

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023 — 6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Jones.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Shawver, Vice Chair Ashland, and Commissioners Hanson, Jones, and Weigand were present. Commissioner Diaz was absent.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

No comments were received from the public.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item(s) on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commissioner requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 3, 2023 MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Jones

2nd: Vice Chair Ashland

Approved 4–0–1 (Commissioner Weigand abstained)

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–E)

A. STRATEGIC PLAN MIDPOINT UPDATE PRESENTATION

Staff will provide a presentation on the OC Parks Strategic Plan that will showcase the many accomplishments that OC Parks has achieved in pursuing the goals and objectives of the plan within the past five years.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, presented the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

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Motion: Vice Chair Ashland
2nd: Commissioner Jones
Approved 5–0

B. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS UPDATE

Staff will provide an update to the Commission regarding the August 9, 2023 and November 9, 2023 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee meetings.

Jim Foley, Orange County Mountain Biking, commented on the desire for additional trails for mountain biking use in Aliso and Wood Canyons and Laguna Coast Wilderness Parks and requested a working group be established for the requests.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff presenting the item.

Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Interim Planning and Design Manager, provided an update on the Third and Fourth Quarter OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Meetings.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Commissioner Jones
2nd: Commissioner Weigand
Approved 5–0

C. SADDLEBACK WILDERNESS OVERVIEW AND SELECTION OF TRAIL NAMES PRESENTATION

Staff will present an overview of Saddleback Wilderness, an OC Parks facility that recently opened to managed public access, and will present information on the proposed trail names for three trails located within this facility that were selected by the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee for the Commission's approval.

Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Interim Planning and Design Manager, provided information on the item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve the names for three Saddleback Wilderness trails, as recommended by the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee.

Motion: Chair Shawver
2nd: Commissioner Hanson

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Approved 5–0

D. COMMISSION’S PROPOSED 2024 MEETING AND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The Commission’s 2024 meeting and field trip schedule is provided for review and approval.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, provided information on the item and answered the Commissioners’ questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve the Commission’s 2024 meeting and field trip schedule.

Motion: Commissioner Weigand

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 5–0

E. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

The bylaws of the Commission require that the Commission elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the calendar year during the last meeting of the year.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, answered the Commissioners’ questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Nominate and select Commissioners to serve in the following positions for Calendar Year 2024:

1. Orange County Parks Commission Chair.

2. Orange County Parks Commission Vice Chair.

Nominee: Chair –Chair Shawver

Motion: Commissioner Weigand

2nd: Commissioner Ashland

Approved 5–0

Nominee: Vice Chair – Vice Chair Ashland

Motion: Commissioner Jones

2nd: Commissioner Weigand

Approved 5–0

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VI. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, provided updates and answered the Commissioners' questions.

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

Wild Tales – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – Friday, December 1, 8, 15 – 10 – 10:45 a.m.

- Join OC Parks staff for Wild Tales, offered every Friday. Each session will include a kid-friendly hike, story time, and craft project.

Wilderness Access Day: Limestone Canyon – Saturday, December 2 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Start your weekend off by exploring numerous opportunities found throughout magnificent Limestone Canyon. Designated trails will be open for self-guided trail use in OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space. Trail routes vary in distance and level of difficulty with choices ranging from easy one-hour walks to strenuous 15-mile cardio treks. Whether traveling by foot or wheels, Wilderness Access Day in Limestone Canyon is a treasure waiting to be discovered by hikers and mountain bikers alike.

Fall Bird Walk – Mile Square Regional Park – Saturday, December 2 – 8 – 10 a.m.

- Mile Square Regional Park has some of the highest bird diversity in Orange County and this gentle-paced walk led by highly trained OC Parks volunteers will help bird watchers of all experience levels discover what the park has to offer. All are welcome and loaner binoculars will be available.

Candlelight Walk – Heritage Hill Historical Park – December 8 – 10 – 5 – 9 p.m.

- Spend the holiday season with OC Parks at Heritage Hill Historical Park this December! The 37th annual Candlelight Walk will take place over three festive evenings. Enjoy an evening stroll through the decorated grounds as well as live musical performances, holiday crafts for kids and a visit with Santa Claus!

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Wilderness Access Day: Gypsum Canyon Wilderness – Saturday, December 9, 23 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Come explore OC Parks' newest trails at Gypsum Canyon Wilderness through this self-guided opportunity. Located with OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, Gypsum Canyon Wilderness features six miles of new trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Two lookout points offer sweeping views of the surrounding canyons and unique prehistoric rock formations, while seven new trails provide multiple loop options that vary in distance and range from easy to moderate in difficulty.

Christmas at the OC Zoo – Saturday, December 9 – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Join us for holiday fun at the OC Zoo! Activities include visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus and holiday crafts for kids. Come see zoo animals receive treat-filled "gifts" and treats hidden inside Christmas trees throughout the day!

New Moon Hike in Peters Canyon – Tuesday, December 12 – 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

- Half the park is after dark! Come explore the nocturnal sights and sounds as we hit the trails on this leisurely night hike. It's chilly after sunset so wear warm layers and sturdy footwear. Bring water and a red tinted flashlight if possible. This will help keep our night vision from being impacted by any bright light. The moon will not be present in the night sky, so enjoy the stargazing show!

Beginning Bird Walk at Clark Park – Thursday, December 14 – 8 – 10 a.m.

- Millions of birds visit Orange County every fall and winter as they migrate along the Pacific flyway. During this slow-paced, easy introductory walk, we will learn the basics of bird watching and identification to better prepare you to fully enjoy this amazing seasonal phenomenon. All are welcome and loaner binoculars will be available.

Morning Mountain Bike Ride at Gypsum Canyon Wilderness – Friday, December 15 – 8– 10:30 a.m.

- Join us for an intermediate-level ride on OC Parks' newest trails in the newly opened Gypsum Canyon Wilderness! This ride will be moderately paced and include a mix of sustained singletrack climbs and fun twisty descents for a total of seven or eight miles with

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approximately 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Periodic breaks and trailside interpretation will be sprinkled in along the way.

Holiday Lights – Heritage Hill Historic Park – December 15–17 – 5 – 9 p.m.

- Spend the holiday season with OC Parks at Heritage Hill Historical Park this December! Wander through twinkling light displays during special park hours. Make sure to bring a camera and take your picture at a variety of holiday-themed photo opportunities.

Holiday Animal Art Program for Ages 7–10 – OC Zoo – Saturday, December 16 – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

- Class includes hands-on learning, fun crafts, and meeting zoo creatures up close!

Living Historian at Civil War Cannon – Irvine Regional Park – Sunday, December 17 – 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Come chat with a Civil War living historian at the cannon in Irvine Regional Park! The volunteer will share the history of the 1853 Howitzer cannon and how it came to be at its current location. Hear recounts of other historical elements found in and around Irvine Regional Park's long history as well as the Civil War. You can find the Civil War living historian located at the cannon and Spanish-American War Veterans monument at the lake, near the snack stand and boat house, between parking lots U and T.

Toddler Treks: Winter Solstice – Irvine Regional Park – Tuesday, December 19 – 10 – 11 a.m.

- Discover which animals enjoy the chilly winter season and which ones can't wait for spring to arrive. After a short story, let's go on a winter walk at Irvine Regional Park.

Bird Walk in Peters Canyon – Wednesday, December 20 – 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

- Stroll through the park searching high and low for our fluttering friends. Listen for their sweet song and hear fun associations to help you remember these birds. This program is geared for all levels though focused for beginner-intermediate level birders. Bring your binoculars, sun protection, comfortable shoes and an eye for spotting our feathered friends!

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Nature Journaling at Clark Park – Wednesday, December 20 – 8 – 10 a.m.

- Discover the joys of nature journaling with a short, guided hike on a Clark Regional Park Trail. Nature journaling can be practiced in almost any space and combines observations with insights, questions and connections with the environment around us. It allows us to pay attention to details that might otherwise be overlooked and meditate on their forms and place within the natural world. This program will cover the basic techniques for beginning and maintaining your nature journal.

Preschool Paleontology: Art & Storytime – Clark Regional Park – Thursday, December 21 – 10 – 11 a.m.

- Listen to a story, make a craft to take home and enjoy a morning at the Interpretive Center at Clark Regional Park.

VII. COMMISSION COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT *7:24 p.m.*