



NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING
Oceano Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.
Oceano Community Services District Board Room
1655 Front Street Oceano, CA

All items on the agenda, including information items, may be deliberated. Any member of the public with an interest in one of these items should review the background material and request information on the possible action that could be taken.

All persons desiring to speak during any Public Comment period are asked to fill out a "Board Appearance Form" to submit to staff or a committee member prior to the start of the meeting. Each individual speaker is limited to a presentation time of THREE (3) minutes per item. Persons wishing to speak on more than one item shall limit their remarks to a total of SIX (6) minutes. This time may be allowed between items in one-minute increments up to three minutes. Time limits may not be yielded to or shared with other speakers.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

This public comment period provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on matters of interest within the jurisdiction of the District that are not listed on the agenda. If a member of the public wishes to speak at this time, Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes.

5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Public comment Members of the public wishing to speak on consent agenda items may do so when recognized by the Committee Officer. If a member of the public wishes to speak at this time, Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes.

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes for the Oceano Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting of December 5, 2023

6. BUSINESS ITEMS:

Public comment Members of the public wishing to speak on business items may do so when recognized by the Committee Officer. If a member of the public wishes to speak at this time, Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes.

- A. OPARC/OES Track Fundraiser
- B. OPARC Foundation
- C. Safe Route to Beach Project
- D. Fieldtrip Grant from State Parks Organization

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA
8. ADJOURNMENT



Oceano Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Summary Minutes

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.
Oceano Community Services District

1. Call To Order: Meeting called to order by Mr. Varni at 1:05 PM.
2. Roll Call: Attendees present - Charles Varni, Beverly Joyce-Suneson, Andy Stenson, Ray Monson, Wanda Monson, Jeanne Harper (Habitat for Humanity)
3. Flag Salute (to be removed from future meetings)
4. Agenda Review: A motion was made by Mr. Varni to approve the agenda with a second from Mrs. Monson. Motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda	Discussion/Action
6A: Review and Approval of Minutes for the Oceano Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting of November 7, 2023.	Mrs. Joyce-Suneson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended with a second from Mrs. Monson. Motion passed. Mr. Stenson abstained as he was not present at the November 7, 2023, meeting.

Old Business	Discussion/Action
7A: Update on planning for possible walking/jogging track at Oceano Elementary School (OES). Possible vote to recommend to OCSD for approval.	Mr. Varni made a motion to approve the recommendation to the OCSD Board of Directors to approve the project of a walking/jogging track at Oceano Elementary School (OES) and that OPARC be the lead agency for fundraising, with a second from Mrs. Joyce-Suneson. Motion passed with a note from Mr. Stenson that Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD) would maintain ownership and maintenance of the track through an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).
7B: Discussion of fundraising possibilities for OES track if approved by OCSD.	Discussion of forming a non-profit 501(3)(c) section to OCSD's parks and recreation program. Discussion of how much the track will cost, intake of donated funds (online, cash/check) and procedure if project goal amount is not met. Funds will be earmarked for this project only.

New Business	Discussion/Action
8A: Community Member appointments to OPARC in January. Need a minimum of four applicants.	An announcement will be made at the December 13 th OCSD Regular Board meeting.
8B: Possible grant request to Senator Laird for guardrail between North end of train track overpass on Highway 1 and Pershing Street on Highway 1.	Mr. Varni will research the potential cost for this project.
8C: Funding possibilities for OPARC including a Foundation like Templeton CSD has.	Discussed in 7B.

9. Adjournment at 1:49 PM. The next OPARC meeting will be on January 9, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Project title: Oceano Safe Path to Beach Project

Project description:

Complete a safe pedestrian path to the beach from inland Oceano by constructing a guard rail along a 900 foot portion of State Route 1 (SR1) and installing two pedestrian controlled crosswalks, one on SR 1 and one on Pier Avenue. Currently the portion of the Westside of SR 1 between the North end of the train track overpass and Pershing Street lacks a safe pedestrian pathway and there are no dedicated or visible pedestrian crosswalks on SR 1 in this stretch of Oceano. These 900' are the last, and most dangerous, gap in an otherwise safe pedestrian sidewalk along SR 1 and Pier Avenue.

Community benefits:

With a pedestrian guardrail a complete pathway to the beach would exist for the first time in Oceano history. This would allow residents to safely walk to the State Park from inland Oceano (East of SR 1). They could then enjoy the freshwater lakes, nature trails, beach fore dunes, and Nature Study Center without the danger or interference from motor vehicles. Having access to nature and options for active transportation helps create a physically, socially, and mentally healthier community.

With a pedestrian controlled crosswalk on SR 1 in the vicinity of the historic Train Depot, Oceano Elementary school children will be able to participate in walking fieldtrips to the Oceano State Park and its Nature Study Center. A second pedestrian controlled crosswalk on Pier Avenue would allow safe crossing from the South side (complete sidewalk) to the North side of the street (incomplete sidewalk).

Environmental Justice:

As a lower income and 45% Latino community Oceano is a unique California coastal community. For many decades the beach, its most precious economic and recreational environment, has been dominated by motor vehicles. The one access road to the beach, Pier Avenue, is dominated by large trucks, recreational vehicles, and trailers using the "temporary" on ramp for accessing the Oceano State Vehicle Recreational Area or the beach to the North or South. The economy of the community is depressed, Pier Avenue is rundown with dilapidated buildings which cater to off roading related businesses and layered with tracked out sand from motor vehicles in amounts of tons per week.

Because of this arrangement pedestrians, walkers, families, and other passive recreationalists avoid a beach which serves as a uncontrolled public street. The California Coastal Commission has recognized the significance of environmental justice for Oceano and has labeled it as "the poster child for EJ on the California coast." As recently as December of 2023 the Coastal Commission denied a Coastal Development Permit to San Luis Obispo County for Oceano airport improvements, citing serious reservations based on environmental justice issues.

Social Justice:

Social justice refers to institutions and infrastructures which embody the value and practice of fairness and accessibility for all persons. As relevant to this project, it means that everyone in the community has access to the State Park and beach, even those who do not have access to motor vehicles. The proposed 900 foot safe route infill project is one small, yet mighty, step for increasing social justice for our community. Again, for the first time in history, students at Oceano Elementary school will have a safe walking fieldtrip route to the State Park. A incremental, yet forever, opportunity for access.

Project Costs:

Estimating costs for this project have not been done at this time and is a critical element in moving forward. The SLO Council of Governments and SLO County Public Works are two agencies which could assist in this calculation. The Caltrans District Five office has indicated they would be willing to help in this regard.

Project Funding:

There are a number of possible sources of money for this project and it may be that multiple sources can be combined.

1. Senator John Laird's office has expressed interest in reviewing an initial proposal which, once we have cost estimates, can be submitted to his staff for review.
2. The OCSD Parks and Recreation division has the capacity to seek grant funding from agencies and organizations who help finance infrastructure projects which provide improved access to recreational opportunities (and thus improved public health), especially in disadvantaged communities. OCSD is researching these possibilities.
3. SLOCOG Community Betterment Grants are another possible source of funding either directly or through the OCSD if that agency qualifies as an appropriate applicant.
4. SLO County Parks and Recreation could be a significant donor to the project, cycling money for recreation back to Oceano from the profits it makes on operating two camping/RV camp grounds in Oceano.