



Harry Griffen Regional Park Joint Powers Agreement Governing Board

Minutes of a Special Meeting

Date: March 5, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Location: City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

Present: Mark Arapostathis, Mayor, City of La Mesa
Andrea Beth Damsky, Director, Helix Water District
Jennifer Herrington, Grossmont Union High School District
Sean Hill, County of San Diego
Michelle Metschel, Councilmember, City of El Cajon

Staff: Assistant City Manager Lee
Director of Public Works Throne
Assistant Director of Public Works Ornelas

This meeting was conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with Government Code Section 54953, as amended by Assembly Bill 361, in relation to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and recommended social distancing measures.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Member Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

1.1 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)**

NOTE: In accordance with state law, an item not scheduled on the agenda may be brought forward by the general public for comment; however, the Board will not be able to discuss or take any action on the item at this meeting. If appropriate, the item will be referred to Staff or placed on a future agenda.

There were no public comments.

3. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

3.1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE HARRY GRIFFEN REGIONAL PARK JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

There were no questions of the minutes from October 25, 2023.

Moved by Board Member Arapostathis

Seconded by Board Member Herrington

Approve the minutes

Yes (4): Board Member Arapostathis, Board Member Herrington, Board Member Sean Hill, and Board Member Metschel

Abstain (1): Board Member Damsky

Motion Approved (4 to 0)

3.2 PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mr. Throne, Director of Public Works, presented two options of the fiscal year 2025 budget. Option A replaces two diesel mowers with diesel mowers while Option B replaces two diesel mowers with electric mowers. Mr. Throne explained Option B is not recommended due to the to the size of the park and lack of infrastructure to charge the electric mowers. Mr. Throne suggested implementing electric mowers at smaller parks first instead of using Harry Griffen Park as a test. Mr. Ornelas, Assistant Director of Public Works stated there are multiple variables that affect the duration of mowing. Currently a high estimate of one charge is six hours but can be as low as two or three.

Board Member Damsky from Helix Water District made a comment that per the City of El Cajon's State of the City address, they have a budget surplus, therefore, Helix Water District requests City of El Cajon return to their original contribution amount.

Board Member Hill from the County of San Diego stated the County cannot accommodate a budget increase over 3%. Mr. Throne pointed out that Option A of the preliminary budget reflects a 1% decrease compared to fiscal year 2024.

Board Member Metschel from the City of El Cajon stated El Cajon stands firm on their current 15% contribution amount.

Moved by Board Member Arapostathis
Seconded by Board Member Herrington

Accept staff recommendation to approve Option A of the fiscal year 2025 budget

Yes (5): Board Member Arapostathis, Board Member Damsky, Board Member Herrington, Board Member Sean Hill, and Board Member Metschel

Motion Approved (5 to 0)

3.3 REPORT FROM CANINE CORNERS OFF-LEASH DOG RUN

Nick Giacchina, Treasurer, spoke on behalf of the Canine Corners off-leash dog run. He stated the most recent improvement was the repair of the fence that separates the small and large dog areas. Also, they are currently working on a schedule of events for 2024. He said Canine Corners is looking to revise their improvement projects to account for the rise of costs within the past few years. Some of those projects include re-grading inside the dog park with City of La Mesa's assistance, making drainage modifications to mitigate sand erosion and possibly the installation of a prefabricated bridge between the grass and dog park entrance. Mr. Giacchina was unable to answer Board Member Arapostathis' question regarding the square footage of the dog park.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.