

# The Sim

## Committee For Formation Of A Recreation District Meets

Simi Valley  
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July 27, 1961

The Committee for the Formation of a Recreation District met at the home of the Chairman, Mrs. Roger D. Moeller Wednesday night, July 19th to hear reports from Mrs. John Weil and Counsel for the group, Gordon Lindeen.

Mrs. Weil told of her conference with the State recreation expert Ferdinand Bahr in Los Angeles. Mr. Bahr expressed approval of the boundaries for the proposed District which coincide with those of the school district. He also recommended that the election to formally put the district into operation be held in October or November of this year. He commended the foresight of the Simi group in its recognition that park lands need to be obtained "now, not 10 years from now."

Gordon Lindeen reported that the formal resolution will be presented to the Supervisors within the next few weeks.

The Committee welcomed two new members, C. P. Kennedy and John C. Montgomery.

# New Park District Put on Ballot

Tuesday the County Board of Supervisors put the Simi Valley Parks and Recreations District proposal on the October 3 ballot.

Five petitions for the five director seats on the proposed district were filed and tentatively accepted. Those filing petitions were Mrs. John Wei and Alfred Haas, Santa Susana, Mrs. Vincent Johnson, David Strathern Jr., and Frank Setser, of Simi.

The Committee for the formation of the District met Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Moeller. Plans were laid for the coming campaign for the voters acceptance of the district at the polls, October 3. Several announced candidates attended the committee's meeting for the first time and requested comprehensive and detailed explanations from the committee as to the functions and purpose of a Recreation District.

Mrs. Moeller announced the appointment of Bob Pitman, Mrs. Roy Heath Gordon Strathern, Mrs. Frank Setser, Mrs. John Weil, Mrs. Vince Johnson, Alfred Haas and Frank Setser to the executive committee of the whole to promote the formation of the district.

### Basic Statement

A basic statement of aims for a Simi Park and Recreation District was agreed to by all those present, as follows: 1) A State Survey of present and projected recreation facilities upon formation. 2) Land acquisitions for park sites, 3) Cooperation with the Simi Unified School District, and 4) Preservation of Historical sites.

The committee is requesting all organizations in the Valley to schedule a speaker from the Park and Recreation Committee to answer questions on District formation for their September meetings. For arrangements please call, FIreside 6-1270 or FIreside 6-2588.

August 31, 1961

## Parks And Recreation Committee Endorses Five As Directors

The Simi Valley Committee for a Park and Recreation District has endorsed five of its members for positions on the Board of Directors of the proposed park and recreation district.

Candidates endorsed were Alfred Haas, Robert Setser, David L. Strathearn, Jr., Mrs. June L. Johnson and Mrs. Elsie S. Weil.

The committee, in a release to the press, said "These five are the only candidates of those running who have participated in the many months of preparation and study which preceded the placement on the ballot."

The committee also has issued a 'fact sheet' which was prepared by them and announced as a platform. The lengthy background sheet is being circulated by the committee throughout the Valley.

The committee spokesman, Beverly Moeller, who is serving as chairman, said in the release that the committee believed the committee merited the attention and support of the whole community for its honesty, thoroughness and

competency.

At a meeting this week, the Simi Valley Homeowner's Association were critical of the endorsement of specific candidates by the committee and appealed to the committee on formation to circulate information on all fourteen candidates who have filed for the five vacancies.

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## Proposed Parks And Recreation District To Be Decided During Election, Five Directors Named

A matter of intense interest and activity in the Simi Valley for the past several months will culminate in the Tuesday election when a proposal for the establishment of a Parks and Recreation District will be voted on by the electorate. Simultaneously the ballot will contain the names of 14 candidates, five of whom will be chosen to govern the new district if approved by the voters.

The proposed Parks and Recreation District is being formed to participate in land acquisition through gifts by individuals and subscribed by subdividers for development into playlots, playgrounds and neighborhood centers. Extensive purchase of land for large park areas is vested with the Ventura County Public Works Department. The district would be able to purchase land adjacent to schoolgrounds to form larger play areas for night and year round recreation activities and would supplement and enrich the recreation program for children and adults now administered under the Civic Center Act of the school district which cannot adequately meet the increasing needs of the future. The proposed district could also preserve and maintain historical sites in the Valley.

Boundaries for the proposed district are identical to that of the Simi Valley Unified School District. The boundaries, fixed by the County Boundary Commission, are coterminous in order to make the collection of tax monies more efficient and more economical and to provide equal services and cost sharing to the group most likely to use the district.

