

CITY OF SAN DIMAS  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
January 17, 2012  
City Council Chambers Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Margis at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

John Margis, Chairperson  
Caryol Smith, Vice Chairperson  
Georgia Florentine  
Jose Martinez  
Frank Neal  
Amanda Avery  
John Ebner, City Councilmember

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director  
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager  
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager

Absent:

Susan Davis, excused

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION**

**A. Update from the San Dimas Heroes Organization**

Mr. Gary Enderle informed the Commission that Phase I of the Veterans' Monument has been completed and he introduced Ms. Janie Graef who described the next element proposed to be installed. She provided a picture of the water feature titled "Remembrance Fountain" which should cost approximately \$70,000. The committee's next fundraising efforts will consist of a "Cut-A-Thon", "An Evening With Fritz Coleman" and an activity with the "Budweiser Clydesdales." Mr. Enderle provided a list of additional proposed elements of the monument to include: 2 more walls, another walkway, 2 pergolas, and pavers extending around the walls. Mr. Enderle commented that he would like the Commission to recommend the installation of benches by the City. Chairman Margis proposed that the benches be installed with donations instead of the proposed pergolas. Mr. Enderle stated that Phase 1 has been completed utilizing no City funds.

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2011 MEETING AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2011 JOINT MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION/PLANNING/AND EQUESTRIAN COMMISSIONS**

COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2011 MEETING AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. Discussion Regarding Naming of the Park Where the Heroes Monument is Located**

Director Bruns reminded the Commission that at their meeting in November, Chairman Margis had requested this item to be placed on their agenda. Director Bruns indicated that the Commission would be selecting names to be recommended to the City Council for their consideration. Chairman Margis suggested that the Commission try selecting a first and second choice to recommend to City Council. Chairman Margis asked the members of the Heroes organization and Commission for proposed names to be voted on. The suggested names were:

Freedom Park  
Monument Park  
Veterans Memorial Park  
Veterans Remembrance Park  
Heroes Park  
Veterans Park  
Patriots Park  
Heroes Memorial Park  
Memorial Park  
Veterans Monument Park

After the Commissioners voted, the following motion was made,

COMMISSIONER NEAL MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING NAMES FOR THE PARK WHERE THE HEROES MONUMENT IS LOCATED: PATRIOTS PARK (4 VOTES), FREEDOM PARK (3 VOTES) AND VETERANS MONUMENT PARK (3 VOTES), SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Bruns reported that this item will be considered by the City Council at their February 14, 2012 meeting. She invited the Commissioners and Heroes to attend that meeting.

### **B. Commission Input Regarding Recreation Program Ideas and Capital Improvement Projects**

Director Bruns shared that this is the meeting that staff requests Commission input on program ideas and capital improvement projects to be considered in the upcoming fiscal year budget process. She distributed the Commission's current project list which includes:

1. Youth Center or Student Union Addition
2. Lighted Basketball Courts at Sportsplex or a City Park
3. Marchant Park
  - a. New Public Restroom
  - b. Lighted Baseball Fields
4. Horsethief Canyon Park Phase III Development
  - a. Dog Park
    - i. third area for rotational turf management
    - ii. lights
  - b. Overnight Campground
5. Splash Pad
6. Bike Park/BMX Track

Also listed for consideration was:

Marchant Park Little League and Recreational Buildings Rehabilitation  
Swim & Racquet Club  
    Racquetball Court conversion to Weight Room  
    HVAC Replacements  
Senior Citizen/Community Center  
    Rehabilitation: carpet, flooring, kitchen counters, etc.  
    HVAC replacement  
Playground Equipment Replacement (some are 22 years old)  
Via Verde Park Security Light Upgrades  
Community Garden  
Walnut Creek Open Space  
Trails Plan

The Commission reviewed each item. Director Bruns indicated that the Northern Foothills Trails study/plan will continue on its process and that the Walnut Creek Open Space (WCOS) planning is continuing. She did indicate that a third WCOS community meeting has been postponed until late February. The Commission will be notified when it has been re-scheduled. Director Bruns noted that the list is a wish list that is used as a tool for selecting projects as funding becomes available.

Tim Roe, member of the audience and San Dimas Little League President, addressed the Commission indicating that the league is financially sound and would like to “co-op” with the City for lights at Marchant Park. Commissioner Smith inquired if the residents surrounding the park have been asked about lighting the fields. The response was not at this time.

Councilman Ebner inquired if the list was prioritized in relation to monies available. Commissioner Margis responded that the list is not prioritized 1 through 6, but rather a project list. He added that he advocates for the Little League improvements. Commissioner Martinez asked about the cost for lights at Marchant Park. Mr. Roe said an estimate is about \$250,000.00. Commissioner Smith indicated that a new public restroom is needed at Marchant Park due to size and safety. Manager Raya inquired if Little League was planning to adjust any of the field dimensions to the larger size of 50’/70’. Mr. Roe responded that this would most likely occur at BUSD site of Ekstrand school.

Commissioners Neal, Florentine and Margis noted that they felt the Bike Park/BMX Track should be removed from the list. The Commission agreed.

Commissioner Florentine commented that perhaps the Splash Pad should be removed. Commissioner Martinez indicated he recommended that it remain on the list, however, as a low priority. The Commission agreed.

Commissioner Martinez asked if there was any revenue allocated for capital improvement projects currently. Director Bruns responded that there were none at this time. She did explain that some “Quimby” (developer) Fees from the Grove Station and Bonita Gateway projects may be coming in the near future, and that these are geographic area specific for spending.

Commissioner Martinez asked about the aging playground equipment. Director Bruns responded that several playgrounds have playground equipment which have parts that are no longer being manufactured. Therefore, if something were to break, we could not repair it.

Commissioner Margis commented that the City Council should be challenged to place funds in the budget to accomplish needed projects. Director Bruns informed the Commissioners that the City Council will receive the project list as a part of the budget process.

Commissioner Smith added that the dog park is great as it currently exists.

Consensus of the Commission was that Marchant Park improvements should be considered as first priority. Remove the bike park from the project list and keep the Splash Pad on the list as a low priority item.

**C. Discussion Regarding Changing the Time of the Commission Meetings**

Director Bruns informed the Commission that three of the City's standing commissions have decided to change their meeting start times. Public Safety has changed their start time to 5:30pm; the Equestrian Commission and Senior Commission have changed their start time to 6:00pm. Director Bruns provided the Commission with an opportunity to discuss changing their start time. After a brief discussion,

COMMISSIONER MARGIS MOVED TO CHANGE THE START TIME OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS TO 6:00PM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 5-0-1 WITH COMMISSIONER NEAL ABSTAINING.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**A. Director of Parks and Recreation**

1. Update on Walnut Creek Open Space  
Director Bruns indicated that as soon as the third community meeting date has been determined, the Commission will be notified.
2. Calendar of Upcoming Events  
Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through March. He thanked the Commissioners who attended the Holiday Extravaganza. He highlighted the upcoming events such as the Student Union Anniversary Party, the City Olympics, the Family Festival/Egg Hunts and encouraged the Commissioners to attend the City Recognition Dinner on January 28.

**B. City Council Liason**

Councilmember Ebiner had nothing to report.

**C. Members of the Commission**

Commissioner Neal: He announced that he is now a licensed cycling instructor. He also reminded everyone that the City Council approved the Bicycle Master Plan and he commented that the plan addressed safe paths to school, as well as motorists and pedestrian safety issues.

Commissioner Smith: She reminded everyone that the dog park is closed for a maintenance period, and that the Friends of the Dog Park are still going to Horsethief Canyon Park informing people of the website and to do some "clean up" on the soccer fields.

Commissioner Florentine: She stated that she thoroughly enjoyed the Holiday Extravaganza and complimented the Parks and Recreation Department on a wonderful event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:20PM.