

**CARMICHAEL RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES: ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 17, 2014 REGULAR MEETING**

Directors: Arredondo-Carroll, Borman, Dax-Conroy, Rockenstein, and Younger

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Advisory Board of Directors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Rockenstein.

ROLL CALL:

Directors Present: Arredondo-Carroll, Borman, Dax-Conroy, Rockenstein and Younger
Directors Absent: None
Staff Present: Smith, Kerth, Maddison and Penney
Staff Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Boy Scout Troop 55 led the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN DISTRICT JURISDICTION ON ITEM(S) NOT SCHEDULED ON THE AGENDA – None to report

CONSENT ITEMS:

1. **MINUTES**
March 20, 2014 – Regular Meeting
2. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**
February 2014
3. **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**
March 2014
4. **ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**
April 2014

Motion 1

M: Younger S: Borman – The Advisory Board voted to: Approve Consent items 1 – 4 as presented.

Vote: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter dated March 25, 2014, from Heide A. Kingsbury, resident - regarding the ballot.

Added at the meeting –

Email sent by Mark Daniel re: Proposed Maintenance & Recreation Improvement Assessment.

Letter dated April 14, 2014, from Sacramento Taxpayers Association – regarding the proposed funding measure.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Arden-Carmichael News – 3/13/14 – Correction to the story about the ballot measure;

Faces and Places – Farmer's Market in Carmichael Park

Sacramento Bee – 3/28/14 – Letter to the editor by Alan and Joyce Dahl

Sacramento Bee – 3/31/14 – Parks district awaits vote; Letter to the editor by Debra Desrosiers

Carmichael Times – 4/3/14 – Letter to the editor by Jim Baker

Carmichael Times – 4/10/14 – Focus on Creeks – Creek Week 2014

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None

Motion 2

M: Borman S: Younger – The Advisory Board voted to move Staff Reports ahead of the Action Item, Public Hearing a timed matter to be conducted at 6:15.

Approved.

Vote: Unanimous

REPORTS

2. STAFF REPORT

Staff Presentation:

Tracy Kerth: Provided a Recreation update for April, as follows:

The annual Creek Week, a successful regional event was held this past Saturday. Elizabeth handled logistics for the main event at Carmichael Park including E-waste collection, entertainment, booths, and junk and gunk. We served about 2000 people BBQ lunch with the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, one of the new sponsors and now the official BBQ pit masters. We also had adopt a park on the same day where four parks were cleared of weeds and cleaned up. Planning for our summer concerts and soliciting sponsors continues, which is going very well this year. A sponsorship report will be presented to the Advisory Board later.

Saturday, the annual egg hunt and pancake breakfast will be held at Carmichael Park. We are looking forward to large crowds. Kiwanis is a partner for the event. Sunday we are having our popular 2nd annual doggie Easter egg hunt...Dog sniff our as many treats filled eggs as they can. The golden ticket wins....

Saturday, May 3 we are having our Community Parking Lot Sale at La Sierra and in partnership with the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce. We have sold 20 booths.

This week we are offering a spring break camp for kids out of school - 30 kids are enrolled.

We are working with the Sheriff's Youth Services Unit to offer the Sheriff's Fast Break Summer Basketball program targeting 5th – 8th grade youth. Kiwanis provided funding for the program.

Keith Maddison: Provided Maintenance Division Highlights for the period, as follows:

La Sierra Community Center

1. Renovation Project: Staff completed the exterior wall stucco on the 200 Wing East. The 700 Wing emergency exit gate has been fabricated and installed. The last remaining item to complete the renovation project is a two day electrical job on the roof of the 300 Wing East.

2. Fire Hydrant Replacement: Staff replaced the second of six fire hydrants. We have an agreement with Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District to replace one fire hydrant per year until all are replaced. The manufacturer of the existing hydrants went out of business in the early 1970's and rebuild kits have not been available for close to 20 years.

3. Post and Cable: Staff completed significant repairs to the post and cable barrier along the parking lot adjacent to the baseball fields.
4. Irrigation Repair: Staff replaced a malfunctioning backflow prevention device and replaced a malfunctioning 2" irrigation valve and repaired another.
5. Parking Lot Repairs: Staff patched multiple holes in the parking lots.

Carmichael Park

1. Dog Park Contract Bid Process: Staff completed the bidding process for the construction contract. The bid package called for a base bid price for the project with one add alternate bid for the installation of bender board. As advertised, the low bid was determined solely upon the base bid. We received three bids. The successful low bid was submitted by Gateway Landscape Construction Inc. The bids are as follows starting with the low bid:
 - Gateway Landscape Construction Inc. was lowest with a base bid of \$46,600.00; add alternate bid was \$5,200.00. The total bid, including the add alternate was \$51,800.00.
 - Olympic Land-Construction was second with a base bid of \$57,450.00; add alternate bid was \$4,550.00. The total bid including, the add alternate was \$62,000.00.
 - PBM Construction Inc. was third with a base bid of \$68,965.00; add alternate bid was \$13,000.00. The total bid including, the add alternate was \$81,965.00.

All three were determined to be complete and valid. Due diligence was performed and Gateway Construction Inc. was awarded the contract. The bid by Gateway was the only bid submitted that came in within budget.

2. Dog Park Construction: Construction commenced on the dog park project. Demolition, clearing and grubbing is being performed by staff. Five trees have been removed. A large oak tree was dropped, as scheduled by Fallen Leaf Tree Management and cut up by staff. The Carmichael Water District provided a backhoe and operator to remove four tree stumps. Staff is demolishing and removing concrete. The contract portion of the project is scheduled to start the last week of April.
3. Park Restroom Building Repairs: Staff replaced three vandalized toilet seats. Staff also fabricated and installed anti vandal covers for the exhaust fans.

Del Campo Park

1. Play Equipment Repairs: Staff replaced the complete spiral slide assembly at the Del Campo Park play area.

District Wide

1. Sheriffs Work Program: The Park District received the services of three work project busses during the reporting period. Work performed included park clean up at Del Campo Park and Carmichael Park and demolition assistance in the Carmichael Park Dog Park.
2. Adopt-A-Park: Staff completed the spring Adopt-A-Park work day. The four sites were Jan Park, O'Donnell Heritage Park, Patriots Park and Charles Jensen Botanical Garden. Work performed included site cleanup, weed removal and graffiti removal. The turnout was light.

Ingrid Penney: Reported on the following:
Funding Measure – staff provided support:

- Forwarding returned mail to SCI
- Requesting ballots for property owners who requested one(s)
- Responding to media questions
- Providing information to property owners

County Cash Questionnaire & Procurement Card Audit:
Met with County Auditors to complete the review and audit
Procurement Card Annual Compliance Review Audit report will be presented at a future meeting. There were no exceptions noted in the findings

Budget Calendar Update for FY 2014-15:

- April 17 – Proposed Preliminary Budget to Advisory Board
- April 25 – Proposed Preliminary Budget to County
- June 17 and 18 – Preliminary Budget Hearing with Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
- June 19 – Proposed Final Budget to Advisory Board
- August 21 – Ratification of Final Budget Adjustments
- September 10-12 – Final Budget Hearing with Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

ACTION ITEMS:

**1. PUBLIC HEARING – TIMED MATTER 6:15 P.M.
Proposed Benefit Assessment -**

Recommendation made to Conduct the Required Public Hearing, close the vote and continue the public hearing to May 15, 2014, the date of the Advisory Board Regular Meeting.

Administrator Smith thanked the volunteers for their assistance with information outreach. He recommended that the Advisory Board conduct the required public hearing, close the vote, and continue the hearing until May 15, 2014.

