

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING • SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT • RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT •
SIMI VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

October 23, 2007

Simi Valley Senior Center, Rooms 106 - 107
3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, California

AGENDA
ITEM

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Miller

II. ROLL CALL:

- A. City Council of Simi Valley Present: Mayor Paul Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Steven T. Sojka, Council Members Barbra Williamson, Glen T. Becerra, and Michelle S. Foster.
Absent: None
- B. Simi Valley Unified School District Present: President of the Board of Education Janice DiFatta, Clerk of the Board Rob Collins, Trustees Debbie Sandland, Eric Lundstrom and Jeanne Davis.
Absent: None
- C. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Present: Chair Kate O'Brien, Vice Chair Jim Meredith, Directors Gene Hostetler and Mark Johnson.
Absent: Director Elaine Freeman
- D. City of Simi Valley Planning Commission Present: Commissioner Mary Bibb.
Absent: Chair Timothy Shannon, Vice-Chair Michael McGuigan, Commissioners Jim Dantona, Jr. and Keith Mashburn.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Chair Kate O'Brien arrived at 6:33 p.m. and Council Member Becerra arrived at 6:37 p.m.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

There was consensus to approve the agenda as presented.

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IV. PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

Mayor Miller introduced other officials, including Representatives of Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy's Office, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, and the City of Moorpark, in attendance. At this time, there were no speakers; however, two speakers spoke at the conclusion of the meeting.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE CONSULTANT'S VISIONING STUDY REPORT

Chair of the Arroyo Simi Ad Hoc Committee, Mayor Pro Tem Sojka, introduced the Ad Hoc Committee members and provided background information regarding the purpose of the Arroyo Simi Ad Hoc Committee. He mentioned that the Visioning Study was a conceptual plan to help agencies design improvements to the Arroyo Simi.

Director of Environmental Services Al Boughey introduced the consultant selected for this project, Jeff Ferber of RRM Design Group. Mr. Ferber gave a PowerPoint presentation of examples and concepts for improvements to the twelve miles of the Arroyo Simi. He stated the benefits of creating a greenway through amenities such as pedestrian walkways, bike paths, restored habitat, enhanced landscaping, educational learning areas, locations for social activities and an improved quality of life without affecting the flood channel's capabilities.

Discussion ensued regarding: the safety of under-crossings for children; the preference to create bridges rather than under-crossings; the amount of flooding that may occur; that identifying gateways could be one of the first steps to improvements; recommended features for the greenway; that higher use of the greenway could dissuade inappropriate activities; the position of the Ventura County Watershed District; that landscaping would need to be maintained as part of the Plan; that the Watershed District would need to review plans and issue permits; review of the bridges that the City of Santa Clarita implemented which has connected the neighborhoods; the need to inform other agencies of this Study; the safety of children using the greenway and paths to the various schools; implementing safe houses; the costs, timing and implementation of the plan; the Watershed Management Plan of the Calleguas Water District; and the processes and various grant opportunities that may be available.

1. Larry Hatch, Simi Valley, CA, suggested getting feedback from various agencies and groups to help obtain financial support.
2. Bill Ewart, Simi Valley, CA, was opposed to a viewpoint located behind his residence since people naturally congregate there.

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- VI. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned through acclamation.

Paul Miller
Mayor of the City of Simi Valley

Janice DiFatta, President of the Board
of Education, Simi Valley Unified
School District

Chair Kate O'Brien, Chair of the Rancho
Simi Recreation and Park District

Timothy Shannon, Chair of the City
of Simi Valley Planning Commission

Anne Morrow, Deputy Director/City
Clerk of the City of Simi Valley