

**CONEJO RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
April 17, 2025
6:00 PM
HILLCREST CENTER
M I N U T E S**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Nickles called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and he led the flag salute.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Buss, Huffer, Nickles and Orozco

Directors Absent: Cusworth

Staff Present: General Manager Friedl; Callis, Recreation and Community Services Director; Mooney, Parks and Planning Director; Smith, Management Services Director; and Reynders, Executive Assistant

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Parks Specialty Unit and Contracts

Mooney introduced Patrick Belavic, the District's new Park Superintendent. Belavic introduced Mike Byrne, Projects/Contracts Supervisor. Byrne provided an overview of his duties and the various contracts he oversees. He reviewed the duties of his Specialty Unit staff, which includes an Equipment Operator, an Irrigation Auditor and a Pest Control Technician. The largest contracts the District holds are the Landscape Services contract and the Custodial contract. Byrne partners with other supervisors on shared, larger projects. He answered Board member's questions and was thanked for his informative presentation.

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Buss, seconded by Orozco, and carried 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes April 3, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

B. Approval of Warrants

Accounts Payable Check Registers Total \$436,226.30

Payroll \$521,000.00

It was moved by Huffer, seconded by Buss, and carried 4-0 to approve the consent calendar as presented.

7. DEFERRED MATTERS

Public Hearing Preliminary Budget Fiscal Years 2025/26 – 2026/27

Nickles opened the Public Hearing; there being no public present, Nickles closed the Public Hearing

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Conejo Recreation and Park District's Long-Term Liabilities Investment Performance Update by Shuster Advisory Group, CRPD's "Trust Administrator" and "Investment Advisor"

Smith opened the discussion, reminding Board members that in 2022, the District transferred funds from the Public Agency Retirement Society (PARS) to Shuster Advisory Group, resulting in lower fees and higher returns. Given the market volatility, Smith and Friedl thought it was a good time to get an update from Mark Shuster, Managing Partner and CEO of Shuster, offering insights into performance, market conditions, and investment strategies. Shuster shared a summary of the Retirement Plan and 115 Trust, along with performance returns information on the Retirement Plan, OPEB and Pension Stabilization Performance. He explained how Shuster builds a portfolio and talked about risk and reward. Shuster answered Board member's questions. The Retirement Enhancement and OPEB Trusts are currently well-funded and portfolio rebalancing to 50% stocks, 50% bonds to lower portfolio risks seems prudent. The Board consensus was to keep the PERS Liability Trust funded at 60% stocks, 40% bonds. Friedl thanked Shuster and his firm for all their hard work and guidance.

B. Legislative Updates on Several Bills Introduced in the California Legislature including but not limited to SB 499 (Stern) and SB 315 (Grayson)

Friedl reviewed some proposed legislation, including SB 315 (Grayson) Quimby Act. Friedl shared how passage of this bill would negatively affect the District; he included information regarding Quimby fees – their history and how and why they were formulated. This bill is being actively opposed by the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD). An opposition letter signed by Chair Nickles was recently submitted. Friedl noted that the City of Thousand Oaks and

Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) also submitted opposition letters.

Friedl also reviewed SB677 (Wiener) Housing development: streamline approval, which would prohibit the imposition of impact fees on proposed housing developments that are less than 1,750 square feet and require impact fees imposed on proposed developments of 1,750 square feet or greater to be charged proportionately, which the District will oppose.

Friedl discussed how

Quimby and Park-related impact fees are needed to add parks and amenities to serve the residents of the new homes and help maintain Conejo Valley's parks/population ratio set forth in the District's Master Plan.

CARPD is sponsoring SB499 (Stern) Residential projects: fees and emergency services This bill would add parks that are essential to emergency services/operations and that may require earlier payment of fees and charges under specific provisions.

9. NEW ITEMS

10. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Recreation Highlights

B. Park Dedication Fees

11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Parks Division Report

Mooney reported there have been some staff changes/additions in the Parks and Planning Division. Patrick Belavic, formerly a Grounds Supervisor, is the new Park Superintendent. Tabitha McAtee has been hired as a Park Planner and Luis Jimenez is the new Management Analyst. Jesse Hair will be the new Projects/Contracts Supervisor while Mike Byrne moves up to the position of Grounds Supervisor.

B. Recreation Division Report

Callis commented on the success of the Flashlight Egg Hunts. She thanked Huffer for his service during the Senior Tax Program, which has recently concluded. The

Conejo Senior Volunteer Program's (CSVP) annual luncheon, held today, was well attended. Registration for summer programs started on Monday. 40 children have received the Parker Bunny so far, and the Recreation Van events have been attracting about 100 participants. Callis referenced the Winter Participation Satisfaction Survey Summary provided to the Board at the dais.

C. Management Services Division Report

No report.

D. General Manager's Report

Friedl stated there would be no need for an Executive Closed Session. Tomorrow District staff will be hosting the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Conejo Class for their annual visit. This Saturday, in observance of Earth Day, there will be a Creek Clean Up event involving COSCA and the Thousand Oaks Rotary Club. Friedl reminded Board members of the upcoming Gratitude Circle Ceremony on May 5th where Ed Jones and George Lange will be honored.

E. Directors Reports and Follow-up Reports on Meetings/Conferences Attended

Huffer attended the Flashlight Egg Hunt at Thousand Oaks Community Park. He also attended today's CSVP Luncheon. The Senior Tax Program is officially concluded; a record number of returns were processed this year. Buss attended the CSVP luncheon. Orozco participated in the Youth Leadership Summit. She also attended the Latina GDP presentation at Oxnard College and one of the All-District Music Festivals. Nickles attended an All District Music Festival performance. He took part in a tour of Hillcrest Center with Mikey Taylor. This morning, he attended a CARPD Legislative Committee meeting and this afternoon went to the CSVP Luncheon.

12. REQUEST STATUS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT AGENDAS

13. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

14. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 – District Representatives: General Manager Friedl, Management Services Director Smith, Adrianna Guzman, Esq. Relative to Labor Negotiations with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) (Represented Employees) and Salary Schedules and Fringe Benefits for Unrepresented Employees

15. ADJOURN

Nickles adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:19pm to the next regular meeting on May 1, 2025.

Date: _____

Attest:

Approved by:

Aline Reynders, Executive Assistant

Doug Nickles, Chair