



Warren Stone, representing Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA), said that obtaining this property would further the goals of the organization.

Holly Huff, representing Susana Knolls HOA, supports the acquisition of the property. She said that it is important to the Knolls residents that it is preserved for the wildlife corridor. Reference was made to a May 1, 2007 District letter regarding a company's project in the Knolls area at Katherine Road. Questions were raised about its access to the property and possible removal of oak trees. Knolls residents are opposed to the widening of Katherine Road and asked the District to review this matter. Director Freeman requested a copy of the letter for review.

Barbara Johnson mentioned that there may be some grading being done on the property. She is concerned as it is scenic property and there are lots of rocks there. She said, at any cost, she would like the land to be retained as open space.

Theresa Brady, Chair of the San Fernando Valley Sierra Club, said they support acquiring the 350-acre segment of land and that it is a wildlife corridor. They would like funding from SMMC to go toward the purchase of the land in order to connect the Rim Trail with Santa Susana Pass.

Jack Unger, a resident on Woolsey Canyon for 10 years, said that he would like the area preserved for the wildlife animal corridor. He would like the public agencies to collaborate on this and purchase the property.

Mary Benson, Executive Director for the Los Angeles Trails Project, said they support the allocation of public funds for the acquisition of the property. In association with the SMMC, the governing agency for the Rim of Valley Trail Corridor, this would help them in developing this resource. It would advance the goals of the State Parks, preserve wildlife borders and provide a link to the Santa Monica Mountains trails. She said they have applied for a grant, and if obtained, would be willing to share the funds toward the acquisition of the property.

Mary Wiesbrock, Chair of SOS, Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains, said they are in favor of the acquisition of the acreage near Sage Ranch Park. She stated that she was also speaking on behalf of Sue Boecker.

District's Legal Counsel said he is concerned about the issue mentioned by the public regarding possible illegal grading on the property along the wildlife corridor. He strongly recommended that they monitor the situation and report any grading on the land so that it can be stopped. He said it is not only an ecological issue and that grading could damage the property, but it has some importance to the District or any other agency that may want to obtain the property. There are certain protections under the law, and lawsuits could arise if the property is altered in any way and something happens as a result of the illegal grading. This may represent a problem for an agency to assume property that has been altered.

The Chair called a 5-minute recess at 7:04 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- (A) Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting – August 16, 2007

ACTION: Director Meredith moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2007; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (A) Presentation of Employee of the Month for August 2007 to Ken Paulino, Groundskeeper I 35-07-k

Chair O'Brien congratulated Ken Paulino and presented him with the Employee of the Month Award. General Manager Peterson said that he is a star in his work performance. He has great enthusiasm, a positive attitude and strives hard to accomplish the mission of the District. He is doing a great job, and it is greatly appreciated. Ken said that he gets great pleasure in coming to work every day; he has a passion for his job. He gave credit to the team, and said that he believes it takes team effort and good work ethics to get the job done. He thanked the General Manager for providing support.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

- (A) Approval of Check Registers: 8/17/07, 8/31/07 (payroll); 8/24/07 (payables)  
(B) Receive and File California Special Districts Association's Call for Committee Interest 23/07-d

ACTION: Director Freeman moved to Approve Consent Agenda Items A and B; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. Motion carried

VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Presentation of Simi Valley Leadership Project at Corriganville Park (Oral)

Business Supervisor Pennington gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the District's 2007 Simi Valley Leadership Class Project, which was the refurbishment of the interpretive park signs at Corriganville Park. She gave some brief background on the S.V. Leadership Class, its purpose and the District's involvement with the organization.

She showed photos of some of the 20 completed signs and their locations at Corriganville. She said that she attended committee and planning meetings for this project, and that they held a fundraiser, which earned \$4,000 toward the cost of the signs. This was an informational item only. No Board action was taken.

(B) Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Rancho Simi Community Park West Parking Lot Expansion Project 43-07-a

ACTION: Director Freeman moved to Approve Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Rancho Simi Community Park West Parking Lot Expansion Project; Director Hostetler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(C) Update on District's Capital Equipment/Vehicle Replacement Program 32-07-b

General Manager Peterson said the update gave an outline of some of the vehicles being purchased within the context of the budget and the steps being taken. He mentioned the truck for the new painter position was not available through CMAS. This was an informational item only. No Board action was taken.

IX. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

X. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Director Freeman attended a CSDA Legislative Committee meeting and said that they had a full agenda. She mentioned that the State budget had not yet been approved at that time. They felt they were okay with the current budget. However, with the 2008-09 item regarding the construction of prisons, this increased cost could mean the Legislature declares a financial emergency, which would make the District vulnerable to revenue diversions. She reported that the measure passed regarding agenda information being available at a certain time, and that the eminent domain bill is still moving through. She noted that their next meeting will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Director Freeman commented that the Sinaloa Park material posted on the District's website looks good.

Director Freeman said there are some important outside functions that Board Members may want to attend that are scheduled on the same evening as the District's next Board Meeting. She suggested that the Board may want to consider changing the date of the next Board meeting.

ACTION: Director Freeman moved to schedule the next Board of Directors meeting to Wednesday, September 19, 2007, rather than on Thursday, September 20, 2007, or as needed, which will be determined by the General Manager; Vice Chair Meredith seconded the motion. Director Hostetler abstained. Motion carried.

seconded the motion. Director Hostetler abstained. Motion carried.

