

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
May 17, 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 7:02 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 MARCH 15, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Neal noted some changes in the information he presented. The corrections are as follows, "The Tour of California Bike Race is May 15 – 22, and on May 21 a portion will travel through Claremont. Bike Week is May 16 – 20 and Bike Day is Friday, May 20." VICE CHAIRPERSON MARGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2011 MEETING AS CORRECTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Report from Teen Action Committee

Director Bruns introduced Paolo Kespradit, Recreation Leader at the Student Union. Paolo described his responsibility overseeing the Teen Action Committee (TAC), an activity at the Student Union teen afterschool program. The TAC is a volunteer leadership and community service group that has monthly meetings to plan Student Union events, make recommendations on activities and programs, and to organize community service activities. Paulo introduced Tyler Gavrity, a 13 year old member of the TAC. Tyler shared that he is an 8th grader at Lone Hill Middle School and that he joined the TAC at the invitation of his friends. He shared how the TAC volunteers at the Family Festival and Spring Egg Hunt, helping to set up the Egg Hunt areas, hide eggs and distribute prizes. They also helped at the Festival of Arts recent Spring Show, and the anti-bullying program at Lone Hill. He enjoys the TAC and enjoys volunteering for the different community events. Manager Raya offered that the Student Union is an afterschool program for students in 6 – 12 grades. It is a drop in program that provides a safe and fun environment where teens can build friendships with other teens as well as the staff. Paulo mentioned there are 15 TAC members at this time and that the Student Union gets 50-60 students each day. Activities include homework help, movies, video games, sports and special events. Commissioner Florentine commented that she saw the TAC students

working at the Family Festival and Spring Egg Hunt, and that they were very friendly and did a great job. Commissioner Smith concurred that whenever she is at a special event she always sees the TAC students doing a good job. Paolo shared that he was a former member of the TAC for several years and volunteered in many capacities. Manager Raya added that staff was so impressed with Paulo's work, especially at Halloween, that they encouraged him to apply as a Recreation Leader as soon as he was eligible.

B. Review of Nominations and Selection of the 2011 Distinguished Service to Youth Award

Director Bruns distributed the submitted nomination packets to the Commission and reviewed the nomination criteria and purpose for each category. The nominees in the volunteer category were reviewed. The nominees were; Tim Roe, Kimberly King, Eric Alvarez, and Joe Fransen. A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR MARGIS TO APPROVE ALL NOMINATIONS IN THE VOLUNTEER CATEGORY AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission reviewed the nominations for the Professional Category. Director Bruns noted all nominees were eligible and had not received a prior award. The nominees were Susy Griffith, Dominic Black, Paris Chavez, Marlis Martinez, Deputy Mathew Bodell, and Deputy Everett Wade. Vice Chairperson Margis asked for clarification on the nomination for Suzy Griffith if she was a teacher or a volunteer. Chair Davis clarified that her position at Lone Hill Middle School was a paid position. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ TO APPROVE ALL NOMINEES IN THE PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR MARGIS, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commission reviewed the nominations in the group category. The nominees were; DeMolay, George Washington Chapter, Jobs Daughters-Bethel #353, Soroptimist International San Dimas/La Verne, and McKinley Children's Center. Director Bruns noted that Soroptimist had previously received the award ten years ago. Chair Davis noted that their activities have expanded since that time. Chair Davis asked for clarification on eligibility as to membership requirements of a group. Discussion ensued regarding whether group eligibility requirements should be taken into consideration. The Commission then discussed if the DeMolay group was providing service to youth or were the youth in the program providing the service. The consensus was that the application was not clear. Commissioner Martinez noted that, as it appeared in the nomination application, DeMolay has been providing service for only 4 months, He asked if that qualified the group and what was the service year. Commissioner Florentine also noted that the application was vague and there needed to be clarification on who provided services and what services were provided. The Commission discussed that there were similar concerns with the nomination for the Job's Daughter group. Councilmember Ebner noted that perhaps the Commission could ask the nominator to re-submit the nomination next year with clarification. A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR MARGIS TO APPROVE THE NOMINATIONS FOR SOROPTIMIST AND MCKINLEY CHILDREN'S CENTER AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO NOTIFY THE DEMOLAY, AND JOBS DAUGHTER NOMINATORS TO RESUBMIT THE NOMINATIONS NEXT YEAR WITH MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEAL AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Update on Walnut Creek Open Space

Director Bruns reported that a consulting firm, AHBE has been selected for stakeholder outreach and site analysis of the entire project area. Some site analysis had been completed by the previous owner. A preliminary report is due the second week of June that will encompass outreach and project concepts. The City provided a list of stakeholders which included the Parks and Recreation Commissioners. The consultant will randomly select stakeholders for interviews either by phone or in person. Three community workshops

will be held in September, November of 2011 and January of 2012. The first two will be listening sessions. The November meeting will address assets and obstacles. Staff will review a conceptual plan in January. The goal is to have a project development plan in 2012. This planning process is funded through the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Councilmember Ebner asked how the community meetings will be publicized. Director Bruns responded that there will be various media including a mailing to a radius of residents around the project area and the Commission will be kept updated.

2. Report on Acorn Toxicity

Director Bruns introduced department volunteer intern Catarina Martinez who assisted her with researching the issue of acorn toxicity for dogs. Commissioner Smith brought to Director Bruns' attention that acorns can be toxic to dogs and the dog park has oak trees near or in the dog park. Some trees were newly planted in 2005 when the park opened and were selected to complement the natural environment. Research on acorn toxicity was done. First the Inland Valley Humane Society was contacted. Officer Lee noted that acorns can cause gastrointestinal internal issues and that a dog may be sick all day. Toxicity is more viable in grazing animals. The ASPCA veterinarian Dr. Kahn was contacted and had no clear answer for toxicity hazards for dogs, their hazards pertained more to grazing animals. Dogs may chew acorns but typically do not eat enough to cause alarm. ASPCA list 391 plants on their toxicity list, but oaks and acorns are not listed. Dr. Kahn suggested not relocating trees but at most posting a sign notifying park patrons about potential issues that come from dogs eating acorns.

Director Bruns noted that it would cost approximately \$2,300 - \$2,500 to relocate the trees. She did not think it was prudent to transplant the trees including the possibility they may die after transplanting. Chairperson Davis noted that she never had heard of acorn toxicity for dogs and she had two dogs that lived for several years on land that had over 50 oak trees. Commissioner Smith noted it would cost too much to move the trees and that the dogs do not graze. She checked with three area veterinarians who acknowledged that dogs may vomit and get a stomach ache and have difficulty passing stool. They most likely would not die. It depends on the quantity of acorns eaten. A dog would have to eat 6 percent of their body weight to get sick. Director Bruns noted that there are many things in the natural environment that can be harmful. She asked if it was necessary to post signs. Commissioner Smith thought an issue could be created by posting signs and that signs did not need to be posted. The Commission agreed.

3. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through July highlighting in June, the Distinguished Service to Youth Reception, the start of the Music in the Park Concerts, swim lesson registration and the family campout. He highlighted July's Bowser Bash, the second Family Campout and the family excursion to Catalina Island. Director Bruns highlighted the Heroes Memorial ground breaking on June 14 at 5 pm.

4. Commissioner Terms

Director Bruns reconfirmed the Commissioners interested in continuing their terms. Commissioner Martinez reaffirmed his commitment. Commissioner McKee's term expires in July and is attending her last meeting. She is going to college and a new Youth Commissioner will be sought. Director Bruns thanked her for her involvement and commitment.

B. Members of the Audience.

Catarina Martinez, volunteer Parks and Recreation Intern was in the audience. She had no comments.

C. Members of the Commission

Chairperson Davis – The Historical Society is conducting school tours at the Walker House and it is a very busy time.

Commissioner Margis - Thanks to Melissa Marshall for leading the Walnut Creek hike. He will be at the Volunteer Reception on May 25.

Commissioner Smith – Maintenance staff repaired the perimeter decomposed granite path at the Dog Park. Volunteers raked and tamped down the material. There are 2736 members on the Friends email list. There have been many out of state visitors and she distributes the newsletter to them. The Dog Park is on many websites. She provided a copy of the Happy Tails newsletter and discussed the many dog related classes the City offers including the upcoming rattlesnake avoidance class.

Commissioner Florentine – She is participating in the Relay for Life. San Dimas Canyon Park is having their annual Hawaiian Festival on June 11 and 12.

Commissioner Martinez – He attended the Family Festival and Egg Hunt. He asked who cleans the parks on weekends. Manager De Leon replied that there is a crew of community service workers who do weekend cleanup as part of their community service hours. In response to Director Bruns' question he noted the trash cans overflowing at Via Verde Park on the Sunday after the egg hunt. Staff noted a Boy Scout group cleaned the park on Sunday.

Commissioner McKee – She thanked the Commission and enjoyed her time. Director Bruns invited her to the January 2012 Employee Recognition Dinner.

Commissioner Neal – He had a booth at the Family Festival. He distributed two brochures on bicycle safety and rules to the Commission. He is participating in the Ride Across America in June as a crew member. He commented on the Los Angeles County bike master plan. It does not include roads in unincorporated areas. The plan only includes a few areas. Some portions of the plan do not match one another.

D. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner discussed the Claremont bike path on Bonita Avenue. At the last City Council meeting they approved the concept of a Gold Line station east of San Dimas Avenue and to conduct an Environmental Impact Report so the process can move forward. He noted that in the past a bikeway was proposed to be routed along the Gold Line. Commissioner Neal asked about bike lockers as part of the Gold Line plan. Director Bruns noted she thought they would be included and it is something to ask about. Commissioner Neal mentioned that in the past the Gold Line has discussed having bicycle friendly rail cars.

The Heroes' Memorial pavers can be purchased to help raise funds for the monument. This past weekend he attended the Contract Cities Conference. He gathered information about a new pest that is affecting citrus trees by carrying bacteria that prevents nutrients from flowing in the tree. It was good information and will help residents know what to look for so potential issues can be reported. Commissioner Margis noted that with some tree disease many times the only remedy is to cut down a tree and burn it. Councilmember Ebner noted it was a pest moving north from Mexico. Director Bruns noted that a similar disease affects oleanders. She also reminded the Commission of the Farmers Market input meeting on June 21 at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:35 P.M.

Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager