

Minutes
Ridgecrest Ranchos Recreation and Park District
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2024

Meeting location: Palos Verdes Library, main branch, Purcell Room
Time: 6-8pm.

Board members in attendance: President Margo Beylen, Treasurer James Colton, Secretary Charles Lee, John Polen.

Board members absent: John Smythe (excused).

Meeting was open to the public. No closed session.

Motions and action items will be highlighted in **bold**.

Agenda provided (see separate attachment).

Meeting convened at approximately 6pm, with four board members present as stated above. Board President Margo Beylen gave a brief introduction of the board members to the attendees.

A. Meeting proceeded with Agenda item 1: Financials. Board Treasurer James Colton noted that in his conversations with the Board's longtime accountant, who provided the recent 2022-2023 audit report, it has become apparent that there have been two long standing errors, which originated prior to the current accountant's arrival and which have led to the following: 1) the balance sheet is understated, as a savings account ending in 5088, on which there is a negative balance of \$4,571, does not in fact exist, according to the bank; and 2) there has been an understating of the amount held in the checking account ending in 0202, i.e. there is \$2,618 more than currently indicated.

B. James Colton made a motion to vote on the following:

“to restate the Ridgecrest Ranchos Park and Recreation District's audited balance sheet as of June 30, 2024, to:

1. Eliminate the non-existent savings account with account number ending in 5088 and stated balance of negative \$4,751; and

2. Adjust the stated balance of checking account with account number ending in 0202 to accurately reflect the year end balance of said account.

3. Adjust stated Municipal Equity to reflect the impact of these changes.”

In approving this motion, the Treasurer estimates that the result net impact of these changes will result in an increase in the District’s balance sheet assets (checking account by \$2,618; saving account by \$4,571; total assets by \$7,189) and increase the District’s Municipal Equity by \$7,189.

C. This motion was seconded by Margo Beylen. Vote taken: Ayes - 4, Noes - 0, Absent: John Smythe.

D. Meeting proceeded to Agenda Item 2: Olive tree issues. There are two olive trees in the entry median, one of which (farther from Crenshaw Blvd) has an active beehive, and both of which require trimming to remove dead and overgrown branches. John Polen has made inquiries to the current landscaper (Bennett) who provided an estimate of \$575. However, due to liability concerns, Bennett cannot take care of the bee problem, which needs to be dealt with first before the affected olive tree can be trimmed. John Polen also talked with several pest control agencies who gave estimates in the \$400 range for bee hive removal.

E. James Colton made a motion to vote to authorize Margo Beylen to hire a licensed and bonded bee removal service (up to \$500). John Polen seconded the motion. Vote taken: Ayes - 4; Noes - 0; Absent - John Smythe.

F. James Colton made a motion to vote to authorize John Polen to find a license and bonded landscaper to trim the olive trees, up to \$600. Margo Beylen seconded the motion. Vote taken: Ayes - 4; Noes - 0; Absent - John Smythe.

G. Meeting proceeded to Agenda item 3: Lighting on the Entry Median. Current string lights on the olive trees are currently powered by old, mini consumer grade solar-powered lights that cannot provide enough power. Duplex outlets in front of each tree do not appear to function. Existing uplights in certain areas do not appear to work.

- H. **James Colton made a motion to vote to authorize John Polen to hire a bonded and licensed electrician (up to \$1,000) for the purpose of assessing the current electrical system, identifying damage and providing an estimate of the cost to repair. Votes taken: Ayes - 4; Noes - 0; Absent - John Smythe.**
- I. Meeting proceeded to Agenda Item 4: Updating and modernizing plantings on the neighborhood median. There was a general discussion of preferences and considerations, but no motions made for the time being. Informal decision was made to defer detailed consideration until after the olive trees and bees are taken care of.
- J. Meeting proceeded to Agenda Item 5: Other Business - Trimming trees that are blocking views. Discussion ensued regarding certain tall pine trees (north of Middlecrest, within Ridgecrest Ranchos jurisdiction) that are overgrown and require significant trimming and/or removal, as they could cause considerable damage to certain homes if they were to fall.
- K. No formal motions were made.
Current plan:
- John Polen will ask Bennett Landscapers to look at these trees and give a rough estimate of the cost to remove them.

- James Colton will also provide a map to the Board that shows the park boundaries and the area where these trees are.
- L. Next meeting: tentatively scheduled for early April, depending on Board members and room availability.
- M. At approximately 730pm, Board President Margo Beylen adjourned the meeting.