

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
March 15, 2011
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 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager
John Ebner, Council Member

Absent:

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 18, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

VICE CHAIRPERSON MARGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2011 MEETING AS WRITTEN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of Criteria for Distinguished Service to Youth Awards

Director Bruns reviewed the criteria and history for the Distinguished Service to Youth Awards. She reviewed how staff publicizes and promotes the awards. Vice Chairperson Margis asked if Parks and Recreation staff is ever nominated and Director Bruns responded yes. She mentioned that Parks and Recreation volunteers have also been nominated. Vice Chairperson Margis moved to keep the Distinguished Service to Youth Awards criteria and process as is. Second by Chairperson Davis and approved unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Update on City Hall Remodel and Expansion

Director Bruns reviewed that the project is near completion. The date to move into the newly renovated City Hall is April 2. City Hall will be closed April 1 and April 4 and will reopen at 7:30 am on April 5. There will be an Open House and Ribbon Cutting on April 12. Tours will be conducted from 4:00-6:00 pm. The

Ribbon Cutting is at 6:15 pm with the Council Meeting at 7:00 pm. On April 16 at Family Festival the 1969 and 50th Anniversary time capsules will be dedicated. Manager De Leon mentioned that the contractors have been very good to work with. They took a lot of pride in their work and worked diligently to meet the deadlines. There were no major changes or surprises.

2. Update on Walnut Creek Open Space

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Watershed Conservancy Authority received a grant that allowed them to advertise for Request for Proposals for project planning and environmental work. Eight proposals were submitted and three firms are being interviewed. A final decision will be made at the end of the week. The budget is \$200,000 for the planning process, analysis and stake holder meetings. The Commission will be advised and included in all outreach meetings. Director Bruns will also try to schedule one of the outreach meetings as part of a Commission meeting.

3. Other Items

Director Bruns announced that Century 21 Citrus Realty will be recognized on March 29 at the California Parks and Recreation District 13 Awards and Installation Banquet with the Community Volunteer Service Award. They are being recognized for their many years of service to the Parks and Recreation Department; they donate supplies and provide volunteers for the Via Verde Egg Hunt, and provide volunteers for the Halloween Carnival.

She thanked the Commissioners for attending the City Recognition Dinner. She mentioned that the Heroes Memorial Monument fundraising is taking place. Council approved the memorial project at what is tentatively being called Heroes Park, the parcel of land at the corner of San Dimas Avenue and Commercial Street. The project is in the design phase. Councilmember Ebner mentioned that the approval process for the concept was different than the typical park project in that it did not come to the Commission but went to City Council. Commissioner Margis asked if the site was indeed a park. Director Bruns replied that it will be, but does not have an official name as of yet. Councilmember Ebner noted that the location was a left over parcel from the 1980's when the Park and Ride lot was developed. It was added as green space as a passive park. He added that the Heroes Committee originally wanted the monument in the Civic Center Plaza but it was too large. Vice Chairperson Margis asked if the park could be named. Director Bruns said it is possible it may be named Memorial Park down the line but nothing is certain as of yet. The Heroes Committee is committed for paying for the monument. Commissioner Neal asked what the monument plan consisted of. Director Bruns briefly described that it is in the shape of a star and includes a fountain. Panels will have names of those to be honored. She was not sure how many names would be displayed. There will be seven flags and some walkways going from the north and the south. The design includes two pergolas. The walkways will be decomposed granite. There will be donor bricks around the fountain. The current challenge is that there is no electrical on the site.

4. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through May highlighting: City Olympics on March 19; the Family Hike on March 19; Kids Fun Club Spring day camp April 4 – 6; the start of the Farmers Market on April 13; Spring Egg Hunts and Family Festival on April 16; Storytelling in the Park on April 30; and the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 17. Director Bruns noted that City Council and staff worked to come up with a Farmers Market location that was acceptable to the many stakeholders, including businesses, neighbors and vendors. The Farmers Market will be held on First Street east of Iglesia Street and in the City Hall parking lot. Chairperson Davis asked if the Market would have music. Councilmember Ebner responded that they cannot have live amplified music or entertainment. They cannot have music or entertainment during Music in the Park. Councilmember Ebner asked the Commissioners to assist with evaluating if there other sites that might work out better in the future.

B. Members of the Audience

La Toyia Ward, a master's student at Long Beach State and San Dimas Recreation Coordinator was in attendance to observe the Commission as part of a class assignment.

C. Members of the Commission

Chairperson Davis – She will be participating in the Extreme Hike at Walnut Creek event offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Smith – She distributed bookmarks to the Commission made by the Friends of the Dog Park. The Friends of the San Dimas Dog Park visited Atria Rancho Park for Valentine's Day enabling the residents to interact with the dogs. The Dog Park reopened two weeks ago and is very busy. The Friends provided lemonade and cookies as a welcome back greeting. 104 more people signed up to be on the email list. The Friends email list now has over 2400 addresses. Many San Dimas residents who came to the park were familiar with the new dog park rules. People were very happy. The park had its first special needs dog attend. A dog with paralyzed rear legs and using wheels enjoyed the park. Director Bruns thanked the Friends for all their work.

Commissioner Florentine – She has seen quite a few kids playing Quidich at Via Verde Park.

Commissioner Martinez – The Metropolitan Water District is shutting down the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant from April 18 – 25. He asked if this was impacting the City's water provider, Golden State Water. Director Bruns noted that Golden State is impacted, and the City will be shutting down irrigation during that period.

Commissioner McKee – Her San Dimas High School girls soccer team went to the CIF championships and came in second place. It brought attention and recognition to the girls program. She has committed to play soccer at UC Berkley. The Commissioner congratulated her.

Commissioner Neal – The bike season has started. He recently completed a 200 mile ride. He noted that InCycle wants to help with Bike to Work Day. The Tour of California Bike Race will take place May 16 – 21. On May 20 a portion will travel through Claremont. Director Bruns mentioned that the Environmental Services Coordinator is working on the City's bike master plan. Commissioner Neal mentioned that Los Angeles is pushing its bike master plan as well as the Orange County Transportation Authority and Glendora.

D. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebiner reported that there was a fifteen percent turnout for the recent election. One half of the ballots were mail in ballots. Many ballots were permanent absentee ballots. The Commission congratulated Councilmember Ebiner on his reelection. He will soon be taking his dog to the dog park. The Stage Race is coming to San Dimas on March 27. He attended the San Dimas Little League Opening Day and noted that the league is raising money for ball field lights. If that concept moves forward it will come to the Commission at some point. Director Bruns noted that the league discussed this at the last Commission meeting and she is presenting it as part of the upcoming budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:55 P.M.

Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager