

**Advisory Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom Meeting ID: 860 1612 8070  
4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608**



**Call to Order:** 6:01 p.m. by Chair Pati Brown Todd.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Announced by Chair Pati Brown Todd.

**Roll Call:**

**MORPD Directors Present:** Brown Todd, Bannister, Rothberg, and Evans.

**MORPD Directors Absent:** Director Alcalay.

**MORPD Staff Present:** Barton, Hichborn, Curtola, Friedrich, Woodland, and Hawthorne.

**Public Present:** Cheyanne Cook.

**Chairperson’s Comments:** *Brown Todd thanks staff for a great Spooktacular Halloween event and for Directors who attended the event. Brown Todd also thanks staff who led and attended the Park Tour.*

**Board Comments/Discussion:** *Director Rothberg seconds Brown Todd's comments. Director Rothberg thanks Barton for engaging with teens playing cricket at EOP and starting a conversation about getting cricket established in District parks.*

**Announcement by Chairperson:** Members of the public may address the Board on District topics not listed on this agenda. It is a violation of state law for the Board to discuss or act on non-agenda items. Board members may only briefly ask clarifying questions or refer matters to staff. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes.

**Public Comment:** *Hawthorne reads a letter submission by Leonie Rannie: Rannie is concerned that the senior Friday Dance at Gibbons Community Center will be canceled due to low attendance and wants staff to do more marketing and bring awareness to the class.*

**Consent:**

1. Approval of October 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District Park Patrol Reports for October 2023 from Fulton El Camino Police, Sacramento County Sheriff Off Duty Patrol, and Tiger Security.
3. Monthly Budget Reports, September 1-30, Period 3, FY 2023-24.
4. Administrative Division Report.

5. Recreation Division Report.
6. Parks Division Report.
7. Staff Work Plans.

**ACTION:** After discussion, on a motion by Director Evans, seconded by Director Rothberg, the Advisory Board of Directors voted to approve all consent items. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Brown Todd, Bannister Rothberg, and Evans.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Alcalay

ABSTAIN: 0

**Information/Reports/Presentation:**

8. District Administrators Report.
  - Recreation Report. (verbal)
  - Parks Report. (verbal)

*Barton states that there will be an emPOWERment park meeting on Wednesday, November 15. Barton notes that KYA Group has a new director who is helping push project plans forward.*

*Barton notes that staff will bring three new policies on smoking, e-bikes, and drones to the Personnel Policy Committee.*

*Curtola states several recreation updates including, the Walk with Friends program being completely full with attendees, the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Spooktacular having around 400-500 attendees, the Thanksgiving Luncheon at GCC having 50 people in attendance, MOTAB assisting with Spooktacular and the future Letters to Santa program, and Elementary/Intermediate basketball up and running with 250 participants.*

*Hichborn notes updates being made to the District including the HVAC relocation at Gibbons being finalized, the new thermostats installed in all district buildings, staff awaiting the pickleball sound screens to be delivered so they can be installed, needing to update irrigation at Windemere Park and other fall renovations such as aerating and spraying fields.*

*Director Rothberg states that he has noticed lots of smoking in MORPD parks and questions staff if there are signs in parks that state smoking isn't allowed. Hichborn notes that the district doesn't have a policy against smoking.*

**Discussion:**

9. Discuss Arden Little League's request to install batting cages at Valley Oak Park. \*  
*Curtola states that Arden Little League wants more space to build an additional batting cage. Curtola states that MORPD will not be adding more land to the park to allow for a second batting cage and notes that before ALL could potentially begin the process of building the second batting cage, they would have to bring it into compliance. Curtola mentions that ALL has stated they are willing to pay for all updates and costs having to do with the current batting cage and the hypothetical second cage. Curtola notes this discussion item was not brought to the Board by staff but at the request of ALL.*

*Public Comment Opens:*

*Hawthorne reads a letter submission by Craig Gifford: Gifford is concerned that Arden Little League will be allowed to install a second batting cage which would take even more space away from neighborhood parkgoers. Gifford states that ALL has already been allowed to outgrow their rental agreement boundaries by leaving equipment year-round, installing storage units not kept within field lines, and practicing at all hours of the day and*

night. Gifford notes that the current batting cage is open and available for use 24-7, 365 but if it is only for ALL then the nets should be taken down in the off-season. Gifford states that neighbors of the park feel that they have been pushed aside and given less availability to use the labeled "Neighborhood Park" due to ALL.

Cook shares a PowerPoint and explains that 450 families participate in Arden Little League, with home games held at Valley Oak Park, and that there is a large desire from participants to get a second batting cage. Cook notes that since there is only one batting cage all children are waiting in long lines and it causes a bottleneck around the area. This is why the second batting cage would go on the other side of the park to cut down the noise congestion on one side. Cook states that for the second cage to fit one of the fences would need to be moved several feet and it would be replacing the bullpen for catchers. Cook shows a diagram of the fields. Cook shares a map of ALL families within the MORPD boundaries and notes that 47% of ALL participants live within MORPD boundaries.

*Public Comment Closes.*

Directors Brown Todd and Evans question if the current batting cage is open 24-7, 365, and if not is it locked. Staff notes that the batting cages aren't locked, however, the park does close at dusk, is locked every night by security, and there aren't lights on the fields.

