

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Koos, Vice-Chair Shawver, and Commissioners Ashland, Wellborn, and Hanson were present. Commissioner Muller was absent.

II. 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.

Agenda Item V.A.1 was heard at this time.

Tom Starnes, OC Parks Director, provided information on inability to extend park hours and current status of pickleball use data gathering and answered the Commissioners' questions.

John Squicciarini, asked if additional pickleball courts could be installed in existing tennis courts at Laguna Niguel Regional Park.

Steve Feinberg, requested that additional pickleball courts be installed in County parks to replace extra tennis courts, commented on the growing popularity of pickleball, and mentioned a recent pickleball court conversion in a local city.

Sophie Wherritt, requested that additional pickleball courts be installed in Laguna Niguel Regional Park to replace some tennis courts and commented on community efforts to promote pickleball.

Scott Magner, commented on pickleball players talking with staff about court sharing efforts and on the high number of pickleball players waiting for courts when there are no people playing tennis.

Brent Wonstreet, commented on the benefits of pickleball and requested that additional pickleball courts be installed in County parks.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item A)

The following item on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests to pull a specific item.

A. Approve Commission minutes for February 3, 2022.

*Motion: Commissioner Wellborn
2nd: Commissioner Ashland
Approved: 5-0*

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (Items A-C)

A. CONVEYANCE OF PARK PARCEL TO CITY OF LAKE FOREST FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Lake Forest (City) and the County of Orange (County) are working to convey a small portion of County property, which is designated as park land, to the City for needed road improvements at the intersection of Portola Parkway and El Toro Road. Since the property is park land, it will require that the County authorize park abandonment. Neither the portion of the park being transferred to the City nor the improvements being done by the City will impact existing public recreation amenities.

Joanne Veedor, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided an introduction to the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Christine Long, County Real Estate Administrative Manager, provided background information, provided details relating to the transaction, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Tom Starnes, OC Parks Director, answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors find that Park Parcels at the intersection of Portola Parkway and El Toro Road are not used by the public for park purposes and are not appropriate, convenient or necessary for park purposes and approve actions related to park abandonment of the Park Parcels.
2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize actions necessary for County staff to approve and execute all real estate instruments to transfer the Park Parcels to a qualifying public entity for reasonable consideration based on the market value for the property's intended use, subject to the satisfaction of Park Abandonment requirements related thereto.

*Motion: Commissioner Ashland
2nd: Commissioner Wellborn
Approved: 5-0*

B. ORANGE COUNTY ZOO LARGE MAMMAL EXHIBIT PRESENTATION

Staff will provide a presentation that details the construction of the Large Mammal Exhibit at the Orange County Zoo.

Tom Starnes, OC Parks Director, provided an introduction to the Orange County Zoo Large Mammal Exhibit Presentation, provided some background information, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Natalia Gaerlan, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, gave a presentation on the Orange County Zoo Large Mammal Exhibit and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Donald Zeigler, OC Parks Zoo Manager, provided background information and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

C. APRIL FIELD TRIP

In November 2021, the Commission approved its 2022 meeting and field trip schedule. At that meeting, your Commission indicated that the field trip date and location would be selected the month preceding the field trip.

Date options for a morning field trip:

1. Friday, April 8, 2022
2. Saturday, April 9, 2022

Field trip location options:

1. Orange County Zoo Large Mammal Exhibit (preference to be held on Saturday)
2. Mile Square Regional Park Expansion Site (preference to be held on Saturday)
3. George Key Ranch Historic Park

Joanne Veedor, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided background information on the options and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Tom Starnes, OC Parks Director, provided additional information on the options and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Select a field trip date.

2. Select a field trip location.

Motion: Chair Koos made a motion to select the Orange County Zoo Large Mammal Exhibit as the field trip location with a field trip date of Saturday, April 9, 2022.

2nd: Commissioner Ashland

Approved: 4–0; Commissioner Hanson left the meeting prior to the casting of this vote.

V. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tom Starnes, OC Parks Director, provided updates and answered the Commissioners' questions.

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

1. Pickleball Update
2. General Updates

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

Wild Tales — Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve — Friday, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 — 10 – 10:45 a.m.

- Upper Newport Bay's long-running and popular story time is back! Wild Tales will be offered every Friday and include a different outdoor story, theme, and craft.
- Activities are designed for ages 2-4 for all are welcome.
- All minors under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.
- Rain or heat advisory will cancel the event.
- Space is limited and priority will be given to those who are pre-registered.

Trail Stewardship Event — Laguna Coast Wilderness Park — Sunday, March 6 — 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- If you use the wilderness parks for hiking, biking, photography or just relaxing, Trail Stewardship might be right up your alley! Get up close and personal with the trails you use; you'll see them in a whole new way. No experience necessary. Whatever your skill level is, there is a job to do: clearing drains to get the water off of the trail, pruning vegetation back to keep users on the trail, moving dirt to rebuild eroded tread, and restoring impacted areas are just some of the tasks we will accomplish. Expect to hike up to 4 miles while carrying tools.
- Online reservations are required prior to the event.

- For questions call 949-497-8324 on weekdays or 949-923-2235 on weekends.
- Parking is free.
- Gloves and tools provided.

Limestone Canyon Geology Hike to The Sinks — 13333 Black Star Canyon Road — Sunday, March 13 — 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- Visit one of the most photographed and famous sites on the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks – The Sinks. This interpretative program will begin with a hike along a canyon corridor and will visit The Sinks. Along the way, we'll talk about the geologic processes that over millions of years created the geologic features of The Sinks and the surrounding area.
- Please come prepared with a day pack, water and closed-toe sturdy shoes or boots, snacks, sunscreen and all other necessary elements to keep you healthy on the trail.
- All participants must carry their own day pack and water and be comfortable hiking an average moving pace of 3 miles per hour uphill and downhill.
- Registration is required, no walk-up registration is permitted.

St. Patrick's Day Full Moon Hike — Santiago Oaks Regional Park — Thursday, March 17 — 7 – 8:30 p.m.

- Half the park is after dark! Come explore the nocturnal sights and sounds as we hit the trails on this leisure night hike. It's chilly after sunset so wear warm layers, sturdy footwear, and bring a water and red tinted flashlight if possible.
- This hike is not recommended for very small children or strollers.
- For questions, contact Resource Specialist, Kelley Brugmann at 714-973-6625 or Kelley.Brugmann@ocparks.com
- Advance registration required.

Dinosaur-like Birds and Bird-like Dinosaurs — OC Zoo — Saturday, March 19 — 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Learn about the exciting journey of feathered dinosaurs to our modern birds! A specialist from the Dinosaur Institute at Natural History Museum LA will join a zoo educator to explore this topic. All classes include hands-on learning, fun crafts or activities and meeting zoo creatures up close!
- Program for children ages 8-10 only
- \$5 per child (one parent included)
- Registration is required: call 714-973-6846 to register

VI. COMMISSION COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give direction to staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 7:04 p.m.