

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 — 6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Shawver.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Shawver, Vice Chair Ashland, and Commissioners Diaz, Hanson, Warren, Jones, and Weigand were present.

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.

Greg Stone, Orange County Modelers' Association, provided an overview of the Association, an update on the activities of the Association and their work with local schools and universities.

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 NOVEMBER 30, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Weigand

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 5–0–2 (Commissioners Diaz and Warren abstained)

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–C)

A. RANGER ACADEMY 9 TRAINING PRESENTATION

Staff will provide a presentation that details the recruitment and training process for Park Rangers.

James Dinwiddie, OC Parks Deputy Director, introduced staff presenting on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Eric Rubery, OC Parks Operations Support Manager, presented the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

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

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Vice Chair Ashland

2nd: Commissioner Warren

Approved 7-0

Following Item V.A., Chair Shawver invited Commissioner Warren and the other Commissioners to briefly introduce themselves.

B. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Staff will provide an update to the Commission regarding the January 11, 2024 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee meeting.

Public Comment: Michael Wellborn, President of Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks, provided an overview of Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks and commented on the high number of trail users, the need for trail safety and courtesy, increasing the use of Trail Ambassadors, and wants to work with OC Parks and the County of Orange Board of Supervisors on trail issues.

James Dinwiddie, OC Parks Deputy Director, introduced staff presenting on the item.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, provided an update on the January 11, 2024 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

C. APRIL FIELD TRIP SELECTION

In November 2023, the Commission approved its 2024 meeting and field trip schedule. Pursuant to the 2024 meeting and field trip schedule, the field trip dates and locations would be selected in the month(s) preceding the field trip.

Proposed date options for a morning field trip:

1. Friday, April 5, 2024
2. Saturday, April 6, 2024

Proposed field trip location options:

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1. George Key Ranch
2. Craig Regional Park

James Dinwiddie, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Select a field trip date.
2. Select a field trip location.

Motion to hold a field trip at George Key Ranch on Friday, April 5, 2024.

Motion: Vice Chair Ashland

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 7-0

VI. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

James Dinwiddie, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided updates and answered the Commissioners' questions.

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

Wilderness Access Day: Gypsum Canyon Wilderness – March 9 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Come explore OC Parks' newest trails at Gypsum Canyon Wilderness through this self-guided opportunity. Located within OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, Gypsum Canyon Wilderness features 6 miles of new trails for hiking, mountain 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. Visitors will have the opportunity to provide voluntary feedback about Gypsum Canyon Wilderness through on-site participation surveys and offer naming suggestions for several unnamed trails.

Birding by the Creek – Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park – March 16 – 8 – 10:30 a.m.

- Aliso Creek is one of the best riparian birding sites in Orange County and gives access for a lovely morning hike. OC Parks staff and

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volunteers will lead an easy 3-mile loop with 50 feet of elevation gain on uneven terrain. Travel along the creek on a dirt trail and return on a paved road while birding within the wilderness park. No experience necessary.

Biking the Bay – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – March 16 – 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- Join OC Parks for an interpretive bike ride around Upper Newport Bay! Participants will have the opportunity to get their heart rate up and pedal around the Bay, all while learning about local ecology and history. This moderately-paced ride will cover a 10-mile section of the Back Bay Loop Trail over the course of 2.5 hours. We will remain on the paved portion of the trail and will have interpretive stops along the way.

Wilderness Access Day: Saddleback Wilderness – March 23 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Come explore 3.3 miles of new trails at Saddleback Wilderness, part of OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, through this self-guided opportunity. Designated trails will be open for self-guided hiking, biking and equestrian use. There are multiple trail loop options which vary in distance and level of difficulty. Choices range from an easy one-mile loop to multiple figure-8 configurations for those looking to maximize their mileage. Regardless of distance, nearly all options feature scenic views including a destination vista point offering 360-degree perspectives from the mountains to the sea.

Explore! Fossils of the Ancient Sea Floor – Clark Regional Park – March 30 – 8:30 – 10 a.m.

- Come along for the fun, we're going on a paleo run! Don't be late, it won't be drab - we're going to look for shells and crab! Join us for a guided tour of the Clark Regional Park hillside fossil bed, followed by a trip to the Interpretive Center. Closed-toe shoes are required due to uneven terrain, and sun protection and water are recommended. The tour will meet next to parking lot A for a brief introduction. We will then walk north across Rosecrans Avenue to visit the fossil bed. After the hillside exploration we will return to the south side of Rosecrans Avenue and visit the Interpretive Center.

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Guided Beach Walk and Clean-Up – Salt Creek Beach – March 30 – 1 – 3 p.m.

- There's more to the beach than relaxing in the sun or playing in the waves on a hot summer day! Join OC Parks staff and volunteers for a casual walk along the sand at Salt Creek Beach to learn about the different flora and fauna that live along southern California beaches. The beach is a dynamic habitat, so no two walks are the same! This program will also include a discussion on marine pollution and a brief beach cleanup.

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 *7:03 p.m.*