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MINUTES
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
April 6, 2022, 9:00 A.M.
Boardroom, UWCD Headquarters
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sheldon G. Berger, chair
Mohammed A. Hasan, director
Michael Mobley, director

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mauricio Guardado, general manager
Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger
Josh Perez, chief human resources officer
Darryl Smith, controller
Brian Zahn, chief financial officer
Kris Sofley, executive assistant/clerk of the board

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

None

OPEN SESSION 9:00 A.M.

Chair Berger called the Committee meeting to order at 9:00a.m. All Committee members were present.

1. Public Comments

Information Item

Chair Berger asked if there were any comments or questions from the public for the Committee. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

Motion to approve the agenda, Director Hasan; Second, Chair Berger. Voice vote: two ayes (Berger, Hasan), one abstain (Mobley). Motion carries unanimously 2/1.

3. Monthly Operational Update

Information Item

The Committee received a summary report on the monthly activities of the Park and Recreation Department for the month of March 2022, along with a financial update from Chief Park Ranger Strahan (see slides).

Chief Strahan reported to the Committee that the crack in the roadway (road leading to the Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant) had been repaired satisfactorily on February 4, 2022 and that a Notice of Completion was filed with the County of February 17, 2022. Chief Strahan thanked Dr. Bral and the engineering team for their help in securing the services of Tavis Ag in clearing the drains under the roadway and sloping drainage away from the hill to avoid future issues. There was also a three-inch layer of compacted gravel added to the roadway in an effort to reduce water drainage issues in the future.

Maintenance at the Lake Piru Recreation area included replacing the water heater in the Olive Grove restroom, which is the most used shower facility in the recreation area; 720 feet of fencing in the Olive Grove Campground area was replaced and the new fencing includes privacy/security slats to separate the full hook-up sites from the work camper sites, providing guests with a nicer view; and staff also performed the annual fire break work within the park, another step toward insuring guests safety while enjoying the Lake Piru Recreation area. Additional work performed on two former work camper sites reconnected water and electricity; two of the three day-use restrooms had the floors painted and epoxy sealed giving the facilities a nicer appearance for guests; staff began a park-wide tree maintenance effort that included the mitigation of hazardous trees and also took part in a noxious weed mitigation effort.

On April 8, Tommy's Boats, the new boat rental concessionaire at Lake Piru, will begin building its fleet of rental boats including six Tahoe pontoon boats and four Axis ski boats. The fleet will be ready for a "soft launch" Easter Weekend and the new Waterfront Manager, who started working at Lake Piru on March 15, is doing a fine job readying the boat launch operation. Chief Strahan added that the manager is a USC grad and former ship captain who had worked for National Geographic and was now making the transition from salt water to fresh water. Chief Strahan also mentioned that as the new vessels age, it is Tommy's Boats practice to sell older vessels and replace with new vessels. He said that the new boats serve as demos for people interested in purchasing a boat and that Tommy's will have 10 boats on site for two, four, and eight hour rental periods and is already booked out for the Easter holiday weekend.

Chair Berger said that Tommy's Boats has done a good job at getting up and running with quality vessels. Chief Strahan added that the company will keep all boats at Lake Piru for the first season, although the company has the option to rent for off-site use, and that the ski boats come with options for two ropes, skis, innertubes, wake boards and even lessons in wake boarding and water skiing. He said that the company isn't currently renting kayaks but the ski boats the company is renting sell for \$140,000 retail.

Chief Strahan reported that a construction contract was awarded to MDJ Management for the renovation construction of the Lake Piru Entry Kiosk. Work has already started and UWCD's engineering staff are overseeing the project which is anticipated to be completed by May 4. Chief Strahan said the renovation will include an emergency generator pad, new lighting, new vinyl siding and new windows and will reposition the internal layout of the desk and restroom for greater efficiency. Chair Berger asked if the project was permitted by the County and Chief Strahan replied that because it is a

renovation to an existing structure no permitting was required. A modular unit that rolls out to curbside and has an 80-foot ethernet cord is currently being used as a substitute entry kiosk.

Chief Strahan then moved on to a recap of revenue comparing 2019 to 2021. Because staff is now doing work that had previously been done by a concessionaire, who also kept the majority of revenue generated by park use, Chief Strahan reported that some \$427,000 in rate payer savings had been generated in 2021 versus none in 2019. Director Hasan said the full Board should be aware of that savings.

Chief Strahan then provided an overview of revenue to date (January and February 2022) in comparison to 2021. While visitation numbers were down from January and February 2021, Chief Strahan reminded the committee that the park was not open to camping for most of that period due to Covid and also that the previous visitation reporting formula, which is used by national parks and other facilities throughout California, was to assume three visitors for every car entering the park. Now park staff are using actual counts to report visitation, which Chief Strahan believes is “closer to home.” He also added that Easter weekend looks to be one of the highest in visitations yet. Director Mobley stated that he and his son went up to Lake Piru to check out the Pothole Trail, which is accessible free of charge, which he felt was a missed opportunity and wondered aloud if people were saying they were going to Pothole Trail and then perhaps staying at the lake. Chief Strahan replied that as part of the District’s FERC licensing and in agreement with the Forest Service, Lake Piru agreed to provide free access to the Pothole Trail. He added that the rangers are very good at monitoring visitors and that there are even different color passes, which are also changed each year, to further enhance monitoring of guests to ensure visitors are going to the places they stated.

4.A (Board item 5.2) Resolution 2022-13 Approving the 2022 Lake Piru Recreation Area Fee Schedule, Fee Administration and Loyalty Rewards Program

Chief Strahan then presented supporting information for the motion item the Recreation Department will present to the full Board at the April 13 Board meeting regarding slight increases in camping related fees, eliminating the RV annual pass which didn’t generate any interest from visitors, and to increase the group discount from 15 percent to 20 percent for loyalty rewards program participants. Chief Strahan added that the changes to the fee schedule and loyalty rewards program are more consistent with neighboring facilities. Director Mobley moved that the Committee recommend approval of this motion item to the full Board and Chair Berger agreed.

Chair Berger asked if there were any plans to open the market or store at Lake Piru. Chief Strahan replied that at the end of this season, he and Brian Zahn would review the data and bring a plan to the General Manager for his approval. He added that he is planning to discuss a secondary licensing agreement with a shaved ice company and that while you would think Lake Piru would be an opportunity for food trucks and other vendors, the long drive and no proven traffic makes it challenging to garner commitments from those types of company, in addition to the permitting and health department issues.

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Chair Berger wished Chief Strahan and Lake Piru staff a successful summer season.

Chief Strahan added that the NBC series *This Is Us* will be returning to film at Lake Piru as part of a revival season and that *Jay Leno's Garage* was also scouting Lake Piru again for another location shoot. Chair Berger said he loved *Jay Leno's Garage* and that seeing them at Lake Piru was great free publicity.

5. Future Agenda Items

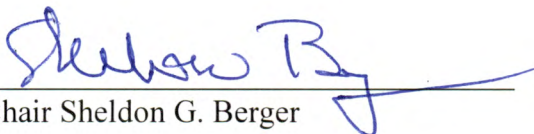
Chair Berger asked if the Committee had any suggestions for future agenda item. Mr. Guardado suggested updates on film productions shooting at Lake Piru be given to the Committee as applicable.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:38 a.m.

Chair Berger adjourned the Recreation Committee meeting at 9:38a.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Recreation Committee meeting of April 6, 2022.

ATTEST:


Chair Sheldon G. Berger