Director Hostetler said that he will not be able to attend the next Board meeting as he will be out of town.

Director Hostetler attended a Golf Committee meeting and reported that everything is moving right along. They are working on several items, such as installation of the scorecards. The vendor has offered to do this at no cost, which represents a savings of approximately \$5,000. Other projects are the renovation of the kitchen and Course's restrooms. Director Freeman said she has received compliments about the new snack bar. Director Hostetler said everyone seems happy and the new staff are very nice. General Manager Peterson said that the initial design work for the irrigation system should be on the next fiscal year's budget. Director Hostetler said they also discussed whether fees will be charged for the high schools' use of the golf course. Staff is preparing an analysis, which the Committee will then review, including times of play and other issues. Staff will keep the Board abreast of the matter.

Director Johnson attended the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy meeting. He said there were many presentations, but the items did not directly affect the Park District. He noted that the Advisory Board has changed immensely. Regarding the item discussed earlier under Public Discussion, he said although he appreciates the public coming before the Park Board about the property, SMMC has the money for it and the request for obtaining the property should be directed there. He said there is added value to the SMMC as the property is a wildlife corridor to the Santa Monica Mountains. He said the item would be directed to MRCA through Assistant General Manager Hayduk.

Director Johnson attended the Neighborhood Council #4 meeting. He gave them a copy of the District's project priorities and provided a brief update of what is going on in their area. He answered many questions and provided the District's website address.

Director Johnson said that school is back in session and asked everyone to be careful driving around the schools.

Chair O'Brien attended the Lobster Fest on August 18<sup>th</sup>, which included a dedication of the District's special transport van. She gave a special thanks to Kiwanis for raising funds toward its purchase. Chair O'Brien's guest opinion on "Local Service Groups Stepping Up" appeared in the S.V. Acorn on August 31, 2007.

Vice Chair Meredith attended the Lobster Fest and said it was a nice event and was well attended.

Vice Chair Meredith attended the Golf Committee meeting.

Vice Chair Meredith said the matter about the property/wildlife corridor should be dealt with in a timely fashion and that the Knolls people have a valid point. He said that he advised them to try obtaining funds toward the purchase of the land through the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

XI. REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER:

General Manager attended a CAPRI meeting in Sacramento. He reported that there are still not enough votes to terminate PARDEC and expand CAPRI to provide workers compensation coverage.

General Manager and Assistant General Manager attended the California Director's Summit in Sacramento. He said over 100 attended the event, and that it included professional speakers, roundtable discussions, and networking opportunities with the top managers in the profession in California. He said they both felt it was a very worthwhile function and an excellent opportunity.

General Manager, Assistant General Manager, Development Supervisor and Administrative Analyst attended a meeting with the City in regards to the biennial review of the Quimby dedication amounts, based upon appraised values. Staff will provide the Board with the draft report for review before sending it to the City.

General Manager, Business Supervisor and Senior Park Ranger attended a meeting with the new Executive Director of the Samaritan Center, Betty Eskey. They explored methods of developing better partnerships. The District asked if they would consider the idea of imposing consequences for those who violate Park rules.

General Manager and a City of Thousand Oaks representative met to review the steps RSRPD took in regards to homeless encampments on public open space. He pointed out that communication was an effective and important tool in the process.

General Manager said the homeless encampments are apparently on property owned by Waste Management. He also heard a rumor that they may be moving back to Tierra Rejada Park. General Manager said that he would like to revise the District's ordinance and carefully define inappropriate conduct.

General Manager reported that final interviews for the vacant Groundskeeper I positions occurred this past week.

General Manager said the Simi Valley Days Music Festival will be held at Rancho Simi Community Park on September 14, 15, and 16, 2007. An all-hands meeting will take place on Monday to review all final issues and prepare for the event.

General Manager said that the City Planning Commission is considering changes to sign regulations. City Staff report recommended no continuous motion, no more than 1 message every 30 minutes, a single color, and no intensity change. Unless the Board would like to further consider a position, staff will send a letter to the Planning Commission suggesting that full color and more frequent messages be allowed.

General Manager said that District staff met with Deputy District Attorney Robert Denton and provided him a tour of our facilities and an explanation of our processes and issues. His office involvement with Park Ranger citations may become more frequent once the ordinance is changed to misdemeanor violations.

General Manager reported that "No Smoking" signs are being posted in the District's parks.

General Manager suggested that the Board call a Special Meeting for the Simi Valley Days Parade on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Director Freeman said that she will stay on the CSDA Legislative Committee, and will submit the required form directly to CSDA.

The Chair called a Closed Session at 8:07 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

A. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation; One Case

Name of Case: Corey Romagnano v.  
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

B. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation; One Case

Name of Case: John Ramirez v.  
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

The Chair reported that the Closed Session items were for information only and that no Board actions were taken.

ACTION: Director Hostetler called a Special Meeting of the Board to attend the Simi Valley Days Parade on September 15, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.; Director Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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- XII.            ADJOURNMENT: Director Freeman adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m. in memory of Rorie Skei's mother-in-law, Beverly Skei, who passed away recently; Vice Chair Meredith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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Larry Peterson, District Clerk