

**HESPERIA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 21, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.
Lime Street Park Community Center, 16292 Lime Street, Hesperia, CA 92345**

**THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED VIA TELECONFERENCE BY DIALING
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MINUTES

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Director Roberts.

A. Attendance

Board Committee Members: Roberts, Aguilar

District Staff: Chavez, Etchepare, Garcia

Guests: None

Message to the Public/Public Comment

- No public comment made.

Discussion/Action Items

B. Hesperia Recreation and Park District Safety and Security Update

- Chavez highlighted progress on the Park Ranger program including training on and re-implementing weapons. Live Oak Park is getting better, although there are still reports of public doing drugs and problems in the public restrooms. Parking lots are being used as a haven for people to park and consume alcohol. Park signage is being updated. The District is updating ordinances, and the ability to enforce them. We have a few issues at other parks, but Live Oak Park is the epicenter of safety and security problems.
- Director Aguilar inquired about the skateboarders getting on the roofs at Lime Street Park and suggested limiting access.
- The new Administrative Operations Manager-Parks will focus on safety in the parks, including playgrounds and infrastructure.
- Director Aguilar suggested making a list of what needs to be done, and prioritize. Be proactive and get it in the budget.
- Chavez stated the District is working on canopy maintenance, which has begun at Hesperia Lake. He will look again at Hesperia Lake and creating a hindrance to the OHVs. He highlighted the new signage at the creek at Hesperia Lake directing the public to stay out of the water.
- Director Roberts asked for an overview of how we got to the point we are at with the Park Rangers, how the removal of the weapons came about. Etchepare explained the Park Ranger program has been around since the 80's in various forms. The majority of the time they were unarmed. The District

contracted a retired law enforcement officer to come in as Chief Park Ranger. The program evolved to where we hired more law enforcement officers. Etchepare took over the program when the Chief Park Ranger retired. She worked with the current General Manager and Legal Counsel to fill in voids in the program. When she served as the Interim General Manager, she brought her concerns of training deficiencies, and her discomfort with it, to the Board and they removed the firearms and Tasers until proper training was implemented. The new General Manager is working with the Board to re-implement them.

Director Roberts stated he would like to have more interaction with and a standard for the Rangers. They need the backing of the General Manager and the Board.

- Director Roberts inquired about the Park Ranger vehicles. Etchepare illustrated the following: a used vehicle was purchased in 2018. The District has a Ford Crown Victoria, and another SUV (2005). In 2018, we had \$20,000 in the budget for a vehicle. Outfitting a vehicle is pricey, and a new outfitted vehicle would run around \$60,000. He suggested reaching out to the city regarding vehicles.
- Director Roberts addressed the gopher holes, water fountains, grading, and debris near the parks.
- Chavez highlighted that this is the busiest committee and should likely meet more regularly.

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.