with the reservation system and mitigation efforts that Regional Park staff are taking while the concerns are being addressed by the vendor. Mrs. Davis provided a staff update.

7.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roxanne Jones stated she has been at Calico Ghost Town Regional Park for a long time. She expressed her want to do more things for the community and allow the restaurant to be open later to do this. She stated her hands are tied with reservations because of the after-hours obstacle and not being able to do business outside of the park hours. She oversees the bus reservations for the restaurant, and the visitors would love a greeter. She stated they used to host a lunch for the new wives of Fort Irwin, where the wives would get in free. Mrs. Davis stated she would be happy to discuss this with her.

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

Continue Trails Discussion

9.0 **COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Mitchell discussed the new Pickleball courts at Lake Gregory. He worked with Mrs. Davis and Nathan to facilitate painting pickleball lines on the courts.

Commissioner Espinoza thanked Regional Park staff for the Tour of Calico Ghost Town Regional Park, and she thinks it is beautiful. She also thanked Roxanne for the lunch.

Commissioner Farrell had a great time on the tour and stated the improvements are obvious.

Commissioner Smith thanked Regional Park staff for the tour. He thanked the public for coming to the meeting as well. He stated that Ghost Haunt was a great event and Calico Ghost Town Regional Park is a hidden jewel in our desert.

Chair Gamache thanked everyone for being at the meeting. He thanked Mr. Canedo for describing the different aspects of the upcoming projects.

10.0 **NEXT MEETING:**

December 13, 2023

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Espinoza. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 P.M