

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Directors

From: Stephen Fraher – General Manager

Subject: Park Advisory Committees Proposal

Date: May 21, 2020

Background:

The District values, seeks, and needs community input on all facets of District operations. The Board encourages the community to participate in the decisions of the District. To this end, staff proposes the establishment of park specific advisory committees to provide feedback to the Board on maintenance and development of our parks. These would be Park Advisory Committees (PAC).

Discussion:

The idea of PAC’s is not new. Many agencies have advisory committees for their parks. I learned of this idea from Fulton El Camino RPD in our ad-hoc committee discussions on governance. This will accomplish two goals for the District and Board, 1) establishing an outreach into each of the neighborhoods where our facilities are located, and 2) provide input from the community on needs, wants, desires and wishes for the provision of service.

Staff is proposing that the Board Chair assign a director(s) to be the Committee Chair for the following committees:

Park Advisory Committee Meeting Months

1. Arcade Creek Park April, September
2. Jo Smith Nature Trail to ARC March, August
3. Hamilton Street Park February, July
4. Oakdale Park May, October

The committees will meet twice a year on the first Thursday evening of the month from February through October taking the month of June off. The committees could meet at the respective parks when lighting and weather allow or at Hamilton Street Park when lighting and weather make it impractical to meet in the parks. In addition to the regularly scheduled PAC meetings, meetings may be called to address urgent park issues about which community input is needed. The first meeting will take place in July 2020.

Staff will hang signage and have handouts to give to regular park users so that they are invited to participate. Additionally, flyers would be posted in each park and the announcement of the need for members would be posted on our web site, Facebook, and Next-door. The public would not be restricted to just their own neighborhood park, they could request being on any PAC for which they have an interest.

The Board and staff feel it is important to establish closer ties with the community at this time. The events during the spring of 2020 have caused a major reorganization at the District, this outreach is essential to help determine and understand community needs, and to develop new volunteers and park advocates.

Recommendation:

The Board review and discuss this proposal, adjust the proposal as necessary and direct staff accordingly.

The FY 2020-21 Budget will need to include a budget line item to provide for expenses related to this effort.