



MEETING MINUTES
VENTURA COUNTY
PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION (PAC)
REGULAR MEETING

PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#5140
Ventura, California 93009-1030

Government Center
Hall of Administration, Atlantic Conference Room
800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA

July 19, 2021

4:00 p.m.

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1. CALL TO ORDER
Proceedings called to order via Zoom at 4:02 p.m.
 2. ROLL CALL
Commissioners: Carin Kally, Paul Nicholson, Caitlin Barringer, June Dubreuil
PAC Staff: Colter Chisum, Jeri Cooper
 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Dubreuil presides as Chair. Minutes of the January 11, 2021 PAC meeting were approved by a motion made by Kally, seconded by Nicholson. All in favor.
 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
None
 5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Rincon Parkway Parking
780' section of sea wall in Day Use Area - new signage installed requiring straight-in parking only. Phase 2 of day use sea wall straight-in parking upcoming. Cal Trans restriping of overnight camping area scheduled to begin October/November 2022.
 - B. Parks Manager Recruitment
Chisum introduced new Parks Manager, Jeri Cooper.
 - C. COVID-19 Closures
Chisum reported state mandated closures were lifted June 15, 2021, with community centers and day-use areas reopening soon after. Parks Department is now receiving approximately 50 calls per week for community center and day use reservations.
 - D. Overview of Park Financials
Chisum reported the Parks Department suffered approximately \$1.5 million loss due to closures during the COVID-19 pandemic but is recovering quickly with parks experiencing record camping numbers. Adopted budget is \$5.9 million; \$300,000 from general fund contribution for deferred maintenance; \$250,000 from general fund to support community centers; additional small amounts of general funding to offset distinguished veteran program and youth programs.

Large projects put on hold during COVID and staffing transition will start up this fiscal year. Monies received above projection will be used to add staff and increase ranger coverage in parks.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. District 3 Introduction

Caitlin Barringer introduced herself as new District 3 Commissioner, residing in Santa Paula.

B. Brown Act Reminder

Chisum gave a brief explanation of the law and protocol on communication between commission members.

C. Parks Department and Agency Overview

Chisum gave PowerPoint presentation.

D. Rincon Parkway Sign Improvements – Phase 1

Cooper reported on the success of the Phase 1 completion and the Phase 2 implementation to be before Labor Day weekend. Additional improvements to Day Use area will occur during CalTrans project scheduled for 2022.

E. CalTrans Project

Scheduled for October/November 2022. Restriping planned and could include modifications to site sizes which would increase total number of sites. Trash and traffic speed issues will be reviewed during planning with CalTrans.

F. Nyeland Acres Grant Submission

Board approval received in March to apply for grant. Prop 68 \$8 million grant request submitted for a new community center, five-on-five soccer field, evening lights, jogging track, basketball court, and new play equipment at 2.2 acre park. Grant award should be announced by end of August.

G. Lewis Road Park

Chisum described the new two-acre park approved by Board in April. Park is attached to non-profit Turning Point Foundation division, Growing Works Nursery. There will be a native plant demonstration garden in this local park. Annual general fund contribution of \$51,000 to cover maintenance by Parks Department. \$280,000 allotted for construction by Parks Department.

7. PARK PROJECT UPDATES

A. Steckel Park Maintenance Facility

Project suspended indefinitely due to funding issues.

B. Saticoy Golf Course Clubhouse

Seeking Board approval on June 27 for lease extension and will later present design concept and request general fund support for construction of new clubhouse.

8. STAFF COMMENTS

Cooper informed the commission of the future reopening of the Camp Comfort tent camping area and improvements.

Kally expressed concern over tree safety in campgrounds with ongoing fire season and the need for evaluation. Chisum agreed and informed the commission of the comprehensive contracted hazard tree assessment and brushing of camping areas currently underway.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Dubreuil expressed excitement with the onboarding of Chisum, Cooper and Barringer and the visions they bring to the Parks Department in creating more opportunities for camping. She is interested in the possibility of public/private partnerships.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.