

Jack Fisher Park Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2018

General Meeting

Call meeting to order: Ryan Martin, 7:05 a.m.

General Business

Approval of the Minutes from April 18, 2018 General Meeting - Motion: Ryan, Second: Justin

Adoption of the July 18, 2018 General Meeting Agenda - Motion: Ryan, Second: Justin

Treasurer's Report - Salomeh is not present for the report.

Guest Speaker

Melissa Ortega – Santa Ana Police Department - Sergeant Blake

-Update on the fires: The police department saturated the area on Wednesday-Friday with 20+ officers around the class. The officers caught the suspect when he set his next fire. It appears he was having a mental illness.

-Homeless: Last week, there was a sweep, removing them from the riverbed. The horses have been working Santiago throughout. They used to work in the night, but now the police are working more in the morning. The homeless do not want the help, and want to continue to live the way they live. It was under control until the Civic Center was shut down, and the park/river bed became the issue.

-Suggestions that worked at Santiago. Cut trees, make open spaces--this eliminates hiding places and places to put tents. There are thick shrubs and trees behind our own riverbed. Also with the debris cleared, there will be room to get the horses out. The horses come down two to three times per week. The park is public parking, but the riverbed is private property. It is difficult for patrol officers to get down into the riverbed.

-Park Santiago NA - Every other month, there is a park cleanup. The last few had 30+ people come out. The last time they did this in June, a state truck was full of trash.

-Nancy Collins - Orange got rid of the non-native bushes and cleaned it up a lot. (Parks and Rec took care of those things, plus everything is private property.) Who takes care of everything? Public Works? CalTrans? County?

-Colt Team will come down to clear out encampments. If city picks up things from the park, the city must store everything for at least 90 days.

-Question: Is it just one person who set all the fires? It is believed so. If it was during the winter, then it may be homeless keeping warm. Most fires of this type take place under main street.

-As residents: If there are homeless camping after hours, call the police. If there are homeless just hanging out during normal hours, do not call, unless they are doing something illegal.

-Question: Creek bed. People are uncomfortable with people walking through the creek bed in general. Can we put more signage to warn people? Can we put fences up? We can

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contact the city as an association. Can we put a higher fence? There are numbers on the contact sheet.

-How do you register a bike? You can do this online at the city. There is a link on the contact sheet.

-Drugs--If people are caught doing drugs, they just get a ticket. They do not get arrested. Call it in anyway so that people do not want to come to this park.

-Camera suggestion for surveillance. They are getting installed. Would police monitor if we install it? No. It would only be used as evidence. Parks and Rec would own the cameras/installation.

-Suggestion to make JFP a dog-friendly park. With fences and off-leash dogs, it would be a deterrent to others.

-Sweeps are triggered by people calling in. Bigger problems will be taken care of by the Colt Team.

-Kblake@santa-ana.org (714)245-8720. Contact information for Melissa is on the contact sheet.

-Melissa gave announcements. Contact her to get programs going. There is another movie night on Friday. Wednesday, July 25, free helmet for any child with a bike/scooter/etc. Delhi Park 6pm. August 7, National Night Out Event 4-7pm Madison Park. Check out the cameras at the park! Animal Control information and brochures were also provided.

-Record repeat behavior to catch in the act. Don't put yourself in harm's way.

Dave Dodge – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Seniors and homeless are the worst at feeding the wildlife. When the homeless came this way, the coyotes started coming out here to follow the food source.
- State/City needs public help to get handle on the animals
- 2015 SoCal led the nation in bites on humans, 24, then 21 in 2016, 8 in 2017, 4 in 2018.
- If you are having trouble with coyotes, it's because we are feeding them. We need to make sure all of the food/water are kept away from them.
- Coyotes are smart and athletic. Fences cannot keep them in. If you have a pet < 20 lbs, then the coyote will see it as prey. If you leave the animal outside unattended, coyotes will take it.
- How to help: Share the information with everyone!
- Coyotes: Been here 46,800+ years. #3 most found bones in the La Brea Tar Pits.
- Family oriented and mates for life. Raises the pups. They also keep the rodent population down. Coyotes only kill to eat.
- They eat vegetables and fruits. They will drink out of rivers, fountains, ponds, not pools (chlorinated).
- Coyotes are not pack animals, they are family animals (can be up to 14 members of the family).
- Life cycle: Breeding season is December, January, first part of February. 63 day gestation period. 2-3 weeks in the den, 4-6 pups. Then in May and June they will be out. Lastly, dispersion season. A couple of the pups will go off on their own and do their own thing. Some become nomads. State law does not allow for moving of coyotes. If a coyote is trapped, it needs to be put down.

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- Territorial: They will fight to protect the family from another family.
- Cars and disease are the greatest killer of coyotes.
- Raccoons and skunks are the greatest carriers of rabies. Don't get let raccoons scratch you! Opossums don't have rabies, for some reason.
- 8% of diet was pets.
- Food, water, shelter, space--this is what they need. Take away this and the coyotes will move on.
- If you are feeding pets, pick it up within the hour.
- If you are feeding feral cats, the coyotes are waiting for the food too.
- A coyote will never go after a big dog. If the coyote is sick, it will go after the big dog. If the dog gets near the babies in the den. The coyotes main motivation is the greatest opportunity for food with the least amount of energy and risk.
- If there is a dead animal- 1) Call animal services and see if they will pick up the animal.
- How do you get rid of the raccoons, same thing as the coyotes, get rid of their food sources. Are they eating the plants?
- Make sure that the trash can lids are closed!
- Hazing - Chase coyotes out of neighborhoods. Scaring by waving and screaming at coyotes. This works for younger coyotes, not the older ones.
- Please call every time you see a coyote. Reporting is very important. Call the non-emergency->animal services.

Topics

- Open Garden Day – Review
- Autumn Dumpster Day – September 15th
- Neighborhood Watch Update – Ryan Murphy
 - Always report!
- JFP Logo Design Competition – postponed until Autumn General Meeting
- Real Estate Market Update

Calendar:

Movie in the Park – July 21
Santiago Park Cleanup - July 28 (3 hours before people start leaving, 8-11 am)
WFP/JFP Progressive Dinner – August
Labor Day – September 3
Patriot Day – September 11
Dumpster Day – September 15
First day of Autumn – September 23

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Open Discussion

Are we talking to the city about forming a CERT Program. They will be out at the next general meeting (October). 10-12 week training.

Stop sign at Memory and Flower (no turns between 6-9am). Is there any discussion to remove this restriction?

How to we make the crosswalk at the park more safe.

Beautification committee.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm