

Simi Recreation District Accepts 1963 Challenges

The new calendar year affords the Simi Valley Recreation-Park District unlimited challenges and an expansive opportunity to serve the youth and adult population of the rapidly growing Simi Valley.

The district board of directors has identified four major areas of service which they predict will show accelerated activity during the year 1963.

Recreation Programming: The district will plan to expand its elementary Recreation Playground Program as new schools open and will introduce a variety of valley-wide recreation experiences for the elementary aged boys and girls. The district will initiate sport and social recreation opportunities for the junior and senior high school-age groups. And offer an increased number of recreation experiences for adult men and women in sport leagues and co-recreational activities.

Park System: The board of directors will continue to encourage the use of the Countys' Open Space Ordinance by land developers in hope of having park properties donated. Acquire or commit park properties identified as first priority on the "Park Master Plan". Develop at least two neighborhood parks and one community park. It is hoped that the community park plan would include a recreation center building.

Public Relations: Continue to cooperate with the service clubs and organizations of the Simi Valley in the conduct of their activities related to youth and adult use of leisure time. Solicit the opportunity to appear before local organizations to explain and describe the efforts of the Recreation Park District. Work closely, in co-sponsorship, with the local private recreation agencies, athletic leagues and special recreation interest clubs in the amplification of their own programs.

Administration: Refine existing internal procedures and establish the necessary processes whereby the greatest efficiency can be achieved. To supply the district with minimal staff, supplies and equipment to accomplish work in this regard. Introduce means of establishing a closer relationship with the general public; a greater awareness of their interest and needs; and to open additional lines of communication between the taxpayer and the district board of directors.

The Simi Valley Recreation and Park District in its first year of existence and service to the taxpayer has accomplished much in regards to the introduction of basic elementary activities, to the setting up of minimum office procedures and negotiating with the land developers in the area concerned with the total and proper development of the Simi Valley.

In closing the calendar year 1962 the Recreation-Park Board of Directors, David L. Strathern, Jr., Elsie Weil, June Johnson, Alfred Haas and R. F. Setser, express their thanks to the public for their support and encouragement.

First Land to Be Given to Simi Rec-Park District

Simi Valley Recreation and Park Board of Directors have received a positive indication that they will receive their first land donation for a park from the Larwin Co.

The actual deed to the property should be in their hands in one or two weeks, according to Leslie Reed, general manager of the Recreation District.

"This is a banner day for the district," Reed said, "we also have several other possibilities which may develop in the near future." The two-acre parcel of land is located adjacent to an elementary school site just north of the intersection at Los Angeles Avenue and Madera (formerly Kajawski) in the far west end of Simi.

Reed said there is a strong indication that they will also receive a six acre parcel of land from the Lewis Lesser Enterprises, located north and west of Peppertree Lane and the highway, in Santa Susana.

The Board of Directors continued their study of the master plan for parks in the area, when they met Wednesday night, Jan. 23, and considered top priority park locations. There are seven park possibilities on the priority list. Reed has been requested by the Board to compute costs for buying land, development of land donations and going onto school property. After costs have been determined, the Board will figure this into their 1963-64 budget.

Top priority should be given to

acquiring land that there is no possibility of receiving as a donation, Reed indicated. They feel that with land costs rising continually, it is extremely important to buy needed land now.

The finance committee will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 29, to study Reed's first draft of the 1963-64 budget, which will be presented in its final form at a public hearing later this Spring.

Mrs. June Johnson and Mrs. Elsie Weil were cited for their outstanding services as charter members of the Recreation and Park Board, in a resolution adopted by the Board last Wednesday night. They will be invited to serve as ex-officio board members.

Simi Park Gift

Termed Certain

Directors of the Simi Valley Parks and Recreation District have learned that donation of the district's first park site is assured and a second site is a strong probability.

Larwin Co. has agreed to contribute two acres north of Los Angeles Avenue near Madera Road, and the district should get the deed within a week, district manager Leslie Reed reported.

He also told district directors that Louis Lesser Enterprises has tentatively agreed to donate a six-acre site north of Los Angeles Avenue near Peppertree Lane.

Reed said Larwin has abandoned plans to donate 2.9 acres near Erringer Road and Arroyo Simi Wash, although the site was acceptable to the park district.

Simi Valley Sun

January 27, 1963

Parks Activities

Attract 7,211

The Simi Valley Recreation and Park District reports that in January, 1963, they recorded a total attendance of 7,211 people at the various activities conducted throughout the valley.

A breakdown of these figures shows the bulk of the attendance, 6,476 was made up of elementary aged youngsters, there were 441 of the junior high school age, 133 of senior high school age and 126 were adults.

Leslie Reed, general manager of SVRPD said "I believe the reason for the increased number of young people using the parks and playgrounds is a program of "Special Events" introduced by playground leaders.

Park District Seeks Leaders

The Simi Valley Recreation-Parks District wants nine playground leaders to work with boys and girls of elementary school age during the summer months, starting June 24.

Simi Parks general manager Les Reed said he is also anxious to find a crafts leader, a playground supervisor, two teen club leaders and an adult sports supervisor.

Any person interested in applying for one of these posts is asked to contact the SVRPD, 1734 Los Angeles Ave., Simi, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Deadline for applications is May 24.

Simi Valley Sun - March 27, 1963

Larwin to Give More Acres to Rec-Park Dist.

Two and seven-tenths new acres of land will be deeded by Larwin Company to the Simi Valley Park and Recreation District, Lee J. Goldin, vice president of the company, announced today.

He said the acreage, located east of Erringer Road and north of Royal Avenue, was allocated following approval Monday (March 25) by the Ventura County Planning Commission of a tentative map for tract 1344 of Larwin properties.

Builders and developers of Simi Park and the new Valley West community in Simi Valley, the company is an affiliate of Larwin Group companies, West Coast's largest builders and developers of homes and shopping centers.

Rec-Park Eyes New Tract Maps

New tract maps in the Simi Valley area were studied and discussed by the board members of the Simi Valley Recreation and Park District when they met Wednesday night, March 27, for their regular meeting.

The new maps indicating size of the lots gave the board some indication of what park land they might expect to receive from the subdividers who plan to reduce their lot size, as well as the location of the proposed donation.

According to Leslie Reed, Recreation-Park general manager, the Ventura County Planning Commission has indicated approval of the 2.8 acre park land which has been offered to the district by the Larwin Company. Two new maps of the first of the Berylwood development by Larwin were also shown at the Wednesday night meeting, which would bring the district a five acre site, if Larwin reduces their lot size. This subdivision will be bounded east and south by the Arroyo Simi, west by Erringer Road and north by Los Angeles Avenue. The park site would be situated on Los Angeles Avenue adjacent to an elementary school which would be built in the future.

Several other development company maps were also submitted and will be studied by the board in the next few weeks.

Reed also outlined current recreation activities, and told the board what is being planned for Easter and summer vacation, and of the job opportunity brochures which have been prepared, listing jobs in the summer recreation programs.

Simi Park Directors Make Progress Report

Directors of the Simi Valley Recreation and Park District have submitted the following report on park acquisition progress:

The District has the deed to a two-acre park donated by the Larwin Co. in the tract at the northeast corner of Los Angeles Avenue and Madera Road in Simi. This site adjoins an elementary school.

The Larwin Co. has donated 13.5 acres of land for park purposes in the area bordered by Erringer on the west, Los Angeles Avenue on the south, the freeway on the north and the Patterson railway line on the east. This donation has not yet been located or divided into specific park sites.

Louis Lesser Enterprises Inc. has donated 2.6 acres of park land in their subdivision adjacent to Los Angeles Avenue on the north side, and west of Peppertree Lane. It is hoped that this site will be enlarged prior to development of the area. This park site is intended to adjoin a junior high school site and to be across the street from an elementary school.

Guardian Construction Co. has agreed to donate approx. 1.5 acres and Millgee Investment Co. has agreed to donate approx. 3.5 acres. The Park District intends to accept these donations at one location, adjacent to an elementary school south and west of the intersection of Appleton and Fitzgerald.

The Park District is awaiting immediate delivery of the deed

to a 2.7 acre park site donated by the Larwin Co. adjoining the Arroyo Simi to the east of Erringer Road. This site is on the south side of the Arroyo.

Park Directors have approved the location of a 6.5 acre park offered by the Larwin Co. in their subdivision running from Erringer Road on the west, to Sycamore on the east, bordered by Los Angeles Avenue and the Arroyo Simi. This park site will be adjacent to an elementary school and will be visible from the highway. It will be located about mid-way between Sycamore and Erringer.

Alscot Development Co. and Max Rosenberg and Sons have jointly offered to the Park District 4.2 acres of park land in the east end of the Valley. Their offer will be located within the area bordered by Los Angeles

Avenue on the south, Cochran on the north, Stearns on the east and Kuehner on the east.

Simi Valley Development Co. has offered to donate approx. 15 acres of land for park purposes north and east of the intersection of Alamo and Kadota in Santa Susana. This is the area where there are ball diamonds developed by the Santa Susana Western boys baseball league and named Diversa Park.

The Simi Valley Recreation and Park District has developed a master plan indicating where parks should be established in the Simi Valley and has introduced other discussions regarding this plan with affected property owners.

The master plan is available for inspection at the district office.

Simi Valley Sun - May 5, 1963

The Greater SIMI VALLEY

SUN

Published 156 Days A Year—Every Sunday, Wednesday & Friday

The Every Other Day-ly NEWSpaper in Moorpark, Simi, Santa Susana, Susana Knolls & Environs

Entered as 2nd Class Matter, Post Office, Simi, Calif.

Simi, Calif., Friday, May 24, 1963

Two Sections—12 Pages 10c The Copy

Vol. 1, No. 92

BOARD CUTS \$53,100 . . . SETS HEARING

Park Board Budget Gets Paring

Members of the Simi Valley Recreation and Park District board pared \$53,100, less than 25 per cent, from the \$221,600 proposed budget at their regular meeting Wednesday night, but more cuts are expected.

The budget was referred back to their finance committee when the meeting ran later midnight. The committee will meet Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Most significant cuts involved the controversial land account. Directors hacked \$40,000 from

the \$85,000 request. They cited the failure to appear to be reaching any fruition in some of their negotiations as the reason for the reduction.

Other cuts involved the professional services budget which was halved, from \$2,000 to \$1,000 and their request for surveys, counsel and expert service, slashed from \$12,000 to \$5,000.

The after school playground and summer playground programs came in for their share of criticism before the budgeters sliced

an estimated \$5,000 from the request.

Roger Moeller, 801 Laguna Drive, presented a proposed budget that would have reached the \$87,800 mark. He said he prepared the budget after conferring with most of the directors.

In his presentation Moeller recommended \$7,800 for the school playground activity for '63-64 and abandonment of the program thereafter.

Mrs. Leonard Kline, a sixth grade teacher in Simi, suggested the entire program be cut out of the budget.

"In a community this rural and this small the program is not needed. Less than six per cent of the children in the district are participating in the program while 100 per cent of the taxpayers support it," she said.

Mrs. Klein also cited the advantage, in her opinion, of "free-time play" as opposed to "structured play."

Moeller called for the closing

of the playgrounds on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

"When the family unit is together there is no need for a playground program. This is part of a pattern emerging in our society that is destroying the family structure. This week-end program just drives another wedge into family life," he said.

When the section of the budget came up for discussion, district manager Leslie Reed suggested maintaining all the present items with some increases, however board members questioned the increases and made some cuts.

In calling for a curtailing of the playground program, director Harry Strahl said:

"I hate to see us acting as a baby-sitter. Let the families take care of their children on Saturdays and holidays."

The board agreed and asked

Reed to refigure that portion of the budget reducing the playground supervision to one leader and operating on a five-day basis.

Sparks flew briefly in the meeting when Joe Appleton, Simi land developer, said he was shocked by the amount of money in the land acquisition section of the budget and the entire scope of the '63-64 program.

"We had so many promises of land from 'old-timers' around here when we organized that have now fallen through that we had to make plans to buy some land. They (The 'old timers') haven't kept one of their promises," Strahl retorted.

Board members said they expect a large turn-out for their open budget meeting June 5. They will present a completely revised budget at that time.

Board Makes 2nd Cut In Simi Park Budget

Final drafts of the preliminary 1963 budget of the Simi Valley Recreation and Park District are being readied for Wednesday's annual meeting.

The present draft was approved by the district board at a special meeting Friday. It calls for expenditures of \$158,961, a reduction \$62,639 from the original \$221,600.

Further cuts are expected when the general public takes a close look at the budget Wednesday.

Originally the budget was cut at the board's May 22 meeting from \$221,600. Tuesday night the finance committee cut it further to the new total.

Supervisor John Montgomery

had criticized the district for setting such a large budget. He advocated, as a taxpayer living in the district, a maximum tax rate of 25 cents. The cut budget will call for a 35 cent rate, based on an assessed valuation of \$42 million.

Most of the money slashed from the budget came from the land acquisition and after-school and summer playground accounts.

Land acquisition was cut from \$85,000 to \$40,000 while a cut-back in the playground services and hours lopped off another \$6,800.

Wednesday's meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the L. R. Stewart Auditorium.

Simi Valley Sun - June 2, 1963

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Wednesday, June 5, 1963

Revised Rec-Park Budget to be Presented Tonight

A \$158,961 recreation-park budget for 1963-64 will be presented at an open public meeting tonight, June 5, at the L. R. Stewart Auditorium, beginning at 8 p.m.

Leslie Reed, general manager of the Simi Valley Recreation-Park District, and members of the board of directors will be present to hear any protests about the budget, and also to answer citizens questions.

The budget, which has been re-

vised twice, started at \$221,710 and has been cut to its present size, by reducing appropriations for acquiring some park sites, lessening personnel costs, and eliminating Saturday and holiday recreation programs during the summer months.

Roger Moeller, Simi resident who opposes the budget total, has had a suggested budget drawn up, which totals \$87,800, that would require an 18 cent levy on \$42,000,000 assessed valuation, as

opposed to 34 cent tax levy of the official recreation-park budget. Moeller also prepared a procedure guide for the recreation-park board of directors, which outlines the objectives of recreation program and the park system, with limitations included.

According to Moeller's report "A recreation program and Park system must contribute to a balanced community development. The program must not be used

to supplant present voluntary and commercial enterprises and the acquisition of parks must be timely and adequate."

Reed told the Simi Valley Enterprise that if enough protest is made to the board at the hearing, further revisions may be made, but it will be at the board's discretion whether more cuts will be made.

All persons who wish to voice their opinions will be welcome at the meeting.