HESPERIA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

February 8, 2012

FLAG SALUTE

Director Gregg led the Pledge of Allegiance

CALL TO ORDER

The Hesperia Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Regular Meeting was called to order by President Limbaugh at 7:00 p.m., at Lime Street Park Community Center, located at 16292 Lime Street, Hesperia.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD PRESENT: Gregg, Chandler, Limbaugh, Hamilton, Swanson
BOARD ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Woods, Thomas

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

6. CARPD Communicator, January 2012.

Additional Written Communication:
1. Association of the San Bernardino County Special Districts meeting notice for February 27, 2012.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. Do want to do the communication thing before we ask people if they want to speak?
MR. WOODS: Well, we have a couple of written items that have come in. I got a memorandum from the State of California notifying us that they have published a list of 70 state park facilities that they’ll be closing down this year. And they are looking for any interested partners that might want to come alongside and operate those parks for them at no
cost. The closest one to us would be the Providence Mountains, Mitchell Caverns area. Most of them are in the Central and Northern California area. There were a couple down in the beach cities, but it's just really interesting and goes to talk about the state's budget crisis and some of the actions that they have to take. Let's see. Rachel put on your desk the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts upcoming meeting information, so if you would like to participate in that, please let her know. Every year and a half or so the district’s insurance provider comes and does a site visit and meets with staff, looks at our safety and our record-keeping, and today we received a letter from them that said that they would like to thank us for meeting with them on December 7th. And the bottom paragraph says "Congratulations. Your district has received no recommendations for improvement. There's no need to respond to this report." This is the first time in recent history that they haven't made some type of recommendation, however minor it may be, so I thought I would share that with you. You can read their full report of the review of our agency and our safety practices here for the district.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Good.

MR. WOODS: That is all the written communication that I have.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION**

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. So I guess we would ask if there are any public comments.

MR. WOODS: I have two cards. First, I have Mr. Lou Griggs from Apple Valley, California. Mr. Griggs?

MR. GRIGGS: Yes, sir. Good evening. I and a few of my friends are here regarding the Hesperia Lakes corral issue. It's come to our attention that they're going to be locking the corrals up and, I believe, charging $10 a day for day use per corral. And I understand that there has to be fees to maintain things and stuff, but I believe in this case, it may be excessive and a little bit unfair. If I have my facts right, they're charging $10 a day for day use for corrals, and yet we camp overnight for $20 and have two corrals. Well, up front that pricing structure doesn't seem to make sense to me. The other part is -- maybe you're not aware -- many people that use the day-use corrals probably have the horse in there for an hour or two. They didn't come to the park to park their horse in the corral. They use the corral while they're eating lunch maybe after a ride or whatever. So $10 seems like a rather high fee for that, especially when it's not normally charged for other simple day-use facilities at a park. The other point is, I believe it's counterproductive for the park. If people can't put their horses in the corral for an hour or two while they're having lunch, they're going to end up either tying them to their trailer or tying them to the outside of the corral. Far more likely to have damage to a corral where the horse is tied to the outside if a vehicle comes by and spooks the horse or whatever just from that point to damage the corrals. And also just the manure mess. If you put a sign at the corrals on in the area that people should scrape the manures to the front of the corrals, they'll do that. At least most of the people will. If they're tied to trailers and tied to outside of corrals, it becomes a much more wide-spread mess. So I don't think it really helps the park, as far as maintaining or being cost-effective with the corrals. Of course, that's just my opinion from my point of view, but anyway that's all I wanted to say on the subject.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Thank you.
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Thank you so much.

MR. WOODS: Next we have Brenda -- is it Cronk?

MS. CRONK: Cronk.

MR. WOODS: -- from Hesperia.

MS. CRONK: Good evening.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Good evening.

MS. CRONK: I own a business where I teach young children to ride, and we use the park probably, I’d say, at least weekly, sometimes every two weeks or whatever. But I take the kids down there, and we go out for, like, little day rides and stuff like that and use the corrals, you know, in between to each lunch and stuff like that. And I am in agreement with Pat or Lou that it’s a little excessive. And just, like, to give back to the -- to the kids. It's not sometimes about making money, and I think it's excessive also. But that's my opinion. And I have several girls here that belong to my group and are here to support what we're trying to say. You know, I think it's just a little much, in my opinion.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Thank you.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Thank you.

MR. WOODS: Next, we have Jack Betterley of Apple Valley.

MR. BETTERLY: Thank you very much for allowing us all to speak. I'm sure you kind of feel a little inundated with all these cowboys and cowgirls here tonight. That was not our intent, but our intent was to come and express our feelings over the horse camp. First of all, I do want to say, though, that you have put together one of the finest horse camps in Southern California. I mean we're -- we are -- it's true. Along the PCH, Corral 103 and other organizations that have put in minimal amount of money back to the recreational park district, and the park district has stepped up and done a fabulous job. We ride all over California, and we hear about Hesperia Lakes Equestrian Center all the time, and so the word is getting out. And people are more – people will use it, especially after now you’re going to utilize the arena there. You've moved the arena. Once you have a rodeo or two, that word is going to get out, and more and more people are going to be using that facility. It is understandable that there is a cost to maintain that, and we want to be able to help with that as well too. But there is a lot of day-use being used there, and there's going to be more in the future, whereas riders come in from the river or they may trail in from the day and ride out to that park, ride over to the Lost Forest property or the riverbed and spend the day and leave. If you're going to -- at a $10 a fee per corral if they have two horses in there and they're going to put the horses in at 20 bucks a day, that may get a little pricey -- or if they have three. As far as -- and I don't think there's any problem with -- at least the groups that we belong to as far as group use there. I mean, I think there should be a fee charged for the groups. If we have -- like we had a Presence Ride there here -- well, 103 Presence Ride. We had 40 riders. The only people that actually used the corrals were the people who spent the night, and they paid for that. I mean, you already have a fee for that. The rest of them tied up to their trailers because they didn't want to pay to use the corrals. Well, unfortunately, I think there should be a fee set for a group of, whether it's more than five or more than ten, whatever you come up with. And that number is -- doesn't matter if there's 40 people there or 50, every person is going to pay the amount of money to be there. If -- there has to be some cost incurred from us using it on a large group basis to maintain it. I mean, it's just -- otherwise, you can't put more facilities; you can't put more corrals in; you can't put trees in or whatever. So we don't have a problem with that. I don't
think --- I know Corral 103 does not. I know PCH doesn't. You know, whether that's a $5 fee per person or $10 fee per person, I really don't see that being a problem. It's -- really, what we're addressing is just the day-use when you come in there. Now, there is a series of fork rails that -- originally that -- when those were put in, those were used for -- only really going to be used for day-use. If you wanted to come to the corral, you could use that and go for the day. But you can't spend the night and use those corrals. If you spend the night, you've got to stay in the campground area, and you pay for those corrals that you utilize -- that you get for your camping fee. And I think that's the way it should still be. I know now -- you've got the Wranglers using it now, and that's fabulous that they're using the arena, and there's a separate agreement there with the Wranglers, so that -- there might be an issue there as well as far as charging them. But as far as groups, I don't think there's any problem charging a fee. I just think the day-use would need to be addressed and be addressed and be a little bit easier to utilize the park because we don't want to turn people away, and we don't want them to have to tie their horses up all over where somebody has to go clean that up that eventually, I'm sure. So -- but thank you very much. It's a great facility, and we really do appreciate letting us use that facility, and we plan to use it more in the future. So, thank you.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Thank you.

DIRECTOR GREGG: Thank you.

MS. RIECK: Hi, I'm Mary Rieck. I'm one of the parents of Brenda's club, the Kickers. I just want to address it again. I don't know if she made a point of how wonderful it is to let our kids learn about horses. I believe it's a nonprofit organization, so maybe her group shouldn't be charged -- because he was saying groups -- because she does a lot for the children of the community that will not have a chance to learn about horses or even that environment. Even though we live in this area, my children don't have horses, and we would not know anything about it. And she volunteers all her time -- her weekends, her holidays, everything for these kids. And even though there's a few here, there's, like, 30 kids that go to this group that learn about horses. And it's all, like, the basics. You know, she teaches safety; she teaches learning how to clean and take care of them. It's not all fun, but she does a lot for the community, and I think her group should be recognized as special and not to be charged.

MR. WOODS: That is all the comment cards that I have.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. Since you're all here tonight, I'll just briefly -- because this item is not on our agenda tonight. We're specifically not talking about whatever the deal is with your rates out there. In fact, some of the board members may not even know that's going to be becoming a problem or something like that, but in light of something that may be going to happen, it's very nice to hear from all of you, and I'm sure any decision that we decide to make as a district will incorporate your comments and thoughts before we drastically change something that you'll be back next month to say, "Why did you do that?" And in my tenure here at the park board and I can say for Director Chandler, I believe, the Teran's and a few of you other folks, have really made the relationship with the park a successful combination, and over the past we've always had a successful program with whatever -- whichever group is out there using those horse facilities, and I think that's going to continue. So I don't think that that's a -- too much of a cause for alarm, but we will work some -- something out where everybody can still function on a regular basis without too much upheaval like that. So -- but that's all I can offer you tonight, since we're not addressing that particular issue.
CONSENT ITEMS

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. I just have one discussion. If you'll notice under the claims, the Park did give the City a check for $200,000. So if you missed that, we paid our first installment on the Hesperia Civic Plaza. Just so if you saw that go out that we said we'd do it and we did it. Does anybody else have any comments?
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: The only thing, are you saying that -- and we have guests here tonight. You probably should explain that a little bit more thoroughly.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Oh, when the park over by city hall was built, the City and the Park joint-ventured in the construction of the park, and the city fronted the money for the entire park, and we agreed that we would pay it back over time, so that's part of the upfront costs we paid to the tune -- of a little less than 200,000, and now we have five years, $200,000 every year for the next five or six years to pay our part of the park off. So anyway, that's what that's all about community working together.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Hamilton, seconded by Director Chandler and carried unanimously to approve Consent Items A through D:

B. Approved Claims for Payment.
C. Accepted written staff reports
D. Authorization to advertise for bids: None

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

Meeting Recessed at 7:16 p.m.
Meeting Reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS

Recreation Programs
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Staff reports?
MR. WOODS: Before I get started on the recreation report, one of the programs that we'll be doing this year is the "No Drugs America" event, and that is on March 17th at Civic Plaza Park. They are a local non-profit organization -- "No Drugs America" and this is a program that they have offered throughout the Valley for the past five years or so.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Have we done something with them before?
MR. WOODS: No. Last year they were at the county building across the street from Civic Plaza.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah.
MR. WOODS: And they were also at Victorville and Apple Valley, and this year they're only working with us.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Oh.
MR. WOODS: So it's a day where we bring children and -- or they bring children and their families on to the park, and they promote staying away from drugs and alcohol, and they have giveaways it's a drug education program. Rachel is getting some copies to pass out to you.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: I still don't know what that thing is in the upper left-hand -- MR. WOODS: That's their logo. That's what they designed. The gentleman that actually created this organization is a local gentleman. His name is Frank Kelly, and they're a local nonprofit that we're working with to facilitate this event. Were there any questions about anything in the recreation report? You can see in December, we did pick up a few extra rentals at the Percy Bakker Center. December is one of the slower months around here because people are traveling, they have -- with all the holidays' attendance drops off a little bit, and there wasn't really anything out of the norm that occurred in the month of December.

Golf Course
MR. WOODS: The February golf specials -- Rachel is passing out the e-mail special. It's a "love theme" this month because it's February for the month of Valentine's, and its 18 holes with a cart after 10 o'clock is Monday through Friday. $15, $20 on Saturday and Sunday, and February is American Heart Month, and we're encouraging people to be heart-healthy, so by participating at the golf course and walking the golf course, not riding in a cart, you'll receive 50 percent off your walking rates, which vary depending on what time of the day you're there, and that's a part of our "Healthy Hesperia" program. We had 1,839 rounds of golf played. And we had 334 range buckets sold and 14 range cars. The staff did a "Twelve Days of Christmas" special, which you can see how many people participated in those individual days, the numbers are next to them. During the winter the grass is dormant and when the grass is dormant, we don't have to mow as much. Staff had been working on bunkers, trimming trees, debris removal, and fixing things that we don't necessarily always get to during our busy season. And the specials have been very popular. It seems like we've -- there's a lot of use, and we have some high-traffic times at the course. I believe Director Kelly played not too long ago, so hopefully, his golf game was good.
DIRECTOR GREGG: Well, my game wasn't good, but the course was looking good.

Parks Division
MR. WOODS: Maintenance report for the month of December -- staff again is getting caught up in pruning and dealing with irrigation issues, but again, it's not the time that we would be doing planting or over seeding that will come later this spring.

Park Ranger
MR. WOODS: And the same thing for the Ranger report. The most exciting thing was Jack was able to recover a stolen vehicle that was left at one of our facilities, he contacted the police department, and they came, and the owner was happy to get their car back. Any questions about any of the reports?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay.
MR. WOODS: Thank you.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Thank you. We will go back to the golf course under our committee report because we did have a committee meeting, and I think in the manager's report, there's something about the golf course too that we're going to talk about.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS


DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Item E. Discussion of the first draft of the policy manual revision. My preference would be -- I don't know if you marked them up electronically. I did not; I marked mine up manually. I have a couple of questions. If all of you folks have a couple questions, I would recommend that we just take turns and say on this page I wanted to know about this, and if they can answer your question, they will, and if not, then we'll move and get that all done and taken care of today, and then I would expect that you would fold these in, if they're legitimate concerns or need changes or updating, and then next time we come back, we would get this one and the next segment of the policy manual.

MR. WOODS: It will be a smaller segment.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Good. Excellent.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. So with no preference or order chosen, Rebekah, would you like to share first in discussing this item?

DIRECTOR SWANSON: My first item, actually, is on page 3, part 2. Does anybody want to do anything before that?

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Okay. On page 3 – powers and duties, Set Number 2 -- in the italics, it says "The Board appoints staff to carry out policies."

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Good catch.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: I don't think we appoint staff. I think we appoint -- we go to the general manager. I don't think we directly appoint staff to do things. I'm not sure if that's a point of --

MS. THOMAS: You appoint. Lindsay is your staff.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: You're our staff?

MR. WOODS: I'm the only one that's your staff.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: But to me it sounded like we appointed a group of people among all these things. Maybe I just read it wrong.

MR. WOODS: I'll double-check with Betsy, and we might insert general manager or put staff/general manager, so I'll ask her what would be more appropriate.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Okay. I don't know if that's too picky, and then it says carry out policies.

MS. THOMAS: This is not proofed yet.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That's okay.

MS. THOMAS: It will be.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Do you want us to get this --

MR. WOODS: Yes. No, you can --

MS. THOMAS: Well, you can, but it will be proofed by staff.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Oh, okay. So don't worry about that?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Well, you've got a teacher you might as well do it. Take advantage of it.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: I have time to do that. But part of some of the things they do that's not related to education is I'm a text editor for other people.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Even better.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: I know, but we might as well all work together.
MR. WOODS: I think when we ease up tonight, if we can talk about major topical issues --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: So just something like that?
MR. WOODS: If you wanted to give us that, Rachel would be more than be happy to look at --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah, more germane is the fact that staff is not clear.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Yes.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That's a legitimate question.
DIRECTOR GREGG: I agree, too, because in Subset A, it says right there, "Director is -- director shall not direct staff." So it's kind of a conflict of -- so if --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Well, at least it's clear.
DIRECTOR GREGG: If the general manager is directed to carry out the policies of the Board, then it should be set as the general manager and not staff.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Right.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: All right. Next one, Rebekah?
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Nothing more on that page. There's just -- on page 5 on the very bottom, there's mileage Subset G. And the -- it gives an example that the reimbursement is based on the rate specified in the IRS guidelines. But I was wondering if we could kind of do something, instead of being nonspecific like letter D, the last line, something "like" $200 a night, that maybe we have something similar to Item G where it says "use somebody else's guidelines so it doesn't have to change, and we don't have to go back through it and change it if things change.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: This does change annually. And this is the best one to use.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: But -- okay. But -- I like that, but what I'm saying is when you have a situation where it says something like $200 a night --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: In Item D -- I -- that also needs to be corrected.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Can we just --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Item D needs to be changed.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Okay.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Item G, though, I believe, is correct.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: No, no, I want --
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: She's using Item G as an --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: As an example --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Oh, okay.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: -- to say why can't we do something --
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: You guys are saying the same thing.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah, we are. I question that whole paragraph.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Well, I wanted to show you an example that --
(Discussion held off the record.)
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: "The current policy needs to specify a range." Well what's the range?
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Yeah, and I don't like something "like" $200 a night.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I also had that conversation.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: It doesn't sound --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Does anybody else have that comment on item -- page 5, Item D?
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Okay. All right.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Got it.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Or we could put it in an appendix and --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Well, that's a good catch.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: All right.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Keep going.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Keep going?
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Oh, you guys.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: We're all going to get our chance.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Okay. Page 7, Subset Number 4, under Number 6. It says "public request." I was wondering if maybe we could be more forward-thinking and even say that they can be provided electronically as well. Or to say that we could provide it in paper form or -- and/or electronic.
DIRECTOR GREGG: What number are you looking at?
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Number 4 under 6, page 7.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Public Request.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Public request for expanded agenda information and also -- I would think any public requests -- maybe we can start providing those on discs or some other way of -- like our -- because we have some things that are on our Web site --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That's something that is --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: -- that should be clickable.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That's something maybe they need to find out about because, you know, we are going to start putting --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Communications.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- future things on the Web site. For past things, though --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Do we --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- the intent of --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: We should archive that stuff, I think.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The intent of that -- for the Freedom of Information Act is somebody can request something, but they have to pay for it. Okay? And I'm not an expert at it, and staff may be able to tell -- if somebody doesn't want a hard copy but wants an electronic copy, like a disc or like a --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Like an e-mail.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- like an e-mail, do they still have to pay? Because somebody has to go --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Get it, yeah.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- get that information.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah, but you don't pay for the staff. That's the problem with the law.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: It's only the photocopies.
MS. THOMAS: Right.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Just the copies.
(Discussion held off the record.)
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: They can check that out, but I think it's a good idea if it's possible to give the person the option to receive it if it's an easier way. Let's say there's a section of minutes or something, Rachel, from two years ago, if you could just go back in your computer and, you know, attach it as an e-mail, and that would -- if that's legal -- we would do that rather than have to have the --
MS. THOMAS: Well, we would have to do it -- it would have to be PDF.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Like a PDF, yeah.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Find out about what the law is right now.
MR. WOODS: Well, we'll touch base with Betsy on it to see what other people are doing as well.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: It's worth asking.
MR. WOODS: Right. And I made the note.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Okay. Most of the rest is just is, you know, little grammatical things, like, where is a comma? and that kind of stuff, so I'm not going to address those things. Sorry.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: And you have them all written down? You have them all written down, and you're going to give them your copy, too, so they can catch it.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Trying to be thorough. I'd like to go through it one more time just to make sure I didn't miss anything, but I didn't -- some of the things seemed like they -- well, kind of -- there's not a lot of changes after that, and it looks like most of these things are just -- they're small changes or clarifying things and that kind of -- so I didn't see anything that stuck out like that. So I will --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That's it.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: That's it for me right now.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Director Hamilton?
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: On page 6 -- I was just really -- by way of a question more for Rachel, it says under -- on page 6 there's age reporting, "I" ethics training. I thought that sexual harassment was also mandated, and if it is, we should include it as "J."
MS. THOMAS: It is not required for the board of directors. It is required for staff that supervises employees.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Okay.
MS. THOMAS: But CSDA said it was a good idea for the Board to go through it, just to be aware of it.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Should we make it a Board policy instead of just the recommendation that you've given us in the past?
MS. THOMAS: You could.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: That's something for your guys to think about.
MS. THOMAS: Well, it would be up to the Board to decide if you wanted to spend another two-hour training like that.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah.
MS. THOMAS: It's not required of you.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: We could even do an online deal or something.
MS. THOMAS: Right. We have that available.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Right. But the question is, right now I think every board member has taken a session of harassment training. Would that be something the board majority wants to put in the policy?
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: I don't see why not. I mean, we did that -- I think I did it online last time, didn't we?
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: My comment to my fellow board members -- I am not advocating, with strong emotion or passion, that we include it. It's just something that I think we should think about. Do we want to do that or not?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: You know, my thought would be, having done -- where I worked before -- the sexual training, and they didn't have the ethics training then; we just had to do the sexual harassment training. It seems the ethics training, even though it doesn't touch on the sexual part, it does really touch on the abuse of our position.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Sure.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: And maybe that is enough to handle the sexual harassment idea, even though it's not specifically related to sexual harassment. That's just my feeling. But I'm open. I mean, obviously, if it makes you a better Board member to understand sexual harassment, especially in a district that you have to deal with policy regarding sexual harassment, from that aspect, yeah, then maybe we should do it.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Well, we can think about it. I mean, I'm not advocating pushing for it. But it's something to think about, I mean because we all do it anyway.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: What do you guys think?
(Discussion held off the record.)
MS. THOMAS: Right. And we could still offer it to you. It's just not required by law.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: It's just not requiring it in here. Mike, the only other question I had -- and I'm not sure; maybe it will be addressed at some point -- but we had talked before about the general manager's contract. You know, meetings to determine that, the length of that. Where does that come? Is that in the next section that we get, or would that even be part of Board policy?
MS. THOMAS: That's not part of Board policy.
MR. WOODS: That's a separate contract document.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: It will be in the policy of the district that the district has a contract with the general manager. But that's a -- it won't speak to the specifics of a contract.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Okay. Fine I'm done.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That's it?
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: That's it.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Directly Chandler did not bring his with him, but he will forward it to them. And if there's anything substantial that he might have brought now that needs to be changed make sure you mark it in the --
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: I can bring in and talk to you anyway before we talked about it on the phone.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The abridged -- the revised version that we didn't talk about that -- tonight.
MS. THOMAS: Okay.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: So we'll note to look for it. Okay. Kelly?
DIRECTOR GREGG: Number -- page 4, Number 4 -- if I can just get some clarification on that. I mean, when I read that, I read it, and I read it, and I read it again. And it's . . .
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Reimbursement for training and education conferences?
DIRECTOR GREGG: Yes. That's in addition to three?
MS. THOMAS: Correct. Three is your board remuneration that you receive for attending this meeting or any committee meetings.
DIRECTOR GREGG: Correct.
MS. THOMAS: Number 4 is talking about if you're being reimbursed because you go to a training or a conference or education.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: That's in -- it says "in addition to."
DIRECTOR GREGG: Right. And that's . . .
MS. THOMAS: So it's the S? Is that all you're talking about?
DIRECTOR GREGG: Other than that, I just made some small notes on my copy at home, but other than that I don't have anything. Just the comment that stuff that Rebekah brought up would probably be the same concerns I had.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. I have three. One's on page 5. And I -- that -- the Item C at the top of the page "meals, maximum amounts." And a couple meetings ago we had talked about -- and did we revise these to what -- We feel these are legitimate?
MS. THOMAS: The Board revised this section maybe three or four years ago. Not too long ago. So these are the current -- that this is --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: You know, I don't know, but I don't know where anywhere you can go eat dinner for $16 at -- anywhere.
MR. WOODS: That could be challenged.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I'm just saying outside of our area.
DIRECTOR GREGG: What's the -- is there a standard? Is there some sort of a --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The state has a standard. They have a --
DIRECTOR GREGG: Do you know what it is, Rachel?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: They have a basic per diem rate. I don't know what it is right now.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Can we just use the standardized rate?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: My guess, it's at something like 80 or $90 a day for food.
DIRECTOR GREGG: That what we usually get when we go to --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: You know, that's my guess. That's my guess. And as receipts must be provided, otherwise it's not paid. Okay? That's a given. I think maybe rather than have this meals maximum amounts, we put a daily per diem for meals as well with the hotel which you're going to change too, that's something like $200, and that you make that amount, but it has to be substantiated with receipts. So in other words, if I go out and my limit is 80 bucks, but let's say, you know, for breakfast I have a bagel for $5, and I'm at the airport and for lunch and I have tuna sandwich $12, and I have dinner for $40 at -- what's the nicest restaurant? Italian Kitchen. Okay. And that's -- I spent $60, but I give him the itemized receipt, so then I'm not going to have to spend, "Oh, I spent $9 on breakfast and $14 on lunch and . . ." You know. So maybe that might be a better policy. Also that it doesn't include any -- I don't know what -- if the specifics says no alcohol or --
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah, it's written in there already.
DIRECTOR GREGG: It's in there.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Oh, it's in there?
MS. THOMAS: No alcohol.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I missed that. Okay. All right.
DIRECTOR GREGG: No spouse. No guests. No --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: So rather than having these three numbers where we have to ratchet down, maybe just see what the state does, and then we can adjust. You would be free to adjust it --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Oh, similar organization.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- accordingly, you know, as time goes by. The other question I have is on page 12. This is -- it's more of a semantics thing, and it's -- every time you wrote that "shall be left to the lowest responsible bidder and after competitive bidding it, should be responsible/responsive." Those are -- and I think if you ran that by Betsy, she would agree that's the legal term in state contract law. "Responsible and responsive."
MS. THOMAS: You're the one that wrote it.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Cal probably took out the other part. So "responsible and responsive" -- those are two terms they use. And that's all I had, so if you'll save these and give them to them after the meeting. And if you should think of anything else that would come up in this policy -- and I might say that I don't think that this is written in stone yet, so until we get the whole thing put together and adopt, we'll always have the opportunity to re-comment or revisit any of these areas, like the sexual harassment area. Okay? Anybody else have any other comments on that?
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: I'd just like to comment on the sexual harassment subject. And I think -- I, for one, I am -- I'm for that because it gets up to all of us to protect the integrity of the park district in any way we can. I think that it's not that expensive and it's not that time consuming, and I think that we should just do it, just to do it. It should become part of our training that we're supposed to be getting.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: You mean you would want it to be mandated?
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Yeah. It really doesn't require that much time, that much effort. It is costly but it's cost effective, and it doesn't really amount to that much, but I think it should be part of our policy that we do those -- we do that. That's my own personal opinion.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. We'll look into it.
MR. WOODS: We'll take your comments and questions and clarify, and then we'll also move all Betsy's comments that you did not make any comments into the body of the text and bring back a second draft that should be ready to go, barring any other discussion.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: And the remainder of the policy.
MR. WOODS: And a section of the --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The next section.
MR. WOODS: -- policy where it's getting into some of all the facility rules and regulations and things, so some of that is going to take a lot more time, I think, chewing on them, to get a history and an understanding of why things are the way that they are.
DIRECTOR GREGG: Just -- I have one question. That sexual harassment, that's not just for the Board. That's across the board?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: No.
DIRECTOR GREGG: The district --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yes. That's mandatory for them.
DIRECTOR GREGG: Okay.
MS. THOMAS: Any managers -- anybody that supervises employees is required to --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Which almost implies we should do it too.
MS. THOMAS: Like your ethics training, every two years, same type of thing.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: It's only a couple of hours.
DIRECTOR GREGG: I'm not opposed to it.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. I mean, it's not like a week-long or where you have to go. Okay.

F. Ratify the HG & CC Agreement and Extensions

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Moving right along. Ratify the Hesperia country club agreements and extension. And Lindsay you want to -- we talked about this last meeting, and recommended that you take the appropriate action, so why don't you explain if we vote on this, what we're going to be ratifying, and what that means for us in regards to the city. The RDA, the golf course, and things, past and present.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Boy, that was a long one.
MR. WOODS: When the city bought the golf course, they bought it with RDA funds. With Assembly Bill 26, RDAs were dissolved and any properties that were purchased in RDA funds or were held in the RDA, had to be given to successor agencies. In that, the Board had originally discussed with the previous general manager that they wanted to enter into an interim operating and license agreement with the RDA to operate the golf course. It was originally a 45-day agreement, I believe, and then there were subsequent extensions done. Although it was the intent of the Board for that to happen, we could not find anywhere in the minutes where staff was directed to enter into that agreement, and that's why we are bringing this back to you because the city would like to see clarification in that because of everything that's going on with the RDA. So they want to make sure that these are enforceable obligations that we intend to operate the golf course for the city of Hesperia or whoever the subsequent agency is.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I'd like to open it for up for any discussion you have on any of these things that are in Attachment F because there are quite a few of them. Some of them are pretty repetitive. Does anybody have any questions regarding these agreements and extensions and what it is that we're going to be agreeing to? How long does that expose us if we ratify this? I should say, how long are we now obligated?
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: 2015.
MS. THOMAS: January 1st.
MR. WOODS: But if you notice that we do not have an executed -- that's not back from the city.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Understand.
MR. WOODS: But it would take us through 2015. And the current terms are more flexible than the direction that the original bullet points for the five-year agreement that I was working with the city manager on.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Do you see anything in any of these agreements; Lindsay that would put us on the hook for something that we don't know about that the city might ask us for?

MR. WOODS: No, they're very simple. Betsy has looked at them. If we really had a problem, I believe that the city would allow us out of it, or there may be an ability to legally opt out.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I mean, they're not going to say, "Well, you know, we really didn't want to get those golf carts. You made us get them so . . ."

MR. WOODS: We have a separate agreement for the golf carts.

MS. THOMAS: Right.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay.

MS. THOMAS: We're covered for that.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: How about the water aspect?

MR. WOODS: There's no indication of anything discussed with the water.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: "Here's your $2 million water bill for the last three years." They wouldn't do that?

MR. WOODS: I don't believe that they would.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Who pays the electricity for the pumps?

MS. THOMAS: We do.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: This is related to my history. Working together. I feel uncomfortable about this thing about the 2015. I just do. And I'd like to know if something ever happened, we see the economy just fall apart, and we couldn't back out of this in some way, is that possible to do that? If we sign this thing -- it says 2000- -- January 2015 – are we locked into that no matter what or what?

MR. WOODS: That does not mean that it can’t be cancelled. Mike and I agree we need to do what is best for the community.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Then that needs to be put somewhere in this document. That needs to be spelled out in some way like that. I think that we need -- we need to have the -- the discretion to do that. But it should be – it should be printed within the document someplace.

DIRECTOR GREGG: And I think that the city is not paying us anything to run that golf course.

MR. WOODS: You are correct.

DIRECTOR GREGG: So it's really of no benefit to us, other than the recreation aspect to the citizens of Hesperia. It's --

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Correct.

DIRECTOR GREGG: -- in a sense costing us an excessive amount of money, especially with the restaurant issue, and the restaurant is part of this issue because it's part of the golf course, and I just -- you know, I'm the same way as Bob. I just don't feel comfortable. I think we should have the upper hand if we want out of that golf course, and it's starting to tax the other benefits to the citizens of Hesperia that we need to be able to pull out of it, no questions asked. We're doing them a favor. I don't like this whole golf-course thing, and when I flipped to this last page and seen a document back here signed by Cal Camara that had his date on it of February 6, 2011, I know it's not a good document. This is the same document that we just talked about at the last meeting.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Right. We're going to make new. We're going to make a new one for that.
MS. THOMAS: And this does say "or the execution of a long-term operating management agreement." So this isn't saying that you're locked in at this point. It's the lease until that long-term agreement that Lindsay has been working with Podegracz on. That's what it says on this final extension.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: So I think, based on what you're going to hear in our committee -- and Jack can speak a little bit about this, too, and if you've read Lindsay's report, you know we're making some changes to the golf course that will get rid of some of the hemorrhaging. Staff has set into motion a system to track to figure out what our indirect costs other than physical park there, we're paying their salaries. Those two things alone may show that we have to do some other changes at the golf course anytime we want, without getting harmed, which is very --

DIRECTOR GREGG: In its current state?

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yes, in its current state.

DIRECTOR GREGG: I don't know. It's not --

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Well, how would we be harmed? We give them ten days' notice; we're out.

DIRECTOR GREGG: And that's in here?

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah.

DIRECTOR GREGG: Where's that at, Mike?

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: You have to give a 10-day --

DIRECTOR GREGG: That's on the breach?

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah, on the breach.

DIRECTOR GREGG: I think that that's what Bob is talking about.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: (Reading.) "Termination for breach. The aggrieved parties provide ten days' notice to the breaching party." Well, that's the city that provides the notice.

DIRECTOR GREGG: Yeah.

MS. THOMAS: "The aggrieved party." So that could be either/or.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: It's just that --

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: And we would probably not do that to the city.

DIRECTOR GREGG: This language is very - is very --

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: What was the agreement that we were going to sign had things not changed with the state for termination? Thirty-day notice?

MR. WOODS: It wasn't even to that point, Mike. Just had bullet points listing agreement conditions like if you make "X" amount of dollars above your direct expenses, to pay for water if you exceed this amount.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: No, but I mean if we wanted out of the agreement regardless of the finances.

MR. WOODS: There was no provision --

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: There was no clause for a termination?

MS. THOMAS: It hadn't gotten that far yet.

MR. WOODS: It wasn't in the contract document format. It was bullet points that he wanted to begin discussing before it was put into contract form. So there was no cancellation clause. It was just a bullet point, discussion items.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I mean, because indirect, whether we approve this tonight or not, once we find out what our financial situation is with the golf course, I think we're going to
DIRECTOR GREGG: And a couple things that Lindsay just said is that some discussion items in that bullet point are as "how much are we going to pay if we have an 'X' amount of increase in revenue?" Then we're going to start paying for water. Well, if we have an "X" -- if we don't have an excess amount of revenue, is the city going to start funding the building project? It says right here that the only good thing about that golf course -- or the only -- I'm sorry. "The facility is accepted as is and is not and shall not be responsible -- the licensee --" meaning the city -- "is not going to be responsible for the condition of the facility. At present only the golf course and the driving range in operational." And I was just out there last week, and the driving range doesn't look operational at this point either. So that's telling me that the restaurant -- none of that -- it's just going to continue to cost this district money to operate that as a recreational facility for the public. And it's going to be a small amount of people enjoying a lot of money going out from our district.

MR. WOODS: And it's the Board decision as to if they want to operate a golf course, I am sure you're going to have to analyze the numbers at year-end to determine "is this an acceptable profit? loss?" and set some standards. To my knowledge those standards have not been set as of yet. It was a trial-basis, interim agreement to operate this facility, and I believe that I've indicated in my Board report -- or my general manager's report that I'm in a position to make some changes that will significantly reduce some of the expenditures that are happening down there. As far as the range goes, it's not profitable for us to water the range. So it's not worth going over our water allotment, so we shut the water off.

DIRECTOR GREGG: And those discussions -- I mean, you can go back to the city all you want to, and in terms of "if it becomes profitable for the park district," it's probably never going to be profitable for the park district.

MR. WOODS: It may not be, but those were just talking points. I had told the board, "I'll bring back any agreement for us to go through to look at." The Civic Plaza agreement took four years to get -- Mike and I were trying to begin conversations to talk about the hot topics. Then we were going to put it into a format, bring it back to respective boards, have the conversation about what they're comfortable with, what they're not comfortable with, before that agreement was executed. I would not have been signing that agreement without that.

DIRECTOR GREGG: I think you need to really seriously consider putting a more easily opt-out clause into this instead of number 7.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I don't think we're here to debate these old past documents.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: No.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay? Because actually, this document that we will approve tonight is only to show an outside agency that we don't have any relationship to -- that we at some time assumed a responsibility with the city. Period. That's all this is for. We don't have the luxury right now to go back and change these documents until we finally end up with it. And if we decide to keep the golf course after some time from now, after we look at what we're making and what we're not making, and then that's the time that we need to ratchet the agreement down with the city that doesn't expose us to any financial potential loss to the Park District.
DIRECTOR GREGG: There's nothing currently saying that we're in -- under contract with them to run that golf course.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Just these previous documents for that perpetuated --
DIRECTOR GREGG: That expired --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That perpetuated based on the --
DIRECTOR GREGG: -- expired 90 days from --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- the one that Cal signed, and that's why we're --
MS. THOMAS: To ratify.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- here right now because the one document that we were going to sign with the city, we haven't hit the final take on that one. It's still with the city. And then in the process of us determining the final lease agreement for the golf course, this whole upheaval about the RDA happened. And so there is no more RDA, and that agreement is with the RDA, and it's not even done. So we're basically just trying to support the City in their effort so that they don't have to pay back the money that they used to buy the golf course with. I guess that's what it's about.
MR. WOODS: We're supporting the city; they've asked for our help. It was the Board's intention that we take on the golf course, the operations, and that we would operate it for a period of time that was not specified. I do know that this Board approved an agreement in regards to the golf carts with the City, which shows that intent right there, it was a three or four year agreement, said that we were going to begin there for a period of time to that term. And all the City is asking for is that we close those gaps, as it was our intention to run the course for them.
DIRECTOR GREGG: And if they don't show that there was an operator for running that golf course, would they have to repay that RDA money back to the golf course?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: We don't know. That's their potential outcome.
MR. WOODS: Every attorney that you talk to will tell you four different interpretations of --
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Could be five or ten years --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The state doesn't even know. Depending on how much money they get from --
MR. WOODS: And until a court makes a ruling, no one will know.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: It will be five or ten years before we know.
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Yeah, but you know what --
DIRECTOR SWANSON: This is why I wanted --
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: -- the complexion of our physical status as far as the golf course is concerned has changed within the last couple of years. That's our concern right now. When I have -- yourself, when you're a manager, and you're telling me that, "Well, maybe we can get out of this. There should be something that's fixed. With any kind of a document, if we're going to continue on with this, it should say, "We can -- this is what we're going to do. We have the ability to leave when we want to leave." Period.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Who did we make the --
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: The City is having fiscal problems now. Okay? And we're trying to address some of our fiscal problems down there at the golf course right now. We're taking some good steps, so I just -- you know, I just don't want to get locked into anything that's going to keep us there where we have to fight to get out of it. I don't want that.
DIRECTOR GREGG: Or continues to put into jeopardy the other recreation portions.
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Because things have changed you know?
MR. WOODS: I understand that.
DIRECTOR GREGG: I’d like some clarification as far as this. Just reading the first paragraph of this form, it doesn't even look like we have a contract with the City. We had this contract with the RDA, and the RDA is no longer in existence, so therefore, we shouldn't be under contract with anybody.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: And legally you may be you may be correct.
DIRECTOR GREGG: So why -- again, with the money -- and we're going to talk about this in the --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I think all we're saying as a board tonight is that, yes, when those documents came to us; we had an interim agreement with the City to operate the golf course. Period. That's really all it is. That's all we're going to document tonight if we adopt that. From a financial standpoint, the bottom line is the first full year -- June 2010 to June 2011 -- the golf course, bottom line, made money, including the restaurant, if you don't add overheads. DIRECTOR GREGG: That's right.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: We don't know what the overheads should be. Okay? And at committee we tried to get an idea. They're now tracking their hours that non-present golf course people spend in support of the administration of that facility. If it's anywhere close to the number that we use when we talk about recreation programs, whether they're viable or not at a 30 percent return, that we are definitely going to run over to the City Hall and tell them we don't want the golf course anymore because we are losing to the tune of 150- to $200,000 a year. We can't afford that for a year. So right now --
DIRECTOR GREGG: We could if we didn't have to make the payment for the Park.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah.
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: We understand that.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: So we need to look at that whole situation down the road. But I think just tonight, we're just verifying something that we should have taken a board action on when Cal was involved with promoting us taking over the golf course. We should have made a board action then, and we did not because we always were waiting for the final agreement with an agency now that doesn't exist to purchase the golf course. So it's a real gray area which, I think, works to our advantage from the standpoint that, you know, if this doesn't pan out, who's going to come after us? There is no more RDA, so all those people -- they're not coming after us.
DIRECTOR GREGG: All right. But the City -- the City could, in turn, come after us.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The City might make us look like it was our fault if things didn't work out; that's very true.
DIRECTOR GREGG: Do we want to absorb that image from --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I believe long before that, though, we'll know whether we're knocking at the City's door, telling them that financially the golf course is not viable, even for the Park District, and we're their best shot at operating the golf course because otherwise they have to pay somebody to come in there and then somebody comes in there and tries to operate that golf course, they're going to want a minimum guarantee, and that would -- and then that means it's -- money's got to come out of the City coffers, knock down the Parks. So I think from that aspect we're safe right now.
DIRECTOR GREGG: Well, it came out of our pockets $6,000 in this December.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Well, yeah, if you look at the new one, it's a little bit more too. But contrary to that, then, in June, maybe you'll make 30 grand to offset that, and that's what this showed -- the first full year that we operated it. This sheet right here.

