



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
Oceano Community Services District - Board of Directors Agenda
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 – 6:00 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 the Board Secretary 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 his/her remarks to a total of SIX (6) minutes. This time may be allocated 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. **FLAG SALUTE:**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**

This public comment period for a special meeting provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board directly regarding items that are described in the notice for the meeting. If a member of the public wishes to speak at this time, Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes.

5. **CLOSED SESSION:** None
6. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**
 - A. Consideration of Parks and Recreation budget item.
 - B. Consideration of the exercise or divestiture of the District's Parks and Recreation power.
 - C. Consideration of approval for the Boys and Girls Club of South San Luis Obispo County to utilize up to 10 hours of the District's Community Center hours per month.
7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

This agenda was prepared and posted pursuant to Government Code Section 54956. The agenda is posted at the Oceano Community Services District, 1655 Front Street, Oceano, CA. Agenda and reports can be accessed and downloaded from the Oceano Community Services District website at www.oceanocsd.org.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED If you are disabled in any way and need accommodation to participate in the Board meeting, please call the Clerk of the Board at (805) 481-6730 for assistance at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting so necessary arrangements can be made.

ASISTENCIA A DISCAPACITADO Si usted está incapacitado de ninguna manera y necesita alojamiento para participar en la reunión de la Junta, por favor llame a la Secretaría de la Junta al (805) 481-6730 para recibir asistencia por lo menos tres (3) días antes de la reunión para que los arreglos necesarios puedan ser hechos.

OCEANO CSD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE (OPARC)

Mission of OPARC

To provide safe recreational access, infrastructure, and programs which enhance the physical, emotional, social health, and quality of life for all Oceano residents.

Structure and Function

The Oceano Community Services District Parks and recreation Committee (OPARC) and is governed by the OCSD Board of Directors. Membership consists of two appointed Directors of the OCSD (one of which will be Chair) and seven appointees from the District including one from the Lucia Mar Unified School District; one from the Oceano Elementary School Parent Teacher Association; one from the Oceano Community Advisory Council; one from the Boys and Girls Club; one for SLO County Parks Commission and four residents from the community.

OPARC will function under all rules and guidelines of the OCSD including the Brown Act and meetings will be open to the public. It will provide advice and recommendations to the OCSD Directors for their consideration. OPARC has no independent decision-making authority and serves a purely advisory function.

Meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month at 1 pm at the Oceano Community Center Meeting Room on 19th street.

Financing

Operating expenses of OPARC will be provided by the OCSD which will pursue grant funding independently and in collaboration with other public and private non-profit organizations. Other possible sources of funding include the County of San Luis Obispo and possible use fees for programs or facilities.

Operations

OPARC/OCSD will manage any District facilities used for recreation and/or coordinate such use with other organizations in the community. Possible examples of such activities include:

1. Management of the new Oceano Plaza at 17th and Beach Streets including development of policies and guidelines for community; maintenance of the plaza; and scheduling of events.
2. Participate in the planning and design process for the Oceano Beach Plaza to be located at the Western end of Pier Avenue. Represent the OCSD as a stakeholder in State Parks and County Public Works' planning for Pier Avenue.
3. Participate, in collaboration with LMUSD, in the planning and financing for a soccer field, surrounded by a walking and jogging track, at Oceano Elementary School. Seek recreational and public health infrastructure grant for this project.
4. Recommend and support projects which provide safe routes and access to recreational activities in Oceano. A priority example is complete sidewalk access to

Oceano beach from inland Oceano (East of State Route 1). Another would be safe routes to the school and the Oceano Community Center.

5. Help support, organize, and finance physical, cultural, and educational opportunities for adults and children in the community. Examples could include youth summer basketball and soccer leagues; science and nature camps/workshops; community arts and crafts programs; adult exercise and fitness programs; and community cultural celebrations.

OPARC 2023/2024 Budget Request

The OCSD Parks and Recreation Committee (OPARC) is requesting a budget allocation for the 2023/2024 fiscal year of \$19,500, which will be drawn from the General Fund. This amount represents four thousandths of the District's total proposed budget of \$5,270,118. However, this minuscule amount can have some very positive consequences.

First, it indicates to the community that OCSD does support the expansion of recreation infrastructure and programs. It sends a positive message to residents that OCSD does care about these functions. It also opens up new sources of grant money not now available to the District such as recreational access and infrastructure projects such as those cited above.

Second, it indicates to residents that donating and volunteering to support such functions is something supported by our local government agency and people will be more forthcoming with their time and money. It provides a sense of legitimacy for OPARC.

Third, with the new Oceano Plaza slated for construction this Summer, we need to plan for activity management and community ownership of this wonderful resource. Roles and responsibilities need to be sorted out with the County. Caltrans has been very clear in emphasizing the importance of the early scheduling of community activities and events in the Plaza so this sense of ownership and safety begins to develop. OPARC can be a vehicle to help create this public perception. Additionally, a very large sum of money has been allocated by the County and SLOCOG to do planning studies for traffic, parking, pedestrian and biking safety improvements on Pier Avenue. Included in this can be conceptual plans for a Pier Avenue Beach Plaza at the end of the avenue along the lines of what Avila Beach has. Something beautiful, welcoming, enjoyable, and with safe beach access for pedestrians. Millions of grant dollars are available to coastal communities for projects like this and, through our OPARC, OCSD can apply for them.

The 2022 Cal Poly Oceano community needs survey indicated that recreational infrastructure and programs were important:

80% want sidewalks and safer streets.

61% want a soccer field.

31% want more recreational spaces.
15% want more recreation for families and children.
14% want more parks.

Fourth, working in collaboration with other organizations and funding sources, some of this money can be leveraged into grant applications for recreational infrastructure as well as programs. Examples include:

—A walking/jogging track circling a soccer field at the Oceano elementary school is one possibility.

—A complete sidewalk to the beach with pedestrian controlled crosswalk on Highway 1.

—Working with property owners on the Westside of downtown Highway 1 (Union Pacific, SLO County, and Phelan Taylor) to acquire land for another plaza/park and public parking as envisioned in the 2013 Revitalization Plan becomes.

Fifth, an OCSD website OPARC page could feature a community calendar of local events to publicize and encourage public participation in current and new recreational opportunities.

Nicole Miller

From: Adam Verdin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:51 PM
To: Carey Casciola; Will Clemens; Nicole Miller
Subject: Please ad to the agenda packet for the upcoming special meeting

Dear President Villa and other members of the Oceano Community Services Board,
I understand that a park committee is formed and pursuant to that, a meeting is sche
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restricting access on Pier Ave, any construction blocking Pier Ave would likely n
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Finally, it appears that one of the objectives of this park committee is to provide a pla
closure. I remind both him and this board that millions of tax-payer dollars have beer

Pollution Control District on such efforts and a long existing advisory council was extirpated. No such efforts have been attempted here.

Allowing the use of OCSD funds and resources for such Quixotic adventurism would be a disservice to the community. I call on the OCSD to adhere to the tenets of transparency and good governance, and proposed \$19,500 would be used, dollar by dollar, prior to any approval of expenditures. No such contemplated endeavors are permitted.

Regards, Adam Verdin

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Adam Verdin

Dear President Villa and other members of the Oceano Community Services Board,

I understand that a park committee is formed and pursuant to that, a meeting is scheduled to consider an allocation of \$19,500 for use by the committee. I have some concerns about the formation of the committee itself, and allocation of funds. They are as follows:

- Mr. Varni, who is spearheading this effort, says that his recommended budget amount for parks of \$19,500 represents “four thousandths of the District’s total” budget. However, a more honest contextualization would reveal that this amount also represents a quarter of the available financial reserves of the District.
- On February 9, 2023, Supervisor Paulding met with members of VACO at the Train Depot. In this meeting, it was expressed to Supervisor Paulding the need for a crosswalk across Highway 1 to provide access to the beach via pedestrian access. It was additionally expressed that the Oceano County Park is in need of improvements such as additional wood chips, ADA access to the BBQ area, the inclusion of frisbee golf, and general rehab of the park. Since we have not heard from Supervisor Paulding on these items and has not been mentioned in his newsletters, it would be prudent that the District first solicit a status report from Supervisor Paulding’s office on these issues, before spending limited District funds. SLOCOG is also working on grant funding for Oceano. Again, a report from Supervisor Paulding’s office on progress on this would better inform the board of the need, or lack thereof, of expenditure of funds to seek grant money.
- Mr. Varni asserts that a purpose of this park committee is to participate in “the planning and design process for the Oceano Beach Plaza to be located at the end of Pier Ave,” which would ostensibly block state park access. I call on the OCSD to explain the nexus between a park committee whose purpose is to provide recreation, and a development that would block access to recreation?
- At the February 9, 2023 meeting, Supervisor Paulding stated that he was not opposed to OHV due to his satisfaction of an air pollution metric being achieved. Additionally, a recent study backed by the county and other local governments, and participated in by an array of diverse minded individuals, indicated that a half a billion dollars a year is contributed to the SLO economy by visitors to the Oceano dunes. So, both from a political and economic perspective, such a closure at the end of Pier Ave is highly unlikely.
- Further, given the recent court decision which determined that the California Coastal Commission acted unlawfully in banning OHV and restricting access on Pier Ave, any construction blocking Pier Ave would likely not be allowed. Even if it were, it would likely trigger repayment of OHV funds which were used to widen Pier Ave. Therefore, the use of limited District funds to advance a questionable land development initiative at the end of Pier Ave is contrary to legal, economic, and political realities, in spite of

whatever Mr. Varni's erroneous "sources" intimated to him regarding the closure of Pier Ave.

Finally, it appears that one of the objectives of this park committee is to provide a platform for Mr. Varni to continue his advocacy of beach closure. I remind both him and this board that millions of tax-payer dollars have been spent and wasted by the Coastal Commission and the Air Pollution Control District on such efforts and a long existing advisory council was extinguished because of misconduct and overreach, as appears to be attempted here.

Allowing the use of OCSD funds and resources for such Quixotic adventurism would be unconscionable without adequate due diligence.

I call on the OCSD to adhere to the tenets of transparency and good governance, and provide a detailed, line-item budget on exactly how the proposed \$19,500 would be used, dollar by dollar, prior to any approval of expenditure and to receive confirmation from LAFCO that the contemplated endeavors are permitted.

Regards,
Adam Verdin