

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting

M I N U T E S

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District • Activity Room 3
4201 Guardian Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063 • (805) 584-4400

A video recording of tonight's meeting is available on
the District Website at www.rsrpd.org

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair O'Brien called the Meeting to Order at 6:29 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by staff member Theresa Pennington.

ROLLCALL - Directors Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Vice Chair Gray and Chair O'Brien were in attendance. Staff in attendance included: Sandee Covone, Danielle June, Richard Lemmo, Zach Miller, Wayne Nakaoka, Kelly Negrete, Dan Paranick, Theresa Pennington, Alex Stumfall and District Counsel Brian Pierik. Others who made public comments on other agenda items are listed under the appropriate Agenda Item below.

2. **AGENDA REVIEW** – Two additional emails were received this afternoon regarding the pickleball courts at Deerhill Park in Oak Park. Additional information was also received for agenda item 9a regarding drone usage on District owned property. The Board may want to revise the order of the agenda to hear agenda item 9a first. Director Freeman agreed and felt it would be beneficial to hear agenda item 9a before item 8a since there were several members of the public present who wished to provide comments. Director Abele agreed.
3. **PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)**

Susan Fleczonek from Simi Valley inquired about a letter she sent last March to the Board and never heard back from anyone. She noted that she read the meeting minutes and it was briefly noted in the minutes. Inquired as to why the equestrian center near the Arroyo isn't being maintained and stated it looks like a construction site. She has a petition with 50 signatures asking that it be maintained so they can have horse shows there. Director Abele recalled the letter and the issue. Paranick noted there were changes to the entryway and recalled there were some maintenance concerns. He will reach out to her to meet in person.

Harry Medved who is a member of the Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee informed us of his recent appointment to the AT (Active Transportation) Committee by Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks to assist in creating active transport features in unincorporated communities of Ventura County. The Friends of Oak Park Open Space volunteer group planted a butterfly garden last Sunday at Deerhill Park. Medved thanked Director Dennert for coming out to help and digging holes. Medved stated he feels the Board needs an appointed representative from Oak Park on the Board since one-fifth of the open space and parks that the District owns is located in Oak Park therefore they should be represented on the Board and have a vote.

Chair O'Brien invited members of the public who were in attendance regarding pickleball to speak.

John Dechene, a resident of Oak Park, reported maintenance issues on the courts and stated that the light blue pickleball lines on the courts are very hard to see in contrast to the tennis lines. Additional lighting would be helpful and the parking lot needs to be repaved.

Katie Morgan stated she'd like contrasting color lines on the courts. She sent in the letter with photos showing the lines and how easily you can see the tennis lines, however the blue pickleball lines are barely visible which affects their game.

Miguel Encisco is the United States Pickleball Ambassador for Oak Park and teaches pickleball at Deerhill Park for RSRPD and noted his students are often confused about which lines are for pickleball. It's difficult to see the boundaries. Would like the lines to be repainted in a contrasting color.

Tracy Dash invited an RSRPD staff member to walk the courts to get a visual of the courts and the lines. It's difficult to see the lines as they currently are.

Steven Hoffman spends time every morning cleaning the courts and has purchased more than a dozen nets over the years. Reiterated the issue of not having contrasting color lines which are on the interior of the tennis court and will not affect them.

Jeff Williams stated he assists with maintenance and noted there are 20 tennis courts and only 4 pickleball courts which are always full. They are out growing the courts which are in need of repair. He commends the Park District on being so responsive when he submits a request.

Angelo asked if the District could assist with the striping of the courts.

Dennert stated we can't discuss it at length tonight since it's not on the agenda but recommended that those in attendance tonight also attend the next Oak Park Committee Meeting on the 2nd Thursday in April and will possibly add it to the agenda.

Paranick stated that the District is in the process of hiring a contractor to repair the condition of the courts and will have staff inspect the parking lot. Paranick asked Director of Planning and Maintenance, Wayne Nakaoka, how long it will take to resurface the courts, to which he replied to it will take 3 days, during which time the District will not have an alternative location in Oak Park while it's being completed.

Freeman asked how the color of the striping is determined. Paranick stated the color of the striping is a standard color recommended by the U.S. Pickleball Association and is intended to not interfere with tennis play. Freeman stated it's not an arbitrary decision and wanted to clarify the color selection process using industry standards.

Dani Brusius stated all the parking lots are really bad at Deerhill Park and said that the Pennisetum grass was taken out and it looks amazing. Commended the District on doing a good job.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting - February 2, 2022 - Motion: Director Freeman moved to approve the minutes as written. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Directors Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Gray and O'Brien
Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

5. CONSENT AGENDA (Matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be acted upon without discussion by one motion approving the Consent Agenda. If discussion is desired the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon a Director's request.)

- a. Approval of 1/31/22 Accounts Payable Check Register and 1/28/22 Payroll Check Register
- b. Renewal of Contract Agreement for Use of a Portion of Tierra Rejada Park as a Portable Communications Test Site by L3 Technologies, Datron Advanced Technologies - Director Dennert asked what they use it for. Nakaoka stated that there is an asphalt pad on top of the hill that Datron built 30 years ago. They conduct microwave testing approximately 3 times per year for 3 days at a time.

Motion: Director Dennert moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Director Abele seconded the Motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Directors Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Gray and O'Brien

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

6. PRESENTATIONS, SCHEDULED ITEMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Presentation of the Part-Time Employee of the Month for January 2022 to Bryn Kropp, Site Director - Theresa Pennington, Director of Administration, presented Bryn with a plaque and a check for \$75. Bryn has worked for the District for 19 years. This is her first award. She cares for the children in the ASC program and helps them to flourish. During her time in Oak Park she educated children on the benefits of animal adoption through a local animal shelter.

Bryn thanked everyone for the award. She spent 17 years in Oak Park and came to Simi right before COVID. Receiving the award is very important to her and she appreciates it.

- b. Status of the Districts Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic – The verbal report was provided by District Manager Dan Paranick. No complaints received since the last meeting. One new positive case among the staff. New mask mandate went into effect today. Vaccinated staff no longer need to wear a mask indoors. Unvaccinated staff still do. Director Freeman asked if the state of emergency has changed, and if so, how the Board can meet. Paranick stated that the change in the mask mandate has no relation to how the Board conducts meetings. Director Dennert asked if the Board will continue with hybrid meetings. Paranick stated the Board decided to continue hybrid meetings as long as the state of emergency is in effect and may want to consider continuing hybrid meetings in the future after the state of emergency ends. Director Abele asked if the Board would have the option of attending Board meetings via Zoom after the state of emergency ends. Paranick stated that the public will be able to attend via Zoom, however the Board will be required to attend in person or provide public notice of the location of where the Board Member will be attending from.

The Board agreed to skip to Agenda Item 9a.

7. CONTINUED BUSINESS

- a. Review and Provide Direction Regarding Before and After School Club and Teen Club Proposed Fee Increases for School Year 2022-2023 – Director of Recreation, Zach Miller summarized the staff report. On February 2, 2022 the Board considered afterschool club fees and creating a scholarship / grant program for the 2022-2023 school year. Staff was given direction to bring back alternatives including a tiered scholarship program that could expand eligibility or give deeper discounts to families near or below the Federal poverty level. Staff considered budgetary impacts of fee increases and provided information showing revenues associated with each proposed fee increase in each of the alternatives that were presented to the Board for consideration. Staff also presented alternatives for the scholarship program. Miller read one additional public comment that was received via email after the last board meeting.

Director Abele asked if the alternatives were based on \$30k scholarship/grant allocation. Miller replied yes. Paranick stated the amount could be increased to serve additional children and/or provide greater discounts. Paranick provided information on the Districts budget as it relates to decisions regarding the after school club program.

The District can opt to roll back some part time positions in recreation or maintenance, cancel the contract with Mustang Marketing, or hold off on implementing the new internship program. Optimally, the scholarship program would be built into the base budget. The District also has some one time money from savings in the budget as well as COVID relief funds. Regarding the scholarship allocation, Staff is unsure of how many families will apply.

O'Brien asked if we reached out to raise money. Paranick reached out to Kiwanis who might be interested in donating to help fund the program for at-risk youth.

Director Freeman spoke with SVUSD Superintendent who is expecting a large sum of money for afterschool programs. He hopes the District can help as it's a sizeable sum and the School Board is not interested in operating it. Paranick said staff would reach out to the School District.

Director Dennert does not want to cut the quality of the ASC program. He wants to bend the cost, not shift it. He suggested the Board consider eliminating the intern program if revenues don't increase. Miller said he would consider ASC enrollment of 550 students a success and anticipates that enrollment will remain flat during the next school year. Current enrollment is 450 children, which is significantly less than the 700 students that were enrolled in the program pre-COVID. Paranick stated he's planning to use one time money to make up for the shortfall. Director Dennert commented that no pay raises is really a pay cut considering how much the cost of living is going up.

Director Freeman foresees enrollment going up because people want to get back to normal and we have a great program, with great staff, and a great reputation in the community. We are subsidizing \$2000 per student in the program at a total subsidy of \$519k last year therefore we are helping the students and their families. She'd like to see an increase in ASC revenues in order to maintain the quality of the program. She is fine with offering a greater number of scholarships. We need to look at the actual operational costs of the program.

Director Dennert would like to maintain the quality of the program and doesn't want to increase the cost significantly all at once. Gradually increasing fees is preferable in order to give families time to adjust. He feels that if we do receive funds from the School District, those funds should go toward the scholarship program.

Chair O'Brien agreed and stated it's only \$10 per month if we increase fees 3%.

Vice Chair Gray felt the District should not budget scholarships with one time money and consider it an ongoing cost. He prefers Alternative 3 which helps students who need it most. He wouldn't support anything below \$30k and would like to see the amount allocated toward scholarships be a lot higher. If he agreed to a 6% or 9% fee increase, he'd want to see a \$40k scholarship allocation. He encouraged his fellow board members to go out into the community and raise funds for the scholarship program.

Director Dennert would like to address something that's not in the report - If a teacher feels that a child really needs to be in the afterschool program, but they can't pay a penny, how would that be addressed. Paranick stated it can be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Staff Danielle June said the District has made accommodations for special cases like that in the past.

Director Abele agrees with Alternative 3 and reluctantly agrees to no more than a 3% fee increase only because we are offering \$30k in scholarships which is the minimum amount of scholarship funding we should allocate. He feels those are the types of programs (i.e. afterschool clubs and youth sports) the District should subsidize. We should look at raising fees for golf and weddings where the demand is high and where the income is discretionary which he feels is a missed opportunity.

Dennert requested that we look at it again if the budget looks better in June. Paranick said he would bring it back as an item for consideration in the budget balancing process.

Motion: Director Dennert moved to approve fee increase Alternative No. 3 as well as Scholarship Alternative No. 3. Director Dennert rescinded this motion.

Paranick asked if the Board would like to designate the number of children who will receive scholarships in each tier or leave it up to staff. O'Brien would leave it to staff. Abele stated that if demand is significantly greater than the available scholarship funds, that he would like the Board to be informed so they can bring it back for further review and discussion. Director Gray wants to support the children who are most in need.

Miller stated that Alternative No. 3 provides a total of \$30k in scholarship funds, including \$19k for the 15 current students that are currently receiving \$10k in scholarship funding, and would open up \$11k in scholarship funds to new students.

Vice Chair Gray made a motion to approve Alternative No. 3 with a 3% increase in Before and After School Club and Teen Club Fees, and Alternative No. 3 for the Grant / Scholarship Program, prioritizing the children most in need and allowing for principal / teacher referrals of students who they feel need the program but cannot afford it. Director Dennert seconded the motion.

Director Freeman stated that she cannot support the motion and supports Alternative No. 1 with a 6% fee increase since we already are very generous to the children who need our help and be more cognizant of the increased cost of operation and still be generous with the scholarship program.

