

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
Community Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2013
Swim and Racquet Club

CALL TO ORDER

The community meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Martinez at 6:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Jose Martinez, Chairperson
John Margis, Vice Chairperson
Kevin Kenney
Frank Neal
Kathryn Perkins
Amanda Avery

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

Absent:

Thomas Diaz, unexcused

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2013 COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSIONER NEAL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2013 COMMUNITY MEETING AS SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARGIS AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION BY STAFF

Director Bruns introduced herself and thanked the members of the audience for attending. She provided a brief explanation of the function of the Commission and 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.

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 thanked the members of the community in attendance. 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.

Maureen Moctezuma stated that she lives in the City and has enjoyed participating in many of the programs offered at the Swim and Racquet Club (SRC). She voiced a concern about the current structure of aerobic instructor payment and indicated that each instructor at the facility is outstanding, encouraging and provides individualized attention to the students.

Susan Nikas stated that she has attended the exercise classes at the SRC for over 20 years and she supports the instructors and that her involvement in the programs have kept her healthy and given her vitality. She is concerned the “community” that has been created by the aerobic participants is being threatened by the possibility of removing lowered attended classes from the schedule.

Alma Whitsell indicated that she utilizes the Dog Park located in Horsethief Canyon Park and loves it. She also participates in the Silver Sneaker program offered at the SRC. Her concern was over the lack of parking available in the morning for the many classes being conducted at the SRC.

Director Bruns responded that the current parking issues for the SRC participants is a result of the construction of the Performance Arts Building at San Dimas High School. She stated that the City staff is working closely with the High School staff to try to resolve the problem; also the City’s Traffic Committee is reviewing the street parking restrictions in an effort to provide more parking.

Mary Lange of Mount San Antonio College stated that the programs offered through the college at the City’s facilities are a great partnership and provide the community with a wide range of services. She also announced that the College has been selected to offer the Brain Fitness Class at the San Dimas Senior Citizen/Community Center, which is a national program and the San Dimas site is one of five in the nation.

Jill Trimble, an instructor at the SRC, commented that she is very concerned with the parking issue and how it is affecting the participants that leave due to the lack of parking. She suggested that class start times could be adjusted to relieve some of the congestion. She commented that she thought it unfair that instructors could possibly have a class canceled due to low enrollment and inquired if instructors that bring in new participants could be provided incentives.

Manager Raya thanked the audience for their ideas and suggestions. He stated the goal of the Recreation Division for the SRC was to utilize the facility to its capacity without disruption to the currently well attended core programs. The desire is to have the SRC be the “hub” for the community’s fitness needs. He recognizes the “community” that has been created at the SRC and wants to build on this by providing more programs to bring more people to the facility. Manager Raya stated that the Division is looking at new ways to market the facility and encourage more use.

Several members of the audience indicated that the current fee structure is helpful for the different levels of participation, but would like to see if a walk in rate for the aqua-aerobic class could be instituted. Manager Raya indicated that this could be reviewed.

Celia Gonzales stated that she felt more advertising of the facility and its programs would be beneficial to increase the participation in classes/activities and that she considers the participants of the programs as family.

Ms. Whitsell expressed that the City Arborist has been a great asset and wonderful to work with on tree issues.

Chair Martinez thanked everyone for their input and for taking the time to attend the meeting and for providing feedback on programming and facility concerns. He mentioned that he is confident that the Staff and SRC participants can work together to find solutions to the concerns voiced and encouraged the audience to attend the upcoming community meetings.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of Nominations and Selection of the 2013 Distinguished Service to Youth Award Recipients

Director Bruns distributed the submitted nomination packets and reviewed the nomination criteria and purpose for each category. The nominees in the Volunteer Category were: Casey Cox, Suzie Konrad, Bob and Jean Olander, Doug Tubbs, and Carey Vasile. The nominees in the Professional Category were: Nicki Bonomo, Kelly Leyva, Dora Schweitzer and Rakha Narayanan. The nomination in the Group Category was: San Dimas Library. After review COMMISSIONER MARGIS MOVED TO APPROVED ALL NOMINEES IN ALL CATEGORIES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY AND APPROVED UNANIMOSLY. Recipients and their nominators will be notified to attend the Distinguished Service to Youth Awards Reception to be held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the April 23 City Council meeting. Awards will be presented at the City Council meeting, Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks and Recreation

Director Bruns commented that she was very appreciative of the input received tonight. She stated that when the community meetings have concluded, she would like to provide the Commission with a summary of the process and the results of any action taken and the next steps to be taken. Commissioner Kenney asked if there was a plan to provide the summary to community. Commission Margis suggested presenting the summary to the City Council at a City Council meeting. Director Bruns indicated that Staff could do an article in the City's Frontier Newsletter and on the City's website. Chair Martinez asked if the attendees of the each meeting could be provided the summary individually if they have made available personal contact information, Director Bruns responded positively.

Director Bruns reported that as a result of a comment from last month's meeting a bicycle rack inventory has been accomplished and she reviewed the many public park locations with bicycle racks.

1. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya highlighted the upcoming Family Festival and Egg Hunts that will occur on Saturday, March 23 and the City's Track and Field Olympic event on April 20, as well as the upcoming Spring Recital Show in May.

B. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Neal announced the Family Bicycle Day, a new recreation event to be conducted on October 26 in partnership with the San Dimas bike shop, Incycle.

Commissioner Perkins stated that it was exciting to see and hear from the group in attendance tonight.

Commissioner Avery announced that she has been accepted to attend college in the fall at Sonoma State University.

Chair Martinez indicated that he hoped that the Commission would continue to rotate their regular meetings to various City facilities on a consistent basis after the conclusion of the community meeting format.

C. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner reminded the Commission of the upcoming Bicycle Stage Race on March 22 through 24. He reported that the City is expecting a decision from the State on the ownership of the Walker House in the next couple of months. He mentioned that he had attended Assemblyman Holden's Meet and Greet hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:50 P.M.



Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager