

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
Community Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2013
Marchant Park Recreation Building

CALL TO ORDER

The community meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Martinez at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Jose Martinez, Chairperson
John Margis, Vice Chairperson
Thomas Diaz
Kevin Kenney
Kathryn Perkins
Amanda Avery

John Ebiner, City Councilmember
Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director
Leon Raya, Recreation Manager
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager

Absent:

Frank Neal, excused

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER MARGIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2012 MEETING AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DIAZ AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION BY STAFF

Director Bruns introduced herself and explained the role of the Parks and Recreation Commission to those in the audience. She stated the purpose of conducting community meetings is to gather information from participants of the department programs and as well as from those groups and individuals that utilize parks and facilities. She asked the Commissioners to introduce themselves and each provided a brief introduction.

Director Bruns presented a power point presentation that demonstrated the scope and provided a perspective of what the City's Parks and Recreation Department offers in programming and the facilities that are operated and maintained by the department.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION – COMMUNITY INPUT

Chair Martinez welcomed the members of the community and asked that each of them look at the "Community Pulse Check" survey/questionnaire that had been provided as they entered the meeting. He

asked that if anyone did not feel comfortable to speak during the meeting, they could complete the survey and the Parks and Recreation Department would respond to their comments, questions or concerns. He then opened the meeting to the members of the community for their input and comments.

Gary Hunter, San Dimas Little League President, invited everyone to their Opening Day on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at Marchant Park. He reported that the league has conducted their 2013 registration, with a total of 425 children registered. Mr. Hunter stated that the working relationship with the Parks and Recreation Department is very positive and thanked the City for all that they do to maintain the fields and the facility in excellent condition.

Director Bruns commented that the City has valuable partnerships with the Youth Sports Organizations that utilize City facilities and these partnerships have resulted in many cost sharing improvements that otherwise may not have occurred.

Caryol Smith, representing the Friends of San Dimas Dog Park, stated this group of volunteers create and distribute a regular newsletter, keeping dog owners aware of current topics related to dogs and maintenance scheduling at the Dog Park. She also indicated that she provides emails to several thousand individuals from 47 different communities about the Dog Park. The Friends' ambassadors, totaling 22 individuals, greet and welcome dog owners and provide information about the park and help with questions. Ms. Smith distributed a current Newsletter and a pamphlet about Dog Parks to the audience. She thanked the City for the excellent care of the Dog Park and indicated people think of the San Dimas Dog Park as the best park in the area.

Peggy Pestal, one of the dog park ambassadors, also offered a "Thank you" to the City for exceptional maintenance and upkeep of the Dog Park.

Chair Martinez inquired how the revisions to the Dog Park rules were being accepted. Ms. Smith responded that the results have been very positive and well received by a majority of the park visitors.

Commissioner Diaz inquired if enforcement of the rules was difficult. Ms. Smith indicated that most individuals respond positively when approached, but if needed the Sheriff Department is available to provide enforcement.

Briye McCass, Ekstrand PTA President, stated that personally her children have participated in the City's programs and she "loves" them. She commented that the improvements performed last year on the Little League fields, both on the school property and City property, are fantastic and provide a great deal of pride for the community. Ms. McCass commented that everything that she has been involved in conducted by the City is "top notch" and appreciates all that Parks and Recreation does for the community. She did identify the following concerns: the fence between Ekstrand School and Marchant Park needs repairs; the entrance gate on Walnut Avenue needs to be closely monitored for access control; and the spaces in the staff parking lot identified for after school pick up need to be strictly used for that purpose during school hours.

Kaira Haynes, LaVerne/San Dims Pop Warner President (LVSDPW), reported that currently this sports group does not utilize facilities in San Dimas. She stated that LVSDPW is presently a fall sport, but is looking into expanding the time of play to assist the athletes in becoming more competitive for high school play. Ms. Haynes informed the Commission that their registration for the last season was 200 children in the football program and 68 in cheerleading.

Ms. Smith inquired if the small public restroom building in Marchant Park is still on the City's capital improvement list. Director Bruns responded that it is still on the list.

Ms. Haynes stated that LVSDPW would like to use facilities in San Dimas, but need lighted fields available due to their practice times.

Ms. McCass asked if the City would consider lighting the Little League fields at Marchant Park. Director Bruns responded that this has been a request from the League, although at this time there is not funding available for a lighting project. Ms. McCass questioned if the City would be able to accomplish the lighting if the League would be willing to provide some of the funding. Director Bruns indicated that this has been discussed with the League, although there would still need to be discussions with the neighborhood before this project could be considered. City Councilmember Ebner added that the City Council is cautious about issues such as this, as this would affect neighborhoods and would want further discussions with them prior to moving forward even when funding is available.

Mr. Hunter stated that lighting the Marchant Park fields is one of the League's top priorities and would be willing to assist with raising the funds for such a project. City Councilmember Ebner further explained that the City experienced some deep budget cuts this year, including laying off staff and cutting each City Department budget. He also stated that the Parks and Recreation Department did not receive approval for any major projects. Director Bruns added that the Department focus is to keep aging buildings/facilities clean, maintained and safe, and that all maintenance budgets were reduced this year.

Pamela Duvall, representing Homeschooling Families, provided a brief overview of how homeschooling works and the best mechanism to provide them with information about City programs. She indicated that the some of the parents may also be interested in being instructors for recreation classes. Ms. Duvall explained the various ways homeschoolers utilize recreation classes to supplement to their curriculum. She indicated that her children have benefitted from the classes that they have taken from the Parks and Recreation Department and that she would like to continue to work with the City to make other homeschoolers aware of the programs offered.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks and Recreation

Director Bruns reminded the Commission of the upcoming General Election and although the current City Council members are running unopposed, there is a Tenant Occupancy Tax on the ballot and encouraged everyone to get out and vote. She also announced that the City is conducting an annual homeless count and volunteers are needed for this activity to be conducted on January 29.

1. Calendar of Upcoming Events

The calendar for the months of January through March was distributed. Manager Raya discussed the youth basketball league, commented on the Students in Government Day and highlighted the Family Festival and Egg Hunts conducted in March. He inquired if any of the Commissioners would like to attend the Youth Sports Organization Meeting being held on January 28; Commissioner Diaz indicated that he will attend.

B. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner thanked the staff for the recent tour of City parks, facilities and landscape areas maintained by the Department.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Kenney thanked the members of the community for attending and providing input to the Commission.

Commissioners Diaz, Margis, Avery and Perkins also thanked those in attendance for the comments and for attending the meeting.

Chair Martinez thanked all in attendance and invited them to attend the other upcoming community meetings. He also thanked the staff for the recently provided Commission tour.

ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:10 P.M.



Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager