

CITY OF SAN DIMAS  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
September 21, 2010

Senior Citizen/Community Center Meeting Room

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Davis at 7:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director  
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager  
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager  
Tanya Orr, Recreation Coordinator  
John Ebiner, Council Member

**APPROVAL OF THE JULY 20, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

VICE CHAIRPERSON MARGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2010 AS WRITTEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEAL AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**A. Review of Summer Recreation Programs**

Director Bruns introduced Recreation Coordinator Tanya Orr. Coordinator Orr reviewed the operations of the summer programs that she supervises. Kids Fun Club day camp, held at Marchant and Ladera Serrra parks, was successful and had high participation with most weeks having a wait list. The drop-in program at Pioneer Park had good attendance. The free summer lunch program held at Marchant and Pioneer Parks went well. Family excursions typically had 2 - 3 buses of participants. The Swim Express bus to Recreation Swim traveled every Thursday. On alternating Fridays the day camps went to the library. The T-ball season had 3 weeks of practices followed by 6 weeks of games. Weekly special events were held as well as the 50th Anniversary City Birthday Barbeque and two Movies in the Park. The movies were "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" and "Up".

Upcoming events include the 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run to be held this Saturday, the Bowser Bash on October 23 at Horsethief Canyon Park and the Halloween Carnival at Civic Center Park on Sunday, October 31. Commissioners were asked if they wanted to volunteer to assist with the events, including judging the dog costume contest at the Bowser Bash and the child costume contest at the Halloween Carnival. Coordinator Orr mentioned that she had several volunteer commitments already for the Run. Commissioners Martinez and Florentine volunteered to assist with the dog costume contest judging. Vice Chairperson Margis, Commissioners Martinez, Smith and Florentine offered to assist with the Halloween costume contest judging.

## **B. Review and Discussion of Dog Park Ordinance**

Director Bruns stated Commissioner Smith requested further review of portions of the dog park ordinance language that was approved for recommendation at the previous Commission meeting. Due to this request Director Bruns has withheld presenting the recommendation to City Council until a more comprehensive review is completed.

Director Bruns and Commissioner Smith presented the recommended items that Commissioner Smith felt needed modification or clarification.

Commissioner Smith first discussed that language regarding the prohibition of puppies from the dog park should be reinstated. At the last meeting it had been eliminated because the Commission felt that language governing spay and neutering would address the age issue and would be redundant. Commissioner Smith recommended adding the following language:

"Puppies under 4 months of age are not permitted."

After discussion, the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the language to the ordinance.

The next item addressed food in the dog park. The current recommended language is:

"No food or treats of any kind permitted."

After discussion the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the following language to the ordinance:

"No food or treats, of any kind, dog or human, are permitted."

The Commission next addressed language related to children in the dog park. Commissioner Smith again related that there are serious concerns among Dog Park users about toddlers and infants playing with dogs without adequate parent supervision. The current recommended language reads:

"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 discussed the need to balance a safe environment for children and dogs with the need to recognize that families visit the park. Director Bruns suggested that the Commission keep in mind not being too extreme, and cautioned on the park being perceived as unwelcome.

After discussion the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the following language to the ordinance:

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

The Commission felt that the current recommended language on spaying and neutering was acceptable and did not need to be changed.

The Commission discussed the need to add the prohibition of alcohol in the recommended ordinance. After discussion the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the following language to the ordinance:

"Users must obey all other park rules. Smoking and alcohol are prohibited."

The Commission revisited restricting one person from having multiple dogs in the dog park. At the previous meeting the Commission felt the issue could be addressed at another time. Director Bruns and Commissioner Smith both offered that the current City ordinance prohibits residents from licensing more than three dogs. Commissioner Smith discussed that at times there are people bringing in five or more dogs and that it is difficult for all the dogs to be handled appropriately. After discussion the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the following language to the ordinance:

"No more than three dogs per person."

Director Bruns added that, now that the Commission has made a final recommendation, the City Council will review the recommendations. It is possible that the review will be scheduled for the first City Council meeting in October. Commissioners are invited to attend the meeting to be available to speak on the matter if needed.

Commissioner Neal noted that he and his family attempted to find the Dog Park on the City website but could not. Staff will follow up to make sure the site is on the City website.

## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Director of Parks & Recreation**

Director Bruns provided an update on the Vista Verde project. The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) have freed up \$200,000 for the beginning of the planning process that includes hiring a planning consultant. City staff is conducting a utility and lot line assessment. Some lot lines may need to be realigned. RMC and WCA will put out a Request for Proposals for the hiring of the planning consultant, hopefully by January. After that the process will include the start of the public input process. The Commission will be updated as the project moves forward and staff will attempt to have the consultant make a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting. The planning process may take one year and the goal is to have a conceptual plan completed at that time. The long term goal for RMC and WCA is to have a nature center on the site possibly staffed with a ranger. The City has 6 acres and will be researching how to develop connectivity to all the lots and utilities. Vice Chairperson Margis added that it is important to maintain that the City's lot is 6.9 acres not six acres. Director Bruns agreed and added that access and parking will be an

important issue to be addressed in light of area resident concerns. Councilmember Ebner concurred. Commissioner Florentine added that the present park adjacent to the area, Loma Vista, is already very popular and highly used.

Director Bruns discussed with the Commission that a resident representative of the youth baseball community has made a request that a year-round regulation baseball field be made available at the SportsPlex. Presently the soccer and football fields overlay on the outfield of all baseball fields, prohibiting year-round baseball use. Councilmember Ebner noted that goals are up on the field which interferes with baseball outfield use. Staff met with the representatives of the baseball group, San Dimas High School and San Dimas Little League to discuss the need and options. Director Bruns added that the SportsPlex is a joint use facility on school district property and that the first priority is its use as a high school facility. Staff is working to see if the south soccer field can be realigned and goals moved to accommodate baseball use, however, there may not be enough room for what is required by youth and high school use.

Staff shared that the group represents a travel ball baseball team of San Dimas residents that plays year-round. Staff shared that it is anticipated that such programs will grow in the near future; possibly increasing demands for year-round baseball facilities. Currently younger age groups can be accommodated at Marchant Park but the issue is with a facility for older groups. Staff noted that, in the future, there may be a possibility of the high school using their stadium for soccer games and practices, potentially freeing the soccer field in question for baseball.

Vice Chairperson Margis asked how field demand and overlays are handled in other cities, such as Glendora. Director Bruns responded that she believed Glendora also had multi-use fields at Pompei Park. Vice Chairperson Margis asked if the team in question could utilize facilities at another city. Staff responded that the team is playing and practicing at another facility but must pay fees for the use. Councilmember Ebner asked if the request was associated with San Dimas Little League. Staff noted that it was not but that the participants and coaches began playing with Little League prior to forming a travel ball team.

#### 1. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through December noting; the 5k Run 1 mile Family Fun Run on September 25, the Bowser Bash on October 23, the Halloween Carnival on October 31, the Walnut Creek Clean up on November 6 and the Holiday Extravaganza on December 4.

#### B. Members of the Audience

None.

#### C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Florentine - Commissioner Florentine is looking forward to all of the upcoming events.

Commissioner Smith - The Friends of the Dog Park will be in the Western Days parade. They have confirmation of 58 dogs. There are 2,216 e-mail addresses linked to the Friends of the Dog Park. The Dog Park Ambassadors work hard to help out at the park and communicate the friends e-mail list and website. She thanked the Commission for revisiting the dog park rules and ordinance.

Vice Chairperson Margis - Vice Chairperson Margis shared a news story about a Los Angeles County park development that was in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on August 8. The park is 5.5 acres in size and will have landscaping, playground, restrooms, parking, trails and a picnic area. The cost will be 4 million dollars. He discussed this in relationship to the potential future development of the Vista Verde area. There was discussion on potential funding sources for the Vista Verde project. Councilmember Ebner discussed the option of leveraging grants and added that the most significant cost will be related to access. Director Bruns noted that it is easier to pursue funding once a conceptual plan is in place. Vice Chairperson Margis added that the project in the story was funded through Los Angeles County Supervisor Knabe's capital project funds.

Commissioner Neal - Commissioner Neal shared photos of his bicycle safety and information booth. He noted that his goal is to be at one event a month but recently was unable to be accommodated at the City Birthday. Also, the Fair was unable to accommodate him at the San Dimas Day at the Fair and the Sheriff's Department National Night out was a mobile event that went from neighborhood to neighborhood and was not conducive to his booth set up. He noted that many organizations help support the booth. Commissioner Smith suggested he contact the Chamber of Commerce about a booth at Western Days. Commissioner Neal offered his booth at any San Dimas events.

Commissioner Martinez - Commissioner Martinez complimented staff for the Recreation program flyer that was sent to Holy Name of Mary School where his children attend. He inquired about the red curbed parking at Horsethief Canyon Park, adding that there is insufficient parking at the park and many people park parallel along the road. He asked what options people had. Director Bruns noted that parallel parking long Horsethief Canyon Road is prohibited and can result in ticketing. Councilmember Ebner noted that the red curb parking issue was addressed by the Traffic Commission that determined it was necessary for emergency access. Director Bruns concurred. Commissioner Martinez asked when the last review was and could the issue be reviewed again. Director Bruns will follow up. Commissioner Martinez asked what other parking options there were and Director Bruns informed him that the public can park at the community equestrian area parking area.

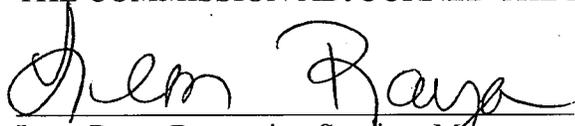
Commissioner McKee - Commissioner McKee updated the Commissioner on her sports participation at San Dimas high school. She is captain for the girl's varsity soccer team. Councilmember Ebner asked about her teams practice and game field use. Commissioner McKee shared that her team usually uses the north soccer field at the SportsPlex but must work out use of the Stadium field with football.

#### **D. City Council Liaison**

Councilmember Ebner noted that Fresh and Easy is proceeding with their development at the San Dimas Canyon Center site. The Grove Station residential project is almost done. He mentioned again that the Vista Verde project is one where staff can research the availability of grants to assist with funding any developments. He noted the Thompson Creek trail as an example of the type of development that might be compatible with the site. He cited the Amelia Avenue sidewalk development as an example of how grant funds can be leveraged. Ninety percent of the funding for the project came from Safe Routes to Schools funding. He added that the project is saving two oak trees by the creative design of the sidewalk path. He reminded the Commission about Western Days, the Rodeo and the Homecoming Parade.

**ADJOURNMENT**

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:28 P.M.

  
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager