SUMMARY MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

Chair Skei called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Flag Salute. The meeting was conducted via videoconference.

2. ROLL CALL:

Director Huffer, Director Jones, Vice Chair Nickles, and Chair Skei present. Director Bill-de la Peña was absent.

Also present were: Deputy City Manager Rogers, Assistant City Attorney Liberman, CRPD Park Superintendent Kouba, COSCA Administrator Stark, Office Supervisor McMurtry, and Recording Secretary Goor.

3. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:  None.

4. *PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Speaker: Chuck Lech, Thousand Oaks, Conejo Simi Moorpark Association of Realtors Government Affairs Director, stated his group represents 2,000 realtors. They request that public agencies have the same or higher safety obligations as private sector and be held accountable for fire safety losses including property damage and more. They also request fire prevention and mitigation including regular brush clearance, controlled burns, and wildfire mitigation techniques, and discussed fire insurance issues and climate change increasing fire danger.

Post meeting notation for the record: an error was made and Mark Lichalk, Thousand Oaks, did not receive a link in time to speak.

*indicates item taken out of order.
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

A. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2021 Meeting

Director Huffer requested titles be changed in the Roll Call to Vice Chair Nickles and Director Huffer.

Motion by Director Jones to approve the Minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting as amended carried 4 – 0 by the following vote: Ayes – Directors Huffer, Jones, Nickles, and Chair Skei; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Director Bill-de la Peña.

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Authorize Implementation of the Arroyo Conejo Invasive Plant Management Project; approve the CEQA Notice of Exemption, and Authorize a $100,000 Match for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant from the Woolsey Fire Recovery Fund report was presented by COSCA Administrator Stark. Mr. Stark reviewed the map outlining the project area as well as fan palm and giant reed growth areas and project staging sites. He noted the goal is to improve ecological conditions along Arroyo Conejo and address species that cause fire concerns, affect native plants, and utilize more water. Mr. Stark discussed the budget and permits, categorical CEQA exemption, and the bid process and responded to Board questions regarding mechanical removal and disposal of giant reed, and other issues.

Speaker/Written Statement Cards: None.

Motion by Director Jones to approve staff recommendation to authorize Implementation of the Arroyo Conejo Invasive Plant Management Project including a competitive bid process and to delegate authority and authorize the Board Secretary to sign project contracts with a cost not to exceed the project budget of $225,000; approve the CEQA Notice of Exemption, and authorize a $100,000 match for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant from the Woolsey Fire Recovery Fund carried 4 - 0 by the following vote: Ayes – Bill-de la Peña, Huffer, Jones, Nickles, and Skei; Noes – None; Absent – Director Bill-de la Peña.

7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. COSCA Volunteer Corps Activity verbal report was presented by COSCA Administrator Stark who stated Trail Watch filed 151 reports with 212 volunteer hours, and Adopt-a-Trail filed 59 reports with 176 volunteer hours. CRPD Park Superintendent Kouba responded to Director Nickles regarding types of volunteers, noting there is a core group of constant hikers and there are weekly hikers as well.
B. Ranger Operations and Maintenance Activities verbal report was presented by CRPD Park Superintendent Kouba who noted there was a fatal fall from a rock outcropping in the Hill Canyon area below Rancho Conejo Park. Chair Skei offered condolences. Mr. Kouba stated there were approximately one dozen search and rescues. He added they are saddened by the loss of life and emphasized the need to be careful noting even avid outdoors people need to stay within their abilities and be prepared. Mr. Kouba noted a clean-up took place at a Los Padres area homeless camp. He provided photos of donkeys that were found at Potrero Ridge, the Los Robles re-route area repair, harmless tarantulas and more. He responded to Board questions regarding Ranger recruitment.

8. COSCA UPDATES (CRPD General Manager and/or City Manager):
   A. Follow-up items, announcements, and upcoming issues: None.

9. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

   Ronnie Skei, Chairperson