

V. SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (A) Presentation of the Employee of the Month for October 2007 to Gerardo Hernandez, Groundskeeper I 35-07-m

Chair O'Brien presented Gerardo Hernandez with the Employee of the Month award and congratulated him. The General Manager said that Gerardo formerly worked for Lynn Shackelford at Sinaloa Golf Course, and became a part-time employee of the District when our agency assumed operations of Sinaloa. When a full-time groundskeeper position opened up, he was selected from a group of applicants to fill the position. He has received outstanding marks on his performance reviews. He is a hard worker, dependable, reliable, and gets along with his co-workers. In addition, he has provided temporary assistance at Simi Hills Golf Course. The General Manager and Director Freeman thanked him for all his hard work. Gerardo thanked the Board and staff.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

- (A) Approval of Check Registers: 10/26/07 (payroll); 10/19/07 (payables)

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

VII. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Presentation Regarding Wind Damage at Various District Park Sites (Oral)

Jim Keppler, Sr. Maintenance Supervisor-Grounds, reported on the District's property damage and loss as a result of the recent, devastating wind storm that began October 19, 2007. He said that the District sustained up to 70 mph winds. He then gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed pictures of the damage and loss to various District properties, such as: locations where trees were destroyed (a total of 50 trees were lost), rain gutters that were torn off at Rancho Santa Susana Community Center, a tarp that was torn off at Big Sky, signs that were ripped off at Chumash, and Corriganville's kiosk that was blown 10 feet away. The General Manager mentioned that the District has insurance that covers up to \$500 per tree, depending upon tree size. Vice Chair Meredith asked for information as to why some trees do not withstand wind storms. He also asked about the condition of Corriganville after the winds.

- (B) Approval of Award of Contract for the Rancho Simi Community Park West Parking Lot Expansion Project 43-07-b

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve Award of Contract for the Rancho Simi Community Park West Parking Lot Expansion Project in the amount of \$383,877.00; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve Authorizing the General Manager to Execute an Agreement with the Awarded Firm on Behalf of the District and to Amend the Agreement for Project Contingencies in an Amount Not to Exceed 15% of the Contract Award or \$57,582.00, If and When the Need Arises for Extra Work or Modifications to the Project, which therefore brings the Total Allocation for the Project to \$441,459.00; Director Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- (C) Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Robert P. Strathearn Historical Park & Museum Pitting Shed Restoration and Historic Preservation Project 38-07-a

ACTION: Director Hostetler moved to Approve Authorization to Solicit Bids for the Robert P. Strathearn Historical Park & Museum Pitting Shed Restoration and Historic Preservation Project; Director Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- (D) Approval of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Schedule for 2008 Meetings, Workshops and Conferences 138-07-d

ACTION: Director Freeman moved to Approve Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Schedule for 2008 Meetings, Workshops and Conferences, subject to the the selected CARPD Conference dates and rescheduled Budget Workshop date; Vice Chair Meredith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IX. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

X. REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Director Freeman thanked the General Manager, Assistant General Manager and all staff for the great Long Canyon Parkland Dedication event on Friday, October 19, 2007. She said that she is really glad we got the property, as the land is absolutely spectacular, and it finishes out a wonderful section of the community.

Director Freeman mentioned an article that appeared in the Star regarding a dog park in Oak Park. She said this may pose an opportunity for the District to educate the public by reviewing our agency's projects list, explaining the budget, and providing an overview of what it takes to create a dog park. She mentioned that she has read articles in the Park & Rec magazine and has received various other material on the subject of dog parks.

Director Freeman asked when the District holiday party will take place, and was told it will be held on Friday, December 14, 2007.

Director Freeman stated that she and Chair O'Brien will be attending the annual Simi Valley Historical Society membership meeting/dinner on November 9th at 6:30 p.m. at Rancho Santa Susana Community Center.