MS. THOMAS: No.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: No.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: That's what the committee was looking at.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: I understand both sides of the thing. I think all we are doing by approving this motion is affirming the fact that we did intend to have a relationship with the RDA to do business. And for me it's almost an honesty issue. We said we were going to do it; we should do it. But I have major concerns about these kind of things they're bringing up. And I'm not sure anybody can answer them because the whole legal mess RDA is in -- you know, as far as the Governor Brown kind of stymieing all the RDAs in the whole state; it's a mess. Nobody is going to know. Our biggest concern will be whenever Lindsay and Mike get a chance to pound out some kind of a real contract, the things that are being brought up tonight, like getting out of it and breaches and stuff. We have to protect our rights. We have to protect, and so we'll probably be more militant than we would have been in the beginning because of these issues.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Rebekah?

DIRECTOR SWANSON: I think Jack expressed kind of what I've been feeling. It's very frustrating to me that we're caught into an RDA issue that we didn't make, that nobody can explain to us. But I think our intent was clear, and this follows our intent, and this is all we have right now. And I think you guys have expressed my thoughts and misgivings as well.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. I'll call for the question then.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Chandler, seconded by Director Hamilton and carried with a vote of 3 Ayes: Limbaugh, Hamilton and Swanson and 2 Noes: Gregg and Chandler to ratify the agreement for the interim operation of the golf course and extensions thereto and confirm the execution by the General Manager.

SPECIAL REPORTS

General Manager

MR. WOODS: The employee years of service -- we're getting closer. We've met with a couple of the employee groups, and they've given us some ideas on things that they would -- it would be meaningful for them as far as recognizing it for their years of service, so we're currently getting information from local businesses. And we will -- that will be a phased-in approach. The first group that we'll be recognizing, other than the first-year individuals, will be the five years. And we hope to do that soon. And then we'll work on the 10 years to 15 to 20 to 25s.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Lindsay, just a real quick question on that. Who are you going to include in that? Would be everybody that --

MR. WOODS: It's everyone.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Everybody? So we're talking a huge group of folks?
MR. WOODS: We currently have, I believe, 180, 185 people on staff.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah, I was going to say, 200 people you're talking about.
MR. WOODS: Moving on to the Bridal & Quinceanera Fair. If you noticed behind my report, there's some information that was put in the Board packet. There's the Hesperia banquet facilities flyer, and then also the price sheet that you've looked at. And there was also a trifold that staff worked on to have available. We've received a lot of positive feedback from that venue. People were very happy with the prices that we have. We have local businesses that are caterers. DJs, Party Supplies -- people that are now helping promote our facility because the more money they saved on the facility, the more they can spend on some of these other things, so they are very excited to be helping us with that. Staff did a really good job. There are actually some online videos -- interviews that were shot of our staff at the facility, and I've heard a lot of positive comments throughout the community regarding that.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Lindsay, just another quick question. Who -- maybe I shouldn't even put this in terms of competition, but who are we competing with? Would it just be the Foremost?
MR. WOODS: You're competing with Foremost, the Courtyard, Spring Valley Lake.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Okay.
MR. WOODS: Apple Valley -- any facilities -- the Inn.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: But as far Hesperia, it's Foremost and the Courtyard?
MS. THOMAS: Well -- and Hasty’s Ranch.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Okay. I was just kind of curious.
MR. WOODS: We are putting this information on the Web site so that it's more readily available, and if you need any more of these items, feel free to ask me for them and I'll get that to you. Rachel and I just went through to that Public Sector Employment Law Conference, and all the sessions were put on by attorneys. You had two attorneys from the same law firm presenting on the same subject, and you couldn't even get them to agree on the interpretation. Very interesting. We brought back some good information on things that we need to consider, so we'll be looking at those as we have time. Next month I will have your John Swisher plan available for approval -- what we plan to do and the request for funding approval. The 9/80 work week -- Rachel, I believe, is scheduled to meeting with the majority of the staff that are affected by that for tomorrow, and we'll catch up any stragglers the following week, and there's some forms and paperwork that need to be filled out, so we're still on track for the 9/80 workweek to take effect February 25th. And the auditors have been here. The auditors have met with the audit committee, and they have left, and now they're putting together our audit. And I'm sure that the audit committee will speak to that meeting. The next item that is the Legends Restaurant. After operating it for nearly 17 months, the restaurant has proven not to be a viable option for our agency to continue to do. I believe that now is the time for us to get out of the restaurant business. We will be losing, possibly, one staff member. And all of the other staff members that will be affected by the closure have other duties within the district at the golf course that they can move into as we get ready for the spring golf push. So that will ease some of the financial discomfort that we've had at the golf course. And it will help us to streamline our operations down there. It will help us to focus on -- all we're doing is having a facility available for rental. People can still have business meetings. People can still have weddings, receptions, whatever, but they will be responsible for their own food. The bar will remain open. And with the bar there will be limited food service. When we took over the golf
course, they had hot dogs, chips, and cookies, and various things like that, which the golfers appreciate because it's fast food; they can get back out on the course. We will be doing similar menus items, and staff is exploring what type of microwaveable items we might be able to do as well, like maybe a hamburger or a chicken sandwich or -- along that line. The rest -- the bar is actually -- had -- before we opened up the restaurant -- proven to be financially sound, so we anticipate that the continued operation of the bar will be of benefit to the district. This will allow us to focus on what we're in business for, and that is recreation. Any questions or comments?

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: You didn't say anything about the BMX.

MR. WOODS: Oh, I'm sorry. BMX -- we're still going back and forth, back and forth. I tried to get an update, and the individual with ASD was out of the office, and I'm playing e-mails back and forth with Mr. John David with -- I don't know if it's USA BMX or ABA BMX. It depends on whether it's an e-mail or a letterhead I get from him, but we're still moving forward with that. We just need them to give us a proposal, so they can bring the finalized proposal to the Board for approval so that we can begin the project. Any other questions or comments? Thank you.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Financial -- talking about that. Anybody have any questions about that? Okay.