Chair O'Brien likes the idea of reaching out to Dr. Peplinski and the local service organizations and increasing golf and wedding fees some.

The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Directors Abele, Dennert, Gray and O'Brien

Noes: Director Freeman

Abstain:

Absent:

Vice Chair Gray supports lower fees for youth sports.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Drone Usage on District Property – Dan Paranick gave report. At its regular meetings on October 7, 2021, November 18, 2021 and December 2, 2021, the Board of Directors discussed, reviewed, and adopted an ordinance which allows usage of drones in open space areas of the District and in specific areas within designated developed parks, however developed park locations have not yet been determined.

The photo in the Oak Park Acorn showing a developed park that was open for drone usage was inaccurate. The Board received public input on this item after the press release was issued and it was put on this meeting agenda so the Board could receive and consider additional public input on the topic.

Chair O'Brien opened the public comment period for this item.

Tammy Purdue has an equestrian business that has spent a lot of time training and desensitizing horses to natural obstacles which takes years. Introduction of drones does not give them an opportunity to prepare. She feels drones should not be allowed in open space. Abele asked if she has had any issues with drones and she said no.

Amy Shuman lives in the bridal path in Simi Valley and use Challenger Park and Coyote Park regularly. Her husband flies drones and she is an equestrian. When she saw the article she was concerned about allowing drones in open space noting that it takes skill to fly them. Horses and other wildlife live by fight or flight and drones can be dangerous and can be a fire hazard as well.

Brenda Chew from Simi Valley expressed concern regarding drones in open space near equestrian trails including Challenger and Coyote Parks which could be disastrous. She asked the Board to please consider extending the no-fly zone to the open space trails near those two parks.

Liz Folb thanked the Board for listening to their concerns and thanked director Dennert for putting it on the agenda. She uses the trails and rides every day. Use of drones without a permit is very concerning to her. Drone users cannot maintain the required line of sight. Hot drone motors and batteries have caused fires. Wants to ensure preservation of native plants and wildlife. Feels people should be able to recreate in peace and safety without external distractions. Suggested the District provide drone users with specific areas for drone use. Abele asked if she has had issues with drones. She replied that others have had complaints and she had a drone fly overhead prior to COVID.

Julie Huber asked what is more important – drone flying in our open space or the safety of our riders. She had a serious injury as a result of a drone that spooked her horse. Asked the Board to reconsider use of drones.

Diane Gideon is President of the Montgomery Ranch HOA which is an equestrian community with 630 homes near Coyote Hills and Challenger Parks. They have a profound concern about allowing drones to fly in those two areas. Horses are fight or flight animals – horses and drones are not compatible. Drones are a potential fire hazard as well. Asked the Board to re-evaluate and reverse their decision. Director Abele asked if she has had any incidents with drones. She said yes, on two occasions, one was last week, the other a year ago.

George lives in the Bridal Path and would like to see options including a designated location like a drone park (similar to a skate park, BMX park, or the model airplane field near Moorpark). Drones are a hazard for open space, batteries get hot and can short out and cause a fire. Not all drone flyers are responsible.

Harry Medved thanked everyone for what we do. How are people supposed to know if where they are flying is open space. Asked to please consult with the Oak Park Committee and work together and gather public opinion before making a decision that affects their community.

David Ibarra is an Oak Park resident who works for the FAA and is an expert on drones and drone regulations and shares the concerns of everyone who has spoken this evening. Sent an email to the District detailing the requirements of setting up an area for recreational drone use, which must follow community based guidelines to fly in a specific area that has been approved by the FAA and must be monitored. Drone flyers have to take a test and be registered and must fly them within a visual line of sight. Offered his assistance to help guide the District on designating an area to fly drones.

Samantha Folb sent an email to the Board and enjoys hiking in Challenger Park and Coyote Park and doesn't want drones in those areas and asks the Board to reconsider their decision in allowing drones in those areas.

