

MINUTES
RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
OAK PARK RECREATION & PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
OAK PARK COMMUNITY CENTER & GARDENS
1000 N. KANAN ROAD, OAK PARK, CA 91377
THURSDAY, October 9, 2014
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

ITEM

I. CALL TO ORDER/
INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

Committee Members Present: Susan Bender,
Peter Coopersmith, Michael Green, Derek Ross,
Michael Sklar, Chad Skopp, Sepideh Yeoh

Others Present:

District Legal Counsel Gregory Murphy, and
District Staff Members: Eugene Molnar, Wayne
Nakaoka, Renee Peace

Guests Present:

Harry Medved, Superintendent Tony Knight, MAC
Member Michael Paule, and Former MAC
Member Deena Perry

II. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Member of the public Harry Medved asked the Committee to consider the Gary Liss version of the Oak Park trail map and requested it be sold at the Oak Park Community Center. Medved also asked if Committee meetings could be placed on the calendar section of the Acorn or whether an email list could be generated. Vice Chair Ross offered for the District to utilize the local website that Mr. Ross manages, Oak Park Now, to post public meeting

agendas. Lastly, Mr. Medved conveyed his concern over the abundance of staff present at the meetings.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting of July 10, 2014.

Chair Skopp made note to change on page 6, to reflect that his failed motion was to recommend the Park District not spray herbicides on parks adjacent to campuses during the school day and as far in advance as possible before children arrived to campus.

ACTION: Vice Chair Ross moved to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2014, meeting as amended, Committee Member Bender seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Meeting of June 9, 2014.

Committee Member Green recognized District Manager Peterson's effort as it relates to the corrected budget item for fiscal year.

ACTION: Member Green moved to approve the minutes from June 9, 2014, meeting. Vice Chair Ross seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. CONTINUED BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Receive and File Report Regarding District's Use of Chemical and Organic Herbicides in Oak Park

Director of Planning of Maintenance Mr. Nakaoka recommended to continue using organic pesticides at parks adjacent to schools. A written report was provided to Committee Members open for comments. Chair

Skopp asked for clarification to selective pre-emergent herbicide and to look into Garden Weasel Crab Grass Killer brand as well as other products available for spot treatments. Various Committee Members fielded questions regarding Fiesta pesticide, licensed vendors and the Burnout II product. Director of Planning and Maintenance concluded that based on application and cost, the Park District does not intend to implement the use of organic herbicides at all park locations included in the report. Chair Skopp requested staff look into the product Avenger as it may not be as harmful. Senior Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Molnar will look into it and the cost effectiveness of the product. Committee Member Coopersmith requested staff consider aesthetic investment with dirt and rock to certain areas and stressed the importance of keeping our environment free of chemicals. The Chair then mentioned other types of landscape being used by park districts, such as mulch. Committee Member Sklar sought to confirm the Park Districts intent to continue WeedZap, staff member Nakaoka confirmed. Molnar referred to the list of pesticides Oak Park Unified School District uses to help look into products that would be permissible by School District standards.

B. Discussion and Potential Adoption of Committee Position Regarding the Use of Chemical and Organic Herbicides at Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Parks in Oak Park.

Chair Skopp discussed herbicides that are currently being used at District Parks. The Chair presented ideas from outside communities citing the practices and policies in Boulder Colorado, he also highlighted volunteer programs and postings put up prior to spraying and requested the Park District give public a 48 hour notice, Senior Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Molnar will look into it. Director of Planning of Maintenance Mr. Nakaoka also fielded questions from one current and one former MAC Member, Mike Paule and Deena Perry who commented on current and future applications of products. Superintendent Knight reminded Committee Members that the School District sides with caution when

considering types of applications. Considerable discussion occurred amongst Committee Members, with points made about the impacts of herbicides.

Chair Skopp made a motion to recommend adopting the Park District's approach with herbicides and to ultimately expand the approach to other District park sites. Committee Member Coopersmith seconded, but the motion failed.

Chair Ross and Committee Members Sklar and Bender stated they would vote to approve the first motion if the word "ultimately" was removed.

ACTION: Chair Skopp made a motion recommending the Park District continue and formally adopt its current approach using non-selective contact herbicides, approved for use in organic gardening, at its four park sites adjacent to OPUSD schools, with the option to substitute less expensive and/or more effective, but categorically no less safe products and methods as they become available. Vice Chair Ross seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

C. Review and Discussion Regarding Replacement of Vending Machines in District Parks Located In Oak Park

District Legal Counsel Gregory Murphy presented the report in part for Director of Administration Karen Garber. Committee Members opened up the discussion with a request that Superintendent Knight provide information on the current school district policies. Superintendent Knight reviewed healthy options for the school district and federal guide lines. Committee members fielded questions to Dr. Knight which included recycling programs and healthy options. Committee Member Coopersmith was not in favor of replacing drink machines with food. Member Green brought to the attention of the Committee that parks are serving adults too. Chair Skopp reiterated the Park District's mission of creating healthy lifestyles and reviewed an article on recommended

sugar intake. He suggested looking at other vendors such as “Sprouts” to see what healthy options they provide. Further discussion about hydration stations took place and the suggestion by Committee Member Coopersmith was made to recommend filling stations for H2O for Parks.

ACTION: Vice Chair Ross made a motion recommending the Park District stock all vending machines in Oak Park with Dasani water. Committee Member Bender seconded the motion, Member Green voted no, motion carried.

D. Report on the Oak Park Recreation Programs

Recreation report was provided on-line for consent agenda item.

Vice Chair Ross asked if Recreation Supervisor was considering another Shakespeare event next summer. Supervisor Peace explained that along with Superintendent Knight, current discussions were taking place.

E. Report on Planning and Development Issues In Oak Park

Planning and Development report was provided on-line for consent agenda item.

F. Grounds Maintenance Report for Oak Park Facilities

Planning and Development report was provided on-line for consent agenda item.

ACTION: Chair Skopp moved to approve items D, E, and F on the consent agenda, Committee Member Coopersmith seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

G. Reports by Committee Members Regarding Park Inspection Results

Vice Chair Ross reported hazardous rusted playground equipment at Indian Springs. Director of Planning and Maintenance Nakaoka indicated the reported problem would be inspected and addressed.

Committee Member Sklar reported Deerhill looks great with the exception of slope facing tennis court where vegetation is sparse. Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Molnar explained staff is looking into reconstructing the pump system to obtain better water pressure.

Committee Member Green reported that Mae Boyar is good and that attention is being made to all items. Mr. Green made recommendation to make more visible to bathroom users, the hand dryer and also to re-paint the handicap spot in the parking lot.

Chair Skopp reported a hazard on the walkway between the Before and After school trailer and the softball field at Valley View Park, complaint about a separation between the concrete.

Committee Member Yeoh had nothing to report on for Deerhill Park. Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Molnar added to report that chips will be replaced at Deerhill Park.

Committee Member Bender reported all fine at Oak Park Community Center, Archery Range and Oak Canyon Park.

Committee Member Coopersmith reported all looking good for open areas.

H. Items Requested by Committee Member Coopersmith to be Added to the Agenda:

Committee Member Sklar addressed concerns over the length of meetings, and Susan Bender opposed as well.

ACTION: Committee Member Sklar moved to table all of the items under H until the next meeting. Committee Member Green seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

VIII. ITEMS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:19 pm



Larry Peterson
District Manager