The proposed district would have an assessed valuation of \$23,907,507. The board of directors of the district, under the law, could levy a maximum tax of 50 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The committee under whose auspices the present proposal was made have recommended an initial tax rate of 10 cents per \$100 for land acquisition and administration. They have stated that in order to provide limited funds they believe this rate would suffice for at least a two year period because the school district may continue to operate a limited recreation program under the Civic Center Act.

The present proposal was placed on the ballot through activities of a Committee for the Formation of a Park and Recreation District. In December of 1959, a meeting of the Citizens Educational Advi-

sory Council was held and out of this group's study came a recommendation for a recreation council. A committee was formed in February, 1960, and out of this group came the committee for the formation of a park and recreation district.

The committee has pointed out that there are fifteen acres of parks for Santa Susana Park and fifty-four acres for Oak Park or a total of 69 acres for 15,000 people. These parks will not change status under the proposal. The new district would concentrate on needed play lots, playgrounds and neighborhood recreation centers.

Groups who have supported the formation of the district include the Simi Valley Woman's Club, the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Education, the American Legion, the Lion's Club, the Booster's Club, Tapo Country Club, Susana Knolls Garden Club, the Abraham Lincoln PTA and Girl Scout and Cub Scout organizations.

Fourteen candidates have filed for positions on the board of directors for the proposed district. Five board members are to be elected. The three candidates having the highest number of votes will be elected to four year terms and the remaining two will serve two years. Thereafter board members will be elected for four-year periods.

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# Simi Recreation District Wins, Five Directors Named

Simi Valley voters gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to the establishment of a Parks and recreation district and elected five directors to terms on the initial governing board of the new district.

Approval of the district was by a 1,056 to 342 majority. Elected as directors for four years were David L. Strathearn, Robert E. Setser, and Alfred Haas. Mrs. June L. Johnson and Mrs. Elsie E. Weil were elected to two-year terms. The three with the highest vote total received the long terms.

Strathearn received the most votes with 1,072, Setser received 800, Haas 762, Johnson 684 and Weil 674. Other candidates and their votes were Ted M. Grandson, 622; Dr. Jack D. Forbes, 504; Mrs. Katherine M. Barker, 425; John J. Burns, 237; Mrs. Donna E. Jakubowski, 227;; Mrs. Marilyn Harris, 199; Albert L. Rosen, 166; Richard A. Porter, 150 and Mrs. Geraldine V. McMullen, 143.

**Simi Valley News**  
**October 12, 1961**

## FIRST MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Simi Valley Recreation and Park District will hold their first meeting on October 25, 1961, at 8 p.m. at the Educational Materials Center, 1725 Deodora Street Simi, California according to an announcement by Elsie Weil, temporary board chairman.

The Agenda for the meeting will consist of

1. Call to Order by Elsie S. Weil, Temporary Chairman
2. Election of a Permanent Chairman
3. Election of other officers
  - a) Co-Chairman
  - b) Secretary
4. Establish permanent meeting dates
5. Discuss rules of procedure
6. Investigate employment of counsel
7. Budget considerations
8. Survey procedures

The District is not yet in receipt of its legal certification from the Secretary of State and was therefore advised by the district attorney's office to restrict the first meeting to the internal organization of the board and to plans for its operation.

October 19 1961

## Strathearn Is Named Chairm. of Park Board

Dave Strathearn Jr. was elected chairman of the Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District Board of Directors, when the recently elected group met for their first official meeting on October 25. Other officers elected were Alfred Haas, vice chairman and Mrs. John Weil, secretary. The county treasurer acts as treasurer of the district.

The board set the fourth Wednesday of each month for its regular meeting date. The meetings will be held at the Educational Materials Center, 1725 Deodora Street, Simi, starting at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 22.

It was decided to contact other districts of comparable size and scope to help determine the best board procedures and methods of establishing a policy handbook. District boards in Costa Mesa, Yucaipa and Rosemead will be contacted.

Mr. Strathearn and Mrs. Weil were appointed to establish liaison with the staff of the County Planning Department to work out details of the newly-passed ordinance allowing smaller sized subdivision lots, if developers will set aside land for parks. The board further requested the two appointees to obtain information from the Ventura County treasurer, assessor, and auditor, relative to the preparation of a budget and the acquisition of monies.

Chairman Strathearn will contact the District Attorney's office and report to what extent the district may use the services of this county office, and what minimal fee scale may be used for the employment of local counsel.

Ferdinand Bahr, of the Los Angeles office of the Division of Recreation, will be officially requested to make an immediate survey for the area.

Moorpark Simi Valley  
Enterprise Nov 2 1961