

**HESPERIA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, September 30, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.  
Lime Street Park Community Center, 16292 Lime Street, Hesperia, CA 92345**

**THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED VIA TELECONFERENCE BY DIALING  
+1 (669) 224-3412 ACCESS CODE: 502-613-589**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order via Teleconference at 3:00 p.m. by Director Blocker.

**A. Attendance**

Board Committee Members: Gonzalez, Blocker

District Staff: Chavez, Etchepare, Wyzlic

Guests: None

**Message to the Public/Public Comment**

- No public comment made.

**Discussion/Action Items**

**B. Update on the Safety Protocols at Hesperia Lake Campground Including Any Recent Incidents**

- Chavez highlighted the District is placing more signs at Hesperia Lake Campground and along the stream that encompass safety protocols. He relayed there have been a few alcohol related incidents. The District intends to limit the number of campsites that individuals can rent at one time to help offset incidents. He expressed that the presence of Park Rangers may help. Etchepare clarified that the incident at Hesperia Lake Campground involved individuals that rented multiple campsites with the intention of having a party with multiple vehicles, a DJ, alcohol, and resulted in a disturbance of other campers. Further reservations were cancelled with that individual as the Campground is designed to recreate and camp without disturbing other campers.

**C. Final Update on Lime Street Park Pool**

- Chavez advised Lime Street Park Pool closed as of September 6<sup>th</sup>. The pool is still being utilized by a swim team through the end of November.
- Chavez outlined the District has a new contractor to service and maintain the pool. Etchepare clarified that the swim team is a non-profit organization that the District has an agreement with similar to a youth sports partnership. She outlined that they have been very appreciative; she provided information on

some items that have been purchased by the swim team that have been very beneficial to our aquatics program.

#### D. Summary of Park Ranger Program Updates

- Chavez reviewed items related to the Park Ranger program that had been discussed at the last Regular Board meetings to include: retrofitting the Park Rangers to their old uniforms, service weapons, tasers, and body cams if need be. He outlined the District is working with legal to develop a contract to retain a potential contractor to provide certification services to Park Rangers.
- Blocker questioned what the timeline was to retain the contractor. Chavez stated the individual is motivated to work with the District, and there is potential for ongoing necessary training for staff with the individual. Blocker also asked if the Park Rangers were back in their previous uniforms. Chavez stated staff was advised to set appointments for the fitting of uniforms. Gonzalez requested information on what specific training the contractor would be teaching. Chavez outlined that the contractor has multiple certifications including: tasers, de-escalation tactics, verbal tactics, baton certification, firearms instructor, and law enforcement academy instructor teaching best practices. He advised that training will be streamlined to what is relevant to community needs.
- Blocker questioned the possibility of Park Rangers carrying their own personal firearm. Chavez advised the District will be trying to stay away from that option. He stated that he will need to be in communication with legal counsel and the insurance carrier to determine best practices for the District.

#### E. Vandalism and Homeless Issues at Hesperia BMX

- Chavez reviewed ongoing issues at Hesperia BMX and Live Oak Park including: issues with vandalism to restrooms, graffiti, and mischievous activities after hours. He stated the District is trying to mitigate these issues by working with SCE to add lighting. Blocker inquired about the timeline on the lighting. Chavez stated he is hoping to get this completed by the holidays.
- Blocker stated Hesperia BMX had a large event recently and questioned if there were any issues during that event. Chavez advised he was unaware of any issues specifically related to the event, however, there were some issues with vehicle scuff marks on the pavement near the BMX area, turf damage, and some gating was removed. Gonzalez recommended the Park Rangers spend more time at this location.

#### F. Employee Safety Update and Injury Report

- Chavez highlighted San Bernardino County is still in the red tier with no indication of advancement out of that tier at this time. He advised the District is still asking staff to follow COVID-19 best practices.
- Blocker requested an update on any employee or resident injuries. He questioned if the downed tree had been cleared yet.

- Chavez outlined canopy trimming and tree removal is in progress. Timberlane Park is complete; looking to address the tree canopy at Hesperia Lake.
- Gonzalez advised to take the COVID-19 situation day by day.

G. Safety Improvement Suggestions

- Chavez reiterated that canopy and tree trimming is being completed. The District will be expending money at Hesperia Lake Park. He will be looking to increase the budget for tree maintenance in the next fiscal year. He highlighted that he is hoping to hire a new staff member with certifications for play structure inspections to keep parks safe.
- Gonzalez recommended keeping up safety protocols to keep everyone safe and expressed thanks to staff.
- Blocker thanked staff for remaining safety conscious.

**Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.