MR. WOODS: I would ask that no one mention the fact that we're closing the restaurant as of yet. I'm kind of in an interesting situation. If I make that decision, and I notify the staff before the Board, the Board might not appreciate it. If I notify the Board before the staff, and the staff gets wind of it, then the staff is upset with me.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: You have a staff meeting at 9:30 tonight to tell them?

MR. WOODS: We're having a staff meeting tomorrow to meet with the staff to notify them, so I would just ask that you not --

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: So he can tell them that the Board approved the closing of the restaurant.

MR. WOODS: That's not what I'm going to say.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: I'm only kidding.

MR. WOODS: And I also prepared a news release that will be released to the media, similar to what we did with Green Flag, to notify the public, and we'll be posting the information at the facility as well.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Don't forget to throw in those February specials, too, in that -- in the public release, yeah. About, you know, $15 walking -- $20. If the weather gets nice again -- you know, it's going to be, like, almost 70 degrees Friday, whatever. Okay. Any other questions for the general manager? All right.

**Board Member Reports**

**Recreation Foundation – Chandler/Gregg**

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Board member reports. Foundation. Director Chandler?

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Yes, if you look at your minutes in the back of your -- if you will -- it pretty much speaks for itself, except for the fact that Percy Bakker is the president again this year, and Carol Hill is the vice-president. It's good to see you here tonight, Jeanie.

MS. HELSLEY: Thank you.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Thank you for coming. That's all I have.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Tri-Agency. Rebekah?
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Well, kind of a short meeting today. Everything that Lindsay discussed was the first on the agenda, so I'm looking at my notes. Mike started out with kind of a -- the downer note that we may not be able to get the money for the interchange that they wanted to put in because of the RDA issues. However, he did say that those funds may have a chance at being replaced because our project is ready to go, and it's further down the road than others. I think they're trying to get money from SANBAG from other projects that are stalled because they lost RDA funds.

MS. THOMAS: No. RDA.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: It's the SANBAG portion that we're probably not going to get?
DIRECTOR SWANSON: To replace the RDA.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: They announced that the Santa Fe Avenue section would be closed for sewer line work. The movie theater wants to hold a groundbreaking later this month. They've closed escrow, and they want to be opened by November. Walmart is saying that they want to be open by October.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Wow.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: So whoa! That's pretty quick. Joanne's Fabric is going to open in March. There's going to be hearing on the new trash fees on February 21st at the next city council meeting.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Yeah, we had a really good meeting, but before we get into that part of this, I just want to -- do any of you realize how hard it is to get such an excellent report on your safety status with the district?

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Oh, I'm so proud of our district for that.
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: I mean, that’s unbelievable, and not one thing. They didn't come up with one thing for the whole district. So congratulations to our staff and everyone involved.

MR. WOODS: I'll pass that along.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: Excellent job. Outstanding. Anyway, Jack, feel free to jump in here if I forget anything. But you all have an opportunity to read over the minutes that we -- or not the minutes, but minutes of the safety meeting that they had.

MS. THOMAS: The staff safety.

DIRECTOR CHANDLER: And that was very good; we discussed that. We discussed the Ranger situation with Jack. Jack attended the meeting, and it was very good. We learned that there is an increase in gang activity, but within the city but, fortunately, not on our Park District’s -- the parks too much. Parks aren't being affected by that activity very much. So we're thankful for that. And we also learned that Jack has a really good rapport with many, many people in the community who even are gang-affiliated, and so he's able to get along with these folks and that we're working very well with the City police department in protecting the park district. So that was a good report on that part of it. It was just -- overall, it was a good report, and I think, Lindsay, you made a suggestion to me later or this afternoon about -- we were talking about -- during the meeting about Jack and I attending the staff safety meeting just to go and encourage them and just to see what their meetings were like. And Lindsay suggested -- or he's thinking about actually having -- combining safety meetings together. The meeting that Jack and I had as a board -- as Board members along with the staff, so we'll see how that works out.

MR. WOODS: And the reason for that is when the information that they're seeing is three to six months old by the time that we're seeing it because they meet, the minutes -- they meet the minute -- or the week after the staff meets, the minutes are not ready, so they're actually seeing the minutes from two quarters before that were approved at that meeting. This way, it will give them a better feel for the pulse of what's going on with our safety efforts here in the district because they'll be hearing it more real-time than hearing about it three to six months later. That's all I have to report.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: I just want to say something. I was just -- a couple quick comments, Mike. One relates a little bit to what Lindsay was saying. Both Bob and I felt that we wanted to have a quarterly meeting, so there will be a quarterly meeting of the safety committee always following, unless Lindsay changes the format following the staff safety committee meeting, so that way we would have access to what the staff is doing as far as their plan for safety in the district. It's an interesting concept he just brought up because that was one of my concerns at the meeting was we were getting the minutes from, I think, October or something like that. And so it -- and it was going back so far, and they had already met again, but you know, because the staff fund, they didn't have a chance to get us the most recent minutes as they went through that. But you know, the other thing that I would say, it still seems like one of our biggest problem areas is Malibu Park.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Uh-huh. And Faseo.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Jack mentioned that with some of the local neighborhoods. They're trying to have a relationship with some of the, you know, neighbors, trying to do a good job, but it seems like -- and I would agree with Bob that, you know, so far we haven't been highly infiltrated by some of the gang activity, but it seems like that's just going to take ongoing
vigilance, and it seems like once that happens, it's really hard to turn it around. So it's better to be proactive up front than reactive after it's happened.

MR. WOODS: And the problems that we're having there is due to when you put parks in high density home areas that are passive parks. Because the parks are not active. You don't have people out participating in those activities that tend to -- those people. So those are things to keep in mind when we're looking at future development and projects that are coming on the horizon.

DIRECTOR SWANSON: Especially when they're foisted upon us by the developer, and they're not planned parks that we've had a hand in.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: I -- thank you, Mike. That was all I had.

**Personnel Committee – Hamilton/Limbaugh**

No meeting held.

**Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee – Hamilton/Limbaugh**

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: We had a meeting on the golf course Monday, and our first concern was, you know, about the financial aspects of the golf course, and of course, we had gotten our Board packet on Friday, so we knew that Lindsay was planning to close the restaurant, which has repeatedly lost money. So the committee -- their recommendation was, "Oh, that's a good idea; let's close the restaurant." And the other ideas that we talked about -- because just as a matter of fact, if our overhead is supporting the golf course, and the district is having to kick in an amount that we shouldn't have to pay for anything at the golf course to start with, but if we are subsidizing the golf course for any reason -- that there are other ways also to cut funds. For instance, we don't have to stay open 12 months out of the year. We don't have to stay open seven days out of the week. So there are things that can also trim costs that we haven't had to do yet. And I think the committee's recommendation to our director was, "Let's run the course this year -- funny play on words, huh? -- see how we are financially at the end of the year, and then have the Board take a look at the golf course and figure out what we need to do. We all in the committee believe that the RDA thing and the deal with the City is not going to be resolved by the end of the year, by any sense of timing. So even if we wanted to approve an agreement with the operation scenario of the golf course, I don't know if we could move forward because we don't know who we would move forward with on that. So right now we'll try to keep a watch on the money, and I know staff is -- has assured the committee that that's their main goal is to see how much bleeding, if any, we're experiencing there. So that's -- that was the recommendation of the committee. We pretty much agreed with what Lindsay had already given us that Friday afternoon in the agenda package. We didn't have a skateboard -- anybody have any questions about the golf course? I think we talked about that a lot. But I don't think there was anything that we said today that wasn't supported by our committee that -- just keep a watchful eye on it and see what happens.

DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Yeah, and I think, you know, Lindsay is a very frugal general manager, and he doesn't -- I mean the ideas that we're throwing out, Mike, were the same ones that you -- you know - but there's, you know, limitations on the -- obviously, the restaurant is the first thing, but even the schedule of the week for staff -- there might be some personnel issues. There are going to be, maybe, daytime things. But it's almost like we have to take them a phase at a time. So we do this and see how we're doing, and then we go here without -- you know, kind of going at it with a sledgehammer. Let's just take it each time and see where we go financially because there's no way that we can absorb a financial loss on that. So we'll see.
Skate Plaza and BMX Ad Hoc Committee – Chandler/Hamilton
No meeting held.

Audit Ad Hoc Committee – Limbaugh/Gregg
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Ad hoc committee for the audit team -- that was first time I think we've ever had one of those. So Kelly and I attended it a couple weeks ago, and I believe the auditors are on schedule to be completed with the audit by the end of this month, and the report will be filed with the Board in March; correct?
MS. THOMAS: Well, we set up a meeting with the ad hoc committee and the auditors to go over the completed audit March 7th.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: A couple days before the Board meeting? So the intent on that was to have the audit done. We’re probably a couple months late with the audit this year, because we hired a new auditor. And I -- Kelly can speak for his opinion. I thought they -- that they were following all the -- they're dotting all the I's and crossing the T's. We discussed the report we had last year from RAMS, which I think if you remember, made some pretty formidable corrections that needed to be done. You know, like, hiring another person, help out, we need to shore up how we account for this, blah, blah, blah, and then we also -- about the golf course, you know, that that's pretty much a cash deal over there, so if there's anything that they would come up with that maybe would help us manage that a little bit. And we talked about the personnel thing, about getting somebody in that might help us with our accountability. And then the timeline. So I think that's a good thing and that will happen every year, so I think the audit committee may become a standing committee; right?
MS. THOMAS: Yes, that's what we'd like to do in this revision of the policy manual.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Kelly, do you have anything you want to add?
DIRECTOR GREGG: Just that the auditors did see some situation -- or some problem with our cash transactions, not just the golf course, but they're -- two other facilities that we have cash transactions at. So they want to close the gap on that and kind of make sure that we're -- our accounting is what it's supposed to be. But I think both Mike and I stressed the fact that we really need to bring in either somebody certified or somebody that knows accounting that can learn the process and grow with the Park District and help Rachel out or anybody else that's doing the accounting. That was the recommendation from RAMS in the last report. So we probably need to start moving forward in that direction to ease the time that it's taking to do it. And that could be a reason why we're two months late on this, too, is just because they're having to go through just tons and tons and tons of stuff and making sure that everything is right, so I think by adding, maybe, another person in there or somebody part-time or full-time is what they ought to do that could – that could ease the next audit.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Okay. Would it be the pleasure of the audit committee, once they have access to you -- the audit committee, the auditors having access to the audit committee, would it mean that we would no longer have a public presentation by the auditors as a regular meeting?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: What we discussed is that they're going to give us the audit. We're going to read through it, and if we have any concerns --
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Then ask.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: -- we'll address some of that and then also at the time that we would want an abbreviated version presented at the board with the committee recommendation to adopt the audit. Okay? So they would go over the highlights of the audit.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Okay.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: It's pretty much what we had before, but it wouldn't be the first time somebody on this Board is looking, so in other words the committee has looked at it and said, "Yeah, it looks like Column A matches Column B." Like that. And then when it came to the full Board, and we adopted the audit or accepted the audit, that it would be more of a kind of like a brief presentation from the audit.
DIRECTOR GREGG: We both did stress the fact that we do not -- the two audit committee members don't -- do not want to have full power on that, and that should be brought back to the full Board.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: I just was curious because when --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: That we recommend.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: -- in our history here -- and it's not that big of a deal again. I think -- we haven't necessarily had the audit -- auditors come to a board meeting, and then we asked that it happen that way this last year because I think it wasn't that way the first couple of years that I was on the board. I think we just --
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah, he would do it every once in a while.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Uh-huh, yeah.
MS. THOMAS: Shawn Washington was -- his first year was the last time an auditor came to the Board meeting, so it was a number of years ago.

Other Related Business

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. I'll start other related business. He handed out the CARPD thing. It's made May 3rd through 5th. It's in Sacramento this year. You've all been to it, so if you want to come again, that's when it is. I have a meeting in March in Sacramento again with them to finalize that. And they're keeping the lobbyist. Did I say this last time?
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: I thought he retired.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Oh, that's right because I went January 15th. Ralph Heim is staying with CARPD for one more year.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Oh, good.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: There is an RFP out on the street to replace Henry.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: He's retiring?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Yeah, we're going to get a new administrator for CARPD. It's a great job, you know, it -- if you live up in Sacramento, it's actually kind of an interesting job. You get to deal with all the parks up and down the state. But again, most -- we're not unique. All districts are experiencing financial problems, so that's -- it's kind of like we're all in the boat together sinking, financially. There was one district that went belly-up. A small paper district. They became insolvent. Their annual budget was only about $700,000. I think that's it, if memory serves me correct.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: What happens in a case like that?
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The County takes it over, so I believe that's what happened. They become a ward of the state, Jack, and they're on that list for closure.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: And then the county gives it to someone else and asks them to take over.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: The other thing that I thought really interesting that was -- you didn't save it, it was in your written communication, in the Star -- about the concerts that -- all the people that they talked to said, "Well, it sounds like a good idea." So it will be interesting
to see how that plays out, and again congratulations on not finding any safety issues with the Park. So Rebekah, do you have anything you'd like to add? Any other business?
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Yes. I have a letter that I want to give to Lindsay and Rachel to add my congratulations to that and to the staff. Their staff members are mentioned in the letter also. Just saying I'm so glad that there's -- it's one thing to know that you work with a wonderful bunch of people who do a fabulous job and keep doing that job; we know that. But to have an outside entity come and look at us and find zero things that can be approved, to me just -- it puts it out there that these people -- the people that work for -- with us and for the Recreation and Park District are just doing a fabulous job. It's nice to have somebody else see that and acknowledge that, and I wrote a letter to Lindsay and Rachel to say that and also to Willow, Gina, and --
MR. WOODS: Well, Dion.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Well, that's different. I have that too.
MR. WOODS: Oh.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: That just -- you know, they showed to us great advantage to everyone else. I also wrote a letter to Lindsay, expressing my pleasure at the new facilities brochure. I thought it looked very sharp and professional. It speaks well for us. I think we're going to see a lot of things coming from that. And I wanted to congratulate the staff -- Steve and the people that worked with him on that, as well as Dion, who did an interview, and it's on YouTube, and it was very -- it represented us very well. I thought she did a very good job. It's very professional.
MR. WOODS: We'll pass those along.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: All right.
MR. WOODS: Thank you.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: That's all I have.
DIRECTOR HAMILTON: Nothing.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Bob?
DIRECTOR CHANDLER: No.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Kelly?
DIRECTOR GREGG: Congratulations on being safe, and we appreciate what you guys are doing out there.
DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: This is your other park-related business?
MR. WOODS: Well, there's -- something else popped in my mind. Rachel and I did send out, on behalf of the District and the Board, a couple of cards. The first was a get-well card. Our cook at the golf course -- one of the cooks was hospitalized, and when we found out about it, we were able to get out a card out to him.
DIRECTOR SWANSON: Good.
MR. WOODS: And then we, unfortunately, had to send a sympathy card to one of our employees. We didn't find out about this right away. But Mary that works at Hesperia Lake her husband passed away. So just in case you're out at a facility, and yothey may say, "Hey, thanks for the card." You at least know what they're talking about.
MS. THOMAS: Because we signed your name.
MR. WOODS: And I did send a card to a staff member as well, that was celebrating the birth of a child earlier this month. So we've got different things going on, and I'm kind of at the mercy of staff telling me when these things happen. So we do our best to get our
congratulations and sympathies and encouragements out to them as we are made aware of that. So in the future, if we ever have that happen, it's -- we send a card on your behalf.

DIRECTOR LIMBAUGH: Okay. Thank you. Our next meeting is the second Wednesday of March.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by declaration by President Limbaugh at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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