



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**VENTURA COUNTY**  
**PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION (PAC)**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#5140  
Ventura, California 93009-1030

Government Center  
Hall of Administration, Atlantic Conference Room  
800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA

**July 15, 2024**

**4:00 p.m.**

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1. CALL TO ORDER  
Proceedings called to order at 4:00 p.m.
  2. ROLL CALL  
Commissioners: Greg Barnes, Bruce Thomas, Harold Schneider  
PAC Staff: Colter Chisum, Jeri Cooper, Dwayne Bozeman, Linda Cruz
  3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
Thomas presides as Chair.  
Minutes of the April 15, 2024, PAC meeting were approved by a motion made by Schneider, seconded by Barnes. All in favor.
  4. PUBLIC COMMENTS  
None
  5. OLD BUSINESS
    - A. Pickleball at Soule Park  
Ten year lease with City of Ojai for six pickleball and two paddle ball courts to be open later this summer per Chisum.
    - B. Foster Park Reopening  
Per Cooper, Foster Park open to pedestrian access only. Host on site. Next phase will be selecting designer for redesign of park.
    - C. Stepping Stones Riders Lease  
501C3 non profit giving lessons using rescue horses. 1.5 acre lease at Santa Rosa Park.
    - D. Ojai Valley Trail Project  
90% construction drawings in hand. 100% drawings expected early August for fall/winter construction. A few months of construction expected with phased sectioned closures.
    - E. Warring Park Playground Installation Timeline and Ribbon Cutting  
Ribbon cutting held on June 28. This was second completed ARPA funded construction project per Cooper.
    - F. Steckel Park Access  
Hwy 150 still closed. No update on reopening. Camping continues.
  6. NEW BUSINESS
    - A. July is Recreation and Parks Month in Ventura County  
Proclamation held on June 18.
    - B. Introduction to Capacity Improvements Projects:
      - a) Punta Gorda RV Lot Conversion

Described by Chisum as Hwy 101 at Oil Piers Beach area. Worked with Coastal Commission, Sheriff, CHP, VC Planning with all supporting the concept of overflow RV parking for the Rincon. Not yet approved by Board. Draft of delegated maintenance agreement with CalTrans has been reviewed by County Counsel. Hoping to open March 2025.

b) Soule Park RV Camping and Park Amenity Improvements

100 climate tolerant, native species planned this fall/winter. Planting total 300 in phases. Will explore 3 park dog parks at front of park. This will allow one area to be closed for rehab in rotation. Considering underused 6 acre area of 203 acre park for RV use. Might start with 29 sites and add 29 more if successful. Camp Comfort books out at 70% saturation. Peak season is full and no area for expansion. Soule Park has approx. 30,000 visitors/year and operates at avg \$140,000 loss/year for Parks Dept. Highest water user due to turf. Propose to use "edges" of park converted from turf to low-water use landscaping - about 25% turf reduction. Creekside and loop trail improvements proposed.

c) Oak Park Prop 68 Park Improvements

Plan to add approx. 17 RV spaces. Removal of unused rental facility. Improve all other amenities. Partnership with Rancho Simi Parks & Rec to create a day-use only parking lot with Rancho Simi offsetting day-use fees. Disk golf installation near cell tower.

C. Park Utilization

Camping utilization was down a little due to rains and Rincon closure. Camping nights FY 24 = 90,335. Previous high 111,653, pre Covid 83,501.

7. STAFF COMMENTS

Cooper announced Parks booth at Ventura County Fair

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Thomas inquired about new personnel and work release crew. MWIV positions approved, additional work release crew added per Cooper. Ranger 3 also included in budget.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Next Meeting October 21, 2024