Director Hostetler said that he attended the Arroyo Simi Ad Hoc Committee Joint Meeting on October 23, 2007 and that some good ideas were brought up, but there is no money for them. Director Freeman asked about the Calleguas Watershed, and said there is potential there. Director Johnson said we will get to see what the Flood Control will do. Director Meredith mentioned that he suggested to the General Manager a joint venture with Calleguas. General Manager Peterson thanked Director Freeman for coordinating the Calleguas speaker, whom he said provided good information. Chair O'Brien said that he pointed us in the right direction.

Director Johnson said that he also attended the Joint Agencies meeting on October 23rd.

Director Johnson attended a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy meeting. He said they sent a letter to a church seeking to build in Tierra Rejada Valley explaining the protocol for obtaining approval to build. They were told that they are not exempt and must do what is required of others before their project can be approved. Director Freeman provided some information regarding the question of exempt status and land use.

Director Johnson said that the Long Canyon Dedication ceremony held with the Simi Valley Unified School District was very nice. He mentioned how great it is now to have the connecting trails for taking walks, and that Montgomery Canyon is really beautiful.

Director Johnson said Rancho Tapo is really looking good for Armistice Day, but added that "Mother Nature" really threw us a curve recently.

Vice Chair Meredith asked about the Halloween Carnivals in Simi Valley and Oak Park, and was told that they were a big success.

Vice Chair Meredith said he has received many questions regarding Lost Canyon and football. It was mentioned that Paul Murphy will not be able to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th, but Adrian Murphy will be attending.

Director Freeman said that Assemblyman Cameron Smyth will be speaking at a breakfast on November 15th at 7:30 a.m. in the Simi Valley Town Center, Community Room. A copy of the flyer will be provided each Director.

Chair O'Brien said that she attended the Long Canyon Dedication. She said that the event was great and it was a nice touch to have the runners come down the hill as part of the ceremony.

Chair O'Brien said that the Arroyo Simi Ad Hoc Committee Joint Meeting was interesting and the water representatives provided some helpful information on obtaining funding.

Chair O'Brien said she has been thinking about how we can sell more of the commemorative bricks, as we have been doing for the Old St. Rose of Lima Church, in order to help fund a portion of the Arroyo development costs. Director Freeman thought it may be possible to develop a plan for this to go along with S.V. Hospital's plan, and possibly with redevelopment areas, such as the old buildings on First Street and around the Arroyo. General Manager said he has discussed with the City Manager working together on a redevelopment area, and that he is open to the idea. He was informed the City has maxed out on redevelopment areas, and in order to expand it, they would have to reduce in another area.

Chair O'Brien mentioned a letter received from a developer regarding the cash-in-lieu park dedication fee. She asked if there is any way the District can work with them on their request for not applying a park fee increase to two projects. Director Freeman asked if we know the City's timing on this. General Manager said we obtained an appraisal in accordance with the biannual review, put together our proposed changes to the table of values in accordance with the City's municipal code, and forwarded it to the City. District met with the City on this a month ago, and was asked to submit additional information. Staff suggested any future change to Quimby will likely not occur for several months.

XI. REPORT BY GENERAL MANAGER:

General Manager attended an ADA seminar put on by CAPRI in Bakersfield with the Recreation Administrator. He said staff will be doing another audit of ADA access for the District.

General Manager participated in final interviews with the Assistant General Manager to fill the painter position and reported that an offer has been extended to a candidate.

General Manager attended a scheduled meeting of the Conejo and Pleasant Valley General Managers.

General Manager said that the 2008-09 State Budget appears to have an \$8.6 billion deficit. Sales tax and residential property values are in decline and stock market gains are becoming less common, generating some concern about future financial impacts. Director Freeman mentioned that there are no rulings yet on the prisons issue, and that there is now the matter of the recent fires to consider.

The Chair called a Closed Session at 7:55 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

(A) Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b)

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation; One Case

Chair O'Brien reported that this was for information only and that no Board action was taken.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chair Meredith adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.; Director Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Peterson, District Clerk