

**Minutes**  
**Ridgecrest Ranchos Recreation and Park District**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 2, 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 (advance notice given).

Meeting was open to the public. No closed session.

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

Agenda provided (see separate attachment).

President Margo Beylen called the meeting to order at 6pm.

A. Agenda Item 2: Olive Tree (median) updates.

- Beehive in the olive tree (farther from Crenshaw) has been cleared.
- John Polen is scheduling a date with Bennett to trim olive trees.
- Margo Beylen spoke with a separate tree specialist who said that both olive trees are healthy and viable.
- Bee removal service told her that one can purchase products to fill in the gaps at the olive tree base (closer to Crenshaw) to prevent bees from colonizing it.

B. Agenda Item 3: Lighting/electrical

John Polen met with an electrician who inspected the median and green spaces.

Among his findings:

- Center divider and northern lawn area have power access and low voltage transformers.
- Power to the transformer for the southern lawn area could not be detected.
- Floodlights at both the northern and southern monument signs are not functional.
- Lighting and wiring needs to be replaced at the olive trees.
- Plugs at the olive trees do not work.

**Motion made by Charles Lee to authorize John Polen to work with the electricians to establish a power source to the southern lawn/monument sign; and to replace/establish floodlights at the northern monument sign, the base of the olive trees in the median, and the southern monument sign, with a budget of \$3,500.**

**Motion seconded by Margo Beylen. Vote taken: Ayes - 4. No - 0. Absent - John Smythe.**

#### C. Agenda Item 4: Website

Board members discussed the legal requirement for a website. The two recreation and park districts (Miraleste and Westfield) in our area both have operational websites. The Municipal Service Report by LAFCO in 2017 for Miraleste, Westfield, and Ridgecrest Ranchos noted that websites should be established and that they should contain, among other items, board meeting agendas, financial statements and recent audits.

James Colton has started the website preparation but has indicated he would like to transfer this responsibility to someone else.

**Motion made by Charles Lee for Charles Lee to take over website set-up and for it include at a minimum: board member names, board meeting date announcements, agenda, and minutes. It is understood that the priority is for a website to be launched as quickly as possible, and that the additional information will be added over time.**

**Motion seconded by Margo Beylen. Vote taken: Ayes - 4. No - 0. Absent - John Smythe.**

#### D. Agenda Item 5: Trees/shrubs along Crenshaw (northern section).

John Polen has an existing bid from Bennett to take care of a number of overgrown trees (all of the trees and large bushes north and south of the entrance as well as the lawn/monument area). Board members also discussed five trees in particular farther down Crenshaw (northerly direction) which are overhanging on district property behind the residence of 5325 Middlecrest Road. These trees have overgrown with branches very close to electrical wires and posts.

**Current plan is for John Polen to obtain an additional bid for the trees (all of the trees and large bushes north and south of the entrance as well as the lawn/monument area); and to obtain at least two bids to take care of the above five trees (located behind the property of 5325 Middlecrest).**

E. Other Item:

Brief discussion of landscaping plans for neighborhood entryway (lawn and median). General agreement to defer further discussion until trees/shrub trimming and electrical work has been completed.

F. Agenda Item 6: Signage for monument area.

James Colton brought to board attention that specific signage is required to ensure there is no inappropriate encroachment on district property. John Polen has agreed to look into this.

733pm - John Polen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Charles Lee. President Margo Beylen called the meeting to a close.