Chairman Rockenstein discussed the purpose and process for the hearing. It was an opportunity for property owners and residents to obtain additional information about the proposed assessment and improvements, and to provide any additional input or comments to the District. He indicated that all ballots needed to be submitted prior to the close of the public input portion of today's hearing.

Motion 3

M: Younger S: Carroll– The Advisory Board voted to approve the process to conduct the public hearing.

Vote:

Ayes: Directors: Borman, Carroll, Conroy, Rockenstein and Younger

Noes: Directors: none

Abstain: Directors: none

Absent: Directors: none

Vote: Unanimous

Gerard Van Steyn, SCI President – offered background and context for the Proposed Assessment. He provided procedural guidelines dictated by Prop 218. The Engineer's Report, ballot, Notice and Information Guide used in the proposed measure follows the same form as other Proposition 218 benefit assessment proceedings in California. This form has been reviewed and approved by most of the State's leading Proposition 218 attorneys. He indicated that in this proposed assessment, residential property owners have a proportionally greater share of the votes over commercial/institutions and apartment owners. Since Prop 218 was enacted, similar park improvement assessments have been established in Sacramento area for Mission Oaks RPD, Fulton-El Camino RPD, Cordova RPD, Sunrise RPD, El Dorado Hills CSD, and Elk Grove CSD.

Chairman Rockenstein discussed the ground rules and opened the public hearing.

Public Comments

Peter Tateishi, resident and President of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Foundation –

As President of the Foundation who has raised over \$100k for District programs and projects, he could not take a position; however, he could offer the following: after five different surveys, the District had not yet gone to property owners for a vote. In November 2013, the Foundation asked the District to take the question to property owners for a ballot vote. The Foundation applauded the District on its process, how it never used threats to cut services or close parks/facilities and how it provided information to educate property owners about the proposed assessment. The Foundation also acknowledged the District for the parks developed and facilities rehabilitated over the last several years.

As a resident, he conveyed his support for the funding measure. He would like his children to grow up in a Community where parks are well maintained and safe.

Jim Baker, resident – reiterated his address to the Advisory Board made 45 days before about the information provided in the official notice, ballot, and brochure. He had read the Engineer's Report, met with two District staff members and written letters to the editor regarding the proposal. He stated that the Community demands honesty and integrity; that there was a choice made to omit facts. Inquired whether the Advisory Board was elected or appointed. Chairman Rockenstein replied – appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.

Debra Desrosiers, non-district resident – introduced a retired couple, single parent, and an unemployed truck driver; discussed potential impacts of the measure. Did not support the measure.

Joan Komaromi, resident – has attended most board meetings since 2007, expressed concern about what improvements may be planned for Schweitzer Grove Nature Area. She did not see a change in survey results and felt that District resources could have been used in other ways, i.e. installing a bridge in Schweitzer that she has requested. She commented on a water feature included in a brochure on the assessment, believing that it may be removed later.

Victoria Davis, non- district resident – Pointed out observations about the Engineer's Report, that the proposed assessment has no sunset date, contains an escalator, and 21 projects are listed without costs or timelines. Doubted the need for new restrooms and ball field lights in Carmichael Park. Questioned what

participants pay to play basketball. Offered her opinion that instead of implementing a security patrol with one car, one employee for 13 parks for 40 hours/week; the District should implement a Neighborhood Watch.

Barbara Safford, resident - has lived in the District for the last 42 years, raised her children here, in the past has sat on the Advisory Board, and currently serves on the Carmichael RPD Foundation Board. Voiced support for the proposed assessment, stating that the people of Carmichael will benefit now and in the future. The Community benefits from the various programs and events offered by the District, i.e. concerts, farmers market, etc. She asked the Advisory Board to, "please move forward."

Michele Morre, resident – has lived in the District for the last 40 years. Said that she does not mind paying taxes but is opposed to paying an additional tax. Took exception to the message that we are sending to children that schools touch our kids through our parks, calling for a "no spin zone here". Asked about the cost of going out for the ballot.

Herb Krumpe, resident – Questioned whether the District had considered other revenue generating options, i.e. user fees, pay to play for tennis players, etc.

Pam Pinkston, resident – Addressed the Advisory Board on the assessment. Revealed that due to the economy, she will not get a COLA while the cost of food and other necessities continue to increase. She will have to make a choice between fixing her leaky roof and paying the assessment. She said that of the \$ 2.5m District revenue loss, \$647k is due to the decline of tax revenue and \$1.9m related to management of the District. She mentioned that she has never received any of the surveys.

Jack Harrison, resident – he and his family have lived in the District since 1974. They have enjoyed the facilities, programs, and events. Like neighboring districts, the proposed assessment addresses improvements that are needed. The Community has a responsibility to take care of the assets that it has. Anytime improvements are made, and/or public safety and maintenance are addressed everyone benefits. He was not at all confused by the official notice, ballot, or informational brochures which went out. He was pleased that the citizens had an opportunity to vote and eager to see the response. His neighbors value the park system and represent some of the 50k not in attendance at the hearing. Future generations will benefit from the proposed assessment.

Linda Melody, Executive Director of the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce – Stated that the Chamber Board supports the assessment. She regularly receives calls from people interested in relocating and inquiring about opportunities in Carmichael. When facilities are well maintained and improved it adds value to the Community, when allowed to run down, people stop wanting to come here. She attends many programs and events of the District and hopes that the assessment is approved.

Ron Greenwood, resident – he and his family have lived in the District, near Ancil Hoffman Park for the past 32 years. He stated that the District parks are jewels. He commended the Advisory Board for taking the proposed assessment to the property owners. Over the last several months, while volunteering with phone banks, walking neighborhoods, and talking to residents at the Farmer's Market held in Carmichael Park, he encountered a lot of people who agreed and supported the need for the assessment. The District cannot count on the State who in the past has cut the tax revenues of local government. He encouraged the Advisory Board

to move forward with the assessment not just for kids but for the many that enjoy the summer concerts, dog park, farmers market, etc. As an aside, he mentioned that for over five years, he worked to try to save the pool. He hopes that one day there will be a new aquatic center/pool in the park.

Steven Fishbein, local business property owner - His comments were not about the parks as he is a big park supporter but about the process. He received a ballot which was considerably more than the \$44+ and that there was no mention of Prop 218 or the ongoing nature of the assessment in the various press releases, flyers, and newspaper articles.

Pam Banks, resident – has lived in the District over the last 29 years, a member of the local Tea Party. Submitted a letter to enter into the record from the Sacramento Tax Payers Association. Questioned the decision to move to the ballot when the survey results revealed only 49.9% in support. Few if any knew about the weighed ballot. She strongly objects to the proposed assessment.

Gary Hursh, local business property owner, one of the neighbors to the Carmichael Park – has experienced property vandalism, theft of breakers and compressors and has had to clean defecation at his business property. Not too long ago, Fair Oaks Boulevard was awarded, the ugliest street. The proposed assessment goes hand in hand in improving the Fair Oaks corridor and park system - \$4 a month is a small amount to pay.

Mike Marando, resident – Has lived in the District for 25 years, said the District typically does great work. He took exception to the narrative, the weighted nature of the ballot and a latte a month. He believes that it doesn't sync up with Prop 218, not proportional to stated benefits. Questioned how much business will pay? He requested that the Advisory Board do the right thing and pull it back.

RECESS

Chairman Rockenstein called for a 10 minute recess to reconvene at 7:27 pm. to address questions.

RECONVENED

Reconvened at 7:30 pm. to answer questions that came up during public input -

Administrator Smith replied that the survey and ballot process cost approximately \$102k.

SCI consultant gave information regarding past surveys. Not all previous surveys were the same but all the results were in a range of 49% to 56% with +/- 3% margin of error.

SCI provided an explanation of the weighted ballot. The benefit to each parcel was estimated based on property type, parcel size, and location (proximity to facilities).

SCI explained that the 45 days between the mailing of the ballots and the public hearing gave the public an opportunity to contact the District with their questions and/or request information. The public hearing is another venue for the public to inquire about the proposal and is specifically required by Prop 218.

SCI indicated that business/commercial properties are assessed based on size.

SCI stated that the language used in the Engineer's Report, ballot, Notice and Information Guide used for the proposed measure are in identical form to those

used in over 100 such instruments; that these materials have been reviewed by leading Prop 218 attorneys and County Counsels - no legal cases have resulted in an order to make any changes in these materials.

The Engineer's Report for the proposed assessment does quantify general benefits and special benefits.

SCI provided the following breakdown of property owners within the proposed assessment for commercial/industrial, residential:

82% of the proposed assessment is for residential properties (other than apartments with 5 or more units)
10.2% for apartments with 5 or more units
7.2% for industrial/commercial/office
.7% for vacant property

Less than 2% of the total proposed assessment was for public properties we identified
Each \$1 represents 1 vote.

Upon request from the public, approximate total proposed assessment amounts in dollars were given for various categories of properties.

Chairman Rockenstein issued the last call for ballot submission for the proposed Parks Maintenance and Recreation Improvement Assessment. He indicated that ballots received after the close of the public input portion of the hearing would not be counted.

CLOSE OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PORTION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Rockenstein thanked everyone for their participation and then announced that the public input portion of the hearing was closed. He directed the tabulator to begin the tabulation of the ballots in this matter; that the public hearing would be continued on May 15, when the ballot tabulation is projected to be completed and announced; that if the tabulation is completed by May 15, 2014, and if the tabulation finds that a weighted majority of ballots submitted are in support of the proposed assessment this Board may consider a Resolution to levy the assessments commencing in FY 2014-15.

PRESENTATION ITEM: None

REPORTS

1. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER REPORTS (Advisory Board Members) Involved reports on activities of interest to the District

Director Borman shared that she had volunteered along with other Kiwanis members to clean-up O'Donnell Heritage Park.

Director Younger mentioned that the Budget Committee had met last week to review and recommend a preliminary budget for FY2014-15.

Chairman Rockenstein attended Creek Week, a well run event and looked forward to the Egg Hunt & Pancake breakfast.

NEW BUSINESS: None

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. **Farmers Market** – held every Sunday, 9 am – 2 pm at Carmichael Park
2. **Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast** – Saturday, April 19; Breakfast held 7 am – 11 am, Egg hunt held sharply at 10 am
3. **Park Rec & Eat It** – held the first Thursday monthly, next date: May 1, 5 – 8 pm
4. **Community Parking Lot Sale** – Saturday, May 3, 8 am – 12 pm held at La Sierra Community Center
5. **Taste of Carmichael** – Friday, May 16, 5 – 8 pm
6. **35th Annual Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale** – Saturday, May 17, 9 am – 4 pm; Sunday, May 18, 10 am – 3 pm

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Proposed Preliminary Budget FY2014-15** – Thursday, April 24 Special Meeting
2. **LSCC Mural Project** – Thursday, May 8 Special Meeting
3. **Carmichael Park Master Plan** – Thursday, May 8 Special Meeting
4. **Proposed Benefit Assessment** – Continuation of the Public Hearing, Thursday, May 15 Regular Meeting

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

1. **Special Meeting**
Proposed: Thursday, April 24, 2014 at **6:30 pm**, Community Clubhouse #2 at Carmichael Park
2. **Special Meeting**
Proposed: Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 6:00 pm, Community Clubhouse #2 at Carmichael Park
3. **Regular Meeting**
Proposed: Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 6:00 pm, Community Clubhouse #2 at Carmichael Park

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid S. Penney,
Administrative Services Manager

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

MICHAEL ROCKENSTEIN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

BETTY PHILLIPS
Administrative Secretary
Clerk of the Advisory Board of Directors