

Amigos de Cerrillos Hills State Park

Board Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2019

Members Present

Boyd Christensen, President, LuAnn Wosick, Sandy Young, Sue Schneider. Ruth Center as recording secretary. 1:20pm Steve Talbot

Also Present

Peter Lipscomb, Park Manager, Janice Krish, Volunteer Program Coordinator and David Certain, Program Support Bureau Chief.

Call to order

Boyd Christensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

Meeting Agenda

LuAnn Wosick moved that we accept the agenda as presented. Sue Schneider second and the motion carried

Introductions

Boyd Christensen introduced each of the Amigos to State Park Personnel with a brief Bio. Each of the State Park Representatives then introduced themselves to the group.

Amigos Statement of Concerns

Boyd read the prepared Amigos Statement of concerns.

Amigos mission is "enhancing the visitor experience". We have a concern that our mission does not align with the expectations of the State Park System, in the areas of fund raising and expenditure of funds. There is also, concerns regarding transparency in state government.

We are a small group and do not have many fund-raising events. The addition of the \$300 annual concession fee reduces the revenue from this event by almost 50%.

A second concern is the discouragement we felt after approaching our elected representative for capital outlay for our plaza project.

In the area of expenditures, we are concerned of the perception that our funds can be used in areas that should really be the responsibility of state procurement. This interferes with our ability to meet our goals of enhancing the park experience through education and capital improvements.

Development of the park plaza area has been long run source of frustration.

In 2016 after several community meetings we developed the Cerrillos Hills State Park Plaza Conceptual Plan. As we understood this project would have to be developed in phases. We got bids to determine the cost of such an undertaking. After we had received the bids, we were told that there were state funds available to complete this project so it would not be necessary for the Amigos to raise these funds. Deadlines have come and gone, and the work is still not complete.

After Boyd completed the reading of the Amigos' concerns, we had an open discussion.

Concession Fees

David Certain explained that there are Administrative Codes that can only be changed by the Secretary. State Parks is researching fees and alternatives. David Certain agreed to work with the Division Director and try to get the concessions rule changed before Art in the Park 2020.

Communication with State Representatives

State Parks asked that we communicate through the Agency Director, for more successful results, with any capital improvement projects. However, they acknowledged our right to approach our representatives. The Amigos believed that we had gone through State Parks with our conceptual plan.

Plaza Project

The Amigos funded community planner and community meetings for the plaza development and the creation of the Conceptual Plan. Last year the Amigos purchased two picnic tables. The Park purchased another table and trees for the plaza area. The Amigos got bids for the pathway development and begun to develop a fund strategy. State reported that there were funds available to complete the pathways. The pathways project was not started, and it was not communicated to the Amigos the reasons for the delays.

10th Anniversary Celebration

The Amigos were told that their help was not needed for the Anniversary Celebration. We understood that the Parks Systems had a standard approach for anniversary events, and they would take care of all the planning and the budget. We have since been requested to partially fund the Anniversary Celebration.

Peter Lipscomb reported on Anniversary Celebration plans.

There will be Opening Comments

Donkey Races

Food Truck

Raptor Presentation

Park Fees will be waived for the day

The State will provide Facebook Ads, Posters and the event will be posted on State Parks' website

Peter apologized for not doing a better job of communicating his needs for this event.

Next Steps

The Amigos would like to try to fix our relationship with State Parks.

We would like to be treated as partners.

The Amigos are interested in purchasing legacy items.

We would like to know where the money goes. Why and when approval is granted and then removed.

State Parks will:

- ... Peter and Janice will meet biweekly
- ... Peter will submit Cerrillos Hills State Park Plaza conceptual plan to Judy Kowalski, Design and Development Chief, for review and approval
- ... David and Janice will provide the Amigos a detailed list of all steps they must go through to get a change to the Administrative Code regarding concession fees
- ... Peter will provide Plaza updates at every Amigos meeting including financial status
- ... Peter will provide a report monthly on progress in changing the Administrative Code regarding concession fees
- ... Peter will provide Amigos with 2014 Management Plan (This is a guiding document. Things can happen outside of the plan. Should be updated every five years but it is still relevant)
- ... Group will reconvene in January 2020

Next meeting of this group will be January 19, 2020 1:00 PM Cerrillos Hills State Park Visitors Center

Report on progress on Concession fee modification and Plaza Project

Everyone agrees communication is key to our success.

Next Board meeting November 10, 2019.

LuAnn Wosick moved that we adjourn. Sandy Young second and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM