

Park Ranger Program Working Group

Friday, August 31, 2018

Summary of Working Group Recommendation

PRNS Park Ranger Program Working Group:

- **Purpose:** to review current Park Ranger service delivery model and evaluate current work practices including safety concerns and the issue of arming the rangers.
- **Group includes:**
 - PRNS
 - Park Rangers
 - SJPD & SJFD
 - SCC District Attorney
 - Housing
 - ESD
 - HR
 - City Manager's Office
 - Parks and Recreation Commission
 - Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)
 - Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful
 - Friends of Las Gatos Creek
 - South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition
 - Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
 - West Valley College – Park Management Program
 - Community Members
- Group return to Council in late fall 2018 to report outcomes
- This recommendation is subject to OER review and Meet & Confer Process

Interim Park Ranger Program Operational Changes:

- PRNS and SJPD to meet on regular basis
 - Possible scheduled meetings immediately following the MGPTF monthly meeting
- Update newly assigned SJPD at beginning of shift changes with Park Ranger scope of work, equipment, and response protocols
- Specific guidelines will be set by Parks Management and Supervising Park Rangers as to rules of engagement when Park Rangers are faced with imminent risk
- Conservation Corps members will provide bike patrols on trails. Their goal is to increase presence on the trails, report encampments, and perform trail maintenance (litter pick-up and weed/overgrowth abatement)
 - Trail Ambassadors program estimated start date: end of October
 - Service 7 days a week by 2 Conservation Corps members
- Regular, Coordinated Creek Patrols via SJPD Paycar/Park Ranger collaboration
 - Focus on homeless encampment abatement and resource protection
 - Park Rangers to post encampments and provide enforcement where necessary in designated "hot spot areas" and areas of concern in joint effort with SJPD Paycars (overtime Officers paid by Park Ranger vacancy funds)
 - Paired enforcement to occur 2-3 times a week
- Park Rangers (Peace Officers) will continue to carry the following safety equipment:
 - Body armor
 - Collapsible baton
 - Straight baton
 - Handcuffs
 - Oleoresin capicum (OC) for peace officers
- Park Ranger Assignments to more intentionally include all aspects of Generalist Park Ranger duties, including Visitor Services and Resource Management
- Scheduling to mitigate impacts at Kelley Park, Lake Cunningham Regional Park, and Alum Rock Park

Long-Term Park Ranger Program Service Model:

- Park Rangers Program to adopt Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) Model

- Continued collaboration and input across agencies and key stakeholders as in the MGPTF and the Park Ranger Working Group
- Regular and strategic meeting to identify Park Ranger safety, public safety, and environmental impacts of Park Ranger Program
- Direction of the Park Ranger Program to be issued jointly from department heads
- Program policy including types of safety equipment used by Park Rangers to continue to be evaluated by Park Ranger Task Force Group
- Park Ranger Task Force to use data driven decisions – new model to include appropriate support staff to track and log Park Ranger progress and impact
- Identify additional staffing needs and deployment model
- Park Rangers will carry - up to and including - the following safety equipment unless otherwise determined by PRNS following Park Ranger Task Force review:
 - Body armor
 - Collapsible baton
 - Straight baton
 - Handcuffs
 - Oleoresin capsicum (OC) for peace officers
 - Tasers
- Park Ranger Assignments to continue to include more intentional Generalist Park Ranger duties, including Visitor Services and Resource Management
- Park Rangers (Peace Officers) projected to integrate body worn cameras as of 2021
- Park Ranger Manual to be finalized outlining the role of a Park Ranger and appropriate rules of engagement and safety procedures