Tim Gray is a horse owner and a drone owner. Went through the drone certification process. There are irresponsible horse owners and drone owners. Horse owners have responsibilities as well. We should provide a few places that hobbyists can enjoy their hobby. Abele asked if he was a horse owner in Simi. Tim said no, his horses are located in Tujunga Canyon.

Dan Cooper is a Senior Conservation Biologist with the Research Conservation District in the Santa Monica Mountains. He lives in Oak Park and is on the Districts Oak Park Committee and was not consulted about this. Drones cause uninterrupted noise, which is disturbing to wildlife and people. Drones have caused fires and crashed into bird nesting colonies. Asked if the risk to birds was considered before making this decision. Asked the Board to reconsider the use of drones in Oak Park. Abele asked if there has been any noticeable increase in drone usage since the decision has been made. Cooper stated he had just learned drones were allowed after reading the article in the paper. Paranick stated that drones are not allowed in Oak Canyon Community Park and that the article in the Oak Park Acorn was incorrect.

Dani Brusius is a member of the Oak Park Committee and feels that large grassy areas like parks are ok places to fly drones as long as the parks are not busy.

JL Diaz was surprised by the article. He is also a member of the Oak Park Committee and suggested finding middle ground where people can enjoy drones and equestrian activities.

Chair O'Brien concluded the public comment period.

Director Abele asked Paranick to explain the ordinance. Paranick stated that the ordinance

currently allows drone usage in open space areas that are not developed parks and in compliance with federal regulations. Within developed parks, the ordinance allows District staff to designate specific areas in consideration of drone flyers' preferred location(s). Staff is able to designate specific areas within 2 or 3 parks where drones could be flown. To date those developed park locations have not been decided. Abele asked how many public meetings we had on the subject. Paranick responded the Board had 3 meetings, December 2nd being the most recent.

Director Freeman thanked everyone for coming out and said that she was the one dissenting voice on the matter, stating "you only need one accident to make it a bad idea." She feels strongly that our park locations are not the appropriate place for drones and feels sharing the model airplane location would an appropriate location. She also feels it's an invasion of privacy and is not a good idea for the Park District in any situation.

Director Dennert apologized to the speaker that was injured and thanked the public who attended. The Board can adjust the guidelines based on community feedback. He was the one that asked that the press release be issued because he felt the public was adequately notified. He was trying to create rules for rule followers. We need to have young people who are trained properly on how to use drones and who follow the rules. For the ones who don't follow the rules we have to enforce the rules. Dennert asked if our insurance company will cover drones. Paranick said that we would be covered as long as we are following the rules and regulations. Dennert's investigation of drones that caused fires resulted in findings of drones monitoring fires, not causing them. Regarding the Oak Park Committee, he would like to hear more from the Committee on their ideas at the next Oak Park Committee meeting. He would like to adjust the policy, not necessarily overturn the policy.

Director Abele commented that when it was previously discussed the Board knew they might have to make adjustments which they are willing to do. Invasion of privacy doesn't apply since the parks are open to the public. We wanted to reward responsible drone users by passing the ordinance. He is open to change and feels it's his job to give people what they want and agrees we may need to make adjustments based on the feedback received tonight. He loves animals and it bothers him that they can be scared by drones. Irresponsible usage was going on before we passed the ordinance. He will consider everyone's comments.

Vice Chair Gray agrees with Directors Dennert and Abele and wants to reward people who want to be good users. Drone users don't have many places to fly right now, and the industry is growing in use. He had a difficult time finding any information of them causing fires but found helpful information that resulted from drone usage for fire surveillance and monitoring. He was the one that introduced the ordinance change to allow drones and understood there would need to be some flexibility in the guidelines. He agrees that the Open Space connecting Challenger and Coyote Parks is not the proper location to allow drone usage. He is open to addressing the issues with the community and is flexible and open to change.

Director Freeman agrees with Director Abele that our parks are for everyone to use, but we have to look at the negative impacts to users as well and take that into consideration when making policy. Drones are used commercially by businesses for specific issues and are regulated and can't be compared with recreational use. We need to find a place for them so they do not interfere with others.

Chair O'Brien offered her condolences to the people that were injured and saw animals injured. She likes director Freemans idea of the model plane location. Or possibly the gentleman with the FAA can teach a class that people would have to take before they could fly a drone in our parks. Suggested we reach out to the model plane location operator.

Director Dennert likes the idea of the class and asked District Counsel Brian Pierik if the Board or Staff has the authority to not allow drones in Challenger Park and Coyote Hills Park and in the surrounding open space areas of those parks.

Pierik stated that the Board and/or Staff cannot make amendments to the ordinance without going through the legal process of changing it. Since the ordinance says drones are allowed in open space areas, the Board will need to amend the ordinance to say that they are not allowed in the open space areas surrounding Challenger Park and Coyote Hills Park. Legally, to amend an ordinance, it requires a first reading and second reading and cannot be changed with a motion or a resolution.

Paranick stated that the District can direct the Rangers to monitor those particular open space locations more frequently in the interim period until the ordinance has been reviewed and possibly revised.

Director Abele confirmed with Paranick that the District does not allow nor have we ever allowed improper use of drones in any space. Paranick said that is correct. Abele agreed to direct Staff to monitor the open areas more closely.

Director Freeman stated that removing a bad drone flyer from open space doesn't solve the problem and feels we need to bring the ordinance back. O'Brien agreed that we need to bring the ordinance back and monitor the open space areas of concern.

Director Dennert is open to acknowledging that they are incompatible in certain areas, not all areas. Alamos Canyon might be a good area to fly drones, but not in an equestrian area.

Director Freeman made a motion to bring the ordinance back for review and for possible modification. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Directors Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Gray and O'Brien

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Director Dennert asked about the timeline since he feels it's best to gather all of the feedback first, including from the Oak Park Committee, before the Board reviews the ordinance again and makes any further decisions. Paranick responded that it could be placed on the next regular meeting Oak Park Committee agenda. Or any of the members of the Oak Park Committee could attend our next regular board meeting on March 2nd to express their position, or the Oak Park Committee could hold a special meeting. Director Abele asked not to bring the item back on March 16th. Dennert asked if Paranick could ask the Oak Park Committee if they would like to have a special meeting regarding the topic. Paranick said he would notify all of those that were in attendance tonight that we have a record of to let them know when the item would be discussed again at a future Board meeting.

Director Dennert made a motion to have the Park Rangers available to monitor the open space areas surrounding Challenger Park and Coyote Hills Park for safe drone usage. Director Abele seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Directors Abele, Dennert, Freeman, Gray and O'Brien

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Paranick also stated he would provide a direct number for residents to call to report misuse of drones to the District.

Chair O'Brien called a 7 minute recess, to reconvene at 8:45pm.

Chair O'Brien called the meeting back to order at 8:48pm.

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS OF NOTE – Director Abele read the recent letter to the editor in the Acorn Newspaper regarding a park bench that the District installed at Rancho Santa Susana Community Park at the request of an out of state family on behalf of their 90 year old father who frequents the park. Abele stated that Wayne Nakaoka and his staff make him so proud, and he commends them. Dennert seconded Abele's sentiments and expressed his appreciation of Wayne and his staff and their attention to detail.

10. REPORTS BY BOARDMEMBERS

Director Freeman – She attended the Strathearn joint meeting and reviewed their items, repairs, and future events. They will have a problem digitizing all the information they have and asked if there are government, foundation or historical grants available to assist with that effort. They anticipate it may take a year. She met with Jacqui Irwin and gave her an update on the Park District. She toured the Tierra Rejada property with Dan and Zach and give the District her recommendations on what the District might do with it from a development perspective. Director Freeman would like to adjourn the meeting in honor of Bruce Strathearn who passed away.

Vice Chair Gray highlighted a new local non-profit "For The Need" who work with homeless kids. They will be launching model rockets at Rancho Santa Susana Community Park this Saturday after lunch. He offered his assistance in finding grants to assist the Historical Society with digitizing records, and suggested contacting Moorpark College or Cal Lutheran History Departments and the Reagan Library. He thanked staff and Board for their hard work on the Before and After School Club Fees and Grant / Scholarship Program and feels it will positively impact a lot of kids and families in our community and he is very proud of that.

Director Abele reported that he attended the Soccer Foundation meeting. Two areas of concern include 1) The condition of fields #2 and #3 at RSSCP and at Madera. Wayne indicated it will take until the next down time to get it to where it needs to be. And concern 2) The progress at RSSCP. They are hoping it will be done within the next 4 years and Wayne said it would be done in 3 years.

Director Dennert reminded the Board that there are cards for both the new and retiring SVUSD superintendents in the Board office if they'd like to sign them. He toured Corriganville with Harry Medved who has an expertise in film history. He volunteered in Oak Park for the pollinator garden along with Disney volunteers and Friends of Open Space group and was impressed with the number of volunteers. He's working with Elaine Litster on the youth council. Miller stated that he and his staff had a good meeting with the City and are planning on collaborating on projects beginning as

soon as April which will be agendized and plan on hosting a youth council meeting here at the District main office. We have a Facebook page for filming as well as RSRPD. Suggested that everyone Like and Share RSRPD posts to be a top fan. Will be at Hummingbird again this week to do graffiti cleanup with new groups. Asked Paranick for an update on the possible Native American remains found at Hummingbird. Paranick stated he's received no additional information but that staff continues to track the issue.

Chair O'Brien attended the Historical Society meeting with Director Freeman. Regarding the Historical Society's need of assistance with digitizing their documents, she asked Director Freeman if they've reached out to the California Historical Society or the Ventura County Historical Society. Freeman said they have. She expressed interest in touring the pickleball courts in Oak Park. Paranick and Miller offered to accompany her.

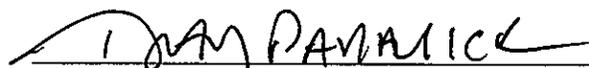
11. REPORT BY DISTRICT MANAGER - Comments were provided by Dan Paranick. The skate park is good. The Sycamore Park erosion issue is being addressed and he has spoken with the resident. Dual use court striping is finished at Rancho Simi and nets arrive tomorrow morning. Met with Kiwanis regarding assistance for the ASC program. Summer concerts in the park are scheduled and will be sent to the Board. Staff met with new Oak Park Committee Member Ning Rosenthal gave her an orientation. Golf usage is softening from mid-COVID. Almost finished with the hiring process for the Districts 2nd full time Ranger. Working on changes to the trail guide including providing it in Spanish. Friends of Oak Park volunteer group is applying for grant funding for trees from the County of Ventura for Oak Park. They will do the work and we'll give them permission to plant the trees. There was a significant medical issue at one of the courts a few days ago including lifesaving efforts related to a cardiac issue. As a result, we received calls from two residents who asked that AED's be placed at the courts and within parks. We have five currently that are tied to buildings. January financials look good. Our CalPERS funded status went from 75 to 88 which is very good news and is attributable to the market doing well. Dan and Wayne will be giving a presentation to the Simi Valley City Council on March 14th with an update on the Arroyo. Director Freeman requested a copy of the Arroyo Specific Plan to take to the meeting to share with them. Paranick stated that all Board members are welcome to attend. The presentation will be approximately ten minutes.

Future Agenda Items: 3/2/22 BMX, financial statements, Boy Scout certificate presentation, and possibly the drone discussion. 3/16/22 meeting is light right now. Director Abele noted that he may be out that day. Director Dennert asked if Paranick would make himself available to tour Sapwi bike track in Thousand Oaks before the 3/2/22 Board meeting. Paranick stated he would.

Committee Activity: No committee meetings are currently scheduled other than the regular Historical Society and Soccer Foundation committee meetings.

12. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT - Chair O'Brien adjourned the Meeting at 10:01pm in honor of Bruce Strathearn.



Dan Paranick, District Manager / District Clerk