

MEETING MINUTES
VENTURA COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION (PAC)
Regular Meeting

Hall of Administration, Atlantic Conference Room
800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura
Monday, July 13, 2009
3:00 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Proceedings called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners: Carin Kally, Paul Nicholson, Paul Rockenstein, Bob Purdum,
Harvey Paskowitz

Staff: Ron Van Dyck, Theresa Lubin, Michelle J. Smith

Guests: Bill Gallaher

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Paskowitz presides as Chair. Minutes of April 13, 2009 were approved by motion made by Nicholson, seconded by Purdum. All in favor.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

Van Dyck reports that a KOA franchise has taken an interest in acquiring the lease rights from Far West Resorts. GSA Administration is going over KOA's qualifications, and if everything is in order, the sale of Far West Resorts may occur by the end of summer.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Van Dyck suggests to the Commission that they transition to the use of electronic correspondence in order to reduce printing and mailing costs, and to save resources. All Commission members were in favor of the idea. Beginning in October 2009, all PAC correspondence will be transmitted electronically.

7. **PARK PROJECT UPDATES**

Van Dyck reports that the new online parks reservation system and the new parks website will be in place internally later this week. If all goes well, the reservation system and the website will be available to the public the first week of August. Flyers announcing the news will be posted at the Ventura County Fair booth.

Lubin reports that almost all park bond money has been spent. El Rio Community Center is the last project to be completed.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Nicholson asks what goals the Parks Department has for FY 09-10. Van Dyck states that the primary goal is to figure out how to finance maintenance projects. The Parks Department doesn't have a required maintenance budget.

Kally asks about the status of the closed campground at Foster Park. Lubin states that the Red Mountain campground has been closed due to a large rock positioned above the Park Host site. The County hired geologists to assess the potential hazard. The rock was deemed to be stable with vegetation growing around it, and the County plans to redesign the campground and open it to the public.

Kally asks about business at the new RV campground at Foster Park. Van Dyck states that business is picking up at the Residence campground. Kally states that she lives on the same street as Foster Park, and is concerned about keeping campfires under control. Van Dyck states that campers must keep fires in fire rings, and that the park host closely monitors camper activities at the park. Kally asks if the park host is going stay put and eventually monitor all of Foster Park. Van Dyck states that every campground has its own park host, and there will be a total of 3 park hosts at Foster Park when all campgrounds are operational. Kally asks when Red Mountain campground will open. Van Dyck states that it may open next spring, if all goes according to plan.

Paskowitz asks if the homeless population is affecting the County Parks in any way. Van Dyck reports that County ordinances address squatters that try to stay in the parks. Paper product usage has gone up, and that may be due to the homeless population.

Kally asks if camping fees are going up. Van Dyck reports that there are no plans to raise fees this year.

Rockenstein asks about Camarillo Regional Park. Van Dyck reports that the property has been officially transferred to CSUCI the first week of May 2009. They plan to improve the facility in a positive way. Rockenstein asks if County employees will receive a COLA this year. Van Dyck reports that management did not get a COLA, but some unions may have COLA built in to their existing contracts.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting of the PAC will be on January 11, 2010.