Barton questions if there will be any trees removed since a fence needs to be moved. Cook states no trees will be removed. Barton wants it noted that it has been stated and confirmed no trees will be removed.

Director Rothberg questions if the batting cage is a year-round batting cage and when Little League season occurs. Cook notes that Little League season starts in February/March and ends on Memorial Day, with specific leagues continuing until fall. Cook mentions that the batting cage is open year-round to the public unless previously reserved by ALL.

Director Evans questions if there is a pitching machine in the batting cage. Cook states that ALL brings in pitching machines but removes them when Little League is not using them and stores them in the storage room onsite.

Director Evans recommends this item be moved to a Facilities Meeting for further discussion. Board members agree.

**Action:** None.

**Staff Comments/Reports:** Barton notes that he plans to hold Committee meetings in place of the December Advisory Board meeting and then continue Advisory Board meetings in the new year.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. As of the date of this notice, social distancing measures are in effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parties interested in participating in the public hearing should visit the District's website at <https://www.morpd.com/advisory-board-meetings> for current information on how to provide public comment.

**Adjourn: 6:58 p.m.**

*Shayne Hawthorne*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shayne Hawthorne, Clerk of Board

January 9, 2024  
Date

Dear Mission Oaks Board of Directors,

My name is Leonie Rannie, I am 96 years old, and I have been a part of Mission Oaks for over 30 years. I used to be a dance instructor and was instantly drawn to the Friday Dances at Gibbons Community Center. I have not only attended the Friday dances at Gibbons Community Center, but I also play maracas for them every Friday. Over the years, I have seen the dances thrive and be full of people. However, after COVID-19, there was a large dip in attendance and since then the dance has been struggling to get people. I have a growing concern that the Friday Dances will be discontinued at Mission Oaks due to the low turnout.

As someone who attends the dances every Friday, it would be devastating if they were to end. This is why I'm requesting help to get more recognition and advertisement for the Friday Dances. I have tried bringing people who are visiting the community centers into the dances, however, the staff has told me that they cannot attend the dance unless they pay. I've also attempted to give small lessons for free during the dances to get dancers more comfortable and over their shyness, but the staff also instructed me not to since dance lessons are provided by the community center. Also, when holidays arise most times it's at the end of the week, so the Friday dances are then canceled due to holiday closures, but the Tuesday dances never have to worry.

I have come up with a few ideas to get dancers coming back each week and gain a bigger following for the dances, that I would like to propose to the board and staff. Those ideas include giving raffle tickets to loyal attendees to win prizes at the dances, giving out tickets to attendees to bring a friend for free, and offering a free one-time trial to those interested but aren't sure, like it is offered for other classes. I personally volunteer myself to be the person in charge of raffles and the in-person advertisement for the Friday Dance. If possible, I would also like the dance instructors at Gibbons to advertise the dances with their students during class and invite them to the dances to help boost attendee's confidence and raise awareness for the dances. As for the holiday closures, the dance can be moved to a different day during the week so that the dance can still be enjoyed by the loyal attendees. Lastly, I would like to see Chelsey or Jill talk up the Friday dances to people who come into the community center and just see a general increase in advertising for the Friday Dance.

Thank you for listening and I hope to hear about updates regarding the Friday Dance.

Sincerely,

Leonie (Maracas) Rannie.

Shayne Hawthorne

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Danny Curtola, Shayne Hawthorne  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Concerns to be read at tonight's Board Meeting

Craig Gifford

As a senior adjacent resident to Valley Oak Park, I would like to express my concerns about further expansion and time frames that the sports activities are vying for and feel that they have already outgrown their privileges and rental space in this neighborhood park.

I would like to have my concerns voiced/read at the Board meeting tonight so that they may be considered and weighed in on the decision-making process by the board.

- 1) There is a proposal for building an additional batting cage on property outside of the league's rental agreement. There is currently a batting cage, pitching mounds and storage containers that are outside of the diamonds and bleacher areas. An additional batting cage will not only take more space in the park away from local tax paying residents, but will add additional noise, traffic, and invite many more opportunities for far reaching people to come to this local park. I STRONGLY oppose the addition of another batting cage in our park. If they desperately need another batting location, build it in one of the other numerous parks that MORPD oversees.
- 2) The current batting cage is operational 365 days of the year and is open 24 hours a day for use. As a result, we are inundated with people using it at all hours of the day and night. If it is associated with the Little League, why are the nets not taken down during off season, and why is it not locked during off game or practice times? The constant "pinging" of metal bats (not allowed use in the games) and "cracking" of bats leaves no undisturbed time for local residents to enjoy their own properties. This cage is not monitored by MORPD, nor do we want to have to be responsible for constant policing of it. I propose it is locked or disassembled anytime the league is not officially using it.
- 3) I feel like over the years, the neighborhood, my personal property, and the local residents have been pushed aside and forced to bend to the will of Arden Little League and the support given by MORPD. At what point do we get true consideration for our desires and needs as tax paying residents?
- 4) At what point do WE get to enjoy a park that has been extraordinarily over-reached in space, timeframes, noise, annoyance, lack of monitoring, and convenience, by a much fewer passing individuals given way too much voice.

It is beyond time to consider the neighborhood, as in neighborhood park, as opposed to the wants and desires of a sports league that MORPD has allowed us to be cowed into unacceptable acceptance!!