



AGENDA
Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 27, 2021, Noon

Due to the State of California's shelter in place orders our Recreation Committee Meeting will be held remotely via Zoom Meetings
(The Zoom platform is ADA compliant).

Due to the current closure of the district office, meeting materials will be available online at MORPD.com.

The public may attend and make a public comment by visiting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89382903487?pwd=ZUx3Mm1QUeJvK2U5Um9nNmFISytLUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 8290 3487

Passcode: 3344

You may also call in to 1-669-900-9128 US, (*long distance rates may apply*)

Staff: Daniel Barton, Barry Ross, JR Hichborn, Cindy P. Banville, Rodney Dahlberg, Danny Curtola, Nicole Friedrich.

Members: Nghia Nguyen and Jeff Rothberg

****Denotes agenda items with attached information***

1. Approval of Recreation Committee Minutes from August 3, 2020.*
2. Recent Recreation Staffing Changes
3. Possible Mission Oaks and San Juan Partnership for Summer 2021
4. Mission Oaks Recreation Programming Update
5. Pickleball update
6. Other Programming: If time permits, we can discuss programming for other age groups, or we can schedule another meeting.

This agenda was posted and available for public review at the District Office, 3344 Mission Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608; at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael, CA 95608; and at Swanston Community Center, 2350 Northrop Way, Sacramento, CA 95825 at least 72 hours in advance of the Regular Meeting, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. The agenda is also available online at morpd.com. *Signed April 22, 2021, Debra Tierney, Clerk of the Board.*



MINUTES
Recreation Committee Meeting
 Monday, August 3, 2020, Noon

Due to the State of California's directive to avoid unnecessary gatherings, this meeting was held virtually by Zoom.

Recreation Committee Members in Attendance: Nghia Nguyen and Jeff Rothberg

Staff in Attendance: Daniel Barton, Barry Ross, Rodney Dahlberg, Danny Curtola, Nicole Friedrich, and Riva Ballis.

- The meeting was begun at 12:02 by Nghia Nguyen
 - Daniel Barton spoke about the higher stress that staff experienced this summer by offering camps during the Covid-19 pandemic, and needing to follow strict guidelines in an effort to keep participants and staff safe. He explained that several staff quit due to concerns about Covid-19. Staff needed to address more complaints and concerns from the public than usual, as some felt we were being too lenient with safety guidelines and others felt we were doing too much. He mentioned an example of a family traveling to Mexico and not disclosing it to camp staff, which was a violation of our Covid-19 safety guidelines. He then mentioned our concerns about offering a child care program while school is conducting distance-learning in the fall. Staff concerns are very similar to those expressed by teachers and other staff at schools who would be potentially exposing themselves to the virus.
1. Approval of Recreation Committee Minutes from December 13, 2019.
 - Barry Ross asked that the minutes be approved. Nghia moved and approved the minutes, and she recommended that the Recreation Committee meet quarterly.
 2. Recent Recreation Staffing Changes.
 - Barry updated the committee on full time staffing changes in the Recreation Division since the last committee meeting in December, 2019. Miranda Nelson, Recreation Coordinator, has accepted a Recreation Supervisor job with the Arden Park District in late December. After interviews in February & March, MORPD agreed to offer the vacant Recreation Coordinator to Brandon Stoakley. Soon thereafter the shelter-in-place order was issued due to Covid-19. We then postponed the start of Brandon's employment with MORPD until June. At that time, due to uncertainty with Covid-19, we reached a mutual agreement for Brandon to work in a Regular Part Time capacity for a 90-day period, and then to be re-evaluated.

3. Fall Programming: Our most pressing issue right now is programming for youth while they are not allowed on school campuses for the fall semester. The outcome of this will help determine our pathway to providing other programs.
- With the SJUSD decision of not having children on campus in the fall, we are exploring the feasibility of providing a safe and structured program for students. There are rewards and risks involved, which we would like to discuss to help us set a course of action:
 - a. Rewards:
 - As public servants, we understand the burden many families have while being faced with the need to be at work while children are home. It would be rewarding to be a solution to this problem.
 - This is an opportunity to generate some revenue for the District while the majority of our programs are closed.
 - This program will provide some part time jobs for members of our community.
 - b. Risks
 - With Covid-19 cases and community spread at the highest rates in California during the pandemic, there is increased potential of exposing staff, children, and their households to the virus.
 - Childcare programming during a pandemic requires many extra steps for staff to take in order to meet the guidelines that are outlined. Even if met perfectly, there are many uncontrollable factors that can lead to a Covid-19 outbreak.
 - The program will be extending into the late fall months when flu & cold symptoms intersect with Covid-19 symptoms. Based on current protocol, this will likely result in significant interruptions to the program, and possible closure.
 - Barry updated the committee on steps that the recreation staff have taken towards providing a child care program:
 - Applied with the Department of Social Services for a waiver that would allow MORPD to offer a child care program. As a non-licensed provider, MORPD is allowed up to 14 weeks of child care within a 52-week period for school aged children during typical school hours. We are offering 7 weeks of summer camp, and have offered three weeks of holiday camps during the 52-week period. This would allow us only 4 weeks of a new child care program without a waiver. Early indications seem that a waiver is likely.
 - We intend to offer the program at our two community centers beginning August 31. Based on the social-distance calculator for indoor spaces, and limitations on cohort group sizes, we could accommodate 8 children at Swanston, and 28 children at MOCC.
 - We intend to give MORPD residents first priority for registration. If spaces remain, we would offer them to non-residents.
 - We intend to offer the program to children in grades 1-6.
 - We intend to begin the program no earlier than 7am and to end no later than 6pm.
 - We intend to charge a fee that would allow us to recover all direct costs minus those of the full time Recreation Supervisors. We will work on that price point. Other agencies that we've researched are charging in the range of \$175-\$200 per week, with an average around \$185.
 - We intend to reserve 1/3 of the openings for children on the school free/reduced lunch program. The price for these children would be at a 50% discount. Among all of our youth programs, about 20% qualify for fee

assistance. Staff felt that 33% for this program would be enough to meet demand while meeting our cost recovery goals.

- A draft of our safety plan guidelines was provided. This is our plan to keep the program safe for staff and participants during Covid-19. It includes steps (i.e. wearing masks, health screening, disinfecting facilities and equipment, washing hands, social distancing, and other steps) to be taken by parents, children and staff.
- One additional staff concern was about security. School campuses are designed to deter strangers from entering the buildings and grounds with fences, campus security personnel, guest check-in protocol, and surveillance. Our community centers are only equipped with surveillance cameras. Covid-19 guidance advises that we open doors and windows to allow for natural airflow. This is counter-intuitive to creating a secure facility.
- Should the committee not be willing to take the risk on this program, the staff proposed a Plan B, which would be an afterschool program held strictly outdoors from about 2-5:30pm. This program could be held at multiple sites provided there is enough interest and we can secure enough staff. We would need to prepare for cancellations due to weather, and for early sunset as we approach winter.
- Discussion items pertaining to this fall childcare program:
 - Jeff Rothberg mentioned the importance of staggered times for drop-off and pick-up to reduce close contacts.
 - Daniel asked if there is a concern that we can only accommodate 36 children. The committee felt that 36 was a significant help to the community.
 - Daniel explained that our plan is to offer the program through December. We will evaluate the program and determine if we should continue beyond December. Much will depend upon what the school district decides about opening schools.
 - Jeff asked if we have access to other facilities in the area, or if we can collaborate with neighboring agencies to potentially allow us to expand the program and allow more children. He said that he is aware of church facilities that may be for rent. Barry explained that other recreation and park agencies are looking to run their own childcare programs at their facilities. We would be interested in exploring options of other available facilities within our district. Staff have concerns about shared indoor space during the pandemic, but if it were our own space, then it is worth exploring.
 - Rodney Dahlberg expressed his concern for our senior clientele. They miss the classes and dances at MOCC, and many have begun meeting in the park to reconnect with each other. With the childcare program occupying the MOCC, there would be very little opportunity for seniors.
 - Jeff asked what our marketing strategy would be to help notify families of this childcare program. Nicole Friedrich explained our direct emails through Constant Contact, our social media through Facebook and Instagram, and website advertising. Jeff asked if there was a way, even with schools closed, that we could get the information out to families that haven't participated with MORPD before.
 - Nghia and Jeff expressed an interest in providing a full day childcare program AND an afterschool program. Staff felt this was possible provided we have enough staff to pull from, and that the programs do not compete with each other. If the committee was comfortable moving forward with the childcare program, the primary focus of staff would be getting that program set to begin by August 31. We would then work on afterschool programming options.

- Daniel suggested that we may need to end the afterschool programs when the cold, wet and dark season hits. Jeff said that he was willing to accept program closures during unsafe weather conditions.
- Jeff asked if we could be accommodating to staff who were not comfortable working this program due to fears of Covid-19. Barry said that we would be sensitive to these concerns, but staff working this program need to accept that they will be working much of the day indoors with cohort groups of up to 12 children and two adults.
- Nghia and Jeff both liked the childcare program proposal and congratulated staff for their creativity and interest in helping families in need. Nghia moved that MORPD run the childcare program. Jeff seconded the motion.

4. Other Programming: If time permits, we can discuss programming for other age groups, or we can schedule another meeting.

- **Preschool Program:** Barry explained that the MORPD preschool program closely follows the SJUSD calendar. With San Juan offering only distance-learning, we were considering the same. Due to the limited size of our preschool, we would only be allowed to accept up to 8 children out of 40 that registered. Our goal is to recover 100% of direct costs for preschool, which would not be possible with only 8 students unless we drastically increased fees. We would consider a virtual program, an in-person program, and a hybrid. Much would depend upon the interest and comfort level of the preschool instructor.
 - Nghia stated, and Jeff agreed that they would be willing to lose money on the program this year in order to allow in-person instruction. Rodney expressed concern for the 30 children/families that would be turned away, and how we would select the children. Nghia suggested we hold a lottery live on Zoom as a way of being fully transparent.
 - Staff said that they would work with the instructor later in the week to determine how to best offer preschool. If it is offered in-person, then we would conduct the lottery live on Zoom.
- **Teen Programming:** Barry and Nicole discussed some teen programs that are in the planning stages:
 - **Backyard Games** such as cornhole, ladder-ball, Kan-Jam, and Bottle Bash that allow for social distancing. These games are fun, social, involve some level of physical activity, and will get teens out of the house.
 - **Adulting 101** is being considered in a virtual format. We will likely wait until January to bring this program back.
 - **Skateboarding:** With school campuses closed, Sean LaTour's skateboarding program is looking for a new location. We are working with him to identify a suitable location within one of our parks.
 - **E-Sports:** This would be an opportunity for teens to play and compete in various video games. It will require some extra creativity to offer this program safely during Covid-19 restrictions.
 - **Adopt A Park:** Barry and J.R. Hichborn are in the early planning stages to create a beautification and stewardship program for the Valley Oak Park nature area that would involve teen volunteers.
 - Nghia explained that staff should look into bringing independent contractors to provide some specialty teen programs.

5. Nghia adjourned the meeting at 1:19pm.

Currently and upcoming challenges-

- Staffing- (Current Challenges)
 - The Recreation Division typically operates with a total of approximately 80-100+ staff including Recreation Superintendent, 3 Supervisors, Program Coordinators and Recreation Leaders/Coaches. Before the COVID Crisis, we also had over 100 volunteers annually. Currently, the division has 3 Supervisors, 2 Coordinators and approx. 5 part time Recreation Leader level staff.
 - To return to the staff that will be required to operate our programs, as things continue to open up, we will need to effectively recruit, hire and train many new staff and volunteers rather quickly.
 - Hiring Managers have noticed a difficulty in recruiting staff to work based on factors including fear of working with the public, and possibly that government assistance has paid more than what most staff would earn by working.
 - Recreation Division have made plans for staffing structures needed at different phases of reopening. Admin/HR Staff will need to prepare for a mass influx of hiring and help recreation division with prioritizing this as a common goal.
- Rules and Regulations-
 - Rules and regulations are ever-changing for COVID protocol and it is difficult to plan ahead without knowing what regulations may be in place by the time staff operate the program or event
 - Regulations typically change with little notice, which creates an immediate demand to create and provide programming opportunities. Planning and implanting safe and successful programs takes time, and many resources that aren't readily available as the government lifts orders. Staff will need time to work with reasonable and realistic expectations on response time.
- Sports-
 - Rules and regulations are ever-changing for COVID protocol and it is difficult to plan for season without knowing what regulations may be in place by the time staff begin scheduling games and practices
 - School gyms where programs operate are small and therefore and create problems for social distancing
 - Mission Oaks only has facilities that can host, Elementary Track meets and Flag Football, we would need to combine with Carmichael or rent facilities from someone to run other programs, especially if SJUSD continues to not allow indoor rentals.
 - Most sports we run are close contact sports
 - Hiring coaches is incredibly difficult since most coaches are high school students and our connection to them has been severely severed since COVID shut us down

Teen Programming-

- Preparing to offer for 2021- *New and Returning*-
 - Robotics with Rio Americano Teacher and students for grades 6th-10th. Classes will be taught by Juniors and Seniors
 - Leader In Training Program (Formerly Junior Leader Programs) for CHALOF and Camp Kids, (Formerly Youth Health Mentors) for Project HYPE and Camp Oak Wood
 - Intermediate Sports- Football, Basketball and Volleyball
 - Adulting 101 – We will try again in the fall and we are hoping the participants will be able to help with a project so we can pay them again
 - We have a new concept off of this call GOAT- we will be offering volunteer service credit or pay depending on the Teens preference
 - eSports- Tournaments and Leagues
 - MO Hikes- Staff will lead teens on hikes in the local area. Mission Oaks vans will be used to transport teens.
 - Teen Driver- We will begin again when we can have participants back on sites and in vans
 - Backyard Games- Hoping to start back in summer – We need more assistance from SJUSD with promoting information.
 - Teen Mental Health Program (Partnered with SCIP/SHOCK)- Staff have met and discussed the potential to start this program with the Sherriff's Community Impact Program. Current needs to start this program include funding and a certified instructor to lead the program. SCIP has identified a person, but they have been unavailable for the time being

- Looking further into:
 - STEAM programs-
 - We've reached out to Square Root Academy, Drone Training through Drone University, Coding through UC Davis, Academyx.com and Code Ninjas.
 - Bike building with Will Rogers-

Pickleball Status

Current Pickleball Issues:

- Demand is currently much greater than supply. There are too many players wanting to use our 6 Eastern Avenue Park courts. Typically, on the weekends we have up to 70 people trying to utilize the courts at high use times.
- A group of approximately 75 pickleball players has formed the Eastern Oak Pickleball Club. They are a majority of the players who use the courts on the weekends and have been utilizing the “rules of play” to all participants who show up to use the facility. The “rules of play” are common rotation methods used by pickleball players during high use time of the courts to get people who are waiting to use the courts play time.
- We have heard from a smaller group of participants who feel the Eastern Oak Pickleball Club are monopolizing play and not being inclusive to players who are not in the Pickleball club and have had disagreements with Pickleball Club Members about the “rules of play”.
- The Eastern Oak Pickleball Club has no agreements, contracts, or affiliations with the Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District although there has been communication between the Pickleball Club and Mission Oaks Employees about club formation.
- The Pickleball Club has also been in communication with the District about improvements they would like at the courts and has wanted to be involved with fundraising efforts to help make those improvements happen.

Upcoming plans to alleviate issues:

- Make sure there is adequate signage which explains established “rules of play” for anyone wishing to use the courts. I have attached a copy of a “rules of play” sign we will be posting the sign at Eastern Avenue.
- Build additional courts at Gibbons Park. There are 4 courts planned for fiscal year 2020-2021.
- We are exploring the idea of allowing groups to rent pickleball court time. This would be a similar process as our field use agreements we currently use. Times the courts are rented could be posted and rentals would be open to any group that would want to rent court time provided they followed district guidelines.
- We have been in communication with the pickleball club and have been keeping them informed about concerns we are getting from non-club pickleball players and we have been reminding them that the courts are open for all who wish to use them.

Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District (MORPD)
Eastern Oak Park Pickleball Court Rules
Hours: Dawn to Dusk

1. Pickleball Only-No Skateboards, bicycles, skating, rollerblading, etc.
2. Players are asked to respect the court rules. Failure to comply may result in player privileges being revoked.
3. First serve will always take place on the south side (same side as playground).
4. All games to be played to 11, win by 2.
5. No drilling, practice, or singles when players are waiting.
6. If players are waiting, limit play to one game to 11 and relinquish court.
7. **Busy times** are daily from 7:00 am – 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm until dusk.
8. During busy times when courts are full, and players are waiting, please follow the rules below:

Courts 1-5 General Courts – All Levels

Follow a **“2 on 2 off” rotation**. Place paddles in the paddle holder nearest Court 1 to form a line-up. Winners stay on for **no more than 2** consecutive matches. Losers place paddles back in the paddle holder.

If 8 or more paddles are in line, **“4 on 4 off”** rotation begins. All players leave court after play and place paddles back in paddle holder.

Once a number of paddles waiting goes back to less than 8, “2 on 2 off” rotation returns.

Court 6 – Challenge Court – Advanced Level

Place paddles in the paddle holder nearest Court 6. Winners stay. Losers place paddles back in the paddle holder.

The Challenge Court is intended for advanced players however it is not exclusive and any player who feels they are able to compete at a higher level of play may utilize the Challenge Court.

ONE PADDLE PER PERSON IN ONE LINE AT A TIME.