

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
July 20, 2010

Senior Citizen/Community Center Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson Davis at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Susan Davis, Vice Chairperson
Jose Martinez
Caryol Smith
John Margis
Georgia Florentine
Frank Neal

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager
Amanda Carson, Recreation Coordinator
LaToyia Ward, Recreation Coordinator

Absent:
Shannon McKee, unexcused

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 21, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER MARGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2010 MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2010

Vice Chair Davis took nominations from the floor for the Chairperson position. COMMISSIONER SMITH NOMINATED COMMISSIONER DAVIS FOR CHAIR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE NOMINATED COMMISSIONER MARGIS FOR VICE CHAIR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Review of Summer Recreation Programs

Director Bruns introduced Recreation Coordinator La Toyia Ward. She noted that Coordinator Ward was recently appointed to full-time status responsible for teen programs and recreation classes.

Coordinator Ward discussed the summer teen programs. The Teen Travel Club is going well and there are four field trips remaining. In 2009 174 participants registered for the Teen Travel Club trips; in 2010 the number is 216. The Student Union had a sleepover on Friday, July 16 and had a great time. The Teen City day camp increased its maximum enrollment from 38 teens per week to 44 due to demand. In 2009 there were 262 registrations and in 2010 there are 379 and 250 are residents. On Wednesday nights staff is hosting an Open Mic night at the Farmers Market. The Teen Friday Night program continues with trips including one to Downtown Disney. The Battle of the Boards is August 4 and is co-sponsored by Active Rideshop. The Student Union, Lone Hill Middle School and San Dimas High School are hosting a Block Party on September 10. Recreation classes are going well. In the summer of 2009 the Department offered 110 classes with 753 registrations. To date in 2010 the Department has offered 112 classes with 696 registrations and there is one month left in the summer program. A new class offered this summer is the Electric Bootcamp held at Via Verde Park. In the fall a balloon twisting class will be offered. Coordinator Ward and Coordinator Orr are working on getting ready for the 50th Anniversary City Birthday Barbeque on August 7 from 2 - 10 pm.

Director Bruns introduced Recreation Coordinator Amanda Carson. She noted that Coordinator Carson was recently hired, returning from two summers ago and is responsible for the operations at the Swim and Racquet Club. Coordinator Carson reviewed the registration figures from Session One of Swim Lessons and noted that in 2009 there were 263 registrations and in 2010 there are 368. Session Two had 350 registrations in 2009 and 363 in 2010. Mid way through Session Three there are 316 registrations and is on target to exceed last summer's figures. Two more sessions remain. There are 27 registered for the Deep Water Aerobics class. Commissioner Florentine mentioned she participates in the class and enjoys it very much. Coordinator Carson said a second session is being added due to demand. There are 9 participants in the Jr. Guard program which prepares youth for a future job as a life guard. They participate in classroom and in-water training. In response to a question from Commissioner Smith, Coordinator Carson said the program is for youth 9 to 15 years of age. The Swim Team has 87 participants and two more meets remaining. The final meet will be the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation meet on August 14.

The Aqua Fit class has 25 - 35 participants regularly. The Recreation Swim program got off to a slow start due to cold weather but is now averaging 100 swimmers per day. The program operates Monday - Friday from 1 - 3:45 pm. Vice Chair Margis asked about the status of the spa. Manager De Leon responded that the Department received approval from the Los Angeles County Health Department to proceed with the renovations plans and that it is hoped to have the project completed by December.

C. Review and Discussion of Dog Park Ordinance

Director Bruns stated that concerns about issues at the dog park were brought to her attention in a letter from Commissioner Smith on behalf of the Friends of the San Dimas Dog Park. She noted that Commissioner Smith's leadership and involvement has helped to address many concerns that dog park patrons have had. The concerns submitted represent the most difficult occurring currently. Director Bruns presented a chart that displayed dog park ordinance details

from several Southern California dog parks that are operated by municipal agencies. Nine agencies were listed. The chart compared those agency's ordinances with the City of San Dimas ordinance. Director Bruns then distributed the current City of San Dimas Dog Park ordinance. She reviewed that it is the purview of the Commission to review the current ordinance and make recommendations for revisions or changes to the City Council for review and action.

The first area of the ordinance discussed was the type of collars allowed or disallowed in the park. After discussion of safety issues related to dangerous collars, noting that the current ordinance does not address this and after also discussing the need to try and ensure that dogs are properly vaccinated, the Commission unanimously approved the following recommended change to the current ordinance:

"Dogs must be current in licenses and vaccinations and free from contagious diseases, and must wear a flat collar with current tags visible. No pronged, spiked or choke collars allowed."

The Commission next discussed the language related to the age of dogs permitted in the Dog Park and determined that the language needed to be firmer. After discussion the Commission unanimously approved the following recommended change to the current ordinance:

"Puppies under 4 months are not permitted."

Director Bruns related to the Commission that there are frequent complaints about food in the Dog Park and the dangerous issues this can create. After discussion of the language related to food for humans and dogs being allowed, the Commission unanimously approved the following recommended change to the current ordinance:

"No food or treats of any kind permitted."

The Commission next addressed the language related to children in the dog park. Commissioner Smith related that there are serious concerns among Dog Park users about very young children, including toddlers and infants playing with dogs without adequate parent supervision. She related that some children are very aggressive towards the dogs, being too young to understand how to approach and deal with strange dogs. She also noted that some dogs may have been abused in a home with children and that this could effect their disposition towards children. The consensus of the Commission was that, although common sense should guide a parents actions and supervision of children in the dog park, the ordinance should be clarified and modified. After discussion the Commission unanimously approved the following recommended change to the current ordinance:

"Children 12 years and under must be closely supervised by an adult at all times. Toddlers are not recommended. Parents must ask permission from the dog owner for children to play with a dog."

The Commission next addressed the issue of unaltered dogs and the issues that have been arising at the Dog Park. Commissioner Smith shared concerns of patrons and her observations and those of fellow Dog Park ambassadors and how unaltered dogs affect the atmosphere of the park and can create conflicts and aggressive behavior. After discussion the Commission unanimously approved the following recommended change to the current ordinance:

"Spaying and neutering required."

The Commission determined that language addressing abandonment of dogs, multiple dogs, and animals other than dogs did not need to be addressed at this time. The Commission did decide to include the following language in the ordinance:

"No animals other than dogs permitted."

The Commission unanimously agreed that since puppies fewer than 4 months of age are not routinely spayed or neutered then the language regarding puppies less than 4 months of age being prohibited is not needed.

Lastly the Commission unanimously agreed to add the following language to the ordinance:

"Owners must obey all other park rules. Smoking is prohibited."

Director Bruns again noted that the City Council will review the recommended changes and additions. At that meeting a public hearing will be held. She added that the Friends of the Dog Park website can be used to assist with notification of the meeting and hearing. The Parks and Recreation Commission will also be noticed.

Vice Chairperson Margis asked how the Sheriff's response time has been for Dog Park issues. Commissioner Smith said that it has varied depending on the issue and what else the Sheriff's were dealing with at the time of the call. Director Bruns noted that there are often mitigating factors that affect the response time. Commissioner Martinez asked if there are Los Angeles County authorities at other dog parks, verifying proper licensing. Commissioner Smith responded that it varies by park and that the Inland Valley Humane Society (IVHS) is the agency regulating licensing for San Dimas. Director Bruns noted that as far as she is aware they do not patrol the San Dimas Dog Park.

Manager Raya shared that on Saturday, October 23 from 10 am - 1 pm the Parks and Recreation Department will host a celebration in recognition of the 5th year anniversary of the Dog Park.

Manager De Leon provided an update on low cost shot clinics in response to a past request by Commissioner Smith. She noted that her research led her to find that the proprietors of the San Dimas Feed and Grain have contracted with a private provider to offer low cost shot clinics for dogs and cats once a month at their establishment. She suggested finding ways to help promote this service to pet owners. Director Bruns added that since there is a service being offered in the community the City will refer residents to this service rather than try to secure additional clinics. Commissioner Smith expressed concern that although the clinic is low cost the fee may be prohibitive. Director Bruns responded that the IVHS contract with the City calls for one, low cost clinic per year and that at this time they are not going to do more than one. She added that although the private provider cannot match the IVHS cost it is the lowest fee available and their clinics are offered monthly.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Prior to presenting the calendar of events, Director Bruns noted that at a Volunteer Recognition reception in late May, the Commissioners in attendance received a certificate thanking them for their volunteer contributions at Parks and Recreation Department events. Manager Raya presented certificates to Commission Davis and Smith who were unable to attend the event.

Director Bruns shared that staff is working on plans for a bird and butterfly garden at Horsethief Canyon Park. Staff will have an update at the September Commission meeting.

Manager Raya then distributed the calendar of events through September noting; Music in the Park on August 4 with The Answer; the 50th Anniversary City Birthday Barbeque on August 7; Movies in the Park on August 11 and 18; San Dimas Day at the Fair on September 8; and the 50th Anniversary 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run and Family Fitness Fair on September 25.

Commissioners Florentine and Smith offered to volunteer at the 50th Anniversary City Birthday Barbeque event. Director Bruns described the plans for the Time Capsule opening and the ceremony that will involve passing the contents of the Time Capsule over to the Historical Society.

B. Members of the Audience

None.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Neal - Commissioner Neal stated that he displays his safe bicycling booth at various City events in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department. He has been asked to have a booth at the 50th Anniversary City Birthday Barbeque event on August 7. He asked if he needed to confirm his attendance with the Parks and Recreation Department or with the Sheriff Department. He then asked about the Sheriff Department contacting him about participating in the National Night Out event. Director Bruns shared that it is her understanding that the Sheriff Department would be displaying safety vehicles the City Birthday and that no provisions were made for lighting the area. She also noted that National Night Out is a Sheriff Department event and suggested that Commissioner Neal follow up with the Sheriff Department.

Commissioner Florentine - Commissioner Florentine recently volunteered at the Windows Into the Wild Event held at San Dimas Canyon Park. She commented that it was a great event and wished more people had been aware of the event.

Vice Chairperson Margis - Vice Chairperson Margis complimented the turn out at the Distinguished Service to Youth Awards reception. He asked for an update on the Vista Verde project. Director Bruns replied that there was no new news on the project at this time other than staff doing an infrastructure survey.

Commissioner Martinez - Commissioner Martinez complimented the teacher of the Jazz/Tap dance class. His daughter was enrolled and enjoyed it very much. The teacher did a good job in the Swim and Racquet Club facility although the acoustics were not optimal. He attended the recent Music in the Park and had a good time. His children played in the play area at Civic Center Park. He noted that some parents asked if lighting of the play area was on the agenda since it gets quite dark in that area during the concert. Director Bruns replied that there are no future plans to provide lighting to the play area. He then inquired about the timing for the watering of City landscaping. Director Bruns responded that watering typically occurs between 10 pm and 5 am. He asked how the Department was complying with the required reductions in water usage. Director Bruns responded that we are in compliance and have not been penalized and have stayed within our historical use allocation but that at times that formula can be difficult. She discussed the effort to balance having green landscaping, with water usage, and not letting landscaping go brown. He asked how many of the City parks have had Cal Sense smart controllers installed. Director Bruns responded that all parks have the controllers installed but the Maintenance Division is still working on getting the ET sensors installed at some parks. She added that the next phase is to get the Cal Sense smart controllers installed on the medians. Commissioner Martinez noted that the Metropolitan Water District has a rebate program available.

Chairperson Davis - Chairperson Davis noted that the landscape island in the First Street municipal parking lot seems to need some maintenance. Director Bruns replied that a landscape improvement project will begin in the next couple of weeks and there will be a definite improvement. She also noted that a resident reported to her that there are two dead limbs on one of the historic camellias at the Walker House. Director Bruns will follow up.

D. City Council Liaison

Not in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:18 P